

KEY

The Rocky Road to the White House

Back at the beginning of 2024, it looked like this year’s presidential race was going to be very predictable, and somewhat boring, a replay of 2020. Boy, was that wrong! One candidate, Joe Biden, pulled out after a disastrous first TV debate, which was held untraditionally before the summer. Another, Donald Trump, has been the target of two apparent assassination attempts. And against all odds, latecomer Kamala Harris has created real momentum.

In the spring, despite his popularity with voters, Donald Trump was mired in several legal cases, and was found guilty in June of fraud.

More and more concerns were expressed about [Biden’s] physical and mental capacity to serve a second term. Finally, on 21 July, he withdrew his candidacy and endorsed his Vice-President Kamala Harris.

After her nomination, Harris, and her newly named running mate Tim Walz, quickly began to rise in popularity in opinion polls. On 10 September, Harris was widely considered to have won her TV debate with Donald Trump. The Trump camp then refused to accept the traditional second presidential debate.

Posted by Speakeasy News > Thursday 26 September 2024 >

<https://www.speakeasy-news.com/the-rocky-road-to-the-white-house/>

Work on words.

1. Search the text for the English translations for :

- prévisible : **predictable**
- ennuyeux : **boring**
- (se) retirer x 2 : **pull out / withdraw**
- malgré : **despite**
- être empêtré dans : **be mired in**
- mandat : **term**
- sondage / estimation : **poll**

2. Find synonyms for the following words in the text :

- catastrophic (adj) = **disastrous**
- support (v) = **endorse**
- victim (n) = **target**

Comprehension

1. Pick 2 events showing the 2024-election is not boring at all.

- ⇒ **‘One candidate, Joe Biden, pulled out after a disastrous first TV debate’**
- ⇒ **‘Donald Trump, has been the target of two apparent assassination attempts’**

2. Fill in the grid.

Final candidates’ names	Obstacles to victory
Donald Trump	Guilty of fraud
Kamala Harris	Latecomer

Read these excerpts from Kamala Harris's official Facebook page.

Work on words.

Search the text for the English translations for :

- réduire les impôts : **cut taxes**
- location : **rentals**
- (contrat d')apprentissage : **registered apprenticeship**
- embaucher : **hiring**
- augmenter : **increase**
- emprunt / prêt financier : **loan**

Comprehension.

1. What issues does Kamala Harris address in these Facebook posts ? Tick the correct answers.

- immigration
- healthcare
- criminality
- foreign policy
- education
- environment
- economy
- housing
- national security
- employment
- law and order

2. Spot and highlight key ideas in Harris's program.

Now, think !

Repérez dans le texte un mot répété qui permet d'exprimer une prédiction ? **will**

Quel mot permet d'exprimer ... - une hypothèse ? **if** - une certitude (datée) ? **when**

Repérez et classez dans chaque colonne du tableau une ou deux phrases, selon qu'elles expriment une prédiction seule, une hypothèse future ou une certitude future.

Prédiction seule	Hypothèse future	Certitude future
When I'm president, we will double the number of registered apprenticeships?	'[...] if you are making less than \$400.000 a year, your taxes will not go up.'	'We will work with builders and developers to construct three million new homes and rentals.' 'We will offer tax credits to strengthen factory towns.'