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## BARACK OBAMA

[http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/barack\\_obama.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/barack_obama.html)



Photo from [www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents)

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## THE READING / LISTENING TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/barack\\_obama.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/barack_obama.html)

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the USA. He was born in Hawaii in 1961 to a Kenyan father and American mother. His parents divorced and his mother married an Indonesian man, thus Obama lived in Indonesia between the ages of six to ten, before returning to Hawaii in 1972. He worked his way through college with the help of scholarships and student loans and went on to Harvard Law School.

Barack's story is the American story — values from the heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others. At Harvard, he became the first African—American president of the Harvard Law Review. After graduating, he taught law at the University of Chicago.

Obama served as State Senator for Illinois between 1997 and 2004. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, winning by a landslide. This made him a rising star in the Democratic Party. He was a strong opponent of the Iraq War. His presidential campaign was the first to make full use of social media. His slogan "Yes, we can" helped him become America's first African American president in 2009.

Obama's term in office coincided with the global financial collapse of 2008. He inherited one of America's worst ever economies. In 2009 he received the Nobel Peace Prize. He introduced major reforms to America's healthcare system and sought a fairer taxation system. He began the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq. He also authorized the mission that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden.

Text adapted from [www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/barackobama](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/barackobama)



## LISTENING GAP FILL

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## CORRECT THE SPELLING

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## UNJUMBLE THE WORDS

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_





# STUDENT BARACK OBAMA SURVEY

From: [http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/barack\\_obama.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/barack_obama.html)

Write five GOOD questions about Barack Obama in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.







## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about Barack Obama. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Barack Obama. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. BARACK OBAMA POSTER** Make a poster about Barack Obama. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

**5. MY BARACK OBAMA LESSON:** Make your own English lesson on Barack Obama. Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Teach the class / another group when you have finished.

**6. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, MySpace page, Twitter stream, Del-icio-us / StumbleUpon account, or any other social media tool to get opinions on Barack Obama. Share your findings with the class.

