VOL. 1 FIRST ISSUE

WEEKLY IN ENGLISH UN NUMERO OGNI SETTIMANA L'INGLESE CHE LEGGE L'AMERICA

WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 TO 25, 2026

The Lucerna

SETTIMANALE IN INGLESE VOL.1 STADI VOTI ZUCCHE

TESTI IN INGLESE SPIEGAZIONI IN ITALIANO — L'EDIZIONE PER I LETTORI ITALIANI

EUROPE TURNS ITS CLOCKS BACK SUNDAY — AMERICA WAITS !

SPOSTA L'ORA

Daylight saving ends one week later in the United States : on Sunday, November 1. Do not change your clock this week !

GLI USA L'1 NOVEMBRE (P. 7)

THE BIG STORY In primo piano

First Votes, First Games : America's Biggest Week of the Autumn

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : A2

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. But in much of America, the election has already started. This Monday, October 19, early voting opened in Texas – and in Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut and Colorado too. Millions of people are asking the same questions : where do I vote, and when ?

Early voting is simple : you go to a voting place before Election Day, you show your ID, you mark your ballot, and your vote counts on election night. No November lines, no problem if you work on Tuesdays. In Texas, it runs from October 19 to October 30.

And that is only half of the week. On Tuesday night, the new NBA season tips off. On Friday night, the World Series begins in Milwaukee. On Sunday, the fastest cars in the world race in Austin, Texas.

One thing is sure : this year, baseball will have a champion for the very first time. The Milwaukee Brewers and the Tampa Bay Rays have never won the World Series. One of them will win it now. Our sport dossier is on page 4.

This is the first issue of The Lucerna in English. Every week, we read America's real life with you – slowly, clearly, and always from the week's real news. Welcome !

Nota — early voting, il voto anticipato • ballot, la scheda • tip-off, la palla a due • champion, il campione.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS In cifre

Nov 3 – Election Day (il giorno delle elezioni) · Oct 19 – early voting opens in Texas (inizia in Texas)

43 – NBA games from Tuesday to Sunday (da martedì a domenica) · 2 – teams in the World Series, both after a first title (entrambe al primo titolo)

TRY IT NOW Prova subito

A2 **1.**
You mark your choice on a ___ and put it in the box.

A2 **2.**
Voting before Election Day is called ___ voting.

A2 **3.**
Election Day is Tuesday, ___.

A2 **4.**
The winner of the World Series is the ___ of baseball.

B1 **5.**
Early voting ___ in Texas on Monday, October 19.

B1 **6.**
One team will now win the World Series for the ___ time.

SEARCHES OF THE WEEK

Tendenze USA Google Trends

1. early voting
2. world series schedule
3. hot dog recall
4. lakers roster
5. barca vs real madrid

Snapshots, Mon–Wed Oct 19–21 : search interest changes during the day.

“hot dog recall” , lunedì: 200K+ (p. 2)

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THE WORD OF THE WEEK

« fall back »
when clocks go back one hour in autumn. Spring forward, fall back.

Si va indietro di un'ora: fall back.



Boston fans at the Polo Grounds, New York, on October 8, 1912 : Game 1 of the World Series. The Fall Classic was already America's autumn ritual 114 years ago.

Bain News Service, Library of Congress — public domain

FALL, THE SEASON OF FIRSTS

Autumn in America is a season of firsts : the first votes, the first games, the first cold evenings. There is a first champion coming in baseball, and a first issue of this paper in your hands.

All week, our reporters follow the same rhythm : vote early, play hard, read slowly. See you on page 2 !

IN BRIEF In breve

WORLD SERIES
Game 1 is Friday night in Milwaukee. Neither team has ever won it. (page 4)

CLOCKS
Europe changes its clocks on Sunday. America waits until November 1. (page 7)

HALLOWEEN
Saturday, October 31 : costumes, candy – and maybe a Game 7. (page 3)

LIGHTNING QUIZ Quiz lampo

Leggi la prima pagina e scegli giusto Risposte a pagina 8

A2 **7.**
Early voting in Texas starts on... A. November 3 · B. Monday, October 19 · C. November 1

A2 **8.**
America turns its clocks back on... A. October 25 · B. October 31 · C. November 1

A2 **9.**
Game 1 of the World Series is in... A. Milwaukee · B. Tampa · C. Los Angeles

A2 **10.**
The new NBA season starts on... A. Friday · B. Tuesday · C. Sunday

Social Security Checks Grow by 3.6% in January

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : A2

Good news for nearly 72 million Americans : on Wednesday, October 14, the Social Security Administration announced a cost-of-living adjustment – a « COLA » – of 3.6% for 2027. From January, the average retired worker will get about 75 dollars more every month.

Why do the checks grow ? Because life costs more. When the prices of food, homes and energy go up, the checks go up too – that is the idea of the cost-of-living adjustment. Workers on SSI, a second program for people with very low incomes, see their increase a little earlier : on December 31, 2026. About 7.3 million people receive SSI.

When will you see your number ? Personal notices come online at the end of November, and by mail in December. Every household does the same maths this week : 3.6% of my check is... how much, exactly ?

How is the number chosen ? Government statisticians follow the prices of a basket of everyday things – food, homes, energy, transport. When the basket costs more, the COLA rises. It is a promise written into the system : your check follows the cost of life.

Will 3.6% make anyone rich ? No. But for many households, 75 dollars is the difference between a hard month and an easier one – a full fridge, a warm house. That is why one small percentage is the week's biggest kitchen-table story.

The system is old. The first monthly check went to Ida May Fuller, of Vermont, on January 31, 1940. It was 22.54 dollars. In three years of work, Miss Fuller had paid 24.75 dollars into the system. She lived to be 100 years old, and in her long retirement she received more than 22,000 dollars in checks.

DO THE MATHS I conti

3.6% of $1,000 is $36. Of $2,000, it is $72. The average increase – about $75 – tells you the average check is a little over $2,000 a month.

CHECK YOUR FRIDGE !

Second story of the week – and it is in your kitchen. On Saturday, October 17, the US Department of Agriculture announced a big recall : about 1.58 million pounds of hot dogs, bacon and deli meats from one company, Kayem Foods. A cooler in the factory did not work correctly, and the food was not cold enough.

What must you do ? Do not eat the food. Throw it away, or take it back to the shop. At the time of the announcement, no illnesses were reported – but the rule with a recall is simple : when in doubt, throw it out.

How do you read a recall notice ? Look for three things : the name of the food, the dates on the packet, and the lot number – a code printed near the date. If your packet matches, it goes in the bin, not on the table. A recall sounds frightening, but it is also good news : it means the safety system works.

Nota — cost-of-living, il costo della vita • a check, un assegno (il pagamento mensile) • a notice, un avviso • a pound, una libbra (circa 0,45 kg) • to recall, ritirare un prodotto.



A Social Security card from 1943 : the program began in 1935, and the first monthly check – 22.54 dollars – was paid in 1940.
Social Security Administration — public domain

DID YOU KNOW ?

Nearly 72 million people receive Social Security money every month.

The first check, in 1940, was 22.54 dollars. The average increase in 2027 is about 75 dollars a month.

Notices arrive online in late November and by mail in December. Check your number !

AND YOU ? E tu?

And you ? Is there a hot dog in your fridge today ? What money comes into your house every month ? Write two sentences in English and send them to the newsroom : the best ones will be printed in VOL.2 (page 7, « Readers' Corner »).

Ci sono hot dog nel tuo frigo? Quanti soldi entrano in casa?

TELLING THE TIME Dire l'ora

Game times this week Per tutte le partite della settimana



It is eight o'clock.



It is half past two.



It is quarter to eight.

half past	= 30 minutes after the hour (e mezza)
quarter past	= 15 minutes after (e un quarto)
quarter to	= 15 minutes before (meno un quarto)
noon / midnight	= 12:00, day / night (mezzogiorno / mezzanotte)

This week : Game 1 of the World Series starts at 8 p.m. on Friday. In Europe, the clocks fall back on Sunday – in America, on Sunday, November 1 : spring forward, fall back.

EXERCISES Esercizi di pagina 2

Risposte a pagina 8 Livelli mescolati: cerca per numero

A WHAT TIME IS IT ?

In base all'ora, completa le frasi in inglese.

A2 11. Completa
8:30 – It is ___ eight.

A2 12. Completa
9:15 – It is ___ nine.

A2 13. Completa
7:45 – It is ___ eight.

A2 14. Completa
0:00 – It is ___ . The city sleeps.

A2 15. Completa
3:00 – It is three ___ . The game starts !

B GOING TO

Riscrivi con be going to + verbo (piani e cose che stanno per succedere).

A2 16. Riscrivi
Checks (grow) in January.→ ___

A2 17. Riscrivi
Milwaukee (play) Game 1 on Friday.→ ___

A2 18. Riscrivi
We (check) the fridge tonight.→ ___

B1 19. Riscrivi
You (vote) early this year ?→ ___

C COMPREHENSION

Leggi gli articoli di pagina 2 e scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 20.
In 2027, checks grow by... A. 1.6% · B. 3.6% · C. 6.3%

A2 21.
COLA notices arrive... A. in October · B. in late Nov. and Dec. · C. next summer

A2 22.
The hot dogs were recalled because... A. they were old · B. the price was wrong · C. a cooler failed

A2 23.
The first check, in 1940, was... A. $22.54 · B. $75 · C. $225.40

D THE WORDS

A2 24–27. Abbina

24. a benefit
25. a recall
26. a pound
27. the cost of living

a. the price of everyday life
b. money the government pays regularly
c. about 0.45 kilos – 16 ounces
d. the company takes its food back

Halloween in America : a $13.5 Billion Night of Candy

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : A2 → B1

On Saturday, October 31, America will put on its costumes. Halloween is not an official holiday – nobody gets the day off – but it is one of the biggest nights of the American year. This year, the National Retail Federation (NRF) projects record spending of 13.5 billion dollars, up 3.82% from 2025. That is about $115.14 for every person who celebrates.

Where does the money go ? Costumes come first : $4.4 billion. Decorations are second, at $4.3 billion – gardens full of skeletons, lights and giant spiders. Candy takes $4.1 billion, and almost everybody buys it : 96% of celebrants plan to buy sweets for the big night.

How does trick-or-treating work ? In the early evening, children in costumes walk from door to door in their neighbourhood. They ring the bell and shout : « Trick or treat ! » – a joke threat, always answered with candy. One rule matters : a light on the porch means « welcome, knock here ». A dark house means « please, not this year » – and children respect it.

The pumpkin is the symbol of the season. In October, families drive to pumpkin patches – fields where you choose your own pumpkin – and carve faces into them at home. A candle inside makes a jack-o'-lantern, and on October 31, thousands of orange faces glow on American porches.

What will America wear this year ? Google published its Frightgeist costume list on October 14, and the shop Spirit Halloween published its own : characters from KPop Demon Hunters and Toy Story 5, superheroes, and Greek gods. One number tells the story of 2026 : 47% of celebrants now use AI tools to plan a costume or a decoration. The robot helps you become a ghost.

Halloween was a national festival long before it was a shopping season. In the early 1900s, when telephones were still rare, Americans sent Halloween postcards – more than 3,000 designs were printed. The card on this page is from 1912. The greetings travelled slowly, by mail, and arrived like little paper ghosts.

This year, the calendar is kind : Halloween falls on a Saturday. No school the next morning, no work for most parents – the party can begin in the afternoon and the last jack-o'-lantern can burn late. Shops know it, too : the last full shopping week of the season is this one, and the costume shelves empty fast.

One object waits by every door : the candy bowl. Families fill it in the afternoon – chocolate, sweets, sometimes small toys – and children empty it, street by street, all evening. Economists study the $13.5 billion. Children study something simpler : which house gives the biggest chocolate ?

SAY IT ON THE NIGHT La sera

« Trick or treat ! » – Dolcetto o scherzetto! (una minaccia per scherzo, sempre pagata in dolci)

« Happy Halloween ! » – Buon Halloween! · « Thank you ! » – Grazie! (con i dolci in mano, si dice sempre)

« What are you dressed as ? » – Da che cosa sei vestito?

Nota — to celebrate, festeggiare • a porch, il portico • to carve, intagliare • a decoration, una decorazione • a survey, un sondaggio (la NRF ha intervistato 7.889 persone).

A TRUE OR FALSE ? V o F

Leggi l'articolo di pagina 3 e di' se è vero o falso.

A2 28. V o F
1. Halloween is on a Friday this year.

A2 29. V o F
2. Americans will spend about $13.5 billion on Halloween.

B1 30. V o F
3. Candy is the biggest part of the spending.

A2 31. V o F
4. Almost half of celebrants use AI tools for costume ideas.

A2 32. V o F
5. A house with no light on the porch is asking for visitors.

B FESTIVAL WORDS Le parole

A2 33. Completa
Children wear a ___ and go from door to door.

A2 34. Completa
You ___ a pumpkin to make a jack-o'-lantern.

A2 35. Completa
Families leave a light on the ___ to welcome children.

A2 36. Completa
Ninety-six percent of celebrants buy ___.

A2 37. Completa
In October, families visit a pumpkin ___ to choose a pumpkin.

C CHOOSE Scelta

B1 38.
The $13.5 billion is... A. last year's total · B. this year's projection · C. candy money only

B1 39.
Google's costume list is called... A. Frightgeist · B. Spiritgeist · C. Trendlist

B1 40.
This year's costumes include... A. Roman kings · B. Greek gods · C. astronauts only

B1 41.
In the early 1900s, Halloween greetings travelled by... A. telephone · B. postcard · C. radio

D SENTENCES Trasforma

A2 42. Riscrivi
Children (go) door to door on October 31. → ___

B1 43. Riscrivi
She (buy) a Greek god costume. → ___

A2 44. Riscrivi
He (not / like) horror films. → ___

B1 45. Completa
I think it ___ (rain) on Halloween night.



« A Halloween Wish », 1912 : in the age of postcards, Halloween greetings travelled by mail – slowly, like little paper ghosts.
Halloween postcard, 1912 — public domain

FESTIVAL WORDS Le parole

trick or treat – dolcetto o scherzetto

a costume – il travestimento

a jack-o'-lantern – la zucca-lanterna

a porch – il portico di casa

to carve – intagliare

a decoration – una decorazione

spooky – spaventoso e buffo

a patch – un campo (di zucche)

DATES TO REMEMBER Le date

Oct 23 — Red Ribbon Week begins
Oct 24 – Make a Difference Day · Drug Take Back Day, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Oct 31 — Halloween (Saturday)
Nov 1 – clocks fall back · Nov 3 – Election Day

THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

3,000+ – Halloween postcard designs printed in the early 1900s

96% – of celebrants buy candy · 47% – now use AI for ideas

$115.14 – projected spending per person (NRF)

FUN, OR TOO MUCH ?

Halloween now costs America more than ever – and the robots help us dress up. Is it still a festival, or is it a shopping week with ghosts ? Write to us in English, two or three sentences : your letter may appear on page 7 of VOL.2.

Halloween costa ogni anno di più, e l'IA aiuta a scegliere il costume: è ancora una festa, o una settimana di shopping con i fantasmi? Scrivici (pagina 7, l'angolo dei lettori).

The Biggest Sports Week of the Autumn

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : B1

TIP-OFF TUESDAY

The NBA is back. On Tuesday, October 20, the 2026–27 season opened with something new : a tripleheader – three big games in one night – on NBC and its streaming service Peacock. Boston played at Detroit, Oklahoma City at San Antonio, and in New York, the champions received their rings.

Before the game at Madison Square Garden, the New York Knicks raised their championship banner – the club's first since 1973. Then the Philadelphia 76ers spoiled the party. Philadelphia won 106–100, with 28 points from Tyrese Maxey. LeBron James, now a 76er, began a record 24th NBA season. The season continues all week : 43 games from Tuesday to Sunday, including the Lakers against the Warriors on Wednesday.

A FIRST-TIME CHAMPION

Baseball offers the week's most beautiful storyline. In the National League final, Milwaukee swept the Los Angeles Dodgers – the champions of the last two years are out. It is the Brewers' first World Series since 1982. In the American League, Tampa Bay beat Cleveland in Game 6 on Monday night.

So the World Series is Milwaukee against Tampa Bay. Game 1 is Friday, October 23, in Milwaukee (8 p.m. Eastern, on FOX), and Game 2 follows on Saturday. Here is the magic number : zero. Neither club has ever won the World Series – so for the first time in years, a first-time champion is guaranteed.

SPEED IN AUSTIN

On Sunday, the week ends at full speed : the United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. Practice is on Friday, qualifying on Saturday, and the race on Sunday afternoon. The weekend is also a music festival : Maroon 5 on Friday, Post Malone on Saturday, Alesso on Sunday. A special « Grand PrixView » day opens the circuit to fans on Thursday.

One more name to watch : Victor Wembanyama, the French star of San Antonio, meets Oklahoma City in the third game of the tripleheader. In France, they will watch at breakfast time ; in Texas, it is prime time.

THE FOOTBALL WEEKEND

And football ? It never stops. Week 7 of the NFL season brings the Patriots at the Bears on Thursday night, then, on Sunday, the Packers at the Lions and the Chiefs at the Seahawks in the night game. College football fills Saturday : LSU at Auburn, Texas A&M at Alabama, Ole Miss at Texas, Indiana at Michigan.

AND AT 4 P.M. ON SUNDAY...

...the world game joins the party. Barcelona play Real Madrid in El Clásico on Sunday – 4 p.m. Eastern on ESPN in the United States. On Wednesday morning, « barca vs real madrid » was the number one trending search in the US in one snapshot.

THE WEEK'S FIXTURES Partite

Tue – NBA tip-off : 76ers at Knicks · Thunder at Spurs

Wed – Lakers vs Warriors · Thu – Patriots at Bears

Fri – World Series Game 1, 8 p.m. ET · Sat – Game 2

Sun – Austin Grand Prix · El Clásico, 4 p.m. ET

Nota — a banner, lo striscione del campione • to sweep, vincere tutta la serie • the defending champion, il campione in carica • qualifying, le qualifiche • a storyline, la storia di fondo.

A READING Lettura

B1 46.
The Knicks' banner was their first since... A. 1973 · B. 1982 · C. 2003

B1 47.
On opening night, Philadelphia won... A. by 6 points · B. by 16 points · C. after extra time

B1 48.
Milwaukee's last World Series before this year was in... A. 1973 · B. 1982 · C. 2020

B1 49.
The Grand Prix race day is... A. Friday · B. Saturday · C. Sunday

B1 50.
The NFL games this week are in... A. Week 6 · B. Week 7 · C. Week 8

B SPORTS WORDS Abbina

B1 51–54. Abbina

51. tip-off
52. a sweep
53. the defending champion
54. a banner

a. the team that won last time, playing to keep the title
b. winning every game in a series
c. a flag in the arena that remembers a championship
d. the start of a basketball game

C COMPARATIVES Comparativi

B1 55. Completa
The World Series is ___ (old) than the NBA.

B1 56. Completa
Austin in October is ___ (hot) than Milwaukee.

B1 57. Completa
This is the ___ (busy) sports week of the autumn.

B1 58. Completa
Maxey scored ___ points than Brunson on Tuesday. (28 to 21)

D VERB FORMS Il passato

B1 59. Riscrivi
The 76ers (win) 106–100 on Tuesday. → ___

B1 60. Riscrivi
The Knicks (raise) their banner. → ___

B1 61. Riscrivi
Milwaukee (sweep) the Dodgers. → ___

B1 62. Riscrivi
Tampa Bay (beat) Cleveland on Monday. → ___

B1 63. Riscrivi
Fans (watch) three games on Tuesday night. → ___

THE KING'S NEW TEAM

LeBron James begins his 24th season – a record – in a new shirt : Philadelphia. He arrived this summer, and on night one, his new team won on the champions' floor.

James inizia la sua 24ª stagione (un record) con la maglia di Philadelphia: la prima sera, la sua squadra vince in casa dei campioni.

SPORTS WORDS Le parole

tip-off – la palla a due (basket)

a banner – lo striscione del titolo

to sweep – vincere tutta la serie

the defending champion – il campione in carica

qualifying – le qualifiche

a race – una gara, una corsa

overtime – i supplementari (extra time)

a fan – un tifoso, un fan

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

43 – games in the NBA's first six days

106–100 – Philadelphia's win in New York

1973 – the Knicks' previous banner · 1982 – Milwaukee's last World Series

24 – LeBron James's season number, a record

WATCHING A GAME IN ENGLISH

« What a shot ! » – Che tiro!

« They are up by six. » – Sono avanti di sei.

« It is going down to the last minute. » – Si decide tutto all'ultimo minuto.

« We were robbed ! » – Ci hanno derubati! (la frase dei tifosi quando si perde, per scherzo)

THE DEBATE Il dibattito

Three finals in one week : the NBA begins, baseball ends, and the cars race in Austin. A feast for fans – or too much sport ? Tell us on page 7.

Opening Week Lives on Your Phone

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : B1

THE GAME COMES TO YOU

For fifty years, a big game meant a television in the living room. This week, the NBA opened its season in a new way : opening night was built as a tripleheader for NBC – and for its streaming service, Peacock. Three games, one night, every screen in the house.

Young fans do not always watch a whole game. Many meet the game first as a clip : forty seconds of the best moment, sent by a friend, watched on the bus. The full game comes later – or never. On Wednesday morning, one of the top trending searches in America was « lakers roster » : before watching the team, fans wanted the list of names. Who plays for the Lakers this year ?

AI PLANS YOUR COSTUME

Halloween is the other screen story of the week. The NRF counts a new habit : 47% of celebrants now use AI tools to plan a costume or a decoration. You describe an idea – « a Greek god, but funny » – and the machine offers ten versions. Then the group chat votes.

The costume itself is content now. A good costume is not finished when you put it on ; it is finished when the photo is posted. Google's Frightgeist list and the Spirit Halloween list agree on the stars of 2026 : KPop Demon Hunters, Toy Story 5, superheroes and Greek gods. This year, the gods have good lighting.

EARNINGS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

On Wednesday, after the markets close, two giants publish their numbers : Tesla and Meta. Netflix and SpaceX did the same on Tuesday. « Earnings » is a company's report card : how much money came in, how much went out, and what is left – the profit.

For a few hours, every feed is green arrows and red arrows. One warning from our business desk : before the report, different experts give different numbers – nobody knows. After the close, everybody knows at the same time. That is the game, and this week, America is watching it live.

THE SECOND SCREEN

Watch a game with young fans and you will see two games at once. On the television, the match. On the phone, the second match : live statistics, polls – « Who wins tonight ? » – and the group chat, where every goal, every basket, produces twenty messages in ten seconds. The phone does not kill the game. For this generation, the phone IS part of the game.

The same phone plans the weekend. It holds the costume ideas, the AI pictures, the party address and the money for the pizza. One small glass rectangle runs the whole autumn : sport, money, festivals and friends. The Lucerna's advice ? Enjoy it – and sometimes, look up. The real game is also beautiful.

Nota — to stream, guardare in streaming • a highlight, il momento migliore • earnings, i risultati dell'azienda • a feed, il flusso di notizie • a roster, la rosa dei giocatori.

A CHOOSE Scelta

B1 64.
The opening tripleheader was shown on... A. NBC and Peacock · B. FOX only · C. ESPN only

B1 65.
On Wednesday morning, a top search was... A. lakers roster · B. world series tickets · C. tesla stock

B1 66.
47% of celebrants use AI to plan... A. their votes · B. costumes and decorations · C. their homework

B1 67.
Tesla and Meta report their results... A. Monday morning · B. Wednesday after the close · C. Sunday night

B1 68.
Before a report, the experts' numbers... A. are all the same · B. are secret · C. differ from expert to expert

B SCREEN WORDS Parole

A2 69. Completa
You can ___ the game live on your phone.

B1 70. Completa
No time for the full game ? Watch the ___ : three minutes of the best moments.

B1 71. Completa
Her costume photo went ___ : a million people saw it in one day.

B1 72. Completa
Before the season, fans study the ___ : who plays for the Lakers this year ?

B1 73. Completa
Wednesday is ___ day for Tesla and Meta : the companies publish their numbers.

A2 74. Completa
His ___ is full of game clips and costume photos.

C THIS WEEK, LIVE Adesso

Riscrivi al presente continuo: quello che succede questa settimana.

B1 75. Riscrivi
Tesla (report) its results tonight.→ ___

B1 76. Riscrivi
The teams (play) 43 games this week.→ ___

B1 77. Riscrivi
Fans (watch) the tripleheader on their phones. → ___

B1 78. Riscrivi
Milwaukee (prepare) for Game 1.→ ___

D TRUE OR FALSE ? V o F

B1 79. V o F
1. Many young fans meet a game first as a short clip.

B1 80. V o F
2. Everybody knows Tesla's numbers before Wednesday's report.

B1 81. V o F
3. The costume lists come only from shops.

WORDS OF THE SCREEN Parole

to stream – guardare online

a highlight – il meglio, in breve

a clip – un video breve

a feed – il flusso di notizie

viral – virale (go viral: esplodere)

a roster – la rosa, l'elenco

earnings – i conti, i profitti

to post – pubblicare, postare

SAY IT ONLINE Dillo online

« What a game ! » – Che partita!

« Send me the highlights. » – Mandami il meglio.

« This costume wins Halloween. » – Questo costume vince Halloween.

THE WORLD GAME AT 4 P.M.

On Sunday at 4 p.m. Eastern, American screens turn to Spain : Barcelona vs Real Madrid, on ESPN. In one Wednesday snapshot, it was America's number one search. The world's game needs no translation.

Domenica alle 16 (costa est) il Clásico, su ESPN; nell'istantanea di mercoledì era la ricerca numero uno in America.

PLAN YOUR STREAMING WEEK

Tue – the NBA tripleheader, on Peacock

Wed – Tesla & Meta numbers, after the close

Fri – World Series Game 1 · Sat – Game 2

Sun – Austin Grand Prix · El Clásico, 4 p.m. ET

NEXT WEEK ON YOUR SCREENS

Mon–Tue – the Series moves to Tampa · Sat Oct 31 – Halloween night · Sun Nov 1 – the clocks fall back · Tue Nov 3 – election night. The autumn does not slow down.

THE DEBATE Il dibattito

Is a forty-second clip really « watching the game » ? Or is the full game a thing of the past ? Two sentences, in English, to the newsroom – the best answers appear on page 7 of VOL.2.

The Midterms : Why America Votes Early

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : B2

On Tuesday, November 3, Americans vote in the midterm elections – the elections that fall in the middle of a president's term. There is no presidential race this year. Instead, voters choose the whole House of Representatives, part of the Senate, and most state governors. It is a smaller election than 2024, but in Washington, it changes everything.

The stakes fit in one line of numbers : the House today stands at 218 Republicans to 214 Democrats, according to Reuters – a margin of four seats. A handful of districts will decide who controls Congress for the next two years. That is why the advertising never stops : spending on election ads had already reached a record 3.8 billion dollars by October 12, the analytics firm AdImpact reported.

The newest fact of American elections is the calendar. Voting is no longer a day ; it is a season. Nurses, drivers, soldiers and parents often cannot queue for hours on a Tuesday, so states let them vote early, in person, with the same ballot. This year's wave opened on Monday, October 19, in Texas – early voting there runs to October 30 – and in Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut and Colorado.

Louisiana and Missouri followed on Tuesday, Delaware and Maryland on Thursday, and Michigan and Florida's mandatory period begins on Saturday, October 24. Fifty states, fifty calendars : in the United States, elections are run by the states, not by Washington, and every state keeps its own doors and its own hours.

Early voting changes the campaign, too. Parties no longer aim everything at one Tuesday ; they aim at October. But one rule protects the suspense : early votes are counted under state rules, and the results, as always, arrive on election night. Voting early does not mean knowing early.

Nota — midterm, metà mandato • the House, la Camera • turnout, l'affluenza.

THE EARLY-VOTING WEEK

Mon, Oct 19 – Texas, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut and Colorado open

Tue, Oct 20 – Louisiana and Missouri follow

Thu, Oct 22 – Delaware and Maryland open

Sat, Oct 24 – Michigan opens ; Florida's mandatory period begins

Fri, Oct 30 – early voting closes in Texas

Tue, Nov 3 – ELECTION DAY

HOW TO FOLLOW IT I numeri

Watch three numbers, not three hundred opinions : the turnout (how many vote), the House margin (218–214 today) and the ad money ($3.8 billion and counting). The rest is noise.

Per seguire le elezioni guarda tre numeri: affluenza, distacco alla Camera e spesa pubblicitaria. Il resto è rumore.



The Capitol in Washington : control of Congress is the prize on November 3.

United States Capitol — public domain

ELECTION WORDS Le parole

a midterm – le elezioni di metà mandato

an incumbent – chi è in carica

a margin – il distacco (voti/seggi)

turnout – l'affluenza

a campaign – la campagna elettorale

a district – il collegio elettorale

HEADLINE LANGUAGE I titoli

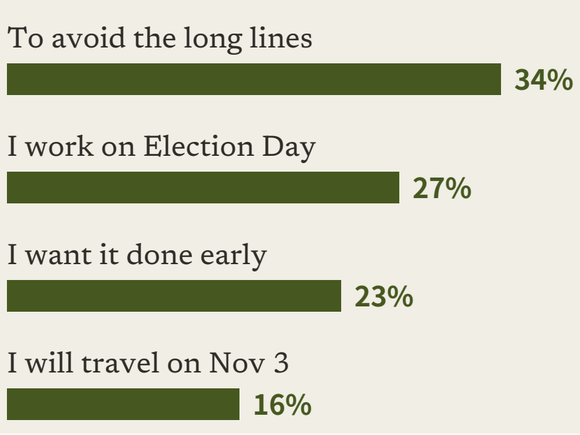
« Early voting opens » – inizia il voto anticipato

« voters head to the polls » – gli elettori vanno ai seggi

« too close to call » – troppo vicini per decidere

WHY DO VOTERS VOTE EARLY ? Grafico di pratica

PRACTICE DATA — simplified and invented for this exercise ; not a real survey.



Four answers, 100 voters. Quattro risposte, 100 elettori in tutto.

READING THE CHART Grafico

B2 82. The biggest reason is... A. travel · B. work · C. avoiding long lines

B2 83. Out of 100 voters, how many work on Election Day ?

B1 84. The top two reasons together make ___ of the voters.

B2 85. True or false : more than half vote early because of work or travel.

B1 86. The difference between « lines » and « travel » is ___.

B1 87. All four answers together make ___ of the voters.

KEY SENTENCE Frase chiave

« Voting is no longer a day ; it is a season. »

Votare non è più un giorno solo: è una stagione. — La frase chiave di questa pagina.

READING Lettura

B2 88. The midterms decide... A. the president · B. control of Congress · C. the Supreme Court

B2 89. Elections in the US are run by... A. the White House · B. the states · C. the parties

B2 90. The $3.8 billion is... A. the cost of voting machines · B. ad spending by Oct 12 · C. the price of ballots

B2 91. Florida's mandatory early voting starts... A. Oct 19 · B. Oct 22 · C. Oct 24

COMPARATIVES I comparativi

B2 92. Completa — Early voting is ___ (convenient) than voting on one day only.

B1 93. Completa — Ad spending this year is the ___ (high) ever.

B1 94. Completa — Texas starts ___ (early) than Florida.

B2 95. Completa — The House margin (218–214) is ___ (small) than ten seats.

ELECTION WORDS Le parole

B2 96. Completa — The ___ is the person who holds the job now and wants to keep it.

B2 97. Completa — 218 to 214 is a ___ of four seats.

B2 98. Completa — A high ___ means many people vote.

B2 99. Completa — A ___ is the long season of work before an election.

SAY IT LIKE A HEADLINE

« Early voters ___ to the polls in Texas. » (head)

« The race is too ___ to call. » (close)

« Turnout is ___ this year. » (up)

Tre titoli di giornale: completa gli spazi e dilli ad alta voce — le risposte sono nelle espressioni di ogni giorno.

LANGUAGE IN HAND A fondo

The Lucerna
A2 → B2 Phrases of the week Le frasi della settimana

LEVEL A2 Base

TELLING THE TIME

It's eight o'clock. · It's half past two. · It's a quarter to eight. For the hour, English always starts with « It's » — never « it has ». The three clocks on page 2 show the week's three times.

GOING TO + VERB

For a plan : « She is going to vote on Saturday. » be + going to + the verb, with no change. It is the friendliest future in English — use it for every plan of the week.

THE EXAMPLE L'esempio

« Checks are going to grow in January. » — the Social Security story, from page 2.

LEVEL B1 Intermedio

COMPARATIVES

Short adjective + -er + than : « Austin is hotter than Milwaukee. » Long adjective : more + adjective : « more convenient ». And good becomes better — never « more good ». Page 4 and page 6 are full of them.

THE PAST SIMPLE

Regular verbs add -ed : raised, watched. Irregular verbs change : win → won, sweep → swept, beat → beat, go → went. Sports pages are written in this tense — every result is past.

THE EXAMPLE L'esempio

« Maxey scored more points than Brunson. » — comparison and past simple in one line (page 4).

LEVEL B2 Sfida

HEADLINE PRESENT

Headlines speak of yesterday in the present : « 76ers win opener », « Early voting opens in Texas ». The present simple makes old news feel live. Read the front page again and find three.

WHETHER = IF ?

« Nobody knows whether the Brewers can finish the story. » Whether introduces an open question inside a sentence — more elegant than if, and safe everywhere. It is the word of the deep read (page 6).

THE EXAMPLE L'esempio

« Voting is no longer a day ; it is a season. » — no longer = non più (pagina 6).

THE TOOLBOX Attrezzi

Three sentences to keep in your pocket, one for each level :

A2 — « It's a quarter to eight. »

B1 — « The 76ers won, and Maxey scored more than Brunson. »

B2 — « Nobody knows whether the story ends with a trophy. »

And the newspaper reflex : every phrase of the week comes from an article of this issue. Re-read the article, and the phrase becomes easy.

Nota — Tre frasi di questa edizione da tenere in tasca, una per livello; le frasi della settimana vengono tutte dagli articoli di questa edizione: rileggi l'originale e restano in mente.

PHRASES OF THE WEEK Frasi della settimana

Ogni frase: un punto di grammatica e un esercizio Risposte a pagina 8

« On Tuesday, October 20, the 2026–27 season opened with something new : a tripleheader. » (page 4)

Nota — Passato semplice: open → opened, verbo regolare.

B1 100.
The World Series ___ (open) on Friday.

« When the prices of food, homes and energy go up, the checks go up too. » (page 2)

Nota — go up = salire; con when, il presente semplice esprime una regola generale.

A2 101.
When energy costs more, the bills ___ too. (go up)

« Milwaukee swept the Los Angeles Dodgers. » (page 4)

Nota — Il passato di sweep è swept: verbo irregolare.

B1 102.
Tampa Bay ___ (beat) Cleveland on Monday.

« Neither club has ever won the World Series. » (page 4)

Nota — neither + verbo al singolare: nessuno dei due (ha mai vinto).

B2 103.
Neither team ___ (have) a trophy yet.

« Voting is no longer a day ; it is a season. » (page 6)

Nota — no longer = non più; va dopo il verbo be.

B2 104.
The game is ___ on television only ; it is on phones too.

« Voters head to the polls. » (page 6)

Nota — head to = dirigersi verso; nei titoli si usa il presente.

A2 105.
On Tuesday, fans ___ to the stadium. (head)

« The average retired worker will get about 75 dollars more every month. » (page 2)

Nota — about = circa: serve per le cifre approssimate.

A2 106.
The average check is ___ two thousand dollars a month.

« In Europe, the clocks fall back on Sunday — in America, on Sunday, November 1. » (page 2)

Nota — fall back = spostare indietro l'orologio; in primavera è spring forward.

B1 107.
In spring, the clocks ___ forward. (spring)

THE ERROR CLINIC Errori

Ogni frase ha un errore: trovalo e correggilo.

A2 108. Correggi
✗ « I am agree with you. »

A2 109. Correggi
✗ « Yesterday I go to the game. »

B1 110. Correggi
✗ « This week is more busier than last week. »

B1 111. Correggi
✗ « He don't like early voting. »

READERS' CORNER L'angolo dei lettori

« This autumn, I read my first book in English — one page every night, with Lucerna. » — R. T., a reader in Toronto (editor's example : the first real reader letters will take this place in VOL.2)

La risposta della redazione — one page every night è l'abitudine più solida: il presente semplice parla proprio delle abitudini. Nota: questa lettera è un esempio della redazione; dal VOL.2 pubblicheremo le lettere vere dei lettori e commenteremo i testi di pagina 8.

NEXT WEEK VOL.2 La prossima settimana

Saturday, October 31 : Halloween night, live. Sunday, November 1 : America falls back — one more hour of sleep. Tuesday, November 3 : Election Day. What do Americans read, watch and eat while they wait for the results ?

Sabato prossimo, la notte di Halloween; domenica, tutta l'America sposta l'orologio; martedì 3 novembre, il giorno delle elezioni.

A CLOZE Completa il testo

Maya is twelve. On Saturday, October 31, it is (112)___. In the morning, she helps her father (113)___ a pumpkin on the porch. « (114)___ rain nor cold can stop us », laughs her mother. In the evening, Maya puts on her (115)___ : she (116)___ a gold crown, like a Greek goddess. She takes her bag and goes from house to house : « Trick or treat ! » The neighbours give her (117)___. At nine o'clock, the street is quiet – and in the night, the clocks will (118)___ back : one more hour of sleep ! Tomorrow, Maya is (119)___ to sleep late, very late.

Opzioni:

112. A. Christmas • B. Easter • C. Halloween

113. A. carve • B. eat • C. sell

114. A. Both • B. Neither • C. Also

115. A. costume • B. uniform • C. pyjamas

116. A. wear • B. wears • C. wearing

117. A. money • B. candy • C. flowers

118. A. fall • B. falls • C. falling

119. A. goes • B. go • C. going

B MULTIPLE CHOICE Scelta

A2 120.
The game starts at 9:15. In words : ... A. a quarter to nine · B. a quarter past nine · C. half past nine

A2 121.
On Sunday, we ___ an extra hour of sleep. A. get · B. gets · C. getting

B1 122.
The 76ers ___ the game 106–100. A. win · B. won · C. wins

B1 123.
Austin is ___ than Milwaukee in October. A. hot · B. hotter · C. hottest

B2 124.
___ the rain, the parade went on all evening. A. Despite · B. Because · C. Unless

B2 125.
Nobody knows ___ the Brewers will win the Series. A. whether · B. what · C. who

A2 126.
Early voting in Texas ___ on Monday. A. opened · B. open · C. opens

B1 127.
She is going to ___ her ballot on Saturday. A. cast · B. casts · C. casted

C READING Comprensione

On Monday morning, Rosa Delgado, a nurse from Houston, finished her night work at six o'clock. She did not go home to sleep. She drove to the early-voting place near the hospital and joined a short line. « On November 3, I work all day », she explains. « Today, I have time. » Ten minutes later, her ballot was in the box, and a sticker on her jacket said : I VOTED EARLY. By Friday, October 30, when early voting ends in Texas, millions of Texans will do the same.

A2 128.
Rosa is... A. a teacher · B. a nurse · C. a driver

A2 129.
She voted early because on November 3 she... A. travels · B. works all day · C. sleeps

B1 130.
Her sticker said... A. I VOTED EARLY · B. VOTE ON TUESDAY · C. TEXAS FIRST

B1 131.
Early voting in Texas ends on... A. October 19 · B. October 30 · C. November 3

D SENTENCES Completa

A2 132.
Be going to : « On Saturday, they (carve) a pumpkin. » → ___

B1 133.
Past simple : « The Knicks (raise) their first banner since 1973. »

B1 134.
Comparative : « My costume is ___ (scary) than yours. »

B2 135.
Whether : « ___ the parade will happen, nobody knows. »

E TRANSLATION Traduzione

B2 136.
Translate : « Voting is no longer a day ; it is a season. »

A2 137.
Traduci: I 76ers hanno vinto per 106 a 100.

B1 138.
Traduci: Quest'anno il voto anticipato è iniziato lunedì.

B1 139.
Translate : « Neither club has ever won the Series. »

F WORDS Abbina

B1 140–143. Abbina

140. a midterm
141. an incumbent
142. a margin
143. turnout

a. the number of people who vote
b. an election in the middle of a president's term
c. the person who holds the job now
d. the difference between two results

G DIALOGUE Il dialogo

– Good morning ! Is this the early-voting place ? – Yes, welcome. May I see your (144)___ ? – Here it is. Is the (145)___ long today ? – No, five minutes only. Yesterday it was very long ! – Good. It is my first early vote. What do I do with the (146)___ ? – Mark your choices, check them twice, then put it in the box. – Thank you. And the famous (147)___ ? Everybody has one on their jacket. – The sticker ! Here it is : « I VOTED ». Wear it with pride. – I will ! See you on (148)___ 3rd, in the results ! – Ha ! Have a good day.

H WRITING Scrittura

Write a short text (80 to 100 words) : « My Saturday, October 31 ». Tell us : your costume, your street, the candy, the pumpkins – and one sentence about the clocks that fall back in the night. The best texts will appear in VOL.2 (page 7, « Readers' Corner »).

Scrivi in inglese (80–100 parole): il mio sabato 31 ottobre. Racconta il costume, la strada, i dolci, le zucche — e una frase sull'orologio che nella notte si sposta indietro.

MODEL Il modello

On Saturday, October 31, our street becomes a small Halloween town. In the morning, I carve a pumpkin with my father and we put a candle inside. At six o'clock, I wear my pirate costume and take my bag. House after house, I say « Trick or treat ! » and the neighbours smile and give me candy. My bag is heavy at nine o'clock ! In the night, the clocks fall back, so I sleep one hour more on Sunday. It is my favourite weekend of the autumn.

ANSWERS Risposte e note (pagine 1–8)

— Pagina 1 —

1. ballot • 2. early • 3. November 3 • 4. champion • 5. opened • 6. first • 7. B • 8. C • 9. A • 10. B

— Pagina 2 —

11. half past (8:30 = le otto e mezza) • 12. quarter past • 13. quarter to • 14. midnight (0:00 = mezzanotte) • 15. o'clock (3:00 = le tre in punto) • 16. Checks are going to grow in January. • 17. Milwaukee is going to play Game 1 on Friday. • 18. We are going to check the fridge tonight. • 19. Are you going to vote early this year ? (domanda: be va all'inizio) • 20. B • 21. B • 22. C • 23. A • 24. b • 25. d • 26. c • 27. a

— Pagina 3 —

28. False • 29. True • 30. False • 31. True • 32. False • 33. costume • 34. carve • 35. porch (porch = il portico) • 36. candy (il 96% compra dolci) • 37. patch • 38. B • 39. A • 40. B (quest'anno vanno gli dèi greci) • 41. B • 42. Children go door to door on October 31. (presente semplice: un'abitudine) • 43. She buys a Greek god costume. • 44. He does not like horror films. • 45. will rain

— Pagina 4 —

46. A • 47. A • 48. B • 49. C (la gara di F1 è domenica) • 50. B • 51. d • 52. b • 53. a • 54. c • 55. older • 56. hotter • 57. busiest • 58. more • 59. The 76ers won 106–100. • 60. The Knicks raised their banner. • 61. Milwaukee swept the Dodgers. • 62. Tampa Bay beat Cleveland on Monday. • 63. Fans watched three games on Tuesday night.

— Pagina 5 —

64. A • 65. A (una delle ricerche top del mercoledì mattina) • 66. B • 67. B • 68. C • 69. stream • 70. highlights • 71. viral • 72. roster • 73. earnings • 74. feed (feed = il flusso di notizie) • 75. Tesla is reporting its results tonight. • 76. The teams are playing 43 games this week. • 77. Fans are watching the tripleheader on their phones. • 78. Milwaukee is preparing for Game 1. • 79. True • 80. False • 81. False

— Pagina 6 —

82. C (il motivo più grande: evitare le code, 34%) • 83. 27 (lavorano il giorno delle elezioni: 27) • 84. 61% (34 + 27 = 61) • 85. False (27 + 16 = 43, meno della metà) • 86. 18 points (34 − 16 = 18 punti) • 87. 100% (le quattro risposte sommano 100%) • 88. B • 89. B (le elezioni USA le gestiscono gli Stati) • 90. B • 91. C • 92. more convenient • 93. highest • 94. earlier • 95. smaller • 96. incumbent • 97. margin • 98. turnout • 99. campaign

— Pagina 7 —

100. opened • 101. go up (go up = salire) • 102. beat • 103. has • 104. no longer • 105. head • 106. about (about = circa) • 107. spring • 108. I agree with you. (agree è un verbo: niente am davanti) • 109. Yesterday I went to the game. (il passato di go è went) • 110. This week is busier than last week. (busier è già comparativo: niente more) • 111. He doesn't like early voting. (negazione, terza persona: doesn't + forma base)

— Pagina 8 —

112. C (il 31 ottobre è Halloween) • 113. A (carve = intagliare la zucca) • 114. B (neither...nor = né... né...) • 115. A (costume = il travestimento di Halloween) • 116. B (she, terza persona → wears) • 117. B (con trick or treat arrivano i dolci) • 118. A (will + forma base: fall) • 119. C (be going to → is going) • 120. B (9:15 = a quarter past nine) • 121. A (we → get, forma base) • 122. B (partita finita: si usa won) • 123. B (than → comparativo: hotter) • 124. A (despite + nome: nonostante la pioggia) • 125. A (whether = se, domanda indiretta) • 126. A (cosa passata: passato opened) • 127. A (be going to + forma base: cast) • 128. B (nel testo: a nurse from Houston) • 129. B (il 3 novembre lavora tutto il giorno) • 130. A (l'adesivo diceva I VOTED EARLY) • 131. B (il voto anticipato in Texas finisce il 30 ottobre) • 132. On Saturday, they are going to carve a pumpkin. (are going to + forma base) • 133. The Knicks raised their first banner since 1973. (raise → raised (cambio regolare)) • 134. scarier (scary → scarier (la y diventa i + er)) • 135. Whether (whether = se, in una domanda indiretta) • 136. Votare non è più cosa di un solo giorno; è una stagione. (no longer = non più) • 137. The 76ers won the game 106–100. (win → won; il punteggio: 106–100) • 138. This year, early voting opened on Monday. (open → opened; on Monday) • 139. Nessuno dei due club ha mai vinto le World Series. (neither nega entrambi; has ever won, present perfect) • 140. b (midterm = le elezioni di metà mandato b) • 141. c (incumbent = chi è in carica c) • 142. d (margin = il distacco d) • 143. a (turnout = l'affluenza a) • 144. ID (al voto si mostra un documento: ID) • 145. line (line = la fila (inglese americano)) • 146. ballot (ballot = la scheda) • 147. sticker (sticker = l'adesivo) • 148. November (il giorno delle elezioni è il 3 novembre) • 149. (domanda aperta — il modello è nel riquadro di scrittura) (si valuta in base ai punti)