VOL. 1 FIRST ISSUE WEEKLY IN ENGLISH ELKE WEEK EEN NUMMER HET ENGELS DAT AMERIKA LEEST WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 TO 25, 2026

The Lucerna

ENGELS WEEKBLAD VOL.1 STADIONS STEMMEN POMPOENEN

TEKSTEN IN HET ENGELS UITLEG IN HET NEDERLANDS — DE EDITIE VOOR NEDERLANDSTALIGE LEZERS

EUROPE TURNS ITS CLOCKS BACK SUNDAY — AMERICA WAITS !

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

DE KLOK TERUG

AMERIKA PAS OP 1 NOVEMBER

THE BIG STORY Hoofdverhaal

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 !

Uitleg — early voting, vervroegd stemmen • ballot, het stembiljet • tip off, de start van de wedstrijd • champion, de kampioen.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS Cijfers

Nov 3 – Election Day (verkiezingsdag) · Oct 19 – early voting opens in Texas (vervroegd stemmen begint in Texas)

43 – NBA games from Tuesday to Sunday (43 wedstrijden van dinsdag tot zondag) · 2 – teams in the World Series, both after a first title (allebei op jacht naar hun eerste titel)

TRY IT NOW Probeer het nu

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

Zoektrends van de week Google Trends VS

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” 200K+ op maandag (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.

(de klok) een uur terugzetten: 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 Kort nieuws

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 Bliksemquiz

Kies het juiste antwoord Antwoorden op 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 Reken mee

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.

Uitleg — cost-of-living, de kosten van levensonderhoud • a check, een uitkering (het maandbedrag) • a notice, een bericht • a pound, een pond (ongeveer 0,45 kg) • to recall, terugroepen (een product).



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 ? En jij?

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 »).

Hotdogs in je koelkast? Welk geld komt er elke maand binnen?

TELLING THE TIME Zo zeg je de tijd

Game times this week Handig voor alle wedstrijden van deze week



It is eight o'clock.



It is half past two.



It is quarter to eight.

half past	= 30 minutes after the hour (bij ons: half + volgend uur)
quarter past	= 15 minutes after (kwart over)
quarter to	= 15 minutes before (kwart voor)
noon / midnight	= 12:00 in the day / at night (middag / middernacht)

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 Oefeningen van pagina 2

Antwoorden op pagina 8 Niveaus door elkaar: zoek op nummer

A WHAT TIME IS IT ?

Vul de zinnen aan, volgens de klok.

A2 11. Vul in
8:30 – It is ___ eight.

A2 12. Vul in
9:15 – It is ___ nine.

A2 13. Vul in
7:45 – It is ___ eight.

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

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

B GOING TO

Herschrijf met be going to + werkwoord.

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

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

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

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

C COMPREHENSION

Lees pagina 2 en kies het juiste antwoord.

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. Combineer

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 Zeg het zo

« Trick or treat ! » – Snoep of je leven! (een grapje dat altijd snoep oplevert)

« Happy Halloween ! » – Vrolijk Halloween! · « Thank you ! » – Dank je wel! (zeg dit altijd als je snoep krijgt)

« What are you dressed as ? » – Als wat ben je verkleed?

Uitleg — to celebrate, vieren • a porch, de veranda • to carve, uitsnijden • a decoration, een versiering • a survey, een enquête (de NRF ondervroeg 7.889 mensen).

A TRUE OR FALSE ? W/NW

Lees het artikel op pagina 3: waar (W) of niet waar (NW)?

A2 28. W/NW
1. Halloween is on a Friday this year.

A2 29. W/NW
2. Americans will spend about $13.5 billion on Halloween.

B1 30. W/NW
3. Candy is the biggest part of the spending.

A2 31. W/NW
4. Almost half of celebrants use AI tools for costume ideas.

A2 32. W/NW
5. A house with no light on the porch is asking for visitors.

B FESTIVAL WORDS Feest

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

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

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

A2 36. Vul in
Ninety-six percent of celebrants buy ___.

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

C CHOOSE Kies

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 Omvormen

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

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

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

B1 45. Vul in
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 Feestwoorden

trick or treat – snoep of je leven

a costume – een kostuum

a jack-o'-lantern – pompoenlantaarn

a porch – de veranda, het bordes

to carve – uitsnijden, kerven

a decoration – een versiering

spooky – leuk griezelig

a patch – een stuk land

DATES TO REMEMBER Data

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 wordt duurder en AI helpt aan je kostuum: feest, of winkelweek met spoken? Schrijf ons (p. 7).

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 Agenda

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

Uitleg — a banner, een kampioensvaandel • to sweep, alle wedstrijden van een serie winnen • the defending champion, de titelverdediger • qualifying, de kwalificatie • a storyline, de verhaallijn.

A READING Lezen

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 Sport

B1 51–54. Combineer

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 Vergelijking

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

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

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

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

D VERB FORMS Verleden tijd

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

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

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

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

B1 63. Herschrijf
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 begint zijn 24e seizoen (een record) in een shirt van Philadelphia — en won op de eerste avond meteen op de vloer van de kampioen.

SPORTS WORDS Sportwoorden

tip-off – (basketbal) de start, de sprongbal

a banner – een kampioensvaandel

to sweep – alle wedstrijden van een serie winnen

the defending champion – de titelverdediger

qualifying – de kwalificatie

a race – een wedstrijd; (auto's) een race

overtime – de verlenging (extra time)

a fan – een fan, een supporter

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 ! » – Wat een schot!

« They are up by six. » – Ze staan zes punten voor.

« It is going down to the last minute. » – Het blijft spannend tot de laatste minuut.

« We were robbed ! » – We zijn bestolen! (zeggen fans na verlies, als grap)

THE DEBATE Discussie

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.

Uitleg — to stream, streamen • a highlight, de hoogtepunten • earnings, de kwartaalcijfers • a feed, de tijdlijn • a roster, de spelerslijst.

A CHOOSE Kies

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 Scherm

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

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

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

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

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

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

C THIS WEEK, LIVE Nu bezig

Herschrijf in de present continuous: wat er deze week gebeurt.

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

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

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

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

D TRUE OR FALSE ? W/NW

B1 79. W/NW
1. Many young fans meet a game first as a short clip.

B1 80. W/NW
2. Everybody knows Tesla's numbers before Wednesday's report.

B1 81. W/NW
3. The costume lists come only from shops.

WORDS OF THE SCREEN Scherm

to stream – streamen, online kijken

a highlight – de hoogtepunten, de beste fragmenten

a clip – een kort filmpje

a feed – de tijdlijn

viral – viraal (go viral = viraal gaan)

a roster – de lijst, de selectie

earnings – de kwartaalcijfers

to post – posten, plaatsen

SAY IT ONLINE Zeg het online

« What a game ! » – Wat een wedstrijd!

« Send me the highlights. » – Stuur me de hoogtepunten.

« This costume wins Halloween. » – Dit kostuum wint 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.

Zondag om 16.00 uur Eastern: de Clásico, live op ESPN; in de momentopname van woensdag was het even de meest gezochte term van Amerika.

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 Discussie

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.

Uitleg — midterm, de midterms • the House, het Huis • margin, het verschil • turnout, de opkomst.

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 Zo volg je ze

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.

Volg drie getallen, geen meningen: de opkomst, het verschil in het Huis en het reclamegeld. De rest is ruis.



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

United States Capitol — public domain

ELECTION WORDS Verkiezing

a midterm – de tussentijdse verkiezingen

an incumbent – de zittende politicus

a margin – het verschil (in stemmen of zetels)

turnout – de opkomst

a campaign – de campagne

a district – het kiesdistrict

HEADLINE LANGUAGE Koppen

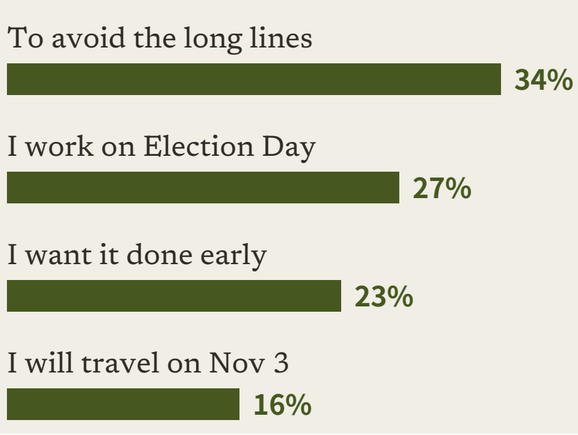
« Early voting opens » – het vervroegd stemmen begint

« voters head to the polls » – kiezers trekken naar de stembus

« too close to call » – te spannend om te voorspellen

WHY DO VOTERS VOTE EARLY ? Oefengrafiek

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



Four answers, 100 voters. Vier antwoorden, samen 100 kiezers.

READING THE CHART Grafiek

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 Kernzin

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

Stemmen is geen dag meer; het is een seizoen. — de kernzin van deze verdieping.

READING Lezen

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 Vergelijkingen

B2 92. Vul in
Early voting is ___ (convenient) than voting on one day only.

B1 93. Vul in
Ad spending this year is the ___ (high) ever.

B1 94. Vul in
Texas starts ___ (early) than Florida.

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

ELECTION WORDS Verkiezing

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

B2 97. Vul in
218 to 214 is a ___ of four seats.

B2 98. Vul in
A high ___ means many people vote.

B2 99. Vul in
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)

Drie krantenkoppen: vul ze zelf in en zeg ze hardop — de antwoorden zitten in de alledaagse taal.

LANGUAGE IN HAND Taal in handen

LEVEL A2 Basis

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 Het voorbeeld

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

LEVEL B1 Verder

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 Het voorbeeld

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

LEVEL B2 Uitdaging

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 Het voorbeeld

« Voting is no longer a day ; it is a season. » – no longer = niet meer (pagina 6).

THE TOOLBOX Gereedschap

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.

Uitleg — Drie zinnen voor in je zak, één per niveau; alle zinnen van de week komen uit de artikelen van dit nummer — herlees het origineel, dat werkt het best.

PHRASES OF THE WEEK Zinnen van de week (allemaal uit dit nummer)

Per zin één grammaticapunt + één vraagje Antwoorden op pagina 8

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

Grammatica — verleden tijd: open → opened, regelmatig.

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)

Grammatica — go up = stijgen; bij when de tegenwoordige tijd.

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

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

Grammatica — de verleden tijd van sweep is swept, onregelmatig.

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

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

Grammatica — neither + enkelvoud: beide clubs (nog nooit gewonnen).

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

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

Grammatica — no longer = niet meer, na het werkwoord be.

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

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

Grammatica — head to = op weg naar (de tegenwoordige tijd van krantenkoppen).

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

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

Grammatica — about = ongeveer: gebruik het bij circa-getallen.

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)

Grammatica — fall back = de klok terugzetten; in de lente: spring forward.

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

THE ERROR CLINIC Fouten

Elke zin bevat één fout: vind hem en verbeter hem.

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

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

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

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

READERS' CORNER Lezershoek

« 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)

Antwoord van de redactie — one page every night is de stevigste gewoonte: de tegenwoordige tijd drukt gewoontes uit. Let op: deze brief is een voorbeeld van de redactie. Vanaf VOL.2 plaatsen we echte lezersbrieven en bespreken we de inzendingen voor de schrijfopdracht van pagina 8.

NEXT WEEK VOL.2 Volgende week

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 ?

Zaterdag Halloweenavond, live. Zondag zet heel Amerika de klok terug. Dinsdag 3 november: verkiezingsdag.

EXERCISES & ANSWERS Oefeningen en antwoorden

The Lucerna

FINAL TEST Eindtoets Answers at the bottom of this page Antwoorden onderaan deze pagina

A CLOZE Gatentekst

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.

Keuzes:

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 Meerkeuze

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 Leestekst

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 Zinnen

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 Vertalen

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

A2 137.
Vertaal: de 76ers wonnen met 106–100.

B1 138.
Vertaal: dit jaar begon het vervroegd stemmen op maandag.

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

F WORDS Woorden combineren

B1 140–143. Combineer

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 Dialoog

– 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 Schrijven

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 »).

Schrijf in het Engels (80–100 woorden): « Mijn zaterdag 31 oktober ». Vertel over je kostuum, je straat, het snoep en de pompoenen — en schrijf één zin over de klokken die 's nachts teruggaan.

MODEL Voorbeeld

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 Alle antwoorden met uitleg (pagina 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 = half negen) • 12. quarter past • 13. quarter to • 14. midnight (0:00 = middernacht) • 15. o'clock (3:00 = drie uur precies) • 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 ? (vraagzin: be komt vooraan) • 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 = de veranda) • 36. candy (96% koopt snoep) • 37. patch • 38. B • 39. A • 40. B (dit jaar zijn Griekse goden in de mode) • 41. B • 42. Children go door to door on October 31. (de tegenwoordige tijd voor gewoontes) • 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 (de Grand Prix-race is op zondag) • 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 (een van de zoektrends van woensdagochtend) • 66. B • 67. B • 68. C • 69. stream • 70. highlights • 71. viral • 72. roster • 73. earnings • 74. feed (feed = de tijdlijn) • 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 (de grootste reden: de lange rijen vermijden, 34%) • 83. 27 (werken op verkiezingsdag: 27 mensen) • 84. 61% (34 + 27 = 61) • 85. False (27 + 16 = 43, minder dan de helft) • 86. 18 points (34 − 16 = 18 procentpunten) • 87. 100% (alle vier samen: 100%) • 88. B • 89. B (verkiezingen in de VS worden door de staten georganiseerd) • 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 = stijgen) • 102. beat • 103. has • 104. no longer • 105. head • 106. about (about = ongeveer) • 107. spring • 108. I agree with you. (agree is een werkwoord: geen am ervoor) • 109. Yesterday I went to the game. (de verleden tijd van go is went) • 110. This week is busier than last week. (busier heeft de vergelijking al: geen more ervoor) • 111. He doesn't like early voting. (ontkenning, derde persoon: doesn't + basisvorm)

— Pagina 8 —

112. C (31 oktober is Halloween) • 113. A (carve = de pompoenlantaarn uitsnijden) • 114. B (neither...nor = noch... noch...) • 115. A (costume = het Halloweenkostuum) • 116. B (she (derde persoon) → wears) • 117. B (trick or treat levert snoep op) • 118. A (will + basisvorm: fall) • 119. C (be going to → is going) • 120. B (9:15 = a quarter past nine) • 121. A (we → get (basisvorm)) • 122. B (een afgelopen wedstrijd: gebruik won) • 123. B (than → vergrotende trap: hotter) • 124. A (despite + zelfstandig naamwoord: ondanks de regen) • 125. A (whether = of (twijfel)) • 126. A (iets uit het verleden: gebruik opened) • 127. A (be going to + basisvorm: cast) • 128. B (in de tekst: a nurse from Houston) • 129. B (op 3 november werkt ze de hele dag) • 130. A (op haar sticker stond I VOTED EARLY) • 131. B (vervroegd stemmen in Texas eindigt op 30 oktober) • 132. On Saturday, they are going to carve a pumpkin. (are going to + basisvorm) • 133. The Knicks raised their first banner since 1973. (raise → raised (regelmatig)) • 134. scarier (scary → scarier (de y wordt i, dan -er)) • 135. Whether (whether leidt een indirecte vraag in (of)) • 136. Stemmen is geen dag meer; het is een seizoen. (no longer = niet meer) • 137. The 76ers won the game 106–100. (win → won; de uitslag 106–100) • 138. This year, early voting opened on Monday. (open → opened; op maandag = on Monday) • 139. Geen van beide clubs heeft ooit de World Series gewonnen. (neither = geen van beide; has ever won = voltooide tijd) • 140. b (midterm = de tussentijdse verkiezingen, b) • 141. c (incumbent = de zittende politicus, c) • 142. d (margin = het verschil, d) • 143. a (turnout = de opkomst, a) • 144. ID (je identiteitsbewijs, dat je bij het stemmen toont) • 145. line (line = de rij (Amerikaans Engels)) • 146. ballot (ballot = het stembiljet) • 147. sticker (sticker = de sticker) • 148. November (de verkiezingsdag is 3 november) • 149. (open vraag — het voorbeeld staat in het schrijfblok op deze pagina) (beoordeling op de punten uit de opdracht)