VOL. 2 WEEKLY IN ENGLISH UN NUMERO OGNI SETTIMANA L'INGLESE CHE LEGGE L'AMERICA WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2 TO 8, 2026

The Lucerna

SETTIMANALE IN INGLESE VOL.2 ELEZIONI FOOTBALL FILM

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

AMERICA VOTES ON TUESDAY — AND THE CLOCKS FELL BACK ! MARTEDÌ ELEZIONI

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. On Sunday, November 1, America turned its clocks back one hour.

Elezioni martedì 3 novembre Vedi p. 6

THE BIG STORY Titolo

America Votes : Election Day Comes on Tuesday, November 3

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : A2

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day in the United States. It is a midterm election – an election in the middle of a president's four-year term. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are on the ballot, along with about a third of the Senate and governorships in many states.

In many states, voting has already started. Early voting lets people vote before Election Day : you go to a voting place, you show your ID, you mark your ballot, and your vote counts on election night. On Tuesday, the voting places open early in the morning and close in the evening.

What happens on Tuesday night ? Television channels show maps that slowly change colour, state by state. But nobody should expect every result at midnight : each state runs its own election, and counting takes time. Some races are called on Tuesday night ; others take days.

And that is only half of the week. On Friday, November 6, two big films open in cinemas. On Sunday, November 8, American football goes to Madrid, Spain, and Formula 1 races in São Paulo, Brazil. Our sport dossier is on page 4.

This is the second issue of The Lucerna in English. Last issue promised real readers' letters – and this week, our Readers' Corner on page 7 tells you honestly where those letters stand. Welcome back !

Spiegazione | a midterm = medio termine • a ballot = scheda • a race = corsa • to call a race = proclamare il vincitore.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS In cifre

Nov 3 – Election Day (elezioni) · 435 – seats in the House, all on the ballot (tutti i 435 seggi da rieleggere)

Nov 6 – two films open (due film in uscita) · Nov 8 – NFL in Madrid + F1 in São Paulo (due gare domenica)

TRY IT NOW Prova subito

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

A2 2.
An election in the middle of a term is a ___ election.

A2 3.
Election Day is Tuesday, ___.

A2 4.
Voting before Election Day is called ___ voting.

B1 5.
Some races are ___ on Tuesday night ; others take days.

B1 6.
Counting ___ time in every state.

SEARCHES OF THE WEEK

Cercato negli USA Google Trends

1. election day
2. nfl week 9
3. cat in the hat
4. daylight saving
5. f1 sao paulo

Snapshots, late October : search interest changes during the day.
Popolarità relativa, non numeri esatti.

IN THIS ISSUE Sommario

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THE WORD OF THE WEEK

« midterm »
in the middle of a term. Two years after a presidential election.

Midterm election = elezioni di medio termine.



A voting booth in the Old State House, Hartford, Connecticut : one voter, one ballot, one private moment. On Tuesday, millions of Americans will do the same.

Kenneth C. Zirkel — CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

FALL, THE SEASON OF VOTES

Autumn in America is a season of votes and games : the ballots on Tuesday, the football in Madrid on Sunday, and two films on Friday. One week, three kinds of suspense.

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

IN BRIEF In breve

ELECTION
Tuesday, November 3 : Election Day. All 435 House seats on the ballot. (p. 6)

CLOCKS
Sunday, November 1 : America fell back. Darker evenings. (p. 2)

MOVIES
Friday, November 6 : « The Cat in the Hat » and « Godzilla Minus Zero ». (p. 3)

LIGHTNING QUIZ Quiz lampo

Leggi pagina 1, scegli la risposta giusta Risposte a pagina 8

A2 7.
Election Day is... A. November 1 · B. Tuesday, November 3 · C. November 8

A2 8.
How many House seats are on the ballot ? A. 100 · B. 50 · C. 435

A2 9.
America turned its clocks back on... A. November 1 · B. November 3 · C. November 8

A2 10.
The NFL game in Madrid is on... A. Friday · B. Sunday, November 8 · C. Tuesday

One More Hour of Sleep : America Falls Back

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : A2

On Sunday, November 1, at 2 a.m., the clocks in most of the United States went back one hour – to 1 a.m. again. The hour from 1 to 2 happened twice. Americans call it « falling back », and the prize is simple : one more hour of sleep.

Why do we change the clocks ? In summer, we move the clocks forward so the evenings stay light longer. In autumn, we move them back, so the mornings are light again for school and work. The American memory phrase is : spring forward, fall back.

Not every place changes. Arizona and Hawaii stay on the same time all year – no spring forward, no fall back. If you call a friend in Phoenix on Sunday, remember : their clock did not move.

The price of the extra hour is a darker evening. From this week, the sun sets earlier, and the walk home from school or work is in the dark. Lights go on in windows, and autumn evenings begin.

And what about Saturday night ? On Saturday, October 31, it was Halloween. Children in costumes went from house to house with the old call : « Trick or treat ! » In the morning, the pumpkins were still on the porches – and the candy bags were full.

Halloween and the clock change belong together in America : one night of costumes, then one night of an extra hour. Two autumn rituals, one weekend – and both are now just passed, not coming.

DO THE MATHS Facciamo i conti

From 2 a.m. back to 1 a.m. : the night of November 1 has 25 hours, not 24. One extra hour – one extra hour of sleep, if you use it well.

WHAT IS ON THIS WEEK ?

Second story of the week – and it is on your screen. On Friday, November 6, two films open in cinemas : « The Cat in the Hat », with the famous cat from Dr. Seuss, and « Godzilla Minus Zero », the new film from Takashi Yamazaki. One for children, one for monster fans – and both for a Friday night out.

On television and streaming, the week is just as full. New shows arrive on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and on Sunday night, a famous reality reunion closes the week. Page 3 has the full screen guide.

How do you say the new time ? « It is one o'clock – again ! » is the joke of the week. The clocks below show the three times of the week : the repeated hour, the half hour, and the quarter to.

Nota — to fall back = (orologio) spostare indietro • a costume = costume, travestimento • trick or treat = dolcetto o scherzetto.



« A Halloween Wish » : a Halloween postcard from 1912. More than a century ago, Americans already sent Halloween greetings – the costumes change, the night stays.
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

DID YOU KNOW ?

Most of the United States fell back on Sunday, November 1 – Arizona and Hawaii did not change.

The night of November 1 has 25 hours : the hour from 1 to 2 a.m. happens twice.

Halloween was Saturday, October 31 : costumes, pumpkins, and full candy bags.

AND YOU ? E tu ?

And you ? Did you sleep one hour more on Sunday ? What did you do on October 31 ? Write two sentences in English for VOL.3.

Domenica hai dormito un'ora in più? Scrivi due frasi in inglese alla redazione!

TELLING THE TIME Come si dice l'ora

The repeated hour Le tre ore della settimana



It is one o'clock.



It is half past one.



It is quarter to eight.

twice	= two times (due volte)
again	= one more time (ancora una volta)
to fall back	= to go back one hour (spostare indietro di un'ora)
an extra hour	= one hour more (un'ora in più)

This week : on Sunday, November 1, the clocks fell back. The hour from 1 to 2 a.m. happened twice – spring forward, fall back.

EXERCISES Esercizi di pagina 2

Risposte a pagina 8 Cerca per numero

A WHAT TIME IS IT ?

Completa le frasi in inglese secondo l'ora.

A2 11. Completa
1:00 – It is ___ o'clock.

A2 12. Completa
1:30 – It is ___ one.

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

A2 14. Completa
The hour happened ___ on Sunday.

A2 15. Completa
We got an ___ hour of sleep.

B GOING TO

Riscrivi con be going to (piani e cose che accadranno).

A2 16. Riscrivi
Americans (vote) on Tuesday.→ ___

A2 17. Riscrivi
She (watch) the film on Friday.→ ___

A2 18. Riscrivi
We (sleep) one hour more.→ ___

B1 19. Riscrivi
They (fall) back on Sunday ?→ ___

C COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 2, scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 20.
The clocks went back at... A. 1 a.m. · B. 2 a.m. · C. 3 a.m.

A2 21.
Which places do NOT change ? A. Texas · B. Florida · C. Arizona and Hawaii

A2 22.
Halloween was on... A. Saturday, October 31 · B. Sunday, November 1 · C. Friday, November 6

A2 23.
The night of November 1 has... A. 24 hours · B. 25 hours · C. 23 hours

D THE WORDS

A2 24–27. Abbina

24. a costume
25. an extra hour
26. to fall back
27. trick or treat

a. one hour more than usual
b. clothes for a costume role
c. the children's Halloween call
d. to move clocks back one hour

Friday Night at the Movies : A Cat and a Monster

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : A2 → B1

On Friday, November 6, two very different films open in cinemas across America. One is for children and families. The other is for monster fans. Both give you a reason to go out on a dark autumn evening.

The first is « The Cat in the Hat », from the famous children's book by Dr. Seuss. The Cat – tall, funny, and always in trouble – comes to life on the big screen, with Bill Hader as the voice of the Cat. If you know the book, you know the hat : red and white, and much too tall.

The second is « Godzilla Minus Zero », the new film from Japanese director Takashi Yamazaki. Godzilla is the giant monster who has walked through Japanese films for more than seventy years. This time, the monster returns to the cinema – bigger, darker, and louder than ever.

Which film would you choose ? A talking cat in a striped hat, or a giant monster in a city ? In our newsroom, the vote is split – half for the cat, half for the monster. Tell us your choice on page 7.

AT HOME THIS WEEK A casa

Wed Nov 4 – « A Dog's Perfect Christmas » and « Taken : Natalee Holloway » arrive on Netflix.

Thu Nov 5 – « Black Doves » Season 2 begins. Fri Nov 6 – « Under Siege » Season 1 and « Unprotected : Murder in Galicia ».

Sun Nov 8 – « Love Is Blind : The Reunion » closes the week. One week, one screen, many stories.

A film is not only a story – it is also English practice. Listen for three things : the catchphrase (the line everybody repeats), the joke (why does the room laugh ?), and the ending (happy, sad, or open ?). After the film, try to tell the story in five English sentences.

And if you stay at home, the same rule works for a series : one episode, five sentences, in English. The best five-sentence reviews will be printed in VOL.3 – send yours to the newsroom.

Nota — to open = (film) uscire • a monster = mostro • a catchphrase = tormentone • a series = serie.

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 3, scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 28.
« The Cat in the Hat » opens on… A. November 3 · B. Friday, November 6 · C. November 8

A2 29.
The Cat comes from a book by… A. Dr. Seuss · B. Takashi Yamazaki · C. Bill Hader

A2 30.
The voice of the Cat is… A. the director · B. Godzilla · C. Bill Hader

B1 31.
« Godzilla Minus Zero » is directed by… A. Dr. Seuss · B. Takashi Yamazaki · C. Bill Hader

B1 32.
« Black Doves » Season 2 begins on… A. Thursday, November 5 · B. Friday, November 6 · C. Sunday, November 8

B1 33.
The week closes with… A. a film · B. a monster · C. « Love Is Blind : The Reunion »

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

A2 34. Completa
The film ___ on Friday, November 6.

A2 35. Completa
The hat is ___ than the Cat himself !

B1 36. Completa
Godzilla is bigger, darker, and ___ than ever this time.

B1 37. Completa
In our newsroom, the vote is ___ : half cat, half monster.

C THE WORDS

A2 38–41. Abbina

38. a monster
39. a catchphrase
40. a series
41. to open

a. a line everybody repeats
b. a giant frightening creature
c. a film's first day in cinemas
d. a story told in many episodes

D GOING TO

Riscrivi con be going to.

A2 42. Riscrivi
We (watch) the cat film on Friday.→ ___

A2 43. Riscrivi
She (tell) the story in five sentences.→ ___

B1 44. Riscrivi
You (choose) the monster ?→ ___

B1 45. Riscrivi
They (send) their reviews to the newsroom. → ___



A cat in art : « Cat and Flowers », an illustration by Édouard Manet for « The Cats » by Champfleury. Not film art – but this week, every cat is a star.
Édouard Manet — CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

THE CAT'S HAT Il cappello

Red and white stripes, much too tall – the most famous hat in children's books. In the film, the hat is back, and so is the trouble.

FIVE SENTENCES

After any film or episode, tell the story in five English sentences : who, where, what happened, the surprise, the ending. Five sentences are enough – and they are excellent practice.

Example : « A cat comes to a house. Two children are bored. The cat plays games. The house is a mess. Then the cat cleans it all up. » Now it is your turn.

Cinque frasi | who, where, cosa è successo, la svolta, la fine: cinque frasi bastano.

Sunday in Madrid, São Paulo and Miami

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : B1

Sunday, November 8, is the biggest sports day of the autumn. Three countries, five sports, one Sunday – and American football in a Spanish football stadium.

In Madrid, the NFL plays its international game at the Santiago Bernabéu : the Cincinnati Bengals against the Atlanta Falcons. American football in the home of Real Madrid – a strange and wonderful mix. The game is part of NFL Week 9, and it is the week's most talked-about fixture.

Back in the United States, Week 9 continues the same day : the Miami Dolphins play the Detroit Lions at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. Two games, two continents, one league – that is the modern NFL.

In Brazil, Formula 1 races the São Paulo Grand Prix, the second race after the United States Grand Prix in Austin. Fast cars, a famous track, and a championship still to decide – the perfect Sunday afternoon for racing fans.

And there is more : NASCAR races at Homestead-Miami, the WTA Finals begin at Indian Wells, and in Arlington, Texas, Alycia Baumgardner defends her women's lightweight title against Elif Nur Turhan. One Sunday is not enough – good thing the week has seven days.

WHY MADRID ? Perché Madrid?

The NFL plays games outside the United States every year, so new fans can see the sport live. Madrid joins London, Munich and São Paulo on the international map.

How do you follow five sports in one day ? Choose one game to watch fully, and follow the others on your phone. That is the modern fan : one screen for the game, one screen for the scores.

On Saturday, November 7, the warm-up is already on : Major League Soccer plays its late-season fixtures, including Charlotte against Inter Miami and Atlanta against the New York Red Bulls. The weekend starts on Saturday – and it does not stop.

Nota — a fixture = partita (in calendario) • a title = titolo • to defend = (titolo) difendere • a fan = tifoso.

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 4, scegli la risposta giusta.

B1 46.
In Madrid, the Bengals play… A. the Falcons · B. the Lions · C. Real Madrid

B1 47.
The Madrid game is at… A. Hard Rock Stadium · B. Wembley · C. the Santiago Bernabéu

B1 48.
The Dolphins play the Lions in… A. Madrid · B. Miami · C. São Paulo

B1 49.
The São Paulo Grand Prix is in… A. Brazil · B. Spain · C. Texas

B1 50.
The WTA Finals begin at… A. Miami · B. Madrid · C. Indian Wells

B1 51.
The Baumgardner fight is in… A. Miami · B. Arlington, Texas · C. Madrid

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B1 52. Completa
Baumgardner ___ her title on Sunday.

B1 53. Completa
The WTA Finals ___ on Sunday.

A2 54. Completa
The Bernabéu is ___ than most NFL stadiums.

A2 55. Completa
Formula 1 cars are ___ than NASCAR cars on a road course.

C THE WORDS

B1 56–59. Abbina

56. a fixture
57. a title
58. a fan
59. to defend

a. a person who loves a team or sport
b. a game in a season's schedule
c. to keep a championship you already hold
d. the honour of being champion

D PAST SIMPLE

Riscrivi al Past Simple (per partite finite).

B1 60. Riscrivi
The Bengals (play) in Madrid on Sunday. → ___

B1 61. Riscrivi
She (watch) the race in São Paulo. → ___

B1 62. Riscrivi
They (follow) the scores on their phones. → ___

B1 63. Riscrivi
He (choose) one game to watch fully. → ___



American football in 1910 : Miami against Wittenberg. The helmets were leather, the fields were mud – but the game was already America's game.
Frank R. Snyder — public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 Domenica

NFL : Bengals–Falcons, Madrid (Bernabéu) ; Dolphins–Lions, Miami.

F1 : São Paulo Grand Prix, Brazil. NASCAR : Homestead-Miami.

WTA Finals begin, Indian Wells. Boxing : Baumgardner–Turhan, Arlington.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 : MLS – Charlotte–Inter Miami ; Atlanta–New York Red Bulls.

ONE SCREEN, TWO SCREENS

The modern fan watches one game fully and follows the others on a phone. Try it in English : « The score is 14–10. » « Who scored ? » « Madrid is winning ! » – short sentences, live English.

Inglese del calcio | punteggio, chi ha segnato, chi è in vantaggio: le frasi brevi sono l'inglese in diretta.

Election Night at Home : Maps, Phones and Pizza

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : B1

Last issue, we asked you a question : what do Americans read, watch and eat while they wait for the results ? On Tuesday night, November 3, here is the answer – from living rooms across the country.

First, they watch the maps. On television, the map of the United States slowly changes colour, state by state, as results come in. Every channel has its own map, its own experts, and its own way of saying the same sentence : « Too close to call. » That means : we do not know yet.

Second, they eat. Election night is pizza night in many homes – easy food, no cooking, hands free for the phone. Popcorn, chips and soda join the pizza on the table. Nobody cooks a big dinner on a night when the news never stops.

Third, they read – on their phones. Friends send messages : « Did you see Ohio ? » « Florida is close ! » « Go to bed, we will know tomorrow. » The second screen is part of the night : the television for the map, the phone for the friends.

And the children ? They watch too, from the sofa, and they ask the best questions : « Why is that state red ? » « Why does it take so long ? » « Can we stay up until the end ? » The answer to the last question is usually : no. The results will still be there in the morning.

TOO CLOSE TO CALL In bilico

When a race is very close, channels do not call a winner. They wait. « Too close to call » is the most honest sentence on election night – and the most repeated.

If you want to practise election-night English, try this : watch ten minutes of results coverage in English, and write down five sentences you hear. « Too close to call » will certainly be one of them. The other four are your homework.

Nota — a map = mappa (elettorale) · too close to call = troppo incerto per decidere · a second screen = secondo schermo (telefono).

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 5, scegli la risposta giusta.

B1 64.
On election night, the TV map changes... A. every hour · B. state by state · C. only at midnight

B1 65.
« Too close to call » means... A. we do not know yet · B. the winner is clear · C. the night is over

B1 66.
Election night is often... A. cooking night · B. reading night · C. pizza night

B1 67.
The second screen is... A. a second TV · B. the phone · C. a computer game

B1 68.
Children ask... A. why it takes so long · B. where pizza comes from · C. who won in Ohio

B1 69.
If you go to bed, the results... A. disappear · B. change · C. will still be there in the morning

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B1 70. Completa
Florida is very ___ tonight.

B1 71. Completa
The results will ___ be there in the morning.

A2 72. Completa
Every channel has its own ___.

A2 73. Completa
Hands free for the ___.

C THE WORDS

B1 74–77. Abbina

74. a map
75. a race
76. a result
77. to call

a. to announce the winner of an election

b. the final numbers of a vote

c. a picture of the states, coloured by results

d. one contest for one office

D PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Riscrivi al Present Continuous (ciò che sta accadendo).

B1 78. Riscrivi
The map (change) colour now. → ___

B1 79. Riscrivi
Friends (send) messages tonight. → ___

B1 80. Riscrivi
We (watch) the results at home. → ___

B1 81. Riscrivi
She (wait) for Ohio's result. → ___

FIVE SENTENCES Cinque frasi

Watch ten minutes of results coverage in English. Write down five sentences you hear. « Too close to call » will be one of them.

ELECTION-NIGHT PHRASES

« Too close to call. » « The polls have closed. » « We will know tomorrow. » « Go to bed ! » – four sentences for one night. Learn them, and election night in English is yours.

« The polls have closed » means : voting is finished in that state. After that sentence, the counting begins – and the waiting too.

Chiusura delle urne | The polls have closed = In questo stato la votazione è finita, comincia lo spoglio.

SATURDAY SPORT

After Tuesday, the weekend keeps going : MLS fixtures on Saturday, November 7, including Charlotte against Inter Miami and Atlanta against the New York Red Bulls. The weekend warms up for Sunday's games.

How America Votes : One Country, Fifty Elections

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level : B2

There is no single American election. There are fifty – one in every state – run by the states themselves, under rules that differ from state to state. That is why Election Day looks different in Texas, in Florida and in Ohio, and why the results arrive at different speeds.

The House of Representatives has 435 members, each serving two years. Every midterm, all 435 seats are on the ballot. The Senate has 100 members, each serving six years, and only about a third of them face the voters in any one election. Governors, who lead the states, are also on the ballot in many states.

Why does a midterm matter ? Because the party that holds the House and the Senate can shape the laws of the next two years. A midterm can change who controls Congress – or confirm the voters' choice of two years before. Nothing is decided in advance ; that is the point of the vote.

How does a voter vote ? First, register – in most states, before Election Day. Then, choose : vote early in person, vote by mail where the state allows it, or vote in person on Tuesday. At the voting place, show your ID where the state asks for it, mark your ballot in private, and put it in the box. The sticker – « I VOTED » – is optional, but almost everybody takes one.

And after Tuesday ? Counting continues. Mail ballots take time to open and check. Close races take longer. Channels call a race only when the maths is clear – and when it is not clear, they say the honest sentence : too close to call. Patience is part of the system, not a failure of it.

A PRACTICE BALLOT Scheda

For Governor : ☐ Candidate A · ☐ Candidate B. For the House : ☐ Candidate C · ☐ Candidate D. Names are codes here – this ballot teaches how to mark, not whom to choose.

A note on numbers in this issue : this paper prints no poll figures and no predictions. Polls change, and a learner's paper should teach the system, not guess the result. On Wednesday morning, the results will speak for themselves – and next week's issue will report them.

Nota — to register = registrarsi (come elettore) • a governor = governatore • to shape laws = influenzare le leggi • patience = pazienza.

READ THE CHART Leggi il grafico

Why do voters vote early ? A practice survey of 100 early voters gives four reasons. The chart is teaching data, not a real poll.

No lines : 38%

Work on Tuesday : 29%

Travel plans : 21%

Habit : 12%

A CHART READING

Leggi il grafico didattico qui sopra, scegli la risposta giusta.

B2 82.
The biggest reason is... A. Habit · B. No lines (38%) · C. Travel plans

B2 83.
« Work on Tuesday » is... A. 38% · B. 21% · C. 29%

B2 84.
38 + 29 + 21 + 12 = ... A. 100 · B. 99 · C. 101

B2 85.
The smallest reason is... A. Travel plans · B. Habit (12%) · C. No lines

B2 86.
No lines beats Travel plans by... A. 17 points · B. 9 points · C. 26 points

B2 87.
This chart is... A. a real poll · B. a prediction · C. practice data

B COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 6, scegli la risposta giusta.

B2 88.
American elections are run by... A. one office · B. the states · C. the TV channels

B2 89.
House members serve... A. two years · B. four years · C. six years

B2 90.
Senators serve... A. two years · B. four years · C. six years

B2 91.
Counting takes time because... A. TV is slow · B. mail ballots must be opened and checked · C. voters are late

B2 92.
This issue prints... A. no polls or predictions · B. one poll · C. three predictions

B2 93.
Waiting for results is... A. a failure · B. unusual · C. part of the system

C SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B2 94. Completa
A midterm can ___ the laws of two years.

B2 95. Completa
First, you must ___ before Election Day.

B2 96. Completa
___ is part of the system.

B1 97. Completa
The « I VOTED » sticker is ___ , but everybody takes one.

B1 98. Completa
The rule ___ from state to state.

B1 99. Completa
Mark your ballot in ___.



The United States Capitol, Washington : the House and the Senate meet here. On Tuesday, voters decide who sits inside.
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

HOW LONG ? Quanto dura?

House : 2 years, all 435 seats each midterm. Senate : 6 years, about a third each election. President : 4 years. Governor : usually 4 years.

FIFTY ELECTIONS

One country, fifty systems : that is why American election night is a map, not a single number. Learn the map, and the night makes sense.

Una mappa | Cinquanta stati, cinquanta regole: per questo la sera delle elezioni si guarda una mappa, non un numero.

LANGUAGE IN HAND La lingua in mano

LEVEL A2 Fondamenti

FALLING BACK

« The clocks fell back. » Fall back = to go back one hour. The past is fell back, not « falled back ». The repeated hour on November 1 is the example of the week (page 2).

GOING TO + VERB

For a plan : « She is going to vote on Tuesday. » 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 Esempio

« Americans are going to vote on Tuesday. » – the election story, from page 1.

LEVEL B1 Intermedio

COMPARATIVES

Short adjective + -er + than : « The Bernabéu is bigger than most stadiums. » Long adjective : more + adjective : « more convenient ». And good becomes better – never « more good ». Page 4 is full of them.

THE PAST SIMPLE

Regular verbs add -ed : changed, watched. Irregular verbs change : fall→ fell, go → went, choose → chose. Use it for what is already finished – the clocks that fell back on November 1, and the « as-if-finished » retellings on page 4. The November 3 election and the November 8 games are still to come at press time, so their results are not past yet.

THE EXAMPLE Esempio

« The clocks fell back on Sunday, November 1. » – fall→ fell (page 2).

LEVEL B2 Sfida

HEADLINE PRESENT

Headlines speak of yesterday in the present : « America votes », « Bengals play in Madrid ». The present simple makes old news feel live. Read the front page again and find three.

WHETHER = IF ?

« Nobody knows whether the race is called yet. » Whether introduces an open question inside a sentence – more elegant than if, and safe everywhere. It is the word for election-night uncertainty.

THE EXAMPLE Esempio

« Patience is part of the system, not a failure of it. » – part of = una parte di (page 6).

THE TOOLBOX Attrezzi

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

A2 – « It is one o'clock – again ! »

B1 – « The clocks fell back on Sunday. »

B2 – « Nobody knows whether the race is called yet. »

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.

Cassetta degli attrezzi | Tre frasi da tenere in tasca, una per livello; tutte le frasi della settimana vengono da questo numero: rileggi l'articolo e ti resteranno in mente.

PHRASES OF THE WEEK Frasi della settimana (tutte da questo numero)

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

« Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day in the United States. » (page 1)

Grammatica | is = è; la data come soggetto.

A2 100.
Election Day ___ on Tuesday, November 3. (be)

« The hour from 1 to 2 happened twice. » (page 2)

Grammatica | il passato di happen è happened, regolare.

A2 101.
The hour ___ twice on Sunday. (happen)

« Which film would you choose ? » (page 3)

Grammatica | would + forma base, per esprimere una scelta.

B1 102.
Which film ___ you choose ? (would)

« Two games, two continents, one league – that is the modern NFL. » (page 4)

Grammatica | that is = cioè; dopo il trattino il riassunto.

B1 103.
That ___ the modern NFL. (be)

« The results will still be there in the morning. » (page 5)

Grammatica | will still = continuerà a; still va dopo will.

B2 104.
The results ___ still be there. (will)

« Patience is part of the system, not a failure of it. » (page 6)

Grammatica | part of = una parte di; not come contrasto.

B2 105.
Patience ___ part of the system. (be)

« Not every place changes. » (page 2)

Grammatica | not every + verbo al singolare: non tutti i luoghi cambiano.

A2 106.
Not every place ___ . (change)

« One Sunday is not enough – good thing the week has seven days. » (page 4)

Grammatica | has = ha; the week al singolare richiede has.

B1 107.
The week ___ seven days. (have)

THE ERROR CLINIC Errori

Ogni frase contiene un errore: trovalo e correggi la frase.

A2 108. Correggi
✗ « He don't like voting early. »

A2 109. Correggi
✗ « Yesterday the clocks falled back. »

B1 110. Correggi
✗ « This game is more bigger than last week's. »

B1 111. Correggi
✗ « She is going to watches the film on Friday. »

READERS' CORNER Angolo dei lettori

« On Sunday, I slept one hour more – and I still woke up late ! » – M. L., a reader in Chicago (editor's example : no real reader letters had arrived when this issue went to press, so the example stays, honestly labeled)

Nota della redazione | Alla chiusura di questo numero non sono arrivate vere lettere dei lettori e non ci sono testi di scrittura del VOL.1 da premiare come migliori. L'esempio qui sopra resta quindi indicato onestamente come esempio; le vere lettere usciranno dal VOL.3. Mandaci la tua lettera e il tuo testo: li pubblicheremo nel VOL.3!

NEXT WEEK VOL.3 Anticipazioni

Wednesday, November 11 : Veterans Day. Sunday, November 15 : the NFL in Munich. And the midterm results, reported – who won, and what changes.

Mercoledì 11 novembre: Veterans Day. Domenica 15 novembre: la NFL a Monaco. E i risultati delle elezioni di medio termine.

A CLOZE Completa il testo

Leo is sixteen. On Tuesday, November 3, it is (112)__. His family does not cook dinner : they order (113)__. On television, the (114)__ changes colour, state by state. « Ohio is very (115)__ ! » says his father. At nine o'clock, Leo's mother comes home from voting, with a (116)__ on her jacket : « I VOTED ». « When (117)__ we know the results ? » asks Leo. « Tomorrow », says his mother. « Tomorrow, Leo is (118)__ to read the results at school – and the map will (119)__ be on television tonight. »

Opzioni:

112. [A2] A. Monday • B. Election Day • C. Halloween

113. [A2] A. pizza • B. salad • C. soup

114. [B1] A. phone • B. table • C. map

115. [A2] A. far • B. close • C. big

116. [A2] A. sticker • B. hat • C. ticket

117. [A2] A. do • B. are • C. will

118. [B1] A. goes • B. going • C. go

119. [B1] A. still • B. never • C. soon

B MULTIPLE CHOICE Scelta

A2 120.
The clocks show 1:30. In words : ... A. one o'clock · B. half past one · C. a quarter to one

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

B1 122.
The clocks __ back on Sunday. A. fall · B. fell · C. falling

B1 123.
The Bernabéu is __ than most stadiums. A. big · B. bigger · C. biggest

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

B2 125.
Nobody knows __ the race is called yet. A. whether · B. what · C. who

A2 126.
The film __ on Friday, November 6. A. will open · B. will opened · C. will opens

B1 127.
They are going to __ on Tuesday. A. vote · B. votes · C. voted

B1 128.
« Too close to call » means... A. the winner is clear · B. voting is over · C. we do not know yet

C READING Comprensione

On Saturday morning, Sam, a teacher from Ohio, finished his breakfast and walked to the early-voting place near his school. There was no line. « On Tuesday, I teach all day », he explains. « Today, I have time. » Five minutes later, his ballot was in the box, and a sticker on his jacket said : I VOTED. On Tuesday night, Sam watched the map with his family – and Ohio was, as always, too close to call.

A2 129.
Sam is... A. a nurse · B. a teacher · C. a driver

A2 130.
He voted early because on Tuesday he... A. travels · B. teaches all day · C. sleeps

B1 131.
His sticker said... A. I VOTED · B. VOTE ON TUESDAY · C. OHIO FIRST

B1 132.
On Tuesday night, Ohio was... A. clear · B. too close to call · C. finished early

D SENTENCES Completa

A2 133.
Be going to : « On Friday, they (watch) the cat film. » → __

B1 134.
Past simple : « The clocks (fall) back on Sunday. »

B1 135.
Comparative : « The hat is __ (tall) than the Cat. »

B2 136.
Whether : « __ the race is called, nobody knows yet. »

E TRANSLATION Traduzione

B2 137.
Translate : « Patience is part of the system, not a failure of it. »

A2 138.
Traduci: Martedì 3 novembre è il giorno delle elezioni negli Stati Uniti.

B1 139.
Traduci: Questa domenica la NFL gioca a Madrid.

B1 140.
Translate : « Not every place changes. »

F WORDS Abbina

B1 141–144. Abbina

141. a midterm
142. a governor
143. a ballot
144. turnout

a. the number of people who vote
b. an election in the middle of a term
c. the person who leads a state
d. the paper you mark your choice on

G DIALOGUE Dialogo

– Good morning ! Is this the voting place ? – Yes, welcome. May I see your (145)__ ? – Here it is. Is the (146)__ long today ? – No, five minutes only. On Tuesday it will be very long ! – Good. It is my first vote. What do I do with the (147)__ ? – Mark your choices, check them twice, then put it in the box. – Thank you. And the famous (148)__ ? Everybody has one on their jacket. – The sticker ! Here it is : « I VOTED ». Wear it with pride. – I will ! See you on (149)__ , in the results ! – Ha ! Have a good day.

Levels : 145–148 [A2] • 149 [B1]

H WRITING Scrittura [B1]

Write a short text (80 to 100 words) : « My Tuesday, November 3 ». Tell us : did you watch the results, what did you eat, what did the map show – and one sentence about the clocks that fell back on Sunday night. The best texts will appear in VOL.3 (page 7, « Readers' Corner »).

Scrivi in inglese (80–100 parole): « My Tuesday, November 3 ». Di' se hai seguito i risultati, cosa hai mangiato, cosa mostrava la mappa, e una frase sulle lancette spostate indietro nella notte di domenica.

MODEL Testo modello

On Tuesday, November 3, our family watched the election results at home. We ate pizza, because nobody wanted to cook on such a night. On television, the map changed colour, state by state, and my father said : « Ohio is too close to call ! » I did not understand every state, but I understood the pizza and the excitement. On Sunday night, the clocks had fallen back, so I slept one hour more. It was a long night, and a very American one.

ANSWERS Risposte e note (pagine 1–8)

— Pagina 1 —

1. ballot • 2. midterm • 3. November 3 • 4. early • 5. called • 6. takes • 7. B • 8. C • 9. A • 10. B

— Pagina 2 —

11. one (1:00 = l'una) • 12. half past (1:30 = l'una e mezza) • 13. quarter to • 14. twice (due volte = twice) • 15. extra • 16. Americans are going to vote on Tuesday. • 17. She is going to watch the film on Friday. • 18. We are going to sleep one hour more. • 19. Are they going to fall back on Sunday ? (Domanda: be va all'inizio) • 20. B • 21. C • 22. A • 23. B • 24. b • 25. a • 26. d • 27. c

— Pagina 3 —

28. B • 29. A (Il gatto viene da un libro del Dr. Seuss) • 30. C (Bill Hader doppia il gatto) • 31. B (Il regista di Godzilla è Takashi Yamazaki) • 32. A • 33. C (Domenica il programma reunion chiude la settimana) • 34. opens • 35. taller • 36. louder • 37. split • 38. b • 39. a • 40. d • 41. c (open = uscire c) • 42. We are going to watch the cat film on Friday. • 43. She is going to tell the story in five sentences. • 44. Are you going to choose the monster ? (Domanda: be va all'inizio) • 45. They are going to send their reviews to the newsroom.

— Pagina 4 —

46. A • 47. C (La partita di Madrid è al Bernabéu) • 48. B (Dolphins contro Lions a Miami) • 49. A • 50. C • 51. B (L'incontro di boxe è ad Arlington) • 52. defends • 53. begin • 54. bigger • 55. faster • 56. b • 57. d • 58. a (fan = tifoso a) • 59. c • 60. The Bengals played in Madrid on Sunday. • 61. She watched the race in São Paulo. • 62. They followed the scores on their phones. • 63. He chose one game to watch fully.

— Pagina 5 —

64. B (La mappa si colora con i risultati stato per stato) • 65. A • 66. C (La sera delle elezioni spesso c'è pizza) • 67. B (Il secondo schermo è il telefono) • 68. A (I bambini chiedono perché ci vuole tanto) • 69. C (I risultati ci sono ancora al mattino) • 70. close • 71. still (still = ancora) • 72. map • 73. phone • 74. c (map = mappa elettorale c) • 75. d • 76. b • 77. a • 78. The map is changing colour now. • 79. Friends are sending messages tonight. • 80. We are watching the results at home. • 81. She is waiting for Ohio's result.

— Pagina 6 —

82. B (Il 38% ha scelto «niente code») • 83. C (Motivo «lavoro il martedì»: 29%) • 84. A (Tutti e quattro insieme: 100%) • 85. B (Il meno scelto: abitudine con il 12%) • 86. A («Niente code» supera «viaggi» di 17 punti) • 87. C (Il grafico riporta dati didattici, non un vero sondaggio) • 88. B (Gli stati organizzano le elezioni da sé) • 89. A (I deputati restano in carica due anni) • 90. C • 91. B (Le schede per posta richiedono tempo per l'apertura e il controllo) • 92. A (Questo numero non pubblica sondaggi e previsioni) • 93. C (La pazienza fa parte del sistema) • 94. shape • 95. register • 96. patience • 97. optional • 98. differs • 99. private

— Pagina 7 —

100. is (is = è) • 101. happened • 102. would (would + forma base) • 103. is • 104. will • 105. is • 106. changes • 107. has (have → has) • 108. He doesn't like voting early. (Terza persona: doesn't + forma base) • 109. Yesterday the clocks fell back. (Passato di fall: fell) • 110. This game is bigger than last week's. (bigger è già il comparativo: niente more davanti) • 111. She is going to watch the film on Friday. (Dopo going to va la forma base)

— Pagina 8 —

112. B (Il 3 novembre è un martedì) • 113. A (pizza = pizza) • 114. C (map = mappa che si colora stato per stato) • 115. B (close = incerto) • 116. A (sticker = adesivo) • 117. C (will + forma base: know) • 118. B (be going to → is going) • 119. A (still = ancora) • 120. B (1:30 = half past one) • 121. A (we → get (forma base)) • 122. B (Passato: fell) • 123. B (than → comparativo: bigger) • 124. A (despite + nome: nonostante la pioggia) • 125. A (whether = se) • 126. A (Futuro: will + forma base) • 127. A (be going to + forma base: vote) • 128. C (too close to call = troppo incerto per decidere) • 129. B (Nel testo: a teacher from Ohio) • 130. B (Il martedì insegna tutto il giorno) • 131. A (Sull'adesivo c'è scritto I VOTED) • 132. B (L'Ohio è come sempre troppo incerto per decidere) • 133. On Friday, they are going to watch the cat film. (are going to + forma base) • 134. The clocks fell back on Sunday. (fall → fell (irregolare)) • 135. taller (tall → taller (comparativo)) • 136. Whether (whether introduce una frase con se) • 137. La pazienza fa parte del sistema, non è un fallimento del sistema. (part of = una parte di; not a failure = non un fallimento) • 138. Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day in the United States. (giorno delle elezioni = Election Day; di martedì = on Tuesday) • 139. On Sunday, the NFL plays in Madrid. (questa domenica = on Sunday; a Madrid = in Madrid) • 140. Non tutti i luoghi cambiano. (not every = non tutti; changes = cambiano) • 141. b (midterm = elezioni di medio termine b) • 142. c (governor = governatore c) • 143. d (ballot = scheda elettorale d) • 144. a (turnout = affluenza a) • 145. ID (Quando voti mostra il documento (ID)) • 146. line (line = fila (inglese americano)) • 147. ballot (ballot = scheda elettorale) • 148. sticker (sticker = adesivo) • 149. Tuesday (Il giorno delle elezioni è martedì 3 novembre) • 150. Compito aperto — punti chiave nel riquadro di scrittura; testo modello nel riquadro a pagina 8 (Valutazione per punti chiave)