VOL. 4 WEEKLY IN ENGLISH Ogni settimana Di che cosa parla il mondo anglofono WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16 TO 22, 2026

The Lucerna

SETTIMANALE IN INGLESE VOL.4 ELEZIONI GIUNGLA FILM

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

DEMOCRATS WIN BOTH HOUSES! Voto del 3 novembre I democratici vincono entrambe le camere

Tuesday, November 3: America voted. By Sunday, November 8, the count was clear.

Elezioni di medio termine Risultati annunciati Vedi pagina 6

THE BIG STORY Titolo

Democrats Win the House and the Senate

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: A2

On Tuesday, November 3, Americans voted in the midterm election – for all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, for 35 seats in the Senate, and for governor in 36 states. By Sunday, November 8, the count was clear enough to call: the Democrats won the House, and the Democrats won the Senate.

The numbers, as called by the Associated Press on Sunday, November 8: in the House, 254 seats for the Democrats and 162 for the Republicans, with 19 races still uncalled. The majority is 218. In the Senate, the Democrats won 20 of the 33 races called, and the Republicans 13, with two races – in Alaska and Mississippi – still uncalled.

Before the vote, the Republicans held the House, 218 seats to 214, and the Senate, 53 to 47. On election night, seven Senate seats changed hands – in Iowa, Kansas, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas – and all seven went to the Democrats. Five governors' offices changed hands too: Georgia, Iowa, Nevada, Ohio and Texas.

A "call" is not the official result. News organisations call a race when the maths is clear. The official result comes later, when each state checks its count and certifies it – between November 10 and December 18. Until then, the numbers can still move a little. Page 6 explains how to read them.

The new Congress meets in January 2027. Until then, the old Congress finishes its work – and the winners plan theirs. This week also brings the jungle back to television, a look back at last year's Ashes, and a new Hunger Games film to the cinema. Welcome back to VOL.4!

Spiegazione | a midterm = le elezioni di medio termine · to call a race = annunciare il risultato · a seat = un seggio.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS In cifre

Nov 3 – the vote (giorno del voto) · 254–162 – the House, as called on Nov 8 (la Camera)

218 – the majority (la maggioranza) · 7 – Senate seats that changed hands (seggi del Senato che cambiano schieramento)

TRY IT NOW Prova subito

A2 1.
Americans voted in the ___ election on November 3.

A2 2.
News organisations ___ a race when the maths is clear.

A2 3.
All 435 ___ in the House were on the ballot.

A2 4.
The ___ in the House is 218 seats.

B1 5.
Seven Senate seats ___ hands on election night.

B1 6.
The new Congress meets in ___ 2027.

SEARCHES OF THE WEEK

Ricerche della settimana Google Trends

1. midterm results
2. thanksgiving
3. hunger games
4. i'm a celebrity
5. anti-bullying week

Snapshots, early November: search interest changes during the day.
Popolarità relativa, non numeri esatti.

IN THIS ISSUE Sommario

p.2 After the vote: what now? A2
p.3 Haymitch in the arena A2→B1
p.4 Perth, Turin & football B1
p.5 Break the silence B1
p.6 Reading the results B2
p.7 Phrases of the week A2→B2
p.8 Exercises & answers all

THE WORD OF THE WEEK

"midterm"
an election in the middle of a president's four-year term.

Elezioni di medio termine: tutta la Camera e un terzo del Senato.



The United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. – the home of Congress. The new Congress, with a Democratic House and a Democratic Senate, meets in January 2027.

Noclip – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

TWO HOUSES, ONE MAP

One country, two houses. The House of Representatives has 435 seats, and all of them were on the ballot. The Senate has 100 seats, and 35 were on the ballot. That is why the map changed in one night – and why it will take weeks to finish.

Read page 6 for the full map – and the numbers behind it.

IN BRIEF In breve

ELECTION
Nov 3: America voted. Democrats win both houses, as called on Nov 8. (p. 6)

JUNGLE
Mon, Nov 16, 9 p.m.: I'm a Celebrity returns to ITV1. (p. 3)

ASHES
A year ago: Australia beat England 4–1 in the 2025–26 Ashes. (p. 4)

LIGHTNING QUIZ Quiz lampo

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

A2 7.
The Democrats won the House with… A. 218 seats called · B. 254 seats called · C. 162 seats called

A2 8.
The midterm vote was on… A. Tuesday, November 3 · B. Sunday, November 8 · C. Monday, November 16

A2 9.
A majority in the House is… A. 100 seats · B. 435 seats · C. 218 seats

A2 10.
The new Congress meets in… A. November · B. December · C. January 2027

The Week After the Vote: What Happens Now?

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: A2

The vote is over. The counting is not. On Monday, November 9, the day this issue went to press, election workers in many states were still opening mail ballots and checking signatures. In Alaska and Mississippi, the Senate races were still too close to call.

What happens next? First, the states certify their counts – between November 10 and December 18. Georgia law calls for a runoff on December 1 only if no candidate wins a majority – but Jon Ossoff won reelection with about 59% of the vote, so there is no runoff. Mississippi has no runoff: the most votes win. Then the winners are sworn in, and the new Congress meets in January 2027.

In Washington, the parties choose their leaders. The Republicans in the House vote on Tuesday, November 10. The Democrats in the House vote on November 18 and 19. The Speaker – the leader of the House – is chosen when the new Congress meets in January. The Speaker, Mike Johnson, has said he will not run to lead the Republicans in the new Congress.

TWO HOUSES, TWO JOBS

Why two houses? The House of Representatives has 435 seats, and every seat is on the ballot every two years. The Senate has 100 seats, and about a third of them are on the ballot each time. A senator serves for six years. A member of the House serves for two. That is why the House changes fast, and the Senate changes slowly.

SENATE IN NUMBERS Il Senato

100 – seats in the Senate. 35 – seats on the ballot on November 3. 6 – years in a senator's term.

Life goes on around the politics. Next week is Thanksgiving week in America. Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 26 – a day for family, for a big dinner, and for the turkey. Many families travel home, and the Friday after it, November 27, is Black Friday, the biggest shopping day of the year.

And in Britain? The week is quieter – but the television is not. On Monday, November 16, at 9 p.m., the jungle opens again: I'm a Celebrity is back on ITV1. Page 3 has the story – and the words you need for the jungle.

THE CALENDAR Calendario

10 nov. – i repubblicani scelgono il loro leader · 18–19 nov. – i democratici votano

20 nov. – Giornata mondiale dell'infanzia · 26 nov. – Thanksgiving · 27 nov. – Black Friday

WHAT IS ON THIS WEEK?

Second story of the week – and it is on your screen. On Friday, November 20, the new Hunger Games film opens in cinemas, and the ATP Finals end in Turin on Sunday, November 22. On Saturday, November 21, the Premier League is back – and page 4 looks back at the Ashes. Page 3 has the film guide, page 4 the sport.

On television, the week is just as full. I'm a Celebrity opens on Monday night, and the jungle will be on every night for weeks. Thanksgiving is a week away – and the turkey is already in the shops.

How do you say the date of the new Congress? "In January 2027." is the sentence of the week. The phrase box below shows three ways to say it.

Nota – to certify = certificare ufficialmente · a runoff = un ballottaggio.



A wild turkey, drawn by John James Audubon. The turkey is the bird of Thanksgiving – on Thursday, November 26, it is the centre of the American dinner table.

John James Audubon – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

DID YOU KNOW?

The new Congress meets in January 2027 – two months after the vote.

Thanksgiving is always the fourth Thursday of November.

The House has 435 seats – and every one of them was on the ballot on November 3.

AND YOU? E tu?

And you? What happens after an election in your country? Who counts the votes, and how long does it take? Write three sentences in English for VOL.5.

Nel tuo paese, che cosa succede dopo le elezioni? Scrivi tre frasi in inglese per la redazione.

SAY IT: IN JANUARY 2027 Come si dice la data

The new Congress, in three sentences Il nuovo Congresso in tre frasi

The counting continues.
Lo spoglio continua ancora.

The new Congress meets in January.
Il nuovo Congresso si riunirà a gennaio.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Buon Ringraziamento!

to certify = to confirm (confermare ufficialmente)
a runoff = a second vote (un ballottaggio)
sworn in = to take the oath (prestare giuramento)
a turkey = the bird of Thanksgiving (il tacchino)

This week: on Monday, November 9, this issue went to press. The numbers in it are the calls of Sunday, November 8 – and the counting goes on.

EXERCISES Esercizi di pagina 2

Risposte a pagina 8 Cerca per numero

A THE DATE

Completa le frasi secondo data e ora.

A2 11. Completa
The vote was on Tuesday, __ 3.

A2 12. Completa
The new Congress meets in __ 2027.

A2 13. Completa
A runoff, if needed, is on December __.

A2 14. Completa
Thanksgiving is on __, November 26.

A2 15. Completa
Black Friday is on November __.

B WILL

Riscrivi con will + verbo (promesse).

A2 16. Riscrivi
The new Congress (meet) in January. → __

A2 17. Riscrivi
States (certify) their counts. → __

A2 18. Riscrivi
Families (travel) home for Thanksgiving. → __

B1 19. Riscrivi
They (watch) the jungle on Monday? → __

C COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 2, scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 20.
Certification runs… A. Nov 3–9 · B. Nov 10–Dec 18 · C. Jan–Feb

A2 21.
A runoff, if needed, is on… A. November 10 · B. November 26 · C. December 1

A2 22.
Thanksgiving Day is… A. Thu, Nov 26 · B. Fri, Nov 27 · C. Mon, Nov 16

A2 23.
I'm a Celebrity returns on… A. Sun, Nov 15 · B. Mon, Nov 16 · C. Fri, Nov 20

D THE WORDS

A2 24–27. Abbina

24. a runoff
25. to certify
26. a turkey
27. Thanksgiving

a. the bird of the Thanksgiving dinner
b. a second vote, when nobody wins
c. to confirm a count officially
d. the American family holiday

Friday at the Movies: Haymitch Goes Back to the Arena

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: A2 → B1

On Friday, November 20, a familiar name returns to the cinema: Haymitch Abernathy. “The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping” tells the story of the young Haymitch – sixteen years old, from District 12 – in the 50th Hunger Games, the Second Quarter Quell, when twice as many young people were sent into the arena.

The film is based on the novel by Suzanne Collins, published in 2025. Joseph Zada plays the young Haymitch. McKenna Grace plays Maysilee Donner, his fellow tribute from District 12. Ralph Fiennes plays the young President Snow. Francis Lawrence, who directed the earlier Hunger Games films, directs this one too.

Fans of the first films will know what happens next: Haymitch wins the 50th Games – and becomes the tired, funny, clever mentor of the later stories, played in the first films by Woody Harrelson. This film shows how he got there: a boy from District 12, in the cruellest Games of all.

And on the small screen? On Monday, November 16, at 9 p.m., “I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!” returns to ITV1 and ITVX. Ant and Dec are back in the Australian jungle, near Murwillumbah in New South Wales. The launch is a day later than usual – because England play Spain in the Nations League on Sunday, November 15. ITV has not confirmed the campmates yet: the names will come a few days before the launch.

Two jungles, one week: a painted jungle in the cinema, and a real jungle on television. In one, the prize is survival. In the other, the prize is the public's vote – and the title of King or Queen of the Jungle.

COMING SOON Prossimamente

Fri Nov 20 – “The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping” opens in cinemas. The album of songs from the film arrives a week earlier, on Nov 13.

Mon Nov 16 – “I'm a Celebrity” opens on ITV1, 9 p.m. “Unpacked”, the companion show, is on ITV2.

Sun Nov 15 – “How to Survive the Jungle”, a one-off special, before the launch.

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.5 – send yours to the newsroom.

Nota – a tribute = un tributo scelto · a mentor = un mentore · the arena = l'arena · a campmate = un compagno di campo.

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 3, scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 28.
“Sunrise on the Reaping” opens on... A. November 16 · B. Friday, November 20 · C. November 22

A2 29.
The young Haymitch is played by... A. Joseph Zada · B. Woody Harrelson · C. Ralph Fiennes

A2 30.
The 50th Games, the Second Quarter Quell, sent... A. half as many tributes · B. the same number · C. twice as many young people

B1 31.
The young President Snow is played by... A. Francis Lawrence · B. Ralph Fiennes · C. McKenna Grace

B1 32.
“I'm a Celebrity” returns on... A. Monday, November 16, at 9 p.m. · B. Sunday, November 15 · C. Friday, November 20

B1 33.
The launch is a day late because... A. of the rain · B. of the film · C. England play Spain on Sunday, November 15

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

A2 34. Completa
The film ___ on Friday, November 20.

A2 35. Completa
Haymitch becomes the ___ of the later stories.

B1 36. Completa
The 50th Games sent ___ as many young people.

B1 37. Completa
Ant and Dec are back in the Australian ___.

C THE WORDS

A2 38–41. Abbina

38. a tribute
39. a mentor
40. the arena
41. a campmate

a. a person who teaches and guides you
b. a person chosen to take part in the Games
c. a person who lives with you in the jungle camp
d. the place where the Games are fought

D PAST SIMPLE

Riscrivi al passato semplice (cose già accadute).

A2 42. Riscrivi
Collins (publish) the novel in 2025. → ___

A2 43. Riscrivi
Haymitch (win) the 50th Games. → ___

B1 44. Riscrivi
Rousseau (paint) jungles he never saw. → ___

B1 45. Riscrivi
ITV (choose) Monday for the launch. → ___



A tiger in a painted jungle: Henri Rousseau's “Surprised!” (1891). Rousseau never left France – he painted his jungles from books and the botanical garden in Paris.
Henri Rousseau – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

HAYMITCH'S GAMES I Giochi

The 50th Games: twice as many tributes as usual – four from each district, not two. The winner: a sixteen-year-old boy from District 12.

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 boy goes to the arena. The Games are cruel and long. He makes a friend and loses her. He wins with a trick, not with force. Then he goes home – changed.” Now it is your turn.

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

Perth, One Year On: How Australia Kept the Ashes

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: B1

A year ago, the Ashes came to Perth. On Friday, November 21, 2025, Australia played England in the first Test at Perth Stadium – the first Ashes Test at the ground. Australia won in two days, by eight wickets. It was the shortest Ashes Test, by balls bowled, since 1888.

The series ran from November 21, 2025, to January 8, 2026. Australia won the first three Tests – in Perth, in Brisbane and in Adelaide – and kept the Ashes after the third Test. England won the fourth Test, in Melbourne, by four wickets: their first Test win in Australia for almost fifteen years. Australia won the fifth Test, in Sydney, by five wickets. The final score was 4–1.

Australia had problems before the first Test. Their captain, Pat Cummins, was out with a back injury, and the fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was out with a hamstring injury. Steve Smith led the side instead. Scott Boland played, and the young fast bowler Brendan Doggett played his first Test.

England's team was more settled. Ben Stokes was the captain. Joe Root, the batter England needed most, was in the team, with Jofra Archer and Mark Wood to bowl fast. England had not won a Test series in Australia since 2010–11 – they lost 4–0 on their last two tours, in 2017–18 and 2021–22. The last series, in England in 2023, was drawn.

One Test lasts up to five days – but two Tests in this series lasted only two. The first Test in Perth ended in two days, and so did the fourth Test in Melbourne. The Ashes are not a sport for early nights.

Back home, football returns too. The Premier League is back on Saturday, November 21, after the international break: Manchester City play Fulham at 12:30, and Newcastle play Arsenal at 5:30. On Sunday, November 22, Liverpool play Manchester United at 4:30 – and the ATP Finals end in Turin, with the singles final not before 6 p.m. local time.

And American football? Week 11 opens on Thursday, November 19, with the Colts at the Texans. On Sunday, November 22, the Vikings play the 49ers in Mexico City, at 8:20 p.m. Eastern. The Patriots, after Munich, have the week off.

WHY PERTH? Perché Perth?

Perth Stadium hosted its first Ashes Test in November 2025. The city was not in the 2021–22 tour at all. Australia lost their first Test at the ground in November 2024, by 295 runs to India – and won their first Ashes Test there in two days, a year later.

How do you follow three 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.

The ATP Finals in Turin run from Sunday, November 15, to Sunday, November 22. The eight best singles players of the year play in two groups of four: Alexander Zverev, Carlos Alcaraz, Ben Shelton, Daniil Medvedev, Flavio Cobolli, Arthur Fils, Frances Tiafoe and Rafael Jodar. The champion of the last two years, Jannik Sinner, is out with a knee injury.

Nota – a Test: una partita di cricket di cinque giorni · a tour: una tournée · an injury: un infortunio · a break: una pausa.

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 4, scegli la risposta giusta.

B1 46.
The 2025–26 Ashes began on… A. Friday, November 21, 2025, in Perth · B. Saturday, November 21, 2026, in Perth · C. Thursday, November 19, in Houston

B1 47.
Australia's captain, Pat Cummins, is out with… A. a knee injury · B. a hamstring injury · C. a back injury

B1 48.
Steve Smith… A. is out with an injury · B. leads the side instead · C. plays for England

B1 49.
England last won a Test series in Australia in… A. 2010–11 · B. 2017–18 · C. 2021–22

B1 50.
On Saturday, November 21, Manchester City play Fulham at… A. 10:20 a.m. · B. 4:30 p.m. · C. 12:30 p.m.

B1 51.
The ATP Finals champion of the last two years, Jannik Sinner, is out with… A. a back injury · B. a knee injury · C. a hamstring injury

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B1 52. Completa
Perth Stadium ___ its first Ashes Test in November 2025.

B1 53. Completa
One Test ___ up to five days.

A2 54. Completa
___ singles players play in Turin.

A2 55. Completa
Australia ___ the first Test by eight wickets.

C THE WORDS

B1 56–59. Abbina

56. a Test
57. a tour
58. an injury
59. a break

a. a pause between parts of a season
b. a five-day cricket match
c. a series of games away from home
d. damage to the body that stops you playing

D PAST SIMPLE

Riscrivi al Past Simple (per partite finite).

B1 60. Riscrivi
England (lose) 4–0 in 2021–22. → ___

B1 61. Riscrivi
Australia (lose) their first Test at the ground. → ___

B1 62. Riscrivi
The last series (end) in a draw in 2023. → ___

B1 63. Riscrivi
India (beat) Australia by 295 runs in November 2024. → ___



W. G. Grace, cricket's first great star, in a photograph from the late 1880s. The Ashes began in 1882, in his time – and the urn is still the prize.
Herbert Rose Barraud – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

SATURDAY, NOV 21 Sabato

Premier League: Man City–Fulham 12:30, Newcastle–Arsenal 17:30.

ATP Finals semi-finals, Turin. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22: Liverpool–Man Utd 16:30, ATP finals day.

NFL WEEK 11: Thu Nov 19, Colts–Texans. Sun Nov 22, Vikings–49ers in Mexico City.

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?” “Arsenal are winning!” – short sentences, live English.

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

Break the Silence: Odd Socks and Loud Voices

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: B1

On Monday, November 16, schools across Britain do something strange: children and teachers wear odd socks. One red sock, one blue sock – on purpose. It is Odd Socks Day, the first day of Anti-Bullying Week, and this year is its tenth birthday.

Anti-Bullying Week runs from Monday, November 16, to Friday, November 20. It is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, and this year's theme is “Break the Silence”. The idea is simple: bullying is hardest to stop when nobody speaks about it. So the week asks children – and adults – to start conversations, to speak up, to listen, and to take action together.

The numbers are big: the campaign reaches about eight million children and young people, and more than 80% of schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland take part. The theme was chosen with more than 200 children and young people, who said that speaking up was the hardest part.

Friday, November 20, is also World Children's Day – a day for children's rights around the world, led by UNICEF. This year's theme is “My day. My rights. My future.” The date marks the day in 1989 when the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

What can one child do? Tell a teacher. Tell a parent. Tell a friend. And if you see someone alone at lunch, sit with them. A small act is not small to the person it helps – and a loud voice starts with one sentence.

ODD SOCKS, IN NUMBERS Cifre

10 – years of Odd Socks Day. 8 million – children reached by the week. 200 – children who helped choose this year's theme.

If you want to practise Monday-morning English, try this: wear odd socks, and explain them in English. “I wear odd socks for Anti-Bullying Week. Different is good.” Three sentences – and a whole week of practice.

Nota – bullying = il bullismo · to speak up = parlare senza paura · a right = un diritto · silence = il silenzio

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 5, scegli la risposta giusta.

B1 64.
Anti-Bullying Week runs from... A. November 9 to 13 · B. Monday, November 16, to Friday, November 20 · C. November 20 to 26

B1 65.
This year's theme is... A. “Break the Silence” · B. “Challenge Yourself” · C. “My day. My rights.”

B1 66.
Odd Socks Day is... A. new this year · B. five years old · C. ten years old

B1 67.
The campaign reaches about... A. 200 children · B. eight million children · C. 80 children

B1 68.
World Children's Day is on... A. Friday, November 20 · B. Monday, November 16 · C. Thursday, November 26

B1 69.
The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in... A. 1910 · B. 1969 · C. 1989

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B1 70. Completa
Break the ___: speak up about bullying.

B1 71. Completa
On Monday, children wear odd ___.

A2 72. Completa
Every child has ___.

A2 73. Completa
Speak ___: tell a teacher.

C THE WORDS

B1 74–77. Abbina

74. bullying
75. to speak up
76. a right
77. silence

a. saying what you think, loudly and clearly

b. something every child has, by law

c. saying nothing at all

d. hurting or frightening someone again and again

D PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Riscrivi al Present Continuous (ciò che sta accadendo).

B1 78. Riscrivi
Schools (wear) odd socks today. → ___

B1 79. Riscrivi
Children (speak) up this week. → ___

B1 80. Riscrivi
We (listen) to every child. → ___

B1 81. Riscrivi
She (sit) with a new friend. → ___



Children from Lawrence, Massachusetts, marching in New York on February 19, 1912, during the textile strike. They asked for bread – and the world listened. Children have always had a voice.

Bain News Service – public domain, via Library of Congress

SPEAK UP Alza la voce

“Break the silence.” “Different is good.” “Sit with me.” – three sentences for one week. Learn them, and Monday morning in English is yours.

FRIDAY'S WORDS

“My day. My rights. My future.” – the words of World Children's Day, Friday, November 20. Three short sentences, one big idea: children have a voice, and the world should listen.

“Every child has rights” means: every child, everywhere, has the right to be safe, to learn, and to be heard. After that sentence, the listening begins.

Ogni bambino ha dei diritti | Every child has rights = Ogni bambino ha dei diritti.

THE JUNGLE, TOO

After Friday, the weekend keeps going: the jungle is on every night, and the football is back on Saturday. The week ends with sport – and starts again with school on Monday.

The Map After November 3: Reading the Results

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: B2

The vote is counted. The map is still being drawn. On Tuesday, November 3, Americans voted for the House, for a third of the Senate, and for governor in 36 states. By the Sunday after the vote, November 8, the Associated Press had called the big question: the Democrats had won both houses of Congress.

Here is the map, as called on Sunday, November 8. In the House, the Democrats won 254 seats, the Republicans 162, and 19 races were still uncalled. In the Senate, the Democrats won 20 of the 33 races called and the Republicans 13, with Alaska and Mississippi still uncalled. Seven Senate seats changed hands, and all seven went to the Democrats: Iowa, Kansas, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas.

What does “called” mean? A call is a news organisation's judgement: the maths is clear, and the candidate behind cannot catch up. It is not the official result. The official result comes when each state certifies its count – between November 10 and December 18, with no fixed date in some states. In Georgia, a Senate race with no majority winner goes to a runoff on December 1 – but this time Jon Ossoff won reelection with about 59% of the vote, so there was no runoff. Mississippi has no runoff in a regular election: the candidate with the most votes wins.

What changes? In January 2027, the new Congress meets, with a Democratic House and a Democratic Senate. The two parties choose their leaders first: the House Republicans on November 10, the House Democrats on November 18 and 19. The Speaker – the leader of the House – is chosen when the new Congress meets in January. The Speaker, Mike Johnson, has said he will not run to lead the Republicans in the new Congress.

What does not change? The President stays the same, and so does the White House. A midterm changes Congress, not the President. That is the American system: the voters speak in the middle of a President's term, and the two sides must then work – or argue – together. The map is drawn. The work starts in January.

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 the calls of Sunday, November 8, and says so. The calls can still move a little as the count goes on – and this paper will not guess the final numbers. When the certified results are in, VOL.5 will report them.

Nota – to call a race = annunciare il risultato · to certify = certificare ufficialmente · a runoff = un ballottaggio · a map = una mappa politica.

READ THE CHART Leggi il grafico

How big was the change? The chart is the calls of Sunday, November 8 – not the certified results, and not a prediction.

House called: 254 Democrats, 162 Republicans, 19 uncalled (Nov 8)

Senate called: 20 Democrats, 13 Republicans, 2 uncalled (Nov 8)

Senate flips: 7, all to the Democrats

Governors flipped: 5, all to the Democrats

States certify: November 10 to December 18

Runoff, if needed: December 1 (Georgia only)

A CHART READING

Leggi il grafico dei dati annunciati qui sopra e scegli la risposta corretta.

B2 82.
In the House, as called on November 8, the Democrats won... A. 218 seats · B. 254 seats · C. 162 seats

B2 83.
In the House, races still uncalled: ... A. 2 · B. 13 · C. 19

B2 84.
In the Senate, races called: ... A. 33 of 35 · B. 20 of 35 · C. 35 of 35

B2 85.
Senate seats that changed hands: ... A. 5 · B. 7 · C. 22

B2 86.
Governors' offices that changed hands: ... A. 5 · B. 7 · C. 2

B2 87.
The House numbers add up to... A. 218 · B. 413 · C. 435

B COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 6, scegli la risposta giusta.

B2 88.
A “call” is... A. the official result · B. a news organisation's judgement · C. a vote in Congress

B2 89.
The official result comes when... A. the state certifies its count · B. TV calls the race · C. the first votes arrive

B2 90.
The two Senate races still uncalled are in... A. Georgia and Texas · B. Iowa and Ohio · C. Alaska and Mississippi

B2 91.
The House Republicans choose their leader on... A. November 8 · B. November 10 · C. November 18

B2 92.
A midterm changes... A. Congress, not the President · B. the President, not Congress · C. the courts

B2 93.
The certified results will be reported in... A. VOL.3 · B. this issue · C. VOL.5

C SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B2 94. Completa
Each state must ___ its count.

B2 95. Completa
News organisations ___ a race when the maths is clear.

B2 96. Completa
Seven Senate seats ___ hands on election night.

B1 97. Completa
Counting ___ time in every state.

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

B1 99. Completa
A call is not the ___ result.



A voting booth in the Old State House, Hartford, Connecticut: one voter, one ballot, one private moment. On Tuesday, November 3, millions of Americans did the same.
Kenneth C. Zirkel – CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

HOW LONG? Durata del mandato

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.

WORDS A2 win / won

Nota – Win è al presente (si vince ogni volta); won è al passato (si è già vinto) – questa settimana si usa soprattutto il passato.

win = to get first place. won = the past of win.

A2: “The Democrats won the House.” The vote is over, so the verb is in the past: won, not win.

Try it: win / won – ask “Will England win the next Ashes?” about the future: the next series is in England, in June 2027. About last year: “Australia won the first Test.”

WORDS B1 more than

Nota – comparative = il comparativo: con more than parliamo di quantità e dimensioni.

more than = a bigger number than. In the House, 254 is more than 218. The majority is 218 – and 254 is 36 more than the majority.

B1: “254 seats is more than the 218 needed.” With numbers, use more than: more people, more seats, more votes.

Try it: “The film is longer than the trailer.” “The book is cheaper than the film.”

GRAMMAR A2 will + verb

Nota – will + infinito: per ciò che accadrà; nelle domande, will va all'inizio.

The counting will continue. The new Congress will meet in January. Will the count change? Nobody knows.

Rule: will + verb, no -s, no -ed. “She will win.” “They will vote.” Question: “Will they watch the jungle?”

GRAMMAR B1 past simple

Nota – past simple = il passato semplice: per ciò che è già successo; i verbi irregolari vanno imparati.

Use the past for the past: Collins published the novel in 2025. Haymitch won the 50th Games. England lost 4–0 in 2021–22. India beat Australia by 295 runs.

Irregular verbs in this issue: win → won, lose → lost, beat → beat, choose → chose, run → ran.

GRAMMAR B2 headlines

Nota – headline present = il presente dei titoli: i giornali raccontano al presente ciò che è già successo.

Newspapers use the present in headlines for what already happened: “Democrats Win the House and the Senate” – the vote was on November 3, but the headline says Win, not Won. The present makes the news feel fresh.

GRAMMAR B2 whether

Nota – whether introduce una subordinata: per quello che non si sa, si usa whether.

Nobody knows whether the count will change. Nobody knows whether it will rain in Perth. Whether = if – for what you do not know.

GOLDEN SENTENCES

Frasi d'oro (frasi originali di questo numero): imparale a memoria e la prossima volta potrai scrivere così.

“The vote is over. The counting is not.”

–– From page 2 of this issue.

“A “call” is not the official result.”

–– From page 1 of this issue.

“The Ashes are not a sport for early nights.”

–– From page 4 of this issue.

“A midterm changes Congress, not the President.”

–– From page 6 of this issue.

“The map is drawn. The work starts in January.”

–– From page 6 of this issue.

“Two jungles, one week: a painted jungle in the cinema, and a real jungle on television.”

–– From page 3 of this issue.

“A small act is not small to the person it helps – and a loud voice starts with one sentence.”

–– From page 5 of this issue.

“On Tuesday, November 3, Americans voted in the midterm election – for all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, for 35 seats in the Senate, and for governor in 36 states.”

–– From page 1 of this issue.

THE DRILLS Esercizi

Completa con queste parole: won / more / lost / will / published / whether / chose / win.

A2 100. Completa
“The Democrats ___ the House.”

B1 101. Completa
254 is ___ than 218.

B1 102. Completa
England ___ 4–0 in 2021–22.

A2 103. Completa
The new Congress ___ meet in January.

B1 104. Completa
Collins ___ the novel in 2025.

B2 105. Completa
Nobody knows ___ the count will change.

B2 106. Completa
ITV ___ Monday for the launch.

A2 107. Completa
“Democrats ___ the House” is a headline.

ERROR CLINIC Errori

A2 108. Correggi
“The Democrats win the House in 2026.” (wrong tense)

A2 109. Correggi
“The count continue after the vote.” (wrong tense)

B1 110. Correggi
“254 is more then 218.” (wrong word)

B2 111. Correggi
“Nobody knows if the count will change or not whether.” (wrong structure)



Samuel Johnson, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds in 1772. Johnson's dictionary fixed English words – and this page fixes yours.

Sir Joshua Reynolds – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

THE TOOLBOX Strumenti

A2 – “The Democrats won the House.” I democratici hanno vinto la Camera.

B1 – “254 is more than 218.” 254 è più di 218.

B2 – “Nobody knows whether the count will change.” Nessuno sa se lo spoglio cambierà ancora.

READERS' CORNER Lettere

VOL.3 promised real letters from VOL.4. No letters arrived by press time. This page keeps the promise open: send your letter, your three sentences, or your five-sentence film review to the newsroom. Real letters, with your name and city only if you give them, will appear here from VOL.5.

Il VOL.3 lo aveva promesso: dal VOL.4 pubblichiamo le lettere vere dei lettori. Al momento di andare in stampa non era arrivata nessuna lettera – la promessa resta valida: manda la tua lettera, le tue tre frasi o la tua recensione di un film in cinque frasi alla redazione. Le lettere vere appariranno dal VOL.5, con il tuo nome e la tua città solo se lo accetti.

AN EXAMPLE LETTER Esempio

This letter is written by the editor, only to show the shape. It is not a reader's letter. No name and no city are given, because no real letter has arrived yet.

“Dear Lucerna, I read the midterm story with my class. We counted the seats together – 254, 162, 19. My question: when will the count be final? Thank you for the numbers.” – A reader, somewhere in the world.

Questa lettera è stata scritta dalla redazione, solo per mostrare il formato. Non è una lettera di un lettore. Non riporta nome né città, perché non è ancora arrivata nessuna lettera vera.

NEXT WEEK Anteprima VOL.5

Thanksgiving in America. The Ashes: England's rematch waits until June 2027. More certified results of the midterm election. And your letters – the first real ones.

A CLOZE Completa il testo

Maya is a student in London. This week, she is following the American election. On (112)__ morning, November 3, she reads the news about the midterm election. She learns a new word: a (113)__ is a news organisation's judgement – not the official result. On Wednesday, she writes a sentence: "The vote is over, but the counting (114)__." Her teacher smiles: "The new Congress (115)__ in January." Maya (116)__ the dates in her notebook: states (117)__ their counts by December 18. On Monday, she (118)__ odd socks to school for Anti-Bullying Week. And on Friday, she (119)__ the new Hunger Games film with her class.

Opzioni:

112. [A2] A. Monday · B. Tuesday · C. Friday

113. [A2] A. vote · B. call · C. seat

114. [A2] A. continuing · B. was continued · C. continues

115. [A2] A. meet · B. met · C. will meet

116. [B1] A. writes · B. write · C. is wrote

117. [B1] A. certified · B. will certify · C. certifies

118. [B1] A. wears · B. is wear · C. wearing

119. [B1] A. watched · B. watch · C. will watch

B MULTIPLE CHOICE Scelta

A2 120.
How many House seats did the Democrats win, as called? A. 218 · B. 254 · C. 162

A2 121.
The vote was on... A. Tue, Nov 3 · B. Sun, Nov 8 · C. Mon, Nov 16

A2 122.
How many Senate seats changed hands? A. 2 · B. 5 · C. 7

A2 123.
"Sunrise on the Reaping" opens on... A. Nov 16 · B. Fri, Nov 20 · C. Nov 22

A2 124.
"I'm a Celebrity" starts... A. Mon, Nov 16, 9 p.m. · B. Sun, Nov 15 · C. Fri, Nov 20

B1 125.
Australia won the 2025–26 Ashes by... A. 4–1 · B. 1–4 · C. 2–2

B1 126.
The theme of Anti-Bullying Week is... A. "Odd Socks" · B. "Break the Silence" · C. "My day"

B1 127.
World Children's Day is on... A. Fri, Nov 20 · B. Thu, Nov 26 · C. Mon, Nov 16

B1 128.
Thanksgiving is on... A. Mon, Nov 16 · B. Fri, Nov 27 · C. Thu, Nov 26

C READING Comprensione

Tom is a teacher in Manchester. On Monday, November 16, his class is reading about the American election. "The Democrats won the House with 254 seats," he says. "And the Senate, with 20 of 33 seats called." The class asks: "Is it finished?" "No," says Tom. "The states must certify their counts. And two Senate races are still uncalled." Then Tom opens the second story: "Today is Odd Socks Day." The children laugh – Tom is wearing one red sock and one blue sock.

B1 129.
Tom is... A. a student · B. a teacher in Manchester · C. a reporter

B1 130.
The Democrats won the House with... A. 254 seats · B. 218 seats · C. 162 seats

B1 131.
Tom is wearing... A. one red sock · B. one blue sock · C. one red sock and one blue sock

B1 132.
Tom's class is reading about... A. the Ashes · B. the American election · C. the film

D SENTENCES Completa

B1 133.
Will future: "The new Congress (meet) in January."→ __

B1 134.
Past simple: "The Democrats (win) the House."→ __

B1 135.
Comparative: "254 is __ than 218."

B2 136.
Whether: "Nobody knows __ the count will change."

E TRANSLATION Traduzione

B2 137.
Traduci: "The Democrats won the House and the Senate."

B2 138.
Traduci: "The counting continues."

B2 139.
Traduci: "The new Congress will meet in January 2027."

B1 140.
Traduci: "Break the silence."

F WORDS Abbina

A2 141–144. Abbina

141. a call
142. a runoff
143. to certify
144. a midterm

a. an election in the middle of a President's term
b. a news organisation's judgement on a race
c. a second vote, when nobody wins
d. to confirm a count officially

G DIALOGUE Dialogo

– Two tickets for the new Hunger Games film, please. – Which (145)__? – The front row, please. – Here you are. Is this the (146)__ about Haymitch? – Yes, the young Haymitch. – One large (147)__ and two drinks, please. – What time is the next (148)__? – At eight. – And the film opens on (149)__, November 20? – Yes, Friday. Enjoy the film!

Levels: 145–149 [A2]

H WRITING Scrittura [B1]

Write a short text (80 to 100 words): "My Monday, November 16". Tell us: did you wear odd socks, what did you watch on television, what did you read about the election – and one sentence about the film on Friday. The best texts will appear in VOL.5 (page 7, "Readers' Corner").

Scrivi 80–100 parole in inglese: «Il mio lunedì 16 novembre». Di' se hai indossato calzini spaiati, che cosa hai guardato alla televisione la sera, che cosa hai letto sulle elezioni, e una frase sul film di venerdì.



The Main Reading Room, Library of Congress – Carol M. Highsmith, public domain.

MODEL Testo modello

On Monday, November 16, I wore odd socks to school – one red, one blue. My teacher smiled and said, "Break the silence." In the evening, we watched the jungle on television together with my family. On Tuesday, we read about the election in class: the Democrats won the House with 254 seats. On Friday, we will watch the new Hunger Games film. It is a busy week of votes, socks and stories – and I am learning to say it all in English.

ANSWERS Risposte e note (pagine 1–8)

– Pagina 1 –

1. midterm · 2. call · 3. seats (seat = un seggio) · 4. majority · 5. changed · 6. January · 7. B · 8. A · 9. C · 10. C

– Pagina 2 –

11. November · 12. January · 13. 1 · 14. Thursday (Il Giorno del Ringraziamento è un giovedì) · 15. 27 · 16. The new Congress will meet in January. · 17. States will certify their counts. · 18. Families will travel home. · 19. Will they watch the jungle on Monday? · 20. B · 21. C · 22. A · 23. B · 24. b · 25. c · 26. a · 27. d

– Pagina 3 –

28. B · 29. A · 30. C · 31. B · 32. A · 33. C · 34. opens · 35. mentor · 36. twice (twice = il doppio) · 37. jungle · 38. b · 39. a · 40. d · 41. c · 42. Collins published the novel in 2025. · 43. Haymitch won the 50th Games. (win → won) · 44. Rousseau painted jungles he never saw. · 45. ITV chose Monday for the launch.

– Pagina 4 –

46. A · 47. C · 48. B · 49. A · 50. C · 51. B · 52. hosted · 53. lasts · 54. eight (otto = eight) · 55. won · 56. b · 57. c (tour = una tournée c) · 58. d · 59. a · 60. England lost 4–0 in 2021–22. · 61. Australia lost their first Test at the ground. · 62. The last series ended in a draw in 2023. · 63. India beat Australia by 295 runs.

– Pagina 5 –

64. B · 65. A · 66. C (Il Giorno dei Calzini Spaiati compie dieci anni) · 67. B · 68. A · 69. C · 70. silence · 71. socks (sock = un calzino) · 72. rights (right = un diritto) · 73. up · 74. d · 75. a · 76. b (right = un diritto b) · 77. c · 78. Schools are wearing odd socks today. · 79. Children are speaking up this week. · 80. We are listening to every child. · 81. She is sitting with a new friend.

– Pagina 6 –

82. B (Annunciato l'8 novembre: i democratici hanno 254 seggi alla Camera) · 83. C (Alla Camera, 19 seggi ancora da decidere) · 84. A (Al Senato, 33 seggi su 35 sono già stati annunciati) · 85. B (Sette seggi del Senato cambiano schieramento, tutti a favore dei democratici) · 86. A (Cinque cariche di governatore cambiano schieramento, tutte a favore dei democratici) · 87. C (254 + 162 + 19 = 435 (seggi totali della Camera)) · 88. B · 89. A (Il risultato ufficiale arriva con la certificazione degli Stati) · 90. C · 91. B · 92. A · 93. C · 94. certify · 95. call · 96. changed · 97. takes · 98. differs · 99. official

– Pagina 7 –

100. won · 101. more · 102. lost · 103. will · 104. published · 105. whether · 106. chose · 107. win · 108. Correct: The Democrats won the House. (won / win, errore di tempo verbale) · 109. Correct: The count continued after the vote. (Il passato di continue è continued) · 110. Correct: 254 is more than 218. (more than, la struttura) · 111. Correct: Nobody knows whether it will change. (whether introduce una subordinata)

– Pagina 8 –

112. Tuesday (Martedì 3 novembre, giorno del voto) · 113. call (call = annunciare il risultato) · 114. continues (continues è al presente) · 115. will meet (will meet, al futuro) · 116. writes (writes, terza persona singolare) · 117. will certify (will certify, al futuro) · 118. wears (wears, terza persona singolare) · 119. will watch (will watch, al futuro) · 120. B (I democratici hanno 254 seggi alla Camera) · 121. A (Il giorno del voto è il 3 novembre) · 122. C (Sette seggi del Senato cambiano schieramento) · 123. B (Il nuovo film esce il 20 novembre) · 124. A (Il programma della giungla, il 16 novembre alle 9 di sera) · 125. A (L'Australia ha vinto le Ashes 2025–26 per 4–1) · 126. B (Tema della Settimana contro il Bullismo: «Rompi il silenzio») · 127. A (La Giornata Mondiale dell'Infanzia è il 20 novembre) · 128. C (Il Giorno del Ringraziamento è giovedì 26 novembre) · 129. B (Tom insegna a Manchester) · 130. A (I democratici hanno 254 seggi alla Camera) · 131. C (Tom indossa un calzino rosso e uno blu) · 132. B (La classe di Tom sta leggendo notizie sulle elezioni) · 133. will meet (will + infinito) · 134. won (win→ won) · 135. more (more than, il comparativo) · 136. whether (whether = se) · 137. I democratici hanno vinto la Camera e il Senato. (the House and the Senate = la Camera e il Senato) · 138. Lo spoglio continua. (continues = continua ancora) · 139. Il nuovo Congresso si riunirà a gennaio 2027. (will meet = si riunirà) · 140. Rompi il silenzio. (Break the silence.) · 141. b (call = annunciare il risultato b) · 142. c (runoff = un ballottaggio c) · 143. d (certify = certificare ufficialmente d) · 144. a (midterm = le elezioni di medio termine a) · 145. row (row = una fila di posti) · 146. film (film = un film) · 147. popcorn (popcorn = i popcorn) · 148. show (show = uno spettacolo) · 149. Friday (Friday = venerdì) · 150. Compito aperto – punti chiave nel riquadro di scrittura; testo modello nel riquadro a pagina 8 (Valutazione per punti chiave)