

Edition 33, February 2017

President Trump

On January 20th 2017, Donald J Trump became the 45th President of the United States. In his speech, he vowed to make America great again creating more jobs and protecting its borders.

No sooner had he set foot in the White House than he set about bringing in many of the changes he had promised before his election.



Picture courtesy BBC.com

He has signed an order refusing entry to the United States to all refugees. The order

also refuses entry to anyone from seven named Muslim-majority countries. He has begun the planning of building a wall along the US-Mexico border and has said that he expects the Mexican government to pay for it.

He has signed orders that all illegal immigrants living in the US with a criminal record are to be deported immediately. With 50,000 Irish people living illegally in the US this is of great concern to their families and to the Irish Government.

It has been the tradition for many years that on St Patrick's Day the Taoiseach visits the White House and presents the US president with a bowl of shamrock. This is seen as a symbol of the close relationship between the two countries.

More than 30 million Americans have Irish ancestors. Irish immigrants have, over many years, played a big part in in American politics and in the police force. Many US companies have set up businesses here in Ireland employing many thousands of workers here. Shannon and Dublin airports are the only airports in Europe that offer immigration pre-clearance for people travelling to the US.

Pre-clearance means that those passengers won't have to queue for a long time when they arrive at the US airport.

People here in Ireland are divided in their opinion of whether the Taoiseach Enda Kenny should or should not visit with President Trump on March 17th. Many believe that the visit should not take place to show we do not agree with what he is doing. Others believe that the close bond between our two nations needs to be kept up. They believe Mr Kenny could use the visit to voice Irish concern about President Trump's actions and to speak for the Irish living illegally in America.

Martin McGuinness retires

Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland and Sinn Fein leader, has retired from politics because of ill health.

Mr Mc Guinness, who was born in



Derry in 1950, was a member of the IRA in the 1970s and spent a short time in prison during the Troubles. He was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 1997 but he refused to take his seat in Westminster, the home of the British Government.

Many tributes have been paid to him for the part he played in the Northern peace talks which led to the Good Friday agreement in 1998. He played a major role in the peace process and worked to build bridges between the nationalist and unionist communities.

He was made Minister for Education in a power-sharing government and in 2007 was made Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland. Ian Paisley, one of Sinn Fein's main opponents for many years, was First Minister. In 2011, Mr McGuinness ran in the election for President of Ireland but lost out to Michael D Higgins.

We wish him well in his recovery.

Plurals

Plural means more than one of something.

1. For most plurals, you just add s to the word.

Examples: dog/dogs boy/boys tree/trees

2. For words ending in s, ss, x, ch, sh, you add es

Examples: bus/buses glass/glasses box/boxes lunch/lunches brush/brushes

3. For words ending in f or fe, you change the f or fe to ves

Examples: calf/calves knife/knives life/lives

Note: For **some** words ending in f just add s. Examples: chef/chefs roof/roofs cliff/cliffs chief/chiefs

4. For words ending in y

- If there is a **vowel before the y**, just add s. (Vowels are a, e, i, o, u.)

Examples: boy/boys play/plays

- If there is a **consonant before the y**, change y to ies.

Examples: pony/ponies lorry/lorries lolly/lollies

5. For words ending in o

- If there is a **vowel before the o**, just add s.

Examples: radio/radios video/videos

- If there is a **consonant before the o** add es.

Examples: tomato/tomatoes hero/heroes echo/echoes

6. Some words do not change at all.

Examples: fish, deer, sheep, money, cheese, rice

7. Some words change completely

Examples: child/children mouse/mice man/men tooth/teeth

Write the **plural** of these words:

child _____
knife _____
brush _____
boss _____
woman _____
mouse _____
tax _____
berry _____
toy _____
lady _____
tooth _____
branch _____
army _____
echo _____
hero _____
thief _____
pony _____
shelf _____
cliff _____

Think of a word that means the **opposite** of these:

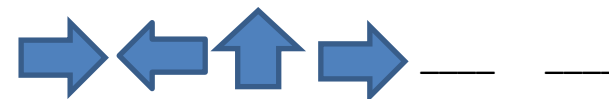
awake: _____
empty: _____
wealthy: _____
heavy: _____
wrong: _____
long: _____
dark: _____
expensive: _____
under: _____
thick: _____
stale: _____

Well done to Mags from Kerry who was the winner of our Christmas competition. Mags has won a €25 book voucher!

Maths

Finish the following patterns:

- 2, 4, 6, 8, __, __, __
- 10, 20, 30, 40, __, __, __
- 40, 35, 30, 25, __, __, __



- 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, __, __
- X, X, O, X, X, O, __, __, __
- 6, 12, 18, 24, __, __, __

