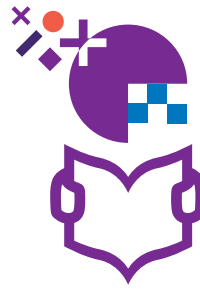


That's Interesting!



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NALA

A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers

The visit of John F. Kennedy to Ireland

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the visit of John F Kennedy to Ireland. In June 1963, John Fitzgerald Kennedy the first Irish, catholic president to be elected in America, paid a four day visit to Ireland.

All of his great grandparents emigrated from Ireland to America during the famine. His father's ancestors, the Kennedys, came from outside New Ross in Wexford and his mother's ancestors the Fitzgeralds, were from Bruff in Limerick. President Kennedy visited the Kennedy ancestral home in Wexford and met with cousins.

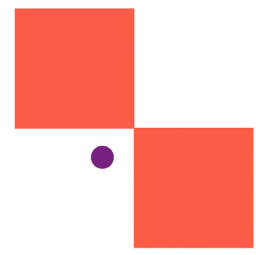


John F. Kennedy

Image source:
commons.wikimedia.org

Everywhere he went in Ireland, thousands of people lined the streets to greet him. It was one of the biggest occasions to ever take place in Ireland and is still spoken about to this day. He met with Eamon De Valera, who was the Irish president at the time and he also gave a rousing speech to the Irish government.

John F Kennedy was born in May 1917, the second child in a family of nine born to the Kennedys, a wealthy Irish American family living outside Boston. His father, Joe Kennedy, was a businessman with a great interest in politics and at one time was US ambassador to Britain. Their mother, Rose Fitzgerald, was the daughter of a US congressman.



Joe Kennedy encouraged all of his children, from a young age, to become interested in politics and world affairs. After finishing college, John and his brother Joe Junior joined the US Navy and fought in World War 2. In 1943 he received an award for bravery when he helped his other crew members to safety after an attack. Sadly, his older brother, Joe junior, died when his navy airplane was bombed in a German air attack.

After leaving the navy, John entered politics. In 1947 he ran for the congress elections as a member of the Democrats and at the age of just 29 became a US congressman. A few years later he became a US senator. In 1953, he married Jackie Lee Bouvier, a journalist and they had two children, Caroline and John Junior.



President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy

Image source: Creative Commons Zero - CC0

In 1960, he ran for president. Both he and his wife Jackie were much admired by the American public for their youth and energy and promise of a new America.

He won the election, beating Richard Nixon. At 43, he was the youngest president to be elected in the US.

In his inauguration speech in January 1961, he asked his fellow Americans to work together for their country. It was in this speech that his famous words are forever remembered, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."



President Kennedy inauguration

Image source: AP Images

Much of his time in office was taken up with foreign disputes with Russia, Cuba and the Vietnam War. Space travel was also happening during this era, with the first American space flight in 1962. Civil Rights protests by Black Americans led by Martin Luther King were also happening at the time.

When leaving Shannon airport in 1963, President Kennedy promised to return to Ireland again. He said later that that his days spent here were among the happiest of his life.

Sadly, just five months after his trip to Ireland, while on a visit to Dallas in Texas, as he greeted the crowds from an open top car alongside his wife Jackie, President Kennedy was shot in the head and neck and immediately fell into the arms of his wife. He died a short time later.

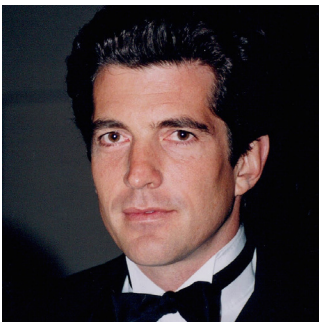


Greeting the crowd before he was shot in Dallas, Texas.

Image source:
commons.wikimedia.org

A 24-year-old, Lee Harvey Oswald, was arrested for the killing. Oswald himself was shot dead a few months later as he was being brought to court.

John's brothers, Bobby and Ted Kennedy, both entered politics. However, Bobby was also shot dead in 1968. Ted remained in politics up until his death in 2009. Their sister Jean Kennedy who passed away in 2020, was US ambassador to Ireland from 1993 to 1998.



John Kennedy Junior

Image source:
commons.wikimedia.org

John's widow, Jackie, later remarried a Greek millionaire, Aristotle Onassis. She passed away in 1994. Their son, John Junior, along with his wife, died in 1999 when his plane, of which he was the pilot, crashed. John and Jackie's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, now 65, is currently the US Ambassador to Australia.



Caroline Kennedy

Image source:
commons.wikimedia.org

More words we often find hard to spell ×

argument	beautiful	exercise	jealous	neighbour	school
autumn	business	government	length	pharmacy	sandwich
beginning	exciting	invitation	licence	photograph	scissors

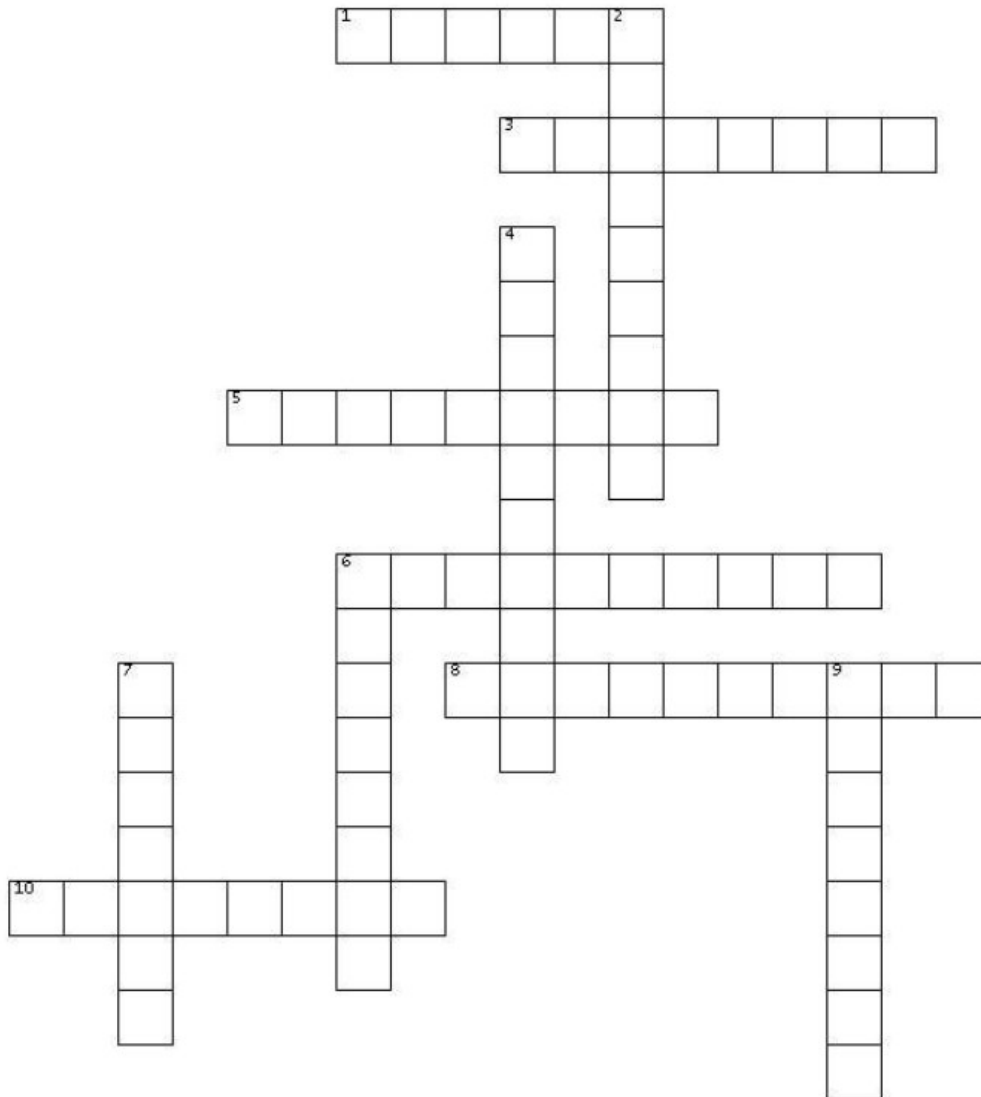
Tip: To learn these words, you need to practise them

- Take **3 words** every day, break each into syllables or parts
- Example: **invitation**: 4 syllables (in vit a tion)
- Then write the word in a sentence: I got an invitation to a party last week.

Fill in the blanks with a word from the list above:

1. This is where you buy your medicine. _____
2. The trees lose their leaves in this season. _____
3. I go for a walk everyday to get some _____
4. A card sent to you asking you to an event. _____
5. You take one with a camera. _____
6. I bring a ham _____ to work most days for lunch.
7. Used for cutting. _____
8. How long something is. _____
9. This organisation runs the country. _____
10. When you really want what someone else has, you are _____
11. The person who lives next door is your _____
12. You always start at the _____ and finish at the end.
13. This is where you get an education. _____
14. A disagreement between 2 people is an _____

Crossword



The answers to the clues are all words from the list on the previous page.

Clues

Across

1. This season comes before winter
3. You use this to cut
5. Another word for lovely.
6. Taken with a camera
8. They look after the affairs of the country.
10. Made when you put 2 slices of bread together

Down

2. Someone who lives close to you
4. A card asking you to a wedding
6. You can collect your medicine here.
7. You get this when you pass the driving test.
9. When you are active you are getting this

Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone **1 800 20 20 80**
or text **LEARN** to **50050**

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone or we can give details of your local centre.



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Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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