

Step into Learning



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

Michael D. Higgins to finish up as President of Ireland

Michael D. Higgins will finish up as the President of Ireland in November. He was president for 14 years. He is president since 2011.



President Michael D. Higgins

Michael D. was born in Limerick in 1941. When he was young, his family were not well off. When he was 5 years old, Michael D. and his brother went to live with his aunt and uncle in County Clare.

After school, he worked in a factory and then in an office. Later, he got help from a friend to go to college. He went to Galway university and later to university in Manchester and America. He was the first in his family to go to university. After a few years he became a lecturer in Galway university.

He liked politics and he joined the Labour Party. He was a county councillor and mayor of Galway. He became a TD (member of government) in 1981 and stayed in this job until 2011.

In 1993, he was made Minister for Arts and helped start TG4, the Irish-language television station.



Michael D. is married to Sabina from Galway. They got married in 1974 and they have four children. They have been married for 51 years.

He is a very popular president. He cares about people's rights, fairness, and helping people. He has supported the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) and our work.



Sabina Higgins

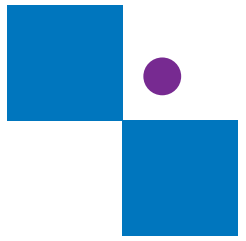
He loves Irish music and sport. He speaks Irish and Spanish. He writes books and poems. We wish Michael D. and Sabina a happy retirement.

The election to elect a new president of Ireland will take place on Friday 24 October. Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC) have shared useful information at vote.ie/elections/presidential/

Image source pages 1-2:

NALA and Irish Defence Forces from Ireland, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Words from the story



Word list:

president, brother, factory, office, university, councillor, popular, retirement election

Writing practice



Fill in the blanks using the words from the word list.

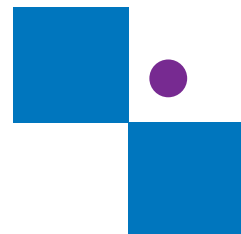
1. Michael D. Higgins will finish as _____.
2. When he was 5, he and his _____ went to live with his aunt and uncle.
3. After school he worked in a _____ and in an _____.
4. He went to Galway _____.
5. He was a county _____.
6. He was a very _____ president.
7. We wish Michael D. and Sabina well in their _____.
8. On 24 October there will be an _____.

Read and answer

Read the story on pages 1-2 again and answer the questions below.

Tick ✓ the correct answer.

1. When will Michael D. Higgins finish up as president?
☐ November ☐ October ☐ September
2. How many years was he the president?
☐ 10 ☐ 14 ☐ 20
3. Where was Michael D. Higgins born?
☐ Dublin ☐ Limerick ☐ Cork
4. When he left school, where was his first job?
☐ In a school ☐ In a factory ☐ In a shop
5. What university did he work in?
☐ Galway ☐ Limerick ☐ Cork
6. How many years is he married to Sabina?
☐ 51 ☐ 41 ☐ 21



Questions and answers



Choose a word from the box to answer these questions.

2011	14	Limerick	TG4	Galway
51	Sabina	factory	October	music and sport

Question	Answer
1. What year did Michael D. Higgins become president?	
2. How many years was he president for?	
3. Where was Michael D. Higgins born?	
4. After school where did he work?	
5. He was made a lecturer in what university?	
6. What television station did he set up?	
7. What is his wife's name?	
8. How many years are they married?	
9. What Irish things does Michael D. love?	
10. What month is the presidential election?	

Work on your spelling - an and



We can change a letter or put a letter before some words to make a new word.

Words ending in: **an**

fan can pan van ran plan

Fill in the blanks below with a word ending in: **an**

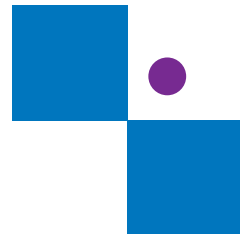
1. Run as fast as you _____.
2. I love sport, I am a big _____.
3. I fry eggs in a frying _____.
4. The dog _____ after the cat.
5. The postman drives a _____.
6. That's a very good _____.

Words ending in: **and**

band land sand hand stand grand

Fill in the blanks below with a word ending in: **and**

1. U2 is the name of a _____.
2. Can you give me a _____.
3. The beach is full of _____.
4. Please _____ up.
5. She will sell her _____.
6. It will all be _____.



Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

Tick ✓ the correct word a, b or c.

1. U2 is a _____ .

☐

a. sand

☐

b. hand

☐

c. band

2. To help, you give a _____ .

☐

a. band

☐

b. land

☐

c. hand

3. We cook eggs in a _____ .

☐

a. pan

☐

b. ran

☐

c. can

4. In summer I get a sun _____ .

☐

a. ran

☐

b. can

☐

c. tan

5. My brother drives a _____ .

☐

a. pan

☐

b. man

☐

c. van

Writing practise



stand fan band grand plan and

Pick a word from the box to finish these sentences:

1. My brother plays in a _____ .
2. Can you please _____ up.
3. It is very hot; I will turn on the _____ .
4. It is a _____ day.
5. That is a good _____ .
6. I like fish _____ chips.

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 65**

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website [learnwithnala.ie](https://www.learnwithnala.ie) or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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