

The History and Process of Voting

Source: Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government

NTI DAY #6

11th Day Missed

Any U.S. citizen who is at least 18 years old, and who meets certain requirements, can vote in federal elections. This has not always been the case. When the United States first won its independence, there were restrictions on who could vote. In some states, only white male landowners that were at least 21 years old could vote. Beginning in 1870, a series of Constitutional Amendments and other laws have extended voting privileges to more and more citizens.

- The Fifteenth Amendment (Amendment XV) was ratified (or officially adopted) on February 3, 1870. It gave African-American men the right to vote by declaring that the "right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
- The Nineteenth Amendment (Amendment XIX) was ratified on August 18, 1920. It guarantees the right to vote to all American women by declaring that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110) became effective on August 6, 1965. It enforced the Fifteenth Amendment and outlawed discriminatory voting practices.
- The Twenty-sixth Amendment (Amendment XXVI) was ratified on July 1, 1971. It lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 and declared that "the right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age."

It took a long time and a lot of hard work to extend the right to vote to every adult citizen in the United States. That's why it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote. In order to vote, you must first be registered. Requirements for registration and registration deadlines change depending on where you live in the U.S.

Registration forms can be obtained from local election officials in your county, from your state's election office, or through voting advocacy groups. You can also register to vote at motor vehicle or driver's licensing offices, Armed Forces recruitment offices, or state agencies that provide public assistance services. Many states offer registration opportunities at public libraries, public high schools and universities, and post offices.

The National Mail Voter Registration Form from the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) allows you to register to vote from anywhere in the United States. The forms on the EAC site have specific information in several languages about voter registration for each state. Can you find the instructions for your state?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who can vote in Federal elections?

- A** any U.S. citizen who is at least 18 years old and meets certain requirements
- B** any U.S. resident who is at least 18 years old and meets certain requirements
- C** any U.S. citizen who is at least 16 years old and meets certain requirements
- D** any U.S. resident who is at least 16 years old and meets certain requirements

2. The text discusses the extension of voting rights in the United States. What was the sequence of their extension?

- A** Voting rights were given to all American women, then to African-American men, and then to citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or older.
- B** Voting rights were given to all American women, then to citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or older, and then to African-American men.
- C** Voting rights were given to African-American men, then to all American women, and then to citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or older.
- D** Voting rights were given to African-American men, then to citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or older, and then to all American women.

3. Read these sentences from the text: "When the United States first won its independence, there were restrictions on who could vote. In some states, only white male landowners that were at least 21 years old could vote. Beginning in 1870, a series of Constitutional Amendments and other laws have extended voting privileges to more and more citizens."

What evidence in the text supports the statement that "a series of Constitutional Amendments and other laws have extended voting privileges to more and more citizens"?

- A** Requirements for voter registration and registration deadlines change depending on where you live in the U.S.
- B** You can register to vote at motor vehicle or driver's licensing offices and Armed Forces recruitment offices.
- C** The National Mail Voter Registration Form from the United States Election Assistance Commission allows you to register to vote from anywhere in the United States.
- D** The Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, guaranteed the right to vote to all American women.

4. Read these sentences from the text: "The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110) became effective on August 6, 1965. It enforced the Fifteenth Amendment and outlawed discriminatory voting practices."

Based on this information, what can you infer about the Fifteenth Amendment before the Voting Rights Act?

- A The Fifteenth Amendment was popular with a lot of U.S. citizens who were under the age of 21.
- B The Fifteenth Amendment was unpopular with a lot of U.S. citizens who were under the age of 21.
- C The Fifteenth Amendment was not being completely obeyed.
- D The Fifteenth Amendment was being completely obeyed.

5. What is a main idea of this text?

- A The Twenty-sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the voting age from 21 to 18.
- B The right to vote in the United States was slowly extended to more and more citizens.
- C Many states offer voter registration opportunities at public libraries and post offices.
- D When the United States was founded, only white male landowners that were at least 21 years old could vote in some states.

6. Read these sentences from the text: "It took a long time and a lot of hard work to extend the right to vote to every adult citizen in the United States. That's why **it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote.**"

What does the author probably mean by writing that "**it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote**"?

- A It is the responsibility of every American citizen who can vote to vote.
- B It is the responsibility of every American who works for the government to vote.
- C It is the responsibility of all American voters to respect each other.
- D It is the responsibility of all American voters to think carefully when they are voting.

7. Read these sentences from the text: "It took a long time and a lot of hard work to extend the right to vote to every adult citizen in the United States. That's why it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote."

How could the second sentence be rewritten without changing its meaning?

- A Currently, it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote.
- B Specifically, it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote.
- C Instead, it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote.
- D Therefore, it is every eligible American citizen's responsibility to vote.

8. Read this statement from the text: "It took a long time . . . to extend the right to vote to every adult citizen in the United States."

What evidence in the text supports this statement?

9. Why does the author believe "it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote"?

10. Argue for or against the author’s claim that “it is every eligible American citizen's civic responsibility to vote.” Support your argument with evidence from the text.

Smart About Medicine

By Jennifer Magid

Check out these dos and don'ts for taking medicine safely.

Did you know that almost one out of three teens think there is nothing wrong with using prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, according to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America?

Medicines can help people fight illnesses and get better faster, and can keep people from getting sick in the first place. But if they aren't taken correctly, medicines may cause more harm than good. Read on to learn more about responsible medicine use.

DO take all your antibiotics.

Here's a scenario: After three days of taking the medicine your doctor prescribed for strep throat, you feel great. You still have seven days' worth of pills left. Is it OK to stop taking them and shove them to the back of the medicine cabinet until the next time you get sick?

Nope! Always finish taking all the *antibiotics* (bacteria-fighting drugs) prescribed by your doctor, even if you start to feel healthy again. "When bacteria are undertreated, they have a chance to multiply," says Dr. Tanya Arora, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. "You get bacteria that no longer respond to the antibiotic." Some antibiotics don't just get rid of bacteria, Arora adds. Some also help prevent other problems. For instance, strep throat that is not fully treated can lead to rheumatic fever, an illness that can damage the heart.

Don't take someone else's medicine.

The most common way teens get medications they aren't supposed to be taking is from a friend or a relative, according to the 2008 Monitoring the Future survey. But sharing your medicine, or taking another person's medication, can be dangerous. It's also illegal.

"If the drug was not prescribed for you, you don't ... have your own doctor's knowledge of how the prescription medicine will interact with your own body [or] with other medicines you may be taking," says Steve Pasierb, president of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. That means you could get very sick.

Plus, if you take someone else's medicine, that person won't have enough of it. Pharmacists cannot refill a prescription if a medication has been used up before it should have been. That could put the other person's health in danger.

DO make sure you are taking the correct dose.

Every week, approximately one in 10 kids use some kind of cough and cold medicine, according to experts at Boston University. Cough and cold medicines can be a big help when you're sniffing and sneezing. But because you can buy them without a prescription, many people don't realize just how dangerous those drugs can be if they are misused.

While cough medications may have different names, they often have the same or similar ingredients. For example, the ingredient *diphenhydramine*, which treats coughs, can make you stop breathing if you take too much.

"These medications are not meant to take away all your symptoms and make you feel back to normal—they only help a little bit," Arora says. Taking more than you should won't help your symptoms.

DO find out whether your medicine shouldn't be mixed.

Sometimes, drugs can interact with other drugs, foods, or vitamins. For example, iron supplements can keep *tetracycline*, a common antibiotic, from working. Grapefruit juice affects a number of medicines, such as ones for heart disease and allergies, as well as some that fight infections.

Certain vitamins and supplements for athletes can have damaging effects on the kidneys and liver. "It is important that your doctor know [what you are taking] so that they avoid prescribing medications that may worsen that damage," says Virginia Cox of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association.

Don't take expired meds.

Some medicines don't work as well as time passes or if they are kept in high temperatures. Expired medicine may not work as intended. That is why it is better to always go to the doctor rather than try to figure out on your own what you ought to do.

"Your self-diagnosis may be wrong, and the prescription medicine you take may have a negative impact on what is truly wrong with you," says Pasierb.

Rx Quick Check

Put your medicine smarts to the test.

1. You have a fever but otherwise feel OK. Should you take a medicine that treats fever, sore throat, sneezing, and coughing?

- (A) yes
- (B) no

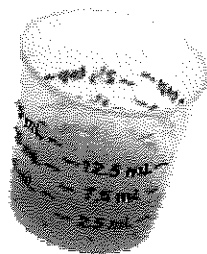
2. Your family has a bottle of medicine with an expiration date of 08/09. That means it was safe to use until

- (A) September 2008.
- (B) August 2009.
- (C) 2008 or 2009.

3. **True or False:** Abusing over-the-counter or prescription medications can be just as dangerous as abusing illegal street drugs.

Answers:

- 1. B (Avoid taking unnecessary medicines.);
- 2. B;
- 3. True



Arvind
Balaraman/Shutterstock

Measuring Up

You may have heard the expression “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” Don’t judge a spoonful by the spoon, either.

Kitchen teaspoons—the kind you eat with—shouldn’t be used to take liquid medicines. That’s because not all spoons are alike. Spoons can hold anywhere from 4 milliliters of liquid to 10 milliliters, according to a study by doctors in Minnesota. However, the correct amount of liquid in a teaspoon serving is 5 milliliters. Use a medicine measuring cup instead. Then you can be sure it is the right dose.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, how many teenagers think there is nothing wrong with taking prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription?

- A one out of four teenagers
- B one out of ten teenagers
- C one out of three teenagers
- D about half of teenagers

2. The passage gives readers a list of things they should and should not do with medicines. Which of the following does the writer include in the passage?

- A you can mix medicine with any other foods, drugs or vitamins
- B you can take someone else's medicine
- C you do not always need to finish taking all the antibiotics prescribed
- D you should not take expired medicine

3. Based on the passage, it is likely that

- A many people do not use medicines correctly
- B people always take all of their antibiotics
- C all medicines are safe to mix with other drugs, foods or vitamins
- D no one ever shares their medication with other people

4. Read the following sentences: "Some medicines don't work as well as time passes or if they are kept in high temperatures. Expired medicine may not work as intended."

As used in the passage, **expired** means

- A past a certain date
- B before a certain date
- C prescribed
- D too pass on

5. What is the central idea of this passage?

- A different kinds of medicine
- B how to take medicine responsibly
- C how to take medicine for a cold
- D how to get a prescription for an illness

6. According to the passage, what are the two reasons people should not take someone else's medicine?

7. Based on the passage, are medicines that you can get without a prescription safer than those with a prescription? Why or why not?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Grapefruit juice can affect a number of medicines, _____ you should ask your doctor if it is safe to drink it with your medication.

- A before
- B because
- C so
- D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

People with strep throat should take all their antibiotics when the doctor prescribes it so they won't get rheumatic fever.

Who? people with strep throat

What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

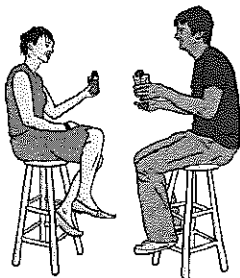
Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below to complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: **interact** (in-ter-act): contact between two or more things with some change or effect.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **interact**.

1. Iron supplements can interact with antibiotic medicine, causing it to not work.
2. Grapefruit juice can interact with certain medicines and cause these medications to have different effects on the body.
3. Our science teacher warned us that when you combine two safe chemicals, they could interact in a way that changes them into something dangerous.
4. The colors red and blue interact to create the color purple.
5. We interact over the phone by talking twice a day.

10b. Which image best demonstrates the meaning of the word interacting?



11. According to the passage, which of the following can interact with medicine: water or grapefruit juice? Why?

Name: _____ Date: _____

NTI 7th math - Day #6

Question 1 of 10

Jamie has \$3.00 in her pocket. She wants to buy a rubber ball for 35¢ and a pack of paper for \$1.00. She knows that there is 9% sales tax. How much will Jamie have left in her pocket after she buys the ball and paper? Round your answers to the nearest penny.

- A. 12¢
- B. \$1.47
- C. \$1.53
- D. \$2.53

Question 2 of 10

Jamie has \$3.00 in her pocket. She wants to buy a rubber ball for 35¢ and a pack of paper for \$1.00. She knows that there is 9% sales tax. How much will Jamie have left in her pocket after she buys the ball and paper?

- A. 12¢
- B. \$1.47
- C. \$1.53
- D. \$2.53

Question 3 of 10

A store has shirts on sale. The regular price is \$24, and they are on sale for 25% off. How much will the shirt cost after the discount?

- A. \$6
- B. \$12
- C. \$18
- D. \$20

Question 4 of 10

Ethan is getting ready to go back to school and is looking for sales. There is a 33% off sale on all items at Big Values. The original price of the shirt is \$25.99, and the shoes are \$14.95. About how much will Ethan pay if he buys these items on sale?

- A. \$14
- B. \$17
- C. \$21.99
- D. \$28

Question 5 of 10

Julie is 12 years old. She wants to buy a skirt on sale. It was originally \$24 and is now 25% off. How much will she pay?

- A. \$12
- B. \$18
- C. \$30
- D. \$36

Question 6 of 10

Bill likes going to the circus. When purchasing a ticket on line, he discovers the price for a circus ticket is 25% more than last year's ticket. The price last year was \$22.00 per ticket. What is the new price of this year's ticket to the circus?

- A. \$5.50
- B. \$22.25
- C. \$27.50
- D. \$33.00

Question 7 of 10

Jane's check is 90% of her usual pay. If her usual pay is \$324.16, what is the amount of her check?

- A. \$32.42
- B. \$259.32
- C. \$291.74
- D. \$320.92

Question 8 of 10

Mrs. Pauli bought several items at a discount store for a total of \$52. She received an \$8 discount before taxes are calculated. How much tax did Mrs. Pauli pay on her purchase after her discount was applied if the tax rate was 6%?

- A. \$2.64
- B. \$3.12
- C. \$3.60
- D. \$5.06

Question 9 of 10

Ariana and Derek are driving to Michigan. Derek has driven $\frac{3}{5}$ of the 750 miles and Ariana has driven $\frac{1}{4}$ of the miles.

What percent of the miles do they still need to drive?

- A. 85%
- B. 15%
- C. 55%
- D. 45%

Question 10 of 10

Which of the following has the same value as $\frac{5}{8}$?

- A. 58%
- B. 62.5%
- C. .625%
- D. 68.5%