

Patina Education

N-400 Interview Vocabulary · Kreyòl Ayisyen

Mo ofisye a itilize pandan entèvyou natiralizasyon an, gwoupe dapre kote ou rankontre yo. Chak grenn gen yon definisyon senp, kreyòl la, ak yon fraz ki montre kijan yo mande l vre.

Sa se materyèl etid. Se pa konsèy legal, e se pa yon lis kesyon yo pral poze w.

Tradiksyon kreyòl la fèt ak teknoloji lang epi yon moun ki pale lang nan depi nesans pòkò revize l. Se anglè a ki ofisyèl.
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Your name and personal information

given name

Your first name — the name your family gave you, not your last name.

non batèm — premye non ou, pa siyati a

The officer points to the form and asks, "What is your given name?" You say your first name.

family name

Your last name, also called your surname — the name you share with your family.

siyati — non fanmi ou

"What is your family name?" means the officer wants your last name.

legal name

Your full, official name exactly as it appears on your legal documents.

non legal — non ofisyèl konplè ou sou dokiman yo

"Is this your current legal name?" The officer is checking the name on your records is correct.

date of birth

The exact day you were born — the month, day, and year.

dat nesans — jou, mwa ak ane ou te fèt

"What is your date of birth?" Give the month, day, and year you were born.

country of birth

The country where you were born.

peyi nesans — peyi kote ou te fèt

"What is your country of birth?" Name the country where you were born, even if you left as a child.

nationality

The country you legally belong to as a citizen.

nasyonalite — peyi kote ou se sitwayen

"What is your country of nationality?" Say the country whose citizen you are now.

marital status

Whether you are single, married, divorced, or widowed.

eta sivil — si ou selibatè, marye, divòse oswa vèf

"What is your marital status?" You answer with one word, like "married" or "single."

sex

Whether you are male or female, as shown on your records.

sèks — gason oswa fi

The officer checks that the sex marked on your form matches your documents.

A-Number

Your Alien Registration Number — a number USCIS uses to find your immigration file. You do not need to memorize it.

nimewo A — nimewo USCIS itilize pou dosye ou

"Can you confirm your A-Number?" It is the number that starts with the letter A on your green card.

Family and marriage

spouse

The person you are married to — your husband or wife.

konjwen — mari ou oswa madanm ou

"What is your spouse's date of birth?" The officer is asking about your husband or wife.

divorced

No longer married because a court legally ended the marriage.

divòse — pa marye ankò paske yon tribinal fini maryaj la

"Are you divorced?" Say yes only if a court officially ended your marriage.

widowed

No longer married because your husband or wife has died.

vèf / vèv — pa marye ankò paske konjwen an mouri

If your spouse has died, you tell the officer you are widowed.

dependents

The people you support with your money, usually your children.

depandan — moun ou kenbe ak lajan ou, sitou pitit ou

"How many dependents do you have?" Count the people, like your children, who rely on you for money.

Where you have lived

lawful permanent resident

A person allowed to live and work in the U.S. permanently — a green card holder.

rezidan pèmanan legal — moun ki gen green card, ki ka viv ak travay isit

"When did you become a lawful permanent resident?" Give the date on your green card.

residence

The place where you live.

rezidans — kote ou rete

"What is your current residence?" Tell the officer the address where you live now.

physically present

Actually being inside the United States, not traveling in another country.

prezans fizik — vrèman anndan Etazini, pa nan vwayaj

"How many days were you physically present in the U.S.?" This counts the days you were really here.

biological child

A child who is related to you by birth, not adopted or a stepchild.

pitit byolojik — pitit ou fè, pa adopte

The form may ask if a child is your biological child or your stepchild.

stepchild

The child of your husband or wife from another relationship.

bòfis / bèlfè — pitit konjwen ou nan yon lòt relasyon

"Is she your biological daughter or your stepchild?" A stepchild is your spouse's child, not yours by birth.

maiden name

The family name a person had before they married.

non jèn fi — siyati yon fanm anvan li marye

"What was your wife's maiden name?" The officer wants her last name before marriage.

continuous residence

Living in the U.S. without long trips away since you got your green card.

rezidans kontinyèl — viv isit san vwayaj long depi green card la

Long trips abroad can break your continuous residence, so the officer asks about time spent outside the U.S.

mailing address

The address where you receive your mail, which can be different from where you live.

adrès postal — kote ou resevwa lèt ou

"Is your mailing address the same as where you live?" Say no if your mail goes somewhere else.

abroad

In a country outside the United States.

aletranje — nan yon peyi andeyò Etazini

"Have you spent time abroad since becoming a resident?" Abroad means any country that is not the U.S.

Work and school

employer

The company or person you work for.

anplwayè — konpayi oswa moun ou travay pou li

"Who is your current employer?" Give the name of the company where you work.

occupation

Your job or the kind of work you do.

okipasyon — travay ou oswa metye ou

"What is your occupation?" You might answer "cook," "nurse," or "student."

self-employed

Working for yourself in your own business instead of for a company.

travay pou tèt ou — ou gen pwòp biznis ou

"Are you self-employed?" Say yes if you run your own business.

unemployed

Not having a job right now.

chomè — ou pa gen travay kounye a

"Are you currently employed or unemployed?" It is okay to say you are unemployed.

Trips outside the United States

trip

A time when you traveled outside the United States and came back.

vwayaj — yon fwa ou kite peyi a epi ou tounen

"How many trips have you taken outside the U.S.?" Count each time you left and returned.

absence

A period of time when you were away from the United States.

absans — yon peryòd ou te andeyò Etazini

"How long was your longest absence?" The officer wants the number of days you were away.

passport

An official travel document from your country that lets you cross borders.

paspò — dokiman ofisyèl pou vwayaje ant peyi

"Which passport did you use to travel?" Show the document you used to leave and enter.

reentry

Coming back into the United States after a trip.

reantre — tounen antre nan Etazini apre yon vwayaj

The officer may ask about your reentry — the day you came back into the country.

Taxes

file a tax return

To send your tax forms to the government, usually once a year.

ranpli deklarasyon taks — voye fòm taks ou bay gouvènman an

"Did you decide not to file a tax return?" Say no if you send in your tax forms each year.

owe

To have money you still must pay to someone, like the government.

dwe — gen lajan ou poko peye

"Do you owe any overdue taxes?" The officer asks if you still must pay taxes from the past.

tax return

The form you send the government each year that reports the money you earned.

deklarasyon taks — fòm anyèl sou sa ou te genyen

"Did you file a tax return last year?" That is the yearly form about your income.

overdue

Late — something that should have been paid or done already.

an reta — yon bagay ou te dwe peye deja

"Do you have any overdue taxes?" Overdue means taxes you were supposed to pay but did not.

Selective Service

Selective Service

A U.S. system where most men register in case the country ever needs a military draft.

Sèvis Selektif (Selective Service) — anrejistreman gason an ka gen yon rekritman militè

"Did you register for the Selective Service?" Most men who lived here between ages 18 and 26 had to register.

register

To officially put your name on a government list.

anrejistre — mete non ou sou yon lis ofisyèl

"When did you register?" The officer asks for the date you signed up for the Selective Service.

draft

When a government requires people to join the military.

rekritman obligatwa — lè gouvènman an oblije moun antre nan lame

The Selective Service exists so the government could call people for a draft if it were ever needed.

Groups and organizations

organization

A group of people who join together for a shared purpose.

òganizasyon — yon gwoup moun ki ansanm pou yon menm objektif

"Have you been a member of any organization?" This can include a club, union, or political group.

member

A person who belongs to a group or organization.

manm — yon moun ki fè pati yon gwoup

"Are you a member of any groups or clubs?" Tell the officer about groups you have joined.

associated with

Connected to a group or a person in some way.

asosye ak — gen yon koneksyon ak yon gwoup oswa yon moun

"Have you EVER been associated with this group?" The officer asks if you are connected to it.

Military service

armed forces

A country's official military — its army, navy, air force, and similar groups.

fòs ame — lame ofisyèl yon peyi

"Have you served in the armed forces of any country?" This means an official national military.

combat

Active fighting in a war.

konba — batay aktif nan yon lagè

"Did you take part in combat?" The officer asks if you fought in actual battles.

deserted

Left the military without permission and did not come back.

dezète — kite lame san pèmisyon san retounen

"Have you ever deserted from the military?" This means leaving the armed forces without permission.

discharge

The official end of a person's time in the military. A "dishonorable" discharge is given for serious misconduct.

revokasyon / egzeyat militè — fen ofisyèl sèvis la;

"dezonoran" se pou move konduit grav

"Did you receive a dishonorable discharge?" This asks how your military service ended.

bear arms

To carry and use weapons, especially as part of military service.

pote zam — pote ak itilize zam, sitou nan lame

The oath asks if you are willing to bear arms for the United States if the law requires it.

noncombatant service

Helping the military without fighting, such as medical or office work.

sèvis ki pa konbatan — ede lame san batay, tankou travay medikal

"Are you willing to perform noncombatant service?" This means helping the military without fighting.

Good moral character

good moral character

Behaving in an honest, responsible way that most people would consider right.

bon karaktè moral — konpòte ou yon fason onèt ak responsab

The law says you must show good moral character, so the officer asks about your honesty and your record.

arrest

When police stop and hold a person because they may have broken the law.

arestasyon — lè lapolis kenbe ou pou yon posib zak

"Have you ever been arrested?" Say yes even if you were let go, and bring any papers.

cited

Given an official ticket or notice by police, often for a small offense.

resevwa yon sitasyon / yo mande w pou konparèt — lapolis ba ou yon tikè oswa avi

"Have you ever been cited by the police?" A traffic ticket is one example of being cited.

detained

Held by police or officials and not free to leave.

detni — otorite yo kenbe ou, ou pa lib pou ale

"Have you ever been detained?" This means officials kept you and you were not free to go.

charged

Officially accused of a crime by the government.

akize — gouvènman an akize ou ofisyèlman pou yon zak

"Have you ever been charged with a crime?" Being charged means the government formally accused you.

conviction

When a court officially decides a person is guilty of a crime.

kondanasyon — lè yon tribinal deklare ou koupab

"Have you ever had a conviction?" Say yes if a court found you guilty, even long ago.

probation

A period when a person must follow strict rules set by a court instead of going to prison.

pwobasyon — règ sevè yon tribinal olye prizon

"Were you placed on probation?" This means a court let you stay free under supervision.

parole

Being let out of prison early, under strict rules and supervision.

libète kondisyonèl — soti prizon bonè ak sipèvizyon

"Were you ever on parole?" This means you were released from prison early under rules.

sentence

The punishment a court gives a person after a conviction.

santans — pinisyon tribinal la bay apre yon kondanasyon

"What was your sentence?" The officer wants to know the punishment the court ordered.

controlled substance

A drug whose use is limited or banned by law, such as cocaine or heroin.

sibstans kontwòle — yon dwòg lalwa limite oswa entèdi

"Have you ever sold a controlled substance?" This means illegal drugs controlled by law.

gambling

Playing games for money, especially in an illegal way.

jwèt aza / paryaj — parye lajan, sitou yon fason ilegal

"Have you earned money from illegal gambling?" This asks about money from illegal betting.

smuggling

Secretly and illegally bringing people or goods across a border.

kontrebann — fè moun oswa machandiz pase fwontyè an kachèt e ilegalman

"Have you ever helped smuggle anyone into the U.S.?" Smuggling means bringing people or goods in illegally.

fraud

Lying or tricking someone on purpose to get money or a benefit.

fwod — bay manti espre pou jwenn lajan oswa yon avantaj

"Have you ever committed fraud?" Fraud means lying on purpose to gain something.

misrepresentation

Giving false information on purpose to get an immigration benefit.

fo deklarasyon — bay fo enfòmasyon espre pou yon avantaj imigrasyon

"Did you ever give false information to immigration?" That is misrepresentation, and honesty matters here.

Eligibility and the oath**genocide**

The deliberate killing of a large group of people because of their race, religion, or nationality.

jenosid — touye yon gwo gwoup moun pou ras oswa relijyon yo

"Were you ever involved in genocide?" The officer must ask everyone; answer honestly.

torture

Deliberately causing severe pain or suffering to a person.

tòti — fè yon moun soufri grav espre

"Have you ever committed torture?" This is a required question for every applicant.

totalitarian

Describing a government that has total control over life and allows no opposition.

totalitè — yon gouvènman ki gen kontwòl total e ki pa pèmèt opozisyon

"Were you ever a member of a totalitarian party?" This asks about parties that allow no other voices.

communist party

A political party that believes the government should control property and the economy.

Pati Kominis — pati ki kwè gouvènman an dwe kontwòl ekonomi an

"Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" Answer honestly; the officer asks everyone.

failed to support dependents

Not giving money you were required to give to care for your children or family.

pa sipòte depandan — pa bay lajan ou te dwe pou pitit ou

"Have you failed to support your dependents?" This asks if you did not pay required support, like child support.

guerrilla group

A small armed group that fights using surprise attacks, not a regular army.

gwoup geriya — ti gwoup ame ki atake pa sipriz

"Have you belonged to a guerrilla group?" These are armed fighters who are not part of a national army.

overthrow

To remove a government by force.

ranvèsè — retire yon gouvènman pa fòs

"Have you tried to overthrow a government?" This means trying to remove a government by force.

weapon

An object used to hurt or kill, such as a gun, knife, or bomb.

zam — yon bagay pou blese oswa touye, tankou yon zam afe oswa kouto

"Did you ever use a weapon against another person?" A weapon is anything used to harm someone.

hijack

To take illegal control of a plane, ship, or vehicle by force.

detounen yon avyon — pran kontwòl yon avyon pa fòs

"Have you ever helped hijack a plane?" This is one of the required security questions.

kidnapping

Taking and holding a person against their will, often for money or power.

kidnaping — pran ak kenbe yon moun kont volonte li

"Were you ever involved in a kidnapping?" This means taking a person by force.

assassination

The killing of an important person, often a leader, on purpose.

asasina — touye yon moun enpòtan espre, tankou yon lidè

"Have you EVER engaged in kidnapping, assassination, or hijacking?" The form lists these together.

recruit

To get people to join a group — a serious problem when the people are child soldiers.

rekrite — fè moun antre nan yon gwoup (grav lè se timoun sòlda)

"Did you ever recruit a child soldier?" To recruit means to sign people up to join a group.

prostitution

Exchanging sexual activity for money or payment.

pwostitasyon — bay aktivite seksyèl pou lajan

"Have you ever engaged in prostitution?" This is a required good-character question.

married to more than one person

Being married to more than one person at the same time.

marye ak plis pase yon moun alafwa — marye ak de moun oswa plis an menm tan

"Have you EVER been married to more than one person at the same time?" The form asks this directly.

deportation

When the government forces a person to leave the country.

depòtasyon — lè gouvènman an oblije yon moun kite peyi a

"Have you ever been ordered deported?" Deportation means being removed from the United States.

removal

The legal word for ordering a person to leave the United States — the same idea as deportation.

ekspilasyon — mo legal pou depòtasyon

"Have you ever been in removal proceedings?" Removal is the modern legal word for deportation.

nobility

A royal or noble rank passed down in a family, such as prince, duke, or baron.

noblès / tit nòb — yon ran wayal eritye, tankou prens oswa dik

"Do you have a title of nobility?" You may be asked to give up any noble title at the oath.

allegiance

Loyalty and support that you give to a country.

fidelite — sipò ak lwayote ou bay yon peyi

At the ceremony you take the Oath of Allegiance, promising your loyalty to the United States.

renounce

To formally give up something, such as loyalty to another country.

renonse — abandone yon bagay ofisyèlman, tankou lwayote a yon lòt peyi

The oath asks you to renounce, or give up, allegiance to any other country.

oath

A serious, formal promise. New citizens take the Oath of Allegiance.

sèman — yon pwomès fòmèl ak serye; nouvo sitwayen yo fè sèman fidelite

"Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance?" The oath is the promise you make to become a citizen.

constitution

The set of basic laws that the United States is built on.

konstitisyon — lwa debaz Etazini bati sou yo

The oath asks if you will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

claimed to be a U.S. citizen

Saying you are a U.S. citizen when you are not. This is a serious problem on the form.

di ou se sitwayen ameriken — di ou se sitwayen lè ou pa ye

"Have you EVER claimed to be a U.S. citizen, in writing or any other way?" Answer carefully and honestly.

willing

Ready and agreeing to do something.

dispoze — pare epi dakò pou fè yon bagay

"Are you willing to defend the Constitution?" "Willing" means you agree to do it if needed.

armed group

A group that carries weapons and is not a country's official military.

gwoup ame — yon gwoup ki pote zam men ki pa lame ofisyèl yon peyi

"Have you EVER served in, been a member of, assisted, or participated in any armed group?" The form explains this means a group that carries weapons.

causing harm or suffering

Hurting someone because of their race, religion, national origin, social group, or political opinion.

lakòz mal oswa soufrans — fè yon moun mal poutèt ras li, relijyon li, kote li soti, gwoup sosyal li oswa opinyon politik li

"Causing harm or suffering to any person because of his or her race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion?" This is one of the Yes/No questions.

advocated

Supported and promoted an idea or a cause. The form gives you this meaning inside the question.

defann / sipòte — te sipòte epi ankouraje yon lide oswa yon kòz

"Advocated (supported and promoted) any of the following..." The form explains the word in the question itself.

incited

Encouraged other people to do something, usually something harmful.

ensite / ankouraje — te ankouraje lòt moun fè yon bagay, souvan yon bagay ki fè mal

"...conspired (planned with others), prepared, planned, advocated for, or incited (encouraged) others..." The form explains incited as encouraged.

sabotage

Damaging or destroying something on purpose, often property or equipment.

sabotaj — kraze oswa detwi yon bagay espere, souvan byen oswa ekipman

"Engaged (participated) in kidnapping, assassination, or hijacking or sabotage of an airplane, ship, vehicle, or other mode of transportation?"