

Patina Education

N-400 Interview Vocabulary · Français

Les mots que l'officier emploie pendant l'entretien de naturalisation, regroupés selon l'endroit où vous les rencontrez. Chacun a une définition simple, le français, et une phrase qui montre comment la question est réellement posée.

Ceci est du matériel d'étude. Ce n'est pas un conseil juridique, ni la liste des questions qui vous seront posées.

La traduction française a été préparée avec des outils linguistiques et n'a pas encore été relue par une personne de langue maternelle. Le texte anglais fait foi.
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Your name and personal information

given name

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

prénom — votre premier nom, pas le nom de famille

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.

nom de famille — le nom qui vient à la fin

"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.

nom légal — votre nom officiel complet sur les documents

"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.

date de naissance — le jour, le mois et l'année de votre naissance

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

country of birth

The country where you were born.

pays de naissance — le pays où vous êtes né(e)

"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.

nationalité — le pays dont vous êtes citoyen(ne)

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

marital status

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

état civil — célibataire, marié(e), divorcé(e) ou veuf(ve)

"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.

sexe — masculin ou féminin

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.

numéro A (numéro d'étranger) — le numéro que l'USCIS utilise pour votre dossier

"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.

conjoint(e) — votre mari ou votre femme

"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.

divorcé(e) — plus marié(e), parce qu'un tribunal a mis fin au mariage

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

widowed

No longer married because your husband or wife has died.

veuf(ve) — plus marié(e), parce que votre conjoint(e) est décédé(e)

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

dependents

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

personnes à charge — celles que vous faites vivre, en général vos enfants

"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.

résident(e) permanent(e) légal(e) — une personne avec la carte verte, qui peut vivre et travailler ici

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

residence

The place where you live.

résidence — l'endroit où vous habitez

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

biological child

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

enfant biologique — un enfant de naissance, pas adopté

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.

beau-fils / belle-fille — l'enfant de votre conjoint(e) d'une autre relation

"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.

nom de jeune fille — le nom de famille d'une femme avant son mariage

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

physically present

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

présence physique — être réellement sur le sol des États-Unis

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

continuous residence

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

résidence continue — habiter ici sans longs voyages depuis la carte verte

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.

adresse postale — là où vous recevez le courrier

"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.

à l'étranger — en dehors des États-Unis

"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.

employeur — l'entreprise ou la personne pour qui vous travaillez

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

occupation

Your job or the kind of work you do.

profession — votre métier ou votre emploi

"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.

travailleur indépendant — vous avez votre propre activité

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

unemployed

Not having a job right now.

sans emploi / au chômage — sans travail en ce moment

"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.

voyage — une sortie du pays et le retour

"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.

absence — une période passée hors des États-Unis

"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.

passport — le document officiel pour voyager entre les pays

"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.

réentrée — revenir aux États-Unis après un voyage

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.

déposer une déclaration de revenus — envoyer ses formulaires d'impôts au gouvernement

"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.

devoir — avoir de l'argent qu'il vous reste à payer

"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.

déclaration de revenus — le formulaire annuel sur ce que vous avez gagné

"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.

en retard / échu — qui aurait déjà dû être payé

"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.

Service sélectif — le registre des hommes, au cas où le pays aurait besoin d'une conscription

"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.

s'inscrire — mettre son nom sur une liste officielle

"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.
conscription — quand le gouvernement oblige à servir dans l'armée

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.

organisation — un groupe de personnes avec un but commun

"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.

membre — une personne qui appartient à un groupe

"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.

associé à — avoir un lien avec un groupe ou une personne

"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.

forces armées — l'armée officielle d'un pays

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

combat

Active fighting in a war.

combat — les affrontements actifs pendant une guerre

"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.

a déserté — a quitté l'armée sans permission

"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.

libération de l'armée — la fin officielle du service ; « déshonorante » pour faute grave

"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.

porter les armes — porter et utiliser une arme, surtout dans l'armée

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.

service non combattant — aider l'armée sans combattre, par exemple des tâches médicales

"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.

bonne moralité — se conduire de façon honnête et responsable

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.

arrestation — quand la police vous interpelle pour une infraction possible

"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.

verbalisé(e) / cité(e) — avoir reçu une contravention ou une citation de la police

"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.

retenu(e) / détenu(e) — gardé(e) par la police ou les autorités, sans pouvoir partir

"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.

inculpé(e) — accusé(e) officiellement d'une infraction

"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.

condamnation — quand un tribunal vous déclare coupable d'une infraction

"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.

sursis avec mise à l'épreuve — des règles strictes au lieu de la prison

"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.

libération conditionnelle — sortir de prison avant la fin, sous surveillance

"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.

peine — la sanction prononcée par le tribunal

"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.

substance contrôlée — une drogue limitée ou interdite par la loi

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

gambling

Playing games for money, especially in an illegal way.

jeux d'argent — parier de l'argent, surtout de façon illégale

"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.

trafic / passage clandestin — faire passer illégalement des personnes ou des choses à la frontière

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

Eligibility and the oath**genocide**

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

génocide — tuer un grand groupe pour sa race, sa religion ou sa nationalité

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

torture

Deliberately causing severe pain or suffering to a person.

torture — infliger exprès une douleur ou une souffrance grave

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

fraud

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

fraude — tromper exprès pour obtenir de l'argent ou un avantage

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

misrepresentation

Giving false information on purpose to get an immigration benefit.

fausse déclaration — donner exprès de fausses informations pour un avantage d'immigration

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

failed to support dependents

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

ne pas subvenir aux personnes à charge — ne pas verser l'argent dû pour ses enfants ou sa famille

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

totalitarian

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

totalitaire — un gouvernement au contrôle total, qui n'accepte aucune opposition

"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.

parti communiste — un parti pour lequel l'État doit contrôler l'économie

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

guerrilla group

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

groupe de guérilla — un petit groupe armé qui attaque par surprise

"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.

renverser — chasser un gouvernement par la force

"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.

arme — un objet pour blesser ou tuer, comme un pistolet ou un couteau

"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.

détourner un avion — prendre par la force le contrôle d'un avion ou d'un véhicule

"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.

enlèvement — emmener et retenir une personne contre sa volonté

"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.

assassinat — meurtre volontaire d'une personne importante, par exemple un dirigeant

"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.

recruter — faire entrer des personnes dans un groupe (grave s'il s'agit d'enfants soldats)

"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.

prostitution — échanger une activité sexuelle contre de l'argent

"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.

marié à plus d'une personne à la fois — être marié à deux personnes ou plus en même temps

"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.

expulsion — quand le gouvernement oblige une personne à quitter le pays

"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.

éloignement — le mot juridique pour l'expulsion

"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.

noblesse / titre de noblesse — un rang royal hérité, comme prince ou duc

"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.

allégeance — le soutien et la fidélité que vous devez à un pays

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.

renoncer — abandonner officiellement quelque chose, comme l'allégeance à un autre pays

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.

serment — une promesse formelle et solennelle ; les nouveaux citoyens prêtent le serment d'allégeance

"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.

constitution — les lois fondamentales sur lesquelles reposent les États-Unis

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.

avoir affirmé être citoyen américain — dire que vous êtes citoyen sans l'être

"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.

disposé(e) — prêt(e) et d'accord pour faire quelque chose

"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.

groupe armé — un groupe qui porte des armes et qui n'est pas l'armée officielle d'un pays

"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.

causer du tort ou des souffrances — faire du mal à quelqu'un en raison de sa race, sa religion, son origine, son groupe social ou ses opinions politiques

"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.

a prôné / a soutenu — a soutenu et promu une idée ou une cause

"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.

a incité — a encouragé d'autres personnes à faire quelque chose, souvent de nuisible

"...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.

sabotage — endommager ou détruire quelque chose exprès, souvent des biens ou du matériel

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