

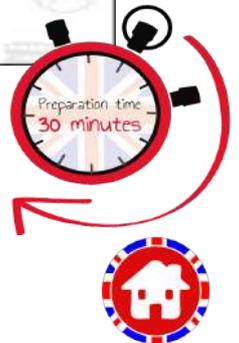
Trump Card

 **EAE Learning objectives for this lesson** 

Learn about complex past tenses, expressing your opinions and debate.
Reading and listening comprehension and role plays

Activity one: Questions

1. Do you have a formed opinion of Donald Trump?
2. Do you know much about his past before becoming President of the United States?
3. Is there anything you like about him or his leadership style?
4. What is the biggest thing you dislike about him or his leadership style?
5. In your opinion, how did he get to where he is today?



Activity two: Complex past tenses

Learn about when to use the past perfect continuous and the present perfect continuous

In English, we have seemingly complex past tenses that allow us to be extra specific about when something happened. Mostly, they look much more complicated than they really are to form. Read about these complex past tenses then complete the gap fill.

Present Perfect

Has/Have + past participle

We use this tense to talk about an action at an unspecified time in the past. It can also be used with phrases such as: so far, already, ever, never, many times, and others.

Example: Throughout Donald Trump's life, many lawsuits have been filed against him.

Past Perfect

Had + past participle

We use this tense to talk about an action that happened before another past action.

Example: Trump had become president of his family's real estate organization by the time he was 28 years old.

Past Perfect Continuous

Had been + verb-ING

We use this tense to talk about an action that took place over a period of time before another past action.

Example: Donald had been working for his father's real estate company for several years before he took over.



IDIOM
(to play) a trump card

MEANING
to use a final trick or secret advantage

EXAMPLE
The surprise evidence was their trump card.

ORIGIN
The word 'trump' dates back to the 1400s and a card game called 'trumps'. First used to mean to cheat, the word soon adopted a second meaning, to win. Both meanings are still in the English language.

JOKER



TRUMP

www.englishcoursemalta.com

Activity three: Gap fill

Fill in the gaps with the past tenses you learnt in activity two

1. Donald Trump _____ (to be) married 3 times.
2. His fortune _____ (to grow) enough by the 1980s that he was able to purchase the Plaza Hotel in New York City for \$400 million.
3. His 3 wives _____ (to give) him 5 children.
4. Trump purchased the Miss Universe Organization in 1996 after his net worth _____ (to rebound) from the economic recession of the early 1990s.
5. Trump _____ (to star) in the reality TV show The Apprentice for 4 years when the revamp, The Celebrity Apprentice, premiered.
6. Trump was known for his vocal support of the death penalty for the black boys that _____ (to be) wrongly arrested in Central Park in the 1980s.
7. In 2019, Trump paid \$2 million for a lawsuit that _____ (to accuse) him of fraud.
8. The attorney general found that Trump's family _____ (to use) charity donations to the Trump Foundation to fund his 2016 Presidential campaign.
9. During his presidential campaign, _____ (to promise) to release his tax returns after rumors of tax evasion came to light.
10. Trump famously called his behavior 'locker room talk' after he _____ (to face) numerous lawsuits of sexual assault.

Activity four: Expressing opinions and agreeing/disagreeing

Read the following expressions used for stating opinions and agreement and choose which feel the strongest and which feel the weakest to you.

Stating an opinion

- * The way I see it...
- * In my opinion...
- * If you want my honest opinion...
- * According to this article...
- * As far as I'm concerned...
- * If you ask me...

- * I'm afraid I agree with James.
- * No doubt about it.
- * I suppose so. / I guess so.
- * You have a point there.
- * I was just going to say that.
- * Clearly / Obviously
- * That seems obvious to me

Asking for an opinion

- * What's your idea?
- * What are your thoughts on all of this?
- * How do you feel about that?
- * Do you have anything to say about this?
- * What do you think?
- * Do you agree?
- * Wouldn't you say?

Expressing disagreement

- * I would have to disagree with that.
- * That doesn't seem right
- * I don't think that can be true
- * That's clearly not the case.
- * That is not correct, actually.
- * I don't think so.
- * No way.
- * I'm afraid I disagree.
- * I totally disagree.
- * I'd say the exact opposite.
- * Not necessarily.
- * That's not always true.
- * That's not always the case.
- * No, I'm not so sure about that.
- * That's completely untrue.

Expressing agreement

- * I agree with you 100 percent.
- * I couldn't agree with you more.
- * That's so true.
- * You're absolutely right.
- * Absolutely.
- * That's exactly how I feel.
- * Exactly.



Activity five: Debate

Form two groups and choose your position - 'For' or 'Against'. (Take a position on your own for individuals.) Debate the prompts below according to your chosen position. Keep in mind, you are arguing your position of 'For' or 'Against'. This may not be what you personally believe in reality! Use the expressions from Activity 3 to support your argument.

Debate Prompts:

- Trump is supportive of women.
- Trump has helped climate change through policy.
- Trump says a lot of stupid things on Twitter.
- The Trump Administration has alienated it's allies.
- Trump is a not a narcissist.
- I hope Trump is re-elected in 2020.



Activity six: Reading Comprehension

Read the article below and answer the comprehension questions on the next page

Edited from

<https://www.biography.com/us-president/donald-trump>

Who Is Donald Trump?

Donald John Trump is the 45th and current President of the United States; he took office on January 20, 2017. Previously, he was a real estate mogul and a former reality TV star.

Born in Queens, New York, in 1946, Trump became involved in large, profitable building projects in Manhattan. In 1980, he opened the Grand Hyatt New York, which made him the city's best-known developer.

In 2004, Trump began starring in the hit NBC reality series *The Apprentice*. Trump turned his attention to politics, and in 2015 he announced his candidacy for president of the United States on the Republican ticket.

After winning a majority of the primaries and caucuses, Trump became the official Republican candidate for president on July 19, 2016. That November, Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States, after defeating Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Donald Trump's Wealth

Over the years, Trump's net worth have been a subject of public debate. Because Trump has not publicly released his tax returns, it's not possible to definitively determine his wealth in the past or today. However Trump valued his businesses at at least \$1.37 billion on his 2017 federal financial disclosure form, published by the Office of Government Ethics. Trump's 2018 disclosure form put his revenue for the year at a minimum of \$434 million from all sources.

In 1990, Trump asserted his own net worth in the neighborhood of \$1.5 billion. At the time, the real estate market was in decline, reducing the value of and income from Trump's empire. The Trump Organization required a massive infusion of loans to keep it from collapsing, a situation which raised questions as to whether the corporation could survive bankruptcy. Some observers saw Trump's decline as symbolic of many of the business, economic and social excesses that had arisen in the 1980s.

A May 2019 investigation by *The New York Times* of 10 years of Trump's tax information found that between 1985 and 1994, his businesses lost money every year. The newspaper calculated that Trump's businesses suffered \$1.17 billion in losses over the decade.

Comprehension questions:

- 1, What was he before becoming president?
- 2, What series was he involved in, in 2004?
- 3, When did he become the official Republican candidate for president?
- 4, What has Trump be subject to?
- 5, How much are his businesses valued to?
- 6, What did his empire do to stop it from collapsing?
- 7, Where his businesses always making a profit?

Activity seven: Practice time

Using past tenses, answer the following questions

Who was the best president of the United States?

What's the strangest thing you have heard Donald Trump say?

What were you doing when Donald Trump got elected?

What had Donald Trump been before he became president?

Activity eight: Role Plays

With your partner or teacher act out the following roleplays

- You are arguing with Trump about the use of social media to make announcements to the world. He thinks it is a really good idea, but you disagree
- You like Trump and what he stands for, but your friend disagrees and you try to persuade each other to think differently
- You want to run against Turmp for president and you have a debate with him about the policies you would like to introduce if you became president



How far have you got?

learning objectives

easy access english

Fill in the bars to show your progress