

# **Activity: Practice election**

Hold a practice election with a group of people! Follow the instructions below and use the ballots at the end of this activity to create your own election.

## **Before election day**



### **1. Make a voters list**

Add each participant to a voters list. If possible, have them register officially by showing the proper identification (ID). This list will be your official voters list for the election. Write down any accessibility help that will let every voter participate in the election.



### **2. Create political parties and candidates**

Divide everyone into three or more groups, and create your own political parties. Each party should work as a team to decide what's important to them, and to build their party's platform.



### **3. Host candidate speeches or presentations**

Each political party should pick someone to act as their party leader. They'll be the candidate in this practice election. Each party leader can present their party's ideas to the whole group. Speakers can share what makes them different from the other parties.



### **4. Discuss and debate**

Ask the group to think about which candidate and political party best represents what's important to them. Remember that voters can vote for any candidate.



### **5. Prepare the ballots**

Pick a few people to be election workers and create the ballots. Write each candidate and their political party on the ballots. Fold each ballot so the candidate names are hidden. Use the sample ballots at the end of this activity to guide you. Make enough ballots for everyone, plus a few extras.



### **6. Prepare the voting location**

Every election needs a place to vote. To set up your voting location, you'll need a voters list, a ballot box, folded ballots, and one or two election workers. The ballot box can be any container with a lid or cover. Make sure voters can fill out their ballots in private.



## Practice election (continued)

### Vote

1. Each voter comes to the voting location and says their name. If possible, they show their ID.
2. The election worker checks the voter's name off of the voters list, and hands them a folded ballot.
3. The voter takes the ballot to a private area and puts a mark next to their favourite candidate's name with a pencil.
4. The voter folds the ballot back up and gives it to the election worker. In a real election the election worker would tear off a part of the ballot, but for this activity you don't have to. The election worker hands the ballot back to the voter.
5. The voter places the ballot in the ballot box.
6. Give every voter a chance to vote. You're done!

#### Voting tip

If a voter makes a mistake, they can ask for a new ballot—but they can only do that once.

### Count the votes

1. Remove all of the ballots from the ballot box.
2. Call out the selected candidate on each ballot, and write down the votes on a piece of paper.
3. Pile ballots by each candidate's name. Have a separate pile for spoiled ballots. Count the piles of ballots for each candidate and then count again to double-check.
4. Announce the winner, and celebrate with your new political leader!

#### Voting tip

If someone chose more than one candidate on a ballot, the ballot is **spoiled**. Don't count this ballot.



#### Voting words

##### Spoiled

A ballot is spoiled when there's a mistake on it, so the vote doesn't count.

## A sample ballot

----- <b>DOE, John</b> ----- ----- <b>Independent/Indépendant</b> -----	<input type="radio"/>
----- <b>DOE, Sandra</b> ----- ----- <b>Political Affiliation/Appartenance politique</b> -----	<input type="radio"/>
----- <b>UNETELLE, Anne</b> ----- ----- <b>Political Affiliation/Appartenance politique</b> -----	<input type="radio"/>
----- <b>UNTEL, Pierre</b> ----- ----- <b>Political Affiliation/Appartenance politique</b> -----	<input type="radio"/>

 **Discussion questions:**

- Was it easy or hard to cast your vote?
- Is there anything you would do differently if you were voting in a real election?










