

1) Comment the picture and fill in the blanks

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This picture is very symbolic of theroots and attachment of the president and the institutions of the United States.

On January 20th, Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States . It was

vocab : to be sworn in / the swearing-in ceremony / to raise / gloves /wife/inauguration day/ a wedding ring/to take the oath of office /religious/ to swear on the bible/ taking of the oath/bible

2) Watch Barack OBAMA taking the oath : complete the text of the oath

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/us_elections/article5554712.ece

"I (Barack Hussein Obama) do solemnly(or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the, and will to of my ability, preserve,andtheof the United States." ("So help me God,")

3) Answer the questions

- 1 - Does Barack Obama read his text ?
- 2- What do you notice ? Can you explain it ?

4) Read the following article and do the reading comprehension exercise (copy book)

Chief justice fumbles presidential oath



Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Barack Obama, left, joined by his wife Michelle, third from left, and daughters Sasha, fourth from left, and Malia, takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts to become the 44th president of the United States at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. glaringly fumbled the administration of the oath of office to President-elect Barack Obama on Tuesday, placing the word "faithfully" at the end of the second phrase of the oath, rather than at the beginning. Mr. Obama waited for Mr. Roberts to correct himself before proceeding.

Mr. Obama was one of a handful of Democratic senators to vote against Mr. Roberts' confirmation to the high court. Mr. Roberts was nominated as chief justice in 2005 by President George W. Bush.

The oath is written directly into the Constitution and marked the beginning of Mr. Obama's administration.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jan/20/obama-roberts-fumble-oath/>

Reading comprehension : Are the following statements right or wrong ? Justify your answer

- a-The picture represents the 'taking of the oath' ceremony
- b-To take the oath is compulsory to become a president but it's not written in the constitution
- c-After the taking of the oath Barack Obama will be called the President-elect
- d-There was no problem during this part of the inauguration ceremony
- e-Mister John Roberts didn't pronounce the oath correctly
- f-Barack Obama repeated the wrong oath.
- g- Barack Obama was right in placing the word 'faithfully' at the end of the second phrase.
- h-Barack Obama agreed , in 2005, on the nomination of M. Roberts as Chief of Justice.



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The picture represents the **taking of the oath** of Barack Obama and his **wife** Michelle Obama during the **swearing-in ceremony**. It is a close shot. Michelle Obama, is wearing green **gloves** and holding the **bible**. Barack Obama is wearing a **wedding ring**. To **take the oath of office** the president has to place his left hand on the bible and **raise** his right hand. This picture is very symbolic of the **religious** roots and attachment of the president and of the institutions of the United States. On January 20th, Barack Obama **was sworn-in** as the 44th President of the United States. It was **Inauguration Day**.

Help vocab : exercice 3 / to repeat/ to recite/ to hesitate/ to make a mistake/ to wait / to feel embarrassed/ to smile/ to have fun/to be serious/ not to remember / to seem to / to look as if /to stumble over/to fumble/ to trip over a word/correct order out of order/to put in the wrong place= to misplace/the exact wording/ to recite/ a stumble/a mishap/to get something wrong = not do it properly (see more colloquial phrases in the following press articles)

Follow up (Make a list of all the new words you have learnt ; translate them)

- ✓ trivia : futilités, anecdotes ; a mishap = un incident , une mésaventure
- ✓ to stammer : bafouiller ; To fumble : cafouiller
- ✓ To stumble/to trip over a word : buter sur les mots
- ✓ Glaringly : avec une évidence absolue, nettement, clairement
- ✓ Rather than : plutôt que
- ✓ An oath : un serment
- ✓ Taking the oath : prêter serment
- ✓ To swear (swore/sworn) on : jurer sur
- ✓ To be sworn-in : être assermenté , prêter serment
- ✓ Oath of office : serment d'entrée en fonction
- ✓ The constitutional pledge : le serment constitutionnel
- ✓ The swearing-in ceremony : la cérémonie de prestation de serment
- ✓ Faithfully : fidèlement

ANOTHER ARTICLE , ANOTHER EXPLANATION

<http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/inauguration/la-na-inaug-miscue21-2009jan21,0,1429217.story>

Obama, Justice Roberts trip over oath

Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times

Barack Obama is sworn in as the president of the United States at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Both **get the constitutional pledge slightly wrong**, setting off a brief moment of comedy during the swearing-in. By David G. Savage 3:38 PM PST, January 20, 2009

Reporting from Washington –

- Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., swearing in a new president for the first time, **stumbled** today **over the opening words of the oath of office**. President Obama, realizing **the minor miscue**, paused and then followed the chief justice in **repeating the right words slightly out of order**.

The presidential oath comes directly from the Constitution. It says: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

But when Roberts administered the oath, he **misplaced the word "faithfully."** The second clause as read by Roberts became, "that I will execute the office to the president of the United States faithfully. . . ."

Roberts tried to correct himself, **but he still got it slightly wrong**, saying, "faithfully the office of the president of the United States. . . ."

Repeating the chief justice's original but **flawed version**, Obama said, "the office of president of the United States faithfully. . . ."

The comments of a blogger

<http://www.dartblog.com/data/2009/01/008520.php>

The issue

administrating and taking the oath

the do-over

Video of President Obama's oath, [here](#). by [Zak Moore](#) on January 20, 2009 / [Permalink](#)
There is a great deal of coverage of now President Obama's inauguration, but I just wanted to make a few comments about the oath of office. Obviously this was the first presidential oath that Obama has sworn, but also the first for Chief Justice Roberts.

The constitutional oath reads as follows: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will to best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Roberts: Are you ready to take the oath Senator

Obama: I am

Roberts: I, Barack Hussein Obama...

Obama: I, Barack... (talking over Roberts)

Roberts: ... do solemnly swear...

Obama: I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear...

Roberts: ... that I will execute the office of president to the United States faithfully...

Obama: ... that I will execute...

Roberts: ... faithfully the office of president of the United States...

Obama: ... the office of president of the United States faithfully...

Roberts: ... and will to the best of my ability...

Obama: ... and will to best of my ability...

Roberts: ... preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Obama: ... preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Roberts: So help you God?

Obama: So help me God.

First Obama jumps the gun by beginning his recitation prematurely—I watched a few previous oaths for comparison and in all the Chief Justice continued through "solemnly swear" before the president-elect begins. Then on the second part, Roberts put the "faithfully" in the wrong place, at least on the first go round, at the end rather than at the start (he gets a second try because Obama stops midway through). Then Roberts gets it right but Obama repeats the line the incorrect way that Roberts stated it initially. Also, in the transcript above and video below, you can see both men having difficulty with prepositions and Obama with a definite article.

What really struck me was the questioning inflection that Roberts seemed to put at the end of "so help me God." To begin with, I didn't expect him to say that, I thought (wrongly, I now know, after watching a number of other oaths) that the president simply added the phrase after "United States," but evidently it is standard practice for the president to repeat this after the Chief Justice. In Eisenhower's first oath in 1953, with Chief Justice Frederick Vinson administering, the final line was arguably posed as a question, but not quite with the degree of query present here. In this case the statement was not posed with questioning inflection to be repeated and affirmed, but rather as a question, "so help you God?" To be answered, "Yes, so help me..." Of course this part of the oath is not constitutionally required, and thus there is no technically correct language or phraseology.

Already in his relatively brief tenure on the Court, Roberts has made waves by citing Bob Dylan lyrics in an opinion and perhaps this tack was Roberts merely expressing some constitutionally-permitted originality. I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt here. In fact, the more I think about it, Roberts phrasing could be considered very progressive. Since the language is not in the Constitution, it really may be more appropriate to ask, rather than assert for repetition, the invocation of God.

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And the consequence ...two days later :

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/washingtondc/la-na-obama-oath22-2009jan22,0,7463098.story>

Los Angeles Times

Obama takes oath again, faithfully this time

A day after he and Chief Justice John Roberts stumbled over the words, Obama decides to do it over to remove any doubt about the legitimacy of his presidency.

By David G. Savage

January 22, 2009

Reporting from Washington -- President Obama took the oath of office Tuesday outside the Capitol, as millions watched in person and on TV. He took it again Wednesday night -- this time in the privacy of the White House, with only a few aides and reporters looking on.

The reason: During the inauguration ceremony, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. stumbled over the oath's opening words, and Obama repeated them, incorrectly. The second time around, they both got it right.

The president's lawyer and constitutional experts agreed that taking the oath a second time was unnecessary. Under the Constitution, Obama became president at noon Tuesday, a few minutes before he placed his hand on a Bible to take the oath.

"We believe the oath of office was administered effectively and that the president was sworn in appropriately" Tuesday, White House Counsel Greg Craig said in a statement. "But the oath appears in the Constitution itself. And out of abundance of caution, because there was one word out of sequence, Chief Justice Roberts administered the oath a second time." Yale law professor Akhil Reed Amar said, "It puts to rest all the doubts. . . We lawyers are cautious folks."

As for Obama, he joked that he and his staff decided to repeat the ceremony because "we decided it was so much fun." Yet it was clear the administration, having been dogged by false Internet rumors about Obama's citizenship during the presidential campaign, wanted to take no chances about the legitimacy of his presidency. During Tuesday's ceremony, Roberts misplaced the word "faithfully" when he was reading the oath, and Obama repeated the mistake.

The Constitution says the president must solemnly swear "that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States." But on Tuesday, Obama said, "I will execute the office of president of the United States faithfully."

On Wednesday, there were no such gaffes. Obama raised his right hand in the White House Map Room about 7:35 p.m. -- there was no Bible -- and repeated Roberts' words to the letter.

"Congratulations, again," the chief justice said, smiling.

"Thank you, sir," Obama replied.

Amar noted that at least two presidents, Calvin Coolidge and Chester A. Arthur, took the oath a second time after questions were raised. In Coolidge's case, his father was a justice of the peace and administered the oath to his son upon the death of President Harding. "Coolidge retook the oath in a secret ceremony," Amar said. "He didn't want his father to know about it." Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Irvine School of Law, said the do-over "was just a matter of caution." "But I don't think it mattered. No one would have standing to sue. Obama would still be president. But this would stop people from asking whether or he was legitimately president."

david.savage@latimes.com

Obama takes presidential oath again after stumble

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090122/ap_on_go_pr_wh/obama_oath_do_over



Getty – Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. administers the oath of office to President Barack Obama a second time ...

WASHINGTON – After the flub heard around the world, President Barack Obama has taken the oath of office. Again. Chief Justice John Roberts delivered the oath to Obama on Wednesday night at the White House rare do-over. The surprise moment came in response to Tuesday's much-noticed stumble, when Roberts got the words of the oath a little off, which prompted Obama to do so, too.

Don't worry, the White House says: Obama has still been president since noon on Inauguration Day. Nevertheless, Obama and Roberts went through the drill again out of what White House counsel Greg Craig called "an abundance of caution."

This time, the scene was the White House Map Room in front of a small group of reporters, not the Capitol platform before the whole watching world. "We decided that because it was so much fun ...," Obama joked to reporters who followed press secretary Robert Gibbs into the room. No TV camera crews or news photographers were allowed in. A few of Obama's closest aides were there, along with a White House photographer.

Roberts put on his black robe. "Are you ready to take the oath?" he said. "Yes, I am," Obama said. "And we're going to do it very slowly." Roberts then led Obama through the oath without any missteps. The president said he did not have his Bible with him, but that the oath was binding anyway.

The original, bungled version on Tuesday caught observers by surprise and then got replayed on cable news shows. It happened when Obama interrupted Roberts midway through the opening line, in which the president repeats his name and solemnly swears. Next in the oath is the phrase "... that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States." But Roberts rearranged the order of the words, not saying "faithfully" until after "president of the United States." That appeared to throw Obama off. He stopped abruptly at the word "execute." Recognizing something was off, Roberts then repeated the phrase, putting "faithfully" in the right place but without repeating "execute." But Obama then repeated Roberts' original, incorrect version: "... the office of president of the United States faithfully."

Craig, the White House lawyer, said in a statement Wednesday evening: "We believe the oath of office was administered effectively and that the president was sworn in appropriately yesterday. Yet the oath appears in the Constitution itself. And out of the abundance of caution, because there was one word out of sequence, Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the oath a second time."

The Constitution is clear about the exact wording of the oath and as a result, some constitutional experts have said that a do-over probably wasn't necessary but also couldn't hurt. Two other previous presidents have repeated the oath because of similar issues, Calvin Coolidge and Chester A. Arthur.

—
Associated Press writer Phil Elliott contributed to this report.

The issue

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