

How to Become an American – Citizenship Scenarios

SS.7.C.2.1: identify legal means of becoming a United States citizen.

Name _____ page _____

Directions: Read each of the 6 scenarios. Answer the questions regarding the candidates ability to become citizens. Use the steps listed below to help you determine if each individual is ready to become a citizen and which steps they still need to complete.

1. Apply to become a permanent resident (resident alien). You must be a permanent resident/alien of the United States for 5 years before applying for naturalization/citizenship	5. Demonstrate the ability to read, write, and speak English
2. Apply to become naturalized.	6. You must also pay a fee to become a Naturalized citizen. (approximately \$700)
3. Be fingerprinted for a background check and interviewed	7. Successfully pass a civics exam
4. Be of good moral character	8. Take an Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

Scenario 1: Carlo has lived most of his life in Italy, but now he wants to become a U.S. citizen. He came to the United States three years ago and has been a legal resident ever since. He has never been in trouble with the law, either in the United States or in Italy. He enjoys owning his own home and living in a wealthy neighborhood. Carlo is 25 years old, speaks English very well and has recently taken a class at local community college on U.S. history for new citizens to prepare for his citizenship exam. He printed out his naturalization application form last week on his computer.

1. Is Carlo ready to become a citizen right now? _____
2. What qualifications does he already have for citizenship? _____

3. **Besides taking an oath of allegiance**, what are at least 2 other steps Carlo still has to complete in order to obtain citizenship ? _____

Scenario 2: Jin Ling has been a legal resident of San Francisco, California, for 20 years. All of her children and grandchildren are United States citizens. She is very loyal to the United States, has never been in trouble with the law, and can speak English very well, even though she still speaks her native language, Mandarin. She came to the United States because her parents had been victims of political persecution in China. She has attended classes on U.S. history and received high grades. Sometimes she even surprises her grandchildren with her knowledge. Her paperwork and interview were completed last week.

1. Is Jin Lin ready to become a citizen right now? _____
2. What qualifications does she already have for citizenship? _____

3. **Besides paying her fee**, what are at least 2 other steps Jin Ling still needs to complete in order to obtain citizenship ? _____

Scenario 3: Telly is 35 and has just arrived last year from Greece. He was a good citizen of Greece who never broke any laws. While in Greece he learned to read, write and speak English. His naturalization application was denied.

1. Is Telly ready to become a citizen right now? _____
2. What qualifications does he already have for citizenship? _____

3. What are at least 2 other steps Telly still needs to complete in order to obtain citizenship ? _____

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Scenario 4: Gretchen has been a legal resident of Columbus, Ohio for five years. She is 58 years old. She has had a hard time adjusting to life in the United States, mainly because she cannot read or speak English very well. She lives in a neighborhood where her friends speak German and she manages to survive with their help. She appreciates the freedom under the law offered by American society. She has never studied U.S. history, but she knows a little bit about it. She is a good person who attends church every week and loves the United States of America.

1. Is Gretchen ready to become a citizen right now? _____
2. What qualifications does she already have for citizenship? _____
3. What are at least 2 other steps Gretchen still needs to complete in order to obtain citizenship ? _____

Scenario 5: Rosa has lived illegally in the United States for six years. She never contacted the U.S. Department of Immigration when she arrived and does not have a “green card.” She speaks and reads English very well, knows all about U.S. history (she even tutors other immigrants) and except for her green card status, Rosa is a law-abiding person.

1. Is Rosa ready to become a citizen right now? _____
2. What qualifications does she already have for citizenship? _____

3. **Besides taking the exam**, what are at least 2 other steps Rosa still needs to complete in order to obtain citizenship ? _____

Scenario #6 Niles is a citizen of Great Britain. He has lived in the United States as a legal resident for the last 20 years. He would like to vote for the next president and he wants to become a citizen of the United States. However, he still has a family in Great Britain. He does not want to give up his British citizenship, because he is afraid it will disappoint his parents. He has studied U.S. history in college, speaks English, and has worked as a waiter for the past five years.

1. Is Niles ready to become a citizen right now? _____
2. What qualifications does he already have for citizenship? _____

3. **Besides having an interview**, what are at least 2 other steps Niles still needs to complete in order to obtain citizenship ? _____