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## WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

[http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william\\_howard\\_taft.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william_howard_taft.html)



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## THE READING / LISTENING TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william\\_howard\\_taft.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william_howard_taft.html)

William Howard Taft was the 27th President of the United States, serving between 1909 and 1913. He was also the tenth Chief Justice of the United States and the only person to have served in both offices. He was born in 1857, the son of a distinguished judge. He graduated from Yale and practiced law in Cincinnati. He quickly rose in politics via judiciary appointments made by the Republicans.

Taft was appointed a federal circuit judge at 34. From 1901 to 1903, he served as the first civilian Governor-General of the Philippines. While in this position he turned down the offer of a seat on the Supreme Court. In 1904, President Roosevelt appointed Taft as Secretary of War, which meant he could remain involved in the Philippines. He also dealt with a revolt in Cuba in 1906.

In 1908, the Republican Convention nominated him as their presidential candidate. He won the first election of his career by a comfortable margin. As President, he initiated 80 anti-trust suits; amendments for a Federal income tax; the direct election of senators; and a postal savings system. He also pursued "Dollar Diplomacy" in the less-developed nations of Latin America and Asia.

Despite Taft's hard work, he alienated many in his party. He defended an act which continued high tariffs; a trade agreement with Canada failed, and his team was accused of failing to carry out Roosevelt's conservation policies. He lost the next election and became Chief Justice of the USA. He was so happy with this post that just before he died in 1930, he wrote: "I don't remember that I ever was President."

Text adapted from [www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamhowardtaft](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamhowardtaft)



## LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william\\_howard\\_taft.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william_howard_taft.html)

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Despite Taft's hard work, he \_\_\_\_\_ party. He defended an act which continued high tariffs; a trade agreement with Canada failed, and his team \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out Roosevelt's conservation policies. He lost the next election and became Chief Justice of the USA. He was \_\_\_\_\_ that just before he died in 1930, he wrote: "I don't remember that I ever was President."



## CORRECT THE SPELLING

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## UNJUMBLE THE WORDS

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_





# WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT SURVEY

From: [http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william\\_howard\\_taft.html](http://www.LessonsOnAmericanPresidents.com/william_howard_taft.html)

Write five GOOD questions about William Howard Taft in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.





## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about William Howard Taft. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about William Howard Taft. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT POSTER** Make a poster about William Howard Taft. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

**5. MY WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT LESSON:** Make your own English lesson on William Howard Taft. Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Teach the class / another group when you have finished.

**6. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, MySpace page, Twitter stream, Del-icio-us / StumbleUpon account, or any other social media tool to get opinions on William Howard Taft. Share your findings with the class.

