



**Cultural Linguistic Services**  
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# English Learning Newsletter

## Wednesday, December 16, 2020

### New words of the week:

On December 14, the **Electoral College** (group representing voters in each state) met to select Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the next U.S. President and Vice President.

There are 538 **electors** (Electoral College members); 10 are from Wisconsin.

Some Americans want to **eliminate** (get rid of) the Electoral College because sometimes its vote is different from the **popular vote** (votes of every person in each state).

Read about the Electoral College here:

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/the-electoral-college.aspx>

### For fun:

Click this link for a list of 49 fun winter activities you can enjoy (even during the pandemic):

<https://www.realsimple.com/holidays-entertaining/entertaining/seasonal-events/winter-activities-during-covid>



### News For You Online:

<https://www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online>

**Password: B1AAB8**

### Phrases for conversation:

Use these phrases to talk about holidays:

- **What holidays do you celebrate?**
- **How will you celebrate this year?**
- **What are you doing for the holidays?**
- **I hope you have a great holiday!**
- **Enjoy your time off.**
- **Happy holidays!**



### Learn more:

December 21 is the **Winter Solstice**, the first day of winter and shortest day of the year.

There will also be a **conjunction** (close meeting) of the planets Jupiter and Saturn in the night sky. Read more here:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/12/09/944560103/jupiter-and-saturn-will-be-together-again-for-the-holidays>



### Star idioms:

- **Be a star** = be good at something.
  - She is a **star** co-worker!
- **Stargaze** = look at the night sky.
  - Do you want to go **stargazing** tonight?
- **Star-struck** = feel shy around famous people.
  - The boy was **star-struck** when he met Santa Claus.