

Level: Upper-intermediate

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Five Things You Didn't Know About Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States

by James Guttridge



On November 7th, 2020, Kamala Harris became the first black woman of Indian origin to become Vice President of the United States. But who is she? Here's everything you need to know about Kamala Harris.

Kamala Harris, 55, is the new Vice President of the United States. But why is there so much talk about her? Harris, a California senator, is the third woman in US history to be nominated on a presidential ticket. In 1984, Geraldine Ferraro and in 2008 Sarah Palin found themselves in the same situation.

But that's not all! She is also the very first black and Indian woman to run for the vice-presidency of the United States. The Vice President-elect who is already being presented as the 'anti-Trump' is not very well known outside of the US. Here are 5 things you probably didn't know about the future Vice President of the United States and Joe Biden's right-hand woman.

District Attorney

Kamala Harris had a career as a district attorney after graduating from Howard University, a prestigious African-American university in Washington, DC. In 2004, she was elected as district attorney for San Francisco, and in 2010 district attorney for the State of California, as she had hoped when she began her studies.

She has spoken out against the abolition of the death penalty but also has a well-established reputation. She is known to be not at all lenient with criminals. These are points that are bound to be highlighted during her term as Vice President, particularly because of the numerous racial conflicts currently affecting the United States. ”

An outstanding public speaker

She is known to be an outstanding public speaker. Shortly after her appointment last August, Barack Obama's political consultant and advisor David Axelrod said when talking about her:

“She is charismatic, qualified, and a formidable debater.”

Second black woman in the Senate

She broke the glass ceiling. What's good for Kamala Harris is good for the United States. Kamala Harris is the second black woman to be elected to the US Senate. She tried to win the Democratic nomination in the 2020 primaries, unfortunately without success, but she remains determined.

Her objective? The presidency

Yes, as mentioned above, her objective is to obtain the ultimate goal, The White House. If Joe Biden wins another term in 2024, Kamala Harris will possibly become the future White House candidate for 2028.

Addicted to cooking

It may be hard to believe, but it's true! During the Covid-19 lockdown, the politician shared several moments of herself in her kitchen on social networks, and it seems that she has a talent for cooking!

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Check your vocab!

Which of the two definitions (A or B) matches the word?

- origin** (noun)
 - the country or race of a person's parents or ancestors
 - a way of behaving that has been established for a long time among a group of people
- prestigious** (adjective)
 - having poor quality and a bad reputation
 - very much respected and admired, usually because of being important or of high quality
- lenient** (adjective)
 - extremely strict in punishment or judgement;
 - not as strict or severe in punishment as expected
- formidable** (adjective)
 - strong and powerful, and therefore difficult to deal with if opposed to you
 - unsure, or slow in acting or speaking
- objective** (noun)
 - something that you plan to do or achieve
 - a feeling or expression of opposition, dislike

Check your understanding!

Which of the three answers is correct according to the article?

- What did Kamala Harris manage to do for the first time in the history of the United States?
 - She became the first woman to be nominated as Vice President.
 - She became the first black woman of Indian origin to be nominated as Vice President.
 - She became the first woman to serve as the President's right hand.
- As a district attorney what is Kamala Harris famous for?
 - For being strict with criminals.
 - For being too mild with criminals.
 - For not being strict enough with criminals.
- Is Kamala Harris a good public speaker?
 - No, she isn't.
 - Yes, she is.
 - It's hard to say.
- What goal does Kamala Harris hope to achieve?
 - To become the President of the USA.
 - To become the first black woman in the US Senate.
 - To become the first black President of the USA.
- What is one of Kamala Harris's talents?
 - Public speaking.
 - Cooking.
 - All of the above.

