

2024 to be biggest ever year for voting in elections

4th January 2024



The year 2024 will be the biggest ever year for voting. National elections will take place in around 64 countries, as well as in the European Union. An estimated two billion people - almost half the global population - could vote at some time this

year. The results of these polls will bring big changes for the future of many people. Voters in the world's four largest electoral blocs - the EU, India, Indonesia and the USA - will be casting their votes. One of the first contests will be in Taiwan on January the 13th. For much of the year, eyes will be focused on events in the US. In November, there will be a repeat of the 2020 election if Donald Trump runs for President again.

Journalists are worried about how free and fair many elections will be. The website Bloomberg.com has already posed a question that is on the lips of many people. It asked: "Will 2024 be the year fake news destroys democracy?" Bloomberg said bad actors will use artificial intelligence to change the way people vote via phoney news articles. It said there will be "a storm of disinformation and digital manipulation unlike anything the world has ever seen". It added that disinformation has already begun to spread, and that this "gets harder to spot as fake with every passing month". Fact checkers will have to work extra hard to reduce the number of AI-based posts on social media.

Sources: time.com / bloomberg.com / koreaherald.com

Writing

Everyone should vote in elections. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the year 2024 / voting / elections / two billion people / the future / eyes / the USA / journalists / question / lips / fake news / democracy / artificial intelligence / facts

True / False

- 1) About 64 countries will hold national elections in 2024. T / F
- 2) A maximum of one billion people could vote in elections this year. T / F
- 3) Voters in the world's five largest voting blocks will vote. T / F
- 4) The first country that will hold elections in 2024 is Malaysia. T / F
- 5) A website asked a question that is on many people's lips. T / F
- 6) The website said phoney articles will influence the way people vote. T / F
- 7) The website said disinformation is already spreading. T / F
- 8) Fact checkers have gone on strike due to too many fake news stories. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. take place | a. fixed |
| 2. estimated | b. put forward |
| 3. vote | c. see |
| 4. focused | d. go to the polls |
| 5. repeat | e. fake |
| 6. worried | f. rerun |
| 7. posed | g. happen |
| 8. phoney | h. cut |
| 9. spot | i. approximate |
| 10. reduce | j. concerned |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of elections?
- c) Why are free and fair elections important?
- d) What do you think of fake news?
- e) What does fake news do for democracy?
- f) How much do you believe what you read online?
- g) What kind of year will 2024 be for you?
- h) What questions would you like to ask your country's leader?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. elections will take | a. month |
| 2. almost half | b. for President |
| 3. the world's four largest | c. has ever seen |
| 4. eyes will be focused | d. the global population |
| 5. if Donald Trump runs | e. extra hard |
| 6. a question that is on the | f. on events in the US |
| 7. unlike anything the world | g. place in around 64 countries |
| 8. disinformation has already | h. lips of many people |
| 9. with every passing | i. electoral blocs |
| 10. Fact checkers will have to work | j. begun to spread |

Discussion – Student B

- What kind of year will 2024 be for the world?
- What do you think of voting in elections?
- Why is voting important?
- How might the lives of people change because of the elections?
- How do you think the U.S. election will go?
- What do you think of Donald Trump?
- How would the USA change if Trump became president again?
- What would you do if you were leader of your country?

Spelling

- An eeaitsdtm two billion people
- almost half the global ulioptna
- The results of these sollp
- the world's four largest electoral lscbo
- cansitg their votes
- osecfdu on events in the US
- pesod a question
- fake news destroys ceymrdaco
- raicitlfai intelligence
- news tsarlcie
- digital anpiuiltanmo
- eedurc the number of AI-based posts

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. f
6. j	7. b	8. e	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Global Warming

You think global warming is the thing that will improve most in 2024. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which is the least likely to change of these (and why): world peace, equality or the economy.

Role B – World Peace

You think world peace is the thing that will improve most in 2024. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which is the least likely to change of these (and why): global warming, equality or the economy.

Role C – Equality

You think equality is the thing that will improve most in 2024. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which is the least likely to change of these (and why): world peace, global warming or the economy.

Role D – The Economy

You think the economy is the thing that will improve most in 2024. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which is the least likely to change of these (and why): world peace, equality or global warming.

Speaking – 2024

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that will change for the positive at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| • Migration | • Global warming |
| • Global poverty | • World peace |
| • Equality | • Artificial intelligence |
| • The economy | • Healthcare |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.