U.S. Presidents in Order

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which sequence lists the first three U.S. presidents from earliest to latest?
   A. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson
   B. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams
   C. John Adams, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson
   D. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Washington
   Correct answer: A. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson
   Washington took office in 1789, Adams in 1797, and Jefferson in 1801.

2. Who took office after Thomas Jefferson and before James Monroe?
   A. Andrew Jackson
   B. John Quincy Adams
   C. James Madison
   D. Martin Van Buren
   Correct answer: C. James Madison
   Madison began his presidency in 1809. Monroe followed in 1817.

3. Who followed Andrew Johnson as president of the United States?
   A. Rutherford B. Hayes
   B. Ulysses S. Grant
   C. Abraham Lincoln
   D. James Buchanan
   Correct answer: B. Ulysses S. Grant
   Johnson took office in 1865 and was followed by Grant in 1869.

4. Who held the presidency immediately before Lyndon B. Johnson?
   A. Gerald Ford
   B. Richard Nixon
   C. Dwight D. Eisenhower
   D. John F. Kennedy
   Correct answer: D. John F. Kennedy
   Kennedy was the 35th president. Johnson became the 36th president in 1963.

5. Which statement about George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush fits the presidential timeline?

A. George W. Bush served first.
B. George H. W. Bush served first.
C. They served in consecutive presidencies.
D. Both took office before Ronald Reagan.

Correct answer: B. George H. W. Bush served first.
George H. W. Bush took office in 1989, and George W. Bush began his presidency in 2001.

6. Which order places James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, and John Quincy Adams by when they took office?

A. Monroe, Adams, Jackson
B. Monroe, Jackson, Adams
C. Adams, Jackson, Monroe
D. Jackson, Monroe, Adams

Correct answer: A. Monroe, Adams, Jackson
Monroe began in 1817, John Quincy Adams in 1825, and Jackson in 1829.

7. Two presidents took office in 1841. Which sequence puts them in order?

A. James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor
B. John Tyler, William Henry Harrison
C. John Tyler, James K. Polk
D. William Henry Harrison, John Tyler

Correct answer: D. William Henry Harrison, John Tyler
Harrison was inaugurated in March 1841. Tyler succeeded him the following month.

8. Which vice president succeeded Zachary Taylor in 1850?

A. James Buchanan
B. Franklin Pierce
C. Millard Fillmore
D. James K. Polk

Correct answer: C. Millard Fillmore
Fillmore became president in July 1850, following Taylor. Franklin Pierce followed Fillmore in 1853.

9. Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president. Who was the 15th?

A. James Buchanan
B. Franklin Pierce
C. Andrew Johnson
D. Millard Fillmore

Correct answer: A. James Buchanan
Buchanan took office in 1857 and Lincoln in 1861.

10. An exhibit's presidential timeline ends Woodrow Wilson’s entry in 1921. Whose presidency starts next?

A. Theodore Roosevelt
B. Calvin Coolidge
C. Herbert Hoover
D. Warren G. Harding

Correct answer: D. Warren G. Harding
Harding was inaugurated in March 1921. Coolidge succeeded Harding in 1923.

11. Grover Cleveland is listed as both the 22nd and 24th president. Whose name belongs in the 23rd slot?

A. William McKinley
B. Chester A. Arthur
C. Benjamin Harrison
D. Rutherford B. Hayes

Correct answer: C. Benjamin Harrison
Harrison took office in 1889, between Cleveland’s terms beginning in 1885 and 1893.

12. Cards show the start years 1974, 1977, and 1981. Which set of names belongs with them, in that order?

A. Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan
B. Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan
C. Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter
D. Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush

Correct answer: B. Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan
Ford took office in 1974, Carter in 1977, and Reagan in 1981.

13. Which order correctly places James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, and Grover Cleveland’s first presidency?

A. Garfield, Cleveland, Arthur
B. Arthur, Garfield, Cleveland
C. Cleveland, Arthur, Garfield
D. Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland

Correct answer: D. Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland
Garfield took office in March 1881. Arthur followed that September, and Cleveland began his first term in 1885.

14. Which order correctly matches the presidencies that began in 2009, 2017, and 2021?

A. Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Joe Biden
B. Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Barack Obama
C. Joe Biden, Barack Obama, Donald Trump
D. Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Donald Trump

Correct answer: A. Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Joe Biden
Obama began in 2009, Trump’s first presidency began in 2017, and Biden took office in 2021.

15. Which sequence gives the presidencies that began in 1897, 1901, and 1909?

A. William Howard Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, William McKinley
B. Theodore Roosevelt, William McKinley, William Howard Taft
C. William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft
D. William McKinley, William Howard Taft, Theodore Roosevelt

Correct answer: C. William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft
McKinley began in 1897, Roosevelt succeeded him in 1901, and Taft took office in 1909.