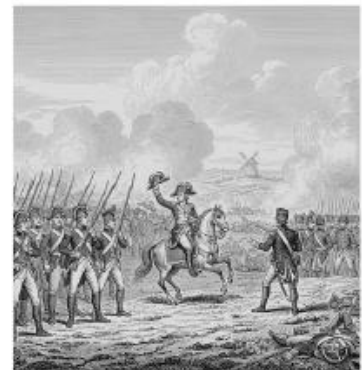


ENGLISH CLASS, THIS WEEK

2025: WEEK 38



englishclass.today

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

15 September

Lehman Brothers **Bankruptcy** (2008): The collapse of Lehman Brothers, a major U.S. **investment bank**, triggered the **global financial crisis**, leading to widespread **economic turmoil** and **recession**.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. investment bank (n.) | a. the legal process when a person or company cannot pay their debts |
| 2. global financial crisis (phr.) | b. a bank that helps companies raise money and makes big financial deals |
| 3. recession (n.) | c. a serious worldwide problem in the economy, usually involving banks and markets |
| 4. bankruptcy (n.) | d. a time of great disorder or trouble in a country's economy |
| 5. economic turmoil (phr.) | e. a period when the economy is doing badly, with less business and more unemployment |



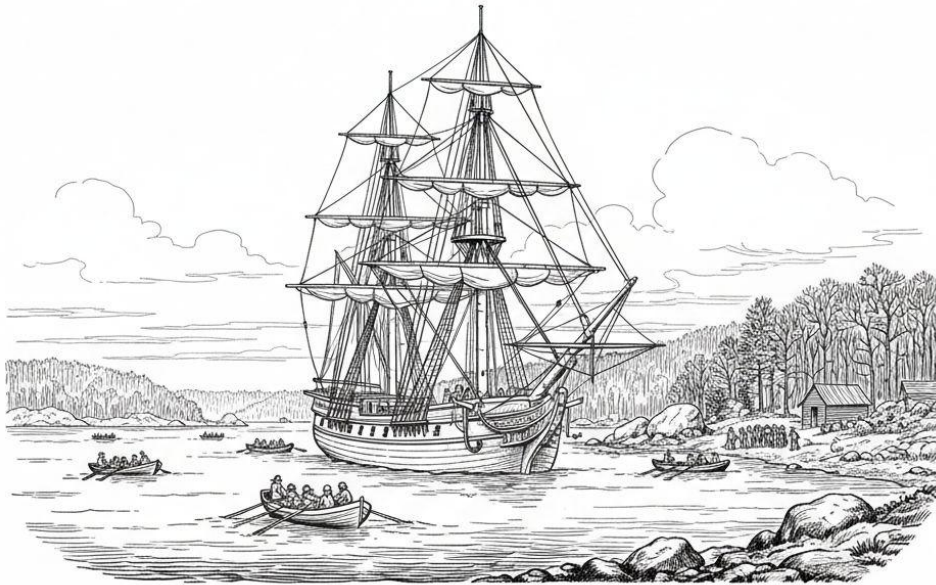
Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. Many small shops closed during the _____.
2. Millions lost their jobs during the _____ of 2008.
3. After months of losses, the company filed for _____.
4. The country faced _____ after the currency collapsed.
5. The _____ advised the company on selling its shares.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about the collapse of Lehman Brothers, or the global financial crisis of 2008?

16 September



Mayflower Departs for America (1620): The **Pilgrims**, seeking **religious freedom**, **set sail** from England on the Mayflower, eventually founding Plymouth **Colony** in North America.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. pilgrim (n.) | a. the right to follow any religion or no religion at all |
| 2. religious freedom (n.) | b. a group of people who live in a new land but are ruled by their home country |
| 3. (to) set sail (v.) | c. a person who travels for religious reasons |
| 4. colony (n.) | d. to begin a journey by ship |

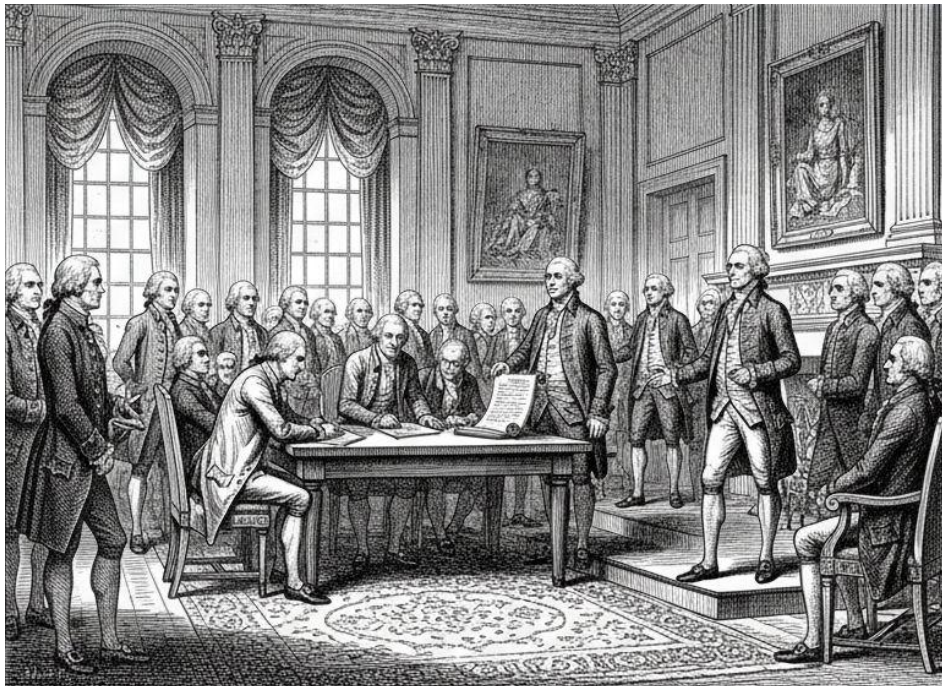
Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. They moved to a new land in search of _____.
2. The first English _____ in America was Jamestown.
3. The _____ left England to find a place to worship freely.
4. They _____ across the Atlantic Ocean in 1620.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about the Mayflower, the Pilgrims or the first European colonies in North America?

17 September



U.S. **Constitution** Signed (1787): **Delegates** at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the U.S. Constitution, establishing the **framework** for the United States' **federal government**.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. constitution (n.) | a. a person chosen to represent others at a meeting |
| 2. delegate (n.) | b. the national government of a country with states or regions |
| 3. framework (n.) | c. a document that explains how a country is governed |
| 4. federal government (n.) | d. a basic structure or plan |

Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. Each state sent a _____ to the convention.
2. The _____ collects taxes and runs the military.
3. The new law provides a _____ for better education.
4. The U.S. _____ was signed in 1787.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about the U.S. Constitution?

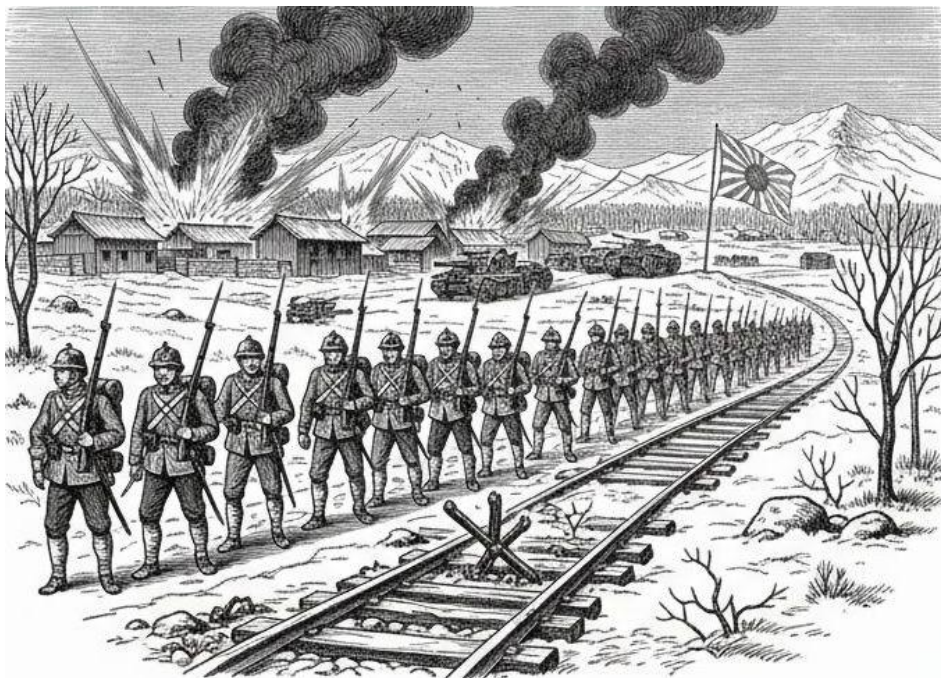
18 September

Japan's Invasion of Manchuria (1931): Japan's military **staged** the Mukden Incident as a **pretext** to invade and **occupy** Manchuria, **escalating tensions** before World War II.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. (to) stage (v.) | a. to take control of a place, often by force |
| 2. pretext (n.) | b. to plan and carry out an event, like a protest or performance |
| 3. (to) occupy (v.) | c. to make a conflict or disagreement worse |
| 4. (to) escalate tensions (phr.) | d. a false reason given to hide the real reason for something |



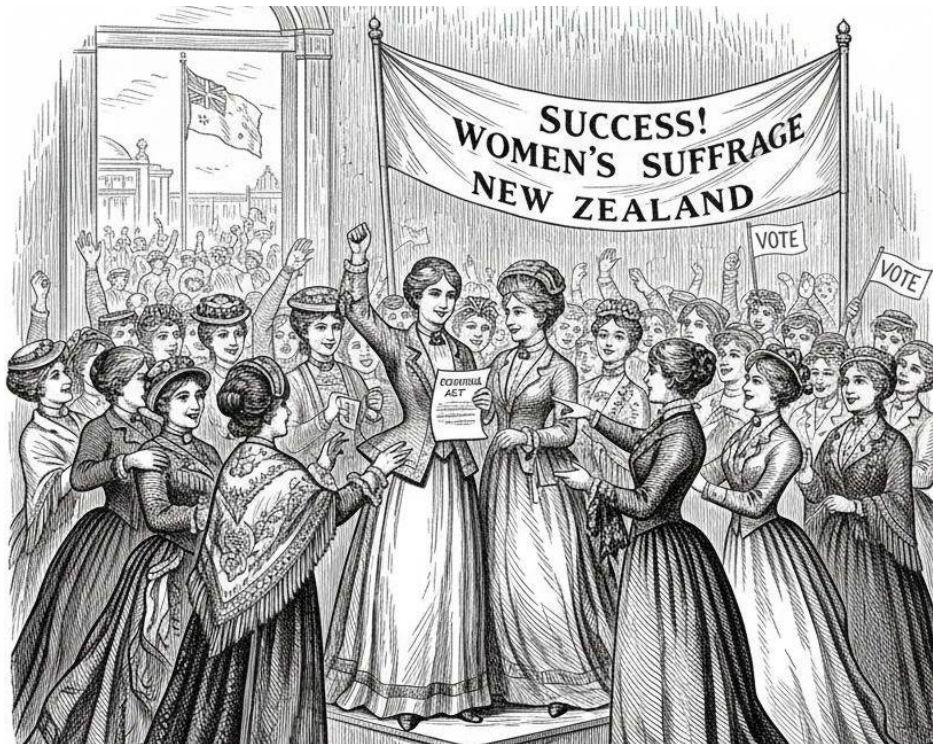
Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. Soldiers _____ the city for several months.
2. Workers _____ a strike to demand better pay.
3. The invasion was launched under the _____ of protecting citizens.
4. The new law _____ between the two countries.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about Japan's Invasion of Manchuria, or the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)?

19 September



New Zealand **Women's Suffrage** (1893): New Zealand became the first country to grant women's suffrage, allowing women to vote in **national elections**, a **milestone** in **gender equality**.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. women's suffrage (n.) | a. an important event or achievement |
| 2. national elections (n.) | b. the state where men and women have the same rights and opportunities |
| 3. milestone (n.) | c. when citizens vote to choose leaders for the whole country |
| 4. gender equality (n.) | d. the right of women to vote in elections |

Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. Winning the vote was a major _____ for women's rights.
2. _____ was achieved in the U.S. in 1920.
3. Schools now teach the importance of _____.
4. The country holds _____ every four years.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about Women's Suffrage, or New Zealand in the 19th century?

20 September



Battle of Valmy (1792): French revolutionary forces defeated **Prussian** troops in the Battle of Valmy, a key victory that **preserved** the **French Revolution** and **boosted** national **morale**.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Prussia (country) | a. to keep something safe from harm or change |
| 2. (to) preserve (v.) | b. a major event in France (1789–1799) where people overthrew the monarchy |
| 3. French Revolution (event) | c. a former kingdom in Europe that played a big role in German history |
| 4. (to) boost (v.) | d. the feelings of confidence or happiness of a group |
| 5. morale (n.) | e. to increase or improve something |

Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. The _____ changed France's government forever.
2. Good news raised the soldiers' _____.
3. _____ was known for its strong army and leadership.
4. The speech helped _____ the team's confidence.
5. We must _____ historical buildings for future generations.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about the French revolution?

21 September



International Day of Peace Established (1981): The United Nations **declared** 21 September as the International Day of Peace, **promoting** global **ceasefires** and **non-violence**.

Vocabulary exercise

Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. (to) declare (v.) | a. the practice of avoiding violence, even in protest |
| 2. (to) promote (v.) | b. to say something clearly and officially |
| 3. ceasefire (n.) | c. to support or encourage something |
| 4. non-violence (n.) | d. an agreement to stop fighting for a time |

Now complete each sentence with one of the above words or phrases.

1. The group works to _____ human rights worldwide.
2. Gandhi believed in _____ as the best way to bring change.
3. The country _____ independence in 1945.
4. The two sides agreed to a _____ to start peace talks.

Quick discussion

What else do you know about the United Nations?

HISTORY WITH TENSES AND CONDITIONALS

Historical event: U.S. **Constitution** Signed (1787): **Delegates** at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the U.S. Constitution, establishing the **framework** for the United States' **federal government**.

PRESENT TENSES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs

Simple Present Tense: Examples: a) He **walks** to the shop *every day*. b) He **lives** near the shop. c) One plus one **equals** two.

The U.S. Constitution _____ (define) the powers of the federal government.

Present Continuous Tense: Example: He **is walking** to the shop.

People _____ (debate) how the Constitution should be interpreted.

Present Perfect Tense: Examples: a) He **has walked** to the shop *many times*. b) He **has lived** near the shop *for ten years*.

The Constitution _____ (inspire) many other nations to write similar documents.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense: Examples: a) He **has been walking** to the shop *for more than an hour*. b) He **has been going** to the shop *a lot lately*.

Scholars _____ (study) the Constitution *for more than two centuries*.

PAST TENSES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs

Simple Past Tense: Example: He **walked** to the shop *yesterday afternoon*.

Delegates _____ (sign) the U.S. Constitution *on September 17, 1787*.

Past Continuous Tense: Example: He **was walking** to the shop *when I saw him*.

While delegates _____ (sign) the Constitution, citizens _____ (wait) outside for news.

Past Perfect Tense: Example: He **had** already **walked** to the shop *when I saw him*.

Before the Constitution _____ (sign), the United States _____ (be, govern) by the Articles of Confederation.

Past Perfect Continuous Tense: Example: He **had been walking** to the shop *for over an hour when I saw him*.

The delegates _____ (argue) *for months before they finally reached an agreement*.

FUTURE TENSES

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs

Simple Future Tense: Example: He **will walk** to the shop *this afternoon*.

The Constitution _____ (remain) a key symbol of American democracy.

Future Continuous Tense: Example: He **will be walking** to the shop *by the time I go to work*.

In the coming years, courts _____ (interpret) the Constitution in new ways.

Future Perfect Tense: Examples: a) *By the time I see him*, he **will** already **have walked** to the shop.
b) *By this afternoon*, he **will** already **have walked** to the shop.

By 2037, the Constitution _____ (guide) the country for 250 years.

Future Perfect Continuous Tense: Example: He **will have been walking** to the shop *for an hour by the time you see him*.

By the middle of this century, Americans _____ (live) under the Constitution *for over 260 years*.

CONDITIONALS

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs

First conditional: Example: If it **rains**, I **will stay** at home. (Real future possibility)

If Americans _____ (continue) to value the Constitution, democracy _____ (stay) strong.

Second conditional: Example: If I **won** the lottery, I **would quit** my job. (Imagined present scenario)

If the Constitution _____ (not exist), the U.S. government _____ (be) very different.

Third conditional: Example: If I **had studied** harder, I **would have passed** the exam. (Unreal past situation)

If the delegates _____ (fail) to agree in 1787, the young nation might _____ (fall) apart.

Discussion Questions

1. **The Power of Ideas:** The signing of the U.S. Constitution, women's suffrage in New Zealand, and the International Day of Peace are all about ideas (freedom, equality, peace). Which of these ideas do you think is the most powerful or has had the biggest global impact? Why?
2. **The Role of Conflict:** We have examples of conflict (Battle of Valmy, Invasion of Manchuria) and the pursuit of peace (International Day of Peace). In your opinion, is conflict sometimes necessary to achieve peace or protect freedom? Why or why not?
3. **Relevance Today:** Which of these events do you think is most relevant to our world today? For example, do we still see the effects of the 2008 financial crisis? Are the goals of the International Day of Peace still important?
4. **Personal Connection:** Is there an event in your country's history that is similar to one of these? For example, a fight for independence, an important step for equality, or a major economic crisis? Briefly tell us about it.
5. **Learning from History:** A common saying is, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." What is one lesson from *these* events that you think world leaders or societies should remember today?

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