Mark Carney Will Become Canada's New Prime Minister

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Mark Carney is the new leader of Canada's Liberal Party, replacing Justin Trudeau. Liberal Party members chose him in a vote, where he won by a huge margin, getting over 85% of the votes. Carney has never been a politician before, but he has led central banks in Canada and the UK, helping both countries through tough economic times. Now, he faces big challenges, including trade problems with the United States.
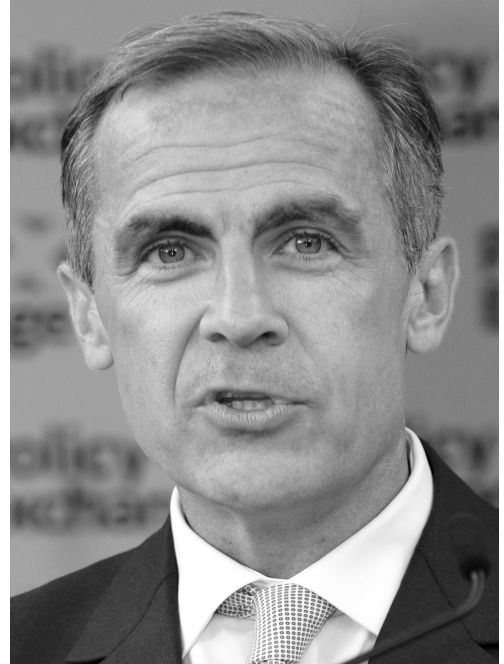
Canada's relationship with the US has become tense. President Trump has threatened to raise taxes on Canadian goods, and Carney wants to fight back with trade penalties on the US. He also wants to improve Canada's economy by focusing on clean energy and natural resources.

Even though Carney is the new Liberal leader, Justin Trudeau is still the prime minister for now. In Canada's system, people don't vote directly for the prime minister. Instead, they vote for local representatives, and the leader of the winning party becomes the prime minister.

Mark Carney was born in Canada's Northwest Territories, raised in Edmonton, and studied at Harvard and Oxford. He worked as the Governor of both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England at different times, helping Canada during the 2008 financial crisis and the UK during Brexit. Carney has promised to make life better for Canadians by lowering costs for families. However, he faces strong competition from Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre. With an election coming, Carney will need to prove that he is the right choice to lead Canada.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Mark Carney won by a huge margin. What does this mean?
a) He won by a small difference in votes.   b) He won by a large difference in votes.
c) The election was very close.   d) He's a very fast runner.

2. Canada's relationship with the US has become tense. What does "tense" mean?
a) Friendly and calm   b) Strong and supportive
c) Difficult and stressful   d) Unimportant and weak

3. What might be the reason why Carney won the leadership vote?
a) He has experience in politics.   b) Many people think he can help Canada's economy.
c) His father was the Prime Minister.   d) He has been prime minister before.

4. Why might Carney's experience with central banks be useful as a political leader?
a) It shows he knows a lot about international travel.
b) It shows he's great at making speeches
c) Because he is a very rich man.
d) It means he understands how to manage the country's money.

5. What is one possible reason Carney wants to focus on clean energy?
a) He believes it will help Canada's economy grow.
b) He wants to stop using natural resources.
c) He believes coal is the energy of the future.
d) He thinks clean energy will give Canada more power to control the weather.

6. What challenge does Carney face in trade with the US?
a) The US wants to help Canada's economy.
b) The US president has threatened to raise taxes on Canadian goods.
c) The US wants to sign a new trade deal with Canada.
d) The US is lowering taxes on Canadian goods.

7. Why might Carney want to use trade penalties against the US?
a) To improve the US economy.
b) To encourage the US to stop raising taxes on Canadian goods.
c) To make it easier for Canada to buy American products.
d) To stop trading with the US completely.

8. What can we guess about Carney's leadership style based on his past experience?
a) He will not care about trade issues.   b) He will avoid making big decisions.
c) He doesn't understand economics.   d) He will focus on the economy.

9. Why might some Canadians be unsure about Carney as a political leader?
a) He has never worked in Canada.   b) He does not care about the economy.
c) He has never been a politician before.   d) He was born in the UK.

10. What would happen if Carney does not win the next election?
a) Another party's leader could become prime minister.
b) The US would choose Canada's next leader.
c) Trudeau would become leader again.
d) Canada would not have a government.

Speaking and Writing Activities:
- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group
- Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. How are leaders chosen in the country you're from?
2. If you were the Prime Minister of Canada, what would you do to help people?
3. What do you think makes a good leader? Can you think of a famous leader you admire?