

Impeachment



We hear a lot about Donald Trump and impeachment. But what exactly is impeachment? And politics aside, can this news story help our English?

Peaches, feet and Trump



Peach is a lovely word for a delicious fruit: *melocotón*. And **im-** means something negative (like the word *impersonal* in Spanish and English). So does the word **impeach** come from some ancient ritual where we throw fruit at politicians?



Sadly, impeachment and peaches are unrelated. We need to think of feet (*pies*) instead. **Im-peach-ment** comes from the Latin concept of **pedibus** (*pies*) not moving freely. To say Trump is **impeached** means Congress wants to **impede** him.



We can think of **im-peach-ment** as a kind of **un-foot-ing** (etymologically related to the Spanish *des-ped-ido*). But Trump's impeachment by Congress does not mean he has lost his job. It is like an official accusation. The Senate now has to decide if Trump should be permanently removed.



So impeachment is a kind of legal **impediment** which can result in permanent removal. But be careful: impeachment is a political process which **differs from country to country**. And outside politics and law, **impeach** is an unusual word.



One final thing to note is the pronunciation of the President's name. It is sometimes mispronounced as 'Tramp'. But **tramp** means **vagabundo**. We should say / trɑmp /. **Trump** itself is a verb with various meanings, one of which is **triunfar** ...



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