

Rights and Duties of Citizens

Lesson 3

Citizenship categories in the United States

- Citizenship in the United States may be determined by one or two principles.
 - “Citizenship by birth” is a form of citizenship where the person’s nationality is determined by the nationality of their parents.
 - If both of the person’s parents are U.S. citizens, this means that the child is a U.S. citizen, even if the person was born outside the United States.
 - This principle is called “jus sanguinis”, or “**LAW OF THE BLOOD**”.
- The second principle of citizenship, “jus soli”, or “**LAW OF THE SOIL**” means that citizenship is determined based on where a person is born.
 - If a person is born in the United States, then that person is a U.S. citizen; the nationality of that person’s parents is not considered when taking the “jus soli” approach.
- Most nations apply both of these rules.

Native-born and Naturalized Citizens and Resident Aliens

- **Native-born citizen:** A member of an official political body, such as a nation or a state, who is born in the country of their citizenship. This person meets both “jus sanguinis” and “jus soli” requirements.
- **Naturalized citizens:** Citizens born elsewhere, live legally in the United States, and have passed a test on the Constitution and the history of the United States. This person meets only the “jus soli” citizenship requirement.
- **Resident Alien** (Also called: Lawful Permanent Resident): A persons who lives legally in the United States who is not a citizen

RIGHTS OF US CITIZENS

Vote

Obtain a U.S. passport

Own Property

Serve in elected office

Serve in appointed public offices

Protection under the law

Use of the courts

Own property

Many countries waive visa requirements for U.S.citizens

May reside outside the United States for longer periods of time when compared with non-citizens living in the United States.

Eligible to receive assistance and services from U.S. embassies and consulates abroad.

Sponsor relatives so that they may immigrate to the United States

Many countries allow dual citizenship with the United States.

Cannot be removed, deported or denied entry to the United States

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May apply for certain federal jobs, federal and state benefits, that require U.S. citizenship

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DUTIES OF US CITIZENS

Serve on juries

Obey the law

Pay taxes

Register for Selective Service (Males only, age 18-26)

Swear allegiance to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the United States against all enemies.

Rights and Obligations of Resident Aliens

Rights	Obligations
Protection under the law	Obey the law
Use of the courts	Pay taxes
Own property	Register with the U.S. government to obtain legal permission to stay for an extended length of time
Carry on business (Note: Some states may limit certain professions to citizens)	Register for Selective Service (Males only, age 18-26)
Attend public schools	