Flávio Bolsonaro leads into Brazil run-off

LEVEL B2


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I. WARM-UP

1. How do run-off elections work in your country?
2. What issues matter most to you in a national vote?
3. Have polls ever surprised you? What happened?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

run-off
A second round of voting when no candidate gets over 50%.

incumbent
Currently holding an official position.

polling
Surveys that measure voter support during a campaign.

amnesty
Official forgiveness for certain offences, often political ones.

interference
Unwanted involvement or influence by an outside person or country.

coalition
A group of parties or countries that join for a shared goal.

pragmatic
Focused on practical results rather than fixed ideas.

vandalise
To damage or destroy property on purpose.

III. READING

Flávio Bolsonaro won the first round of Brazil's presidential election but fell short of the 50% needed to win outright, so a run-off with incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will be held on 25 October.

With 99% counted, Bolsonaro had 47.03% and Lula 45.16%, after weeks when Lula was slightly ahead in polling. His Liberal Party also elected the most governors, senators and federal deputies, boosting its weight in Congress. The campaign has polarised the country.

Flávio Bolsonaro has pledged amnesty for his father and for supporters who vandalised government buildings on 8 January 2023. Election officials said they found no evidence of international interference.

A Bolsonaro victory could align Brazil with a US-led anti-narcotics coalition, while he says relations with China would remain economically pragmatic. Voters often split by region and income, but the run-off remains open.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Brazil election goes to run-off as right-wing...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why will Brazil hold a run-off on 25 October?
2. What were the near-final first-round percentages for Bolsonaro and Lula?
3. Which party gained the most influence in Congress?
4. What pledge did Flávio Bolsonaro make about his father and some supporters?
5. What did election officials say about international interference?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Do strong poll leads usually predict final results? Why or why not?
2. Should candidates offer amnesty in political cases? Explain your view.
3. How do region and income shape voting where you live?
4. Is it better to align with one power or stay pragmatic with many?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Used to / would

Use used to/would + base verb for past habits or repeated actions. For past states (be, have, know), only used to is correct.

"In earlier campaigns, rallies **would draw** *huge crowds."*

"Parties **used to hold** *huge rallies."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each gap with used to or would, as appropriate.

1. As a child, I (watch) ___ election debates with my dad. _____
2. My grandmother (know) ___ every candidate in our region. _____
3. When I was young, my parents (vote) ___ in every election. _____
4. Our village (have) ___ only one polling station. _____
5. In past campaigns, my uncle (argue) ___ with us at dinner. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach key names and terms: Brazil, Lula, Flávio and Jair Bolsonaro, Congress, run-off, percentages. Clarify the timeline from first round to run-off date.
- Run the reading in two passes: gist first (why a run-off), then detail (figures, pledges, party gains). The topic involves polarised politics, so start discussion in pairs and tell students they may comment on the news rather than on personal beliefs.
- Differentiate tasks: stronger students summarise party gains and international alignments; others explain why run-offs happen using the key terms and percentages.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick class poll on predictions, then ask pairs to justify with evidence from the text.
2. Split the room: one side for, one against amnesty; then swap sides to test arguments.
3. Have students map two local regions or groups and suggest how issues differ for each.
4. Create small groups to list pros and cons of single-alliance vs multi-partner strategies.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, prepare 2-minute arguments for or against offering amnesty after unrest.

Writing: Write a 100-word briefing explaining to a foreign reader why Brazil needs a run-off.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Used to / would

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why will Brazil hold a run-off on 25 October?
   No one reached 50% in the first round.
2. What were the near-final first-round percentages for Bolsonaro and Lula?
   Bolsonaro 47.03%, Lula 45.16%.
3. Which party gained the most influence in Congress?
   Bolsonaro's Liberal Party.
4. What pledge did Flávio Bolsonaro make about his father and some supporters?
   He pledged amnesty for his father and some who vandalised buildings.
5. What did election officials say about international interference?
   They found no evidence of international interference.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each gap with used to or would, as appropriate.

1. As a child, I ___ election debates with my dad. **used to/would watch**
2. My grandmother ___ every candidate in our region. **used to know**
3. When I was young, my parents ___ in every election. **used to/would vote**
4. Our village ___ only one polling station. **used to have**
5. In past campaigns, my uncle ___ with us at dinner. **used to/would argue**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use used to/would + base verb for past habits or repeated actions. For past states (be, have, know), only used to is correct. (Examples constructed.)

"In earlier campaigns, rallies **would draw** *huge crowds."*

"Parties **used to hold** *huge rallies."*