

Warm Up

Since today's movie is about a very specific ceremony that takes place in a religion that has a long history, many rules, and a variety of ranking positions, let's begin with a short four-question quiz. Please talk about these questions with a partner and guess the correct answers.

1. The rule is that any man who is unmarried and is a baptized Catholic can become pope. However, for the last _____ plus years, only cardinals have been elected pope.
A) 50 B) 100
C) 300 D) 600
2. The Catholic church is made up of clergy members. These clergy members have a hierarchical ranking. The pope is at the top of this ranking, and deacons are at the bottom. Rank the following four clergy positions after the pope from strongest to weakest (use the numbers 1-4).
A) bishops B) cardinals
C) priests D) archbishops
3. A conclave is a gathering of Catholic cardinals for the purpose of electing a new pope. To be allowed to vote in a conclave, a cardinal must be under the age of _____.
A) 80 B) 75 C) 70 D) 65
4. The longest ever conclave lasted just over 1,000 days, from November of 1268 to September of 1271. Since 1831, however, no conclave has lasted longer than _____.
A) 4 months B) 4 weeks C) 4 days D) 4 hours

Useful Expression

In today's scene, Aldo says, *I had no idea you were so ambitious*. *I had no idea* is a very natural and common way to say that you didn't know anything about a specific topic/subject/situation. It gives the impression that you are surprised and/or shocked to learn a new piece of information.

The fact that Thomas received votes prior to today's scene gives Aldo the impression that Thomas also wants to become pope. This surprises Aldo.

Aldo could have said, *I didn't know you were so ambitious*, but the expression *I had no idea* is stronger and conveys Aldo's shock.

To use this expression ...

1. *I had no idea ...*
2. *Subject + Past tense verb*
(*he was / you could / they knew / there was / etc.*)
3. *A phrase to complete your sentence*
(*he was so tall. / you could dance like that. / etc.*)

Activity

With a partner, read the following descriptions and make sentences in response to them that use the above useful expression.

1. You walk into a ramen restaurant, and you are surprised to see your old high school classmate working there. You say hello to your old classmate and then, *I had no idea ...*

2. Your boss calls you Saturday morning. He is angry and wants to know where you are. He tells you that you are supposed to be in the office today because there is an important meeting. You apologize and think to yourself, *I had no idea ...*

3. You visit a zoo and are shocked to learn that hippos can't swim. You turn to your friend and say, *I had no idea ...*

4. Your wife/husband says to you angrily, *I really wanted you to cook dinner tonight*. This is a complete surprise to you, so you say, *I had no idea ...*

5. You are on a business trip with a co-worker. You have worked with him/her for over ten years. At Tokyo Station, the two of you see some confused looking tourists. Your co-worker walks over to them and speaks to them in perfect English. You are shocked because you have never heard him/her use English before. You say this: *I had no idea ...*

6. Think of some things you were surprised/shocked to learn and make original *I had no idea* sentences about them.

Examples

- Until recently, I had no idea Sinéad O'Connor's song "*Nothing Compares 2 U*" was written by Prince.
- Until a few years ago, I had no idea my dad didn't like cucumbers.

Today's Scene

To be elected pope, one needs to have two-thirds of the available votes at a conclave. The scene we will watch today takes place after the first conclave vote has been taken, the results of which were very mixed.

In today's scene, there are two characters, Thomas and Aldo. Thomas has promised to vote for Aldo, but during the first round of voting, Thomas also received votes. This leads Aldo to suspect that Thomas may be secretly trying to undermine Aldo. While today's dialogue may seem calm, there is actually a lot of tension and emotion in it. See if you can pick up on this tension and emotion as you watch the scene.



Dialogue

As you practice today's dialogue, I encourage you to try mimicking Aldo. Squint your eyes a little and look at your partner with suspicion. Clench your jaw and try speaking through your teeth with suppressed anger. Get into character as much as you can.

Conversation

In today's scene, Aldo says, *Adeyemi? Adeyemi? The man who believes that homosexuals should be sent to prison in this world and hell in the next?*

He brings this up because within the Catholic church there are different views on homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Aldo supports a more inclusive approach. Pope Francis, the current pope, has taken steps toward being more inclusive. In 2023, he began allowing priests to offer "pastoral blessings" to same-sex couples. The Church still doesn't recognize the legitimacy of same-sex marriage, but it is currently supportive of same-sex couples.

In Japan, same-sex couples cannot legally be married, and Sanae Takaichi does not think that Japan should legalize same-sex marriage.

These days, more and more countries are making same-sex marriage legal. To date, there are 38 countries that have done so. Japan is now the only G7 country that does not recognize same-sex marriage.

Question

Do you think that Japan will legalize same-sex marriage within the next ten years? Why or why not?

**Note: This question is not about whether you think Japan should legalize same-sex marriage or not, it is about whether or not you think this change will happen.*