Shares and votes

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

When you own a share, you own a small slice of a company. Most shares also give you a vote. In this lesson you will find out whether every share gets the same vote.

What to do

1. Read the three company cards below with a partner.
2. Fill in Parts C and D of your worksheet.
3. The exit ticket is on page 2 of your worksheet. Your teacher will tell you when to answer it.

Part A. Warm-up: the Garden Club Company (made-up numbers)

The company has 100 shares. Sam owns 20. Classmates own the other 80.

A1. Rule 1, every share has 1 vote. Sam's votes: _____ out of _____. Sam's part of the votes: _____%

A2. Rule 2, Sam's shares have 10 votes each. Sam's votes: _____ out of _____. Sam's part of the votes: _____%

1. A3. Did Sam's part of the shares change? _____

_____

Part B. Five words

Write each definition in your own words.

1. Share

_____

2. Shareholder

_____

3. Vote

_____

4. Share class

_____

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5. Shares outstanding

_____

6. B1. Which page of a Form 10-K or 10-Q shows shares outstanding? _____

_____

Part C. One share, one vote

Data from each company's filings, as shown on its Cityfort page (checked Nov 15, 2026).

Apple: one class of common stock, 1 vote per share. Shares outstanding on Oct 23, 2026: 14,532.18 million. Directors and executive officers held 9,079,765 shares on Jan 2, 2026.

Coca-Cola: one class of common stock, 1 vote per share. Shares outstanding on Oct 26, 2026: 4,301,902,335. Directors and executive officers held 38,886,151 shares on Mar 2, 2026.

1. C1. At Apple, how many votes did all the shares carry together? _____

_____

C2. Coca-Cola's directors and officers held about what percent of its shares? Circle one: about 1% / about 10% / about 50%

2. C3. At a one-vote company, what would one person need to own to cast more than half the votes?

_____

_____

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Part D. Two classes at Meta

Share counts on Oct 16, 2026, from the cover of Meta's Form 10-Q for the third quarter of 2026. Votes = shares × votes per share. Part of the total = class ÷ total × 100.

Class A: Shares (millions): 2,214.47; Votes per share: 1; Votes (millions): _____; Part of all shares: _____%; Part of all votes: _____%

Class B: Shares (millions): 341.77; Votes per share: 10; Votes (millions): _____; Part of all shares: _____%; Part of all votes: _____%

Total: Shares (millions): _____; Votes (millions): _____

1. D1. In one sentence: how can Class B be a small part of the shares but most of the votes?

Part E. What Meta's filing says

Mark Zuckerberg held 99.8% of Class B on Apr 1, 2026, and 60.8% of all votes. Meta's proxy statement says this makes it a "controlled company" under Nasdaq rules, and that it keeps a majority-independent board by choice.

1. E1. Describe Meta's setup in one sentence. Use no judging words such as "fair," "unfair," "good" or "bad."

Advanced (optional)

Meta's board declared a dividend (a payout to shareholders, here in shares rather than cash) of one non-voting Class C share for each Class A and Class B share. It is payable after Meta's new charter takes effect on Jan 19, 2027. Meta says it "will not initially affect the relative voting power or economic interest of any shareholder."

1. What will happen to the total number of Meta shares? What will happen to each holder's part of the votes?

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Exit ticket

1. Name two things one share gives its owner.

2. True or false? At every US company, each share carries one vote.

3. A class is 10% of a company's shares. Can it carry more than half of the votes? Explain in one sentence.

4. Where in a filing would you find the number of shares outstanding?

Word bank

Share	One small slice of ownership in a company.
Shareholder	A person or organization that owns shares.
Vote	A say in choices such as who sits on the company's board.
Share class	A group of shares with the same rules, such as Class A or Class B.
Shares outstanding	All the shares that shareholders hold on a given date.
Proxy statement	A report a company files before its yearly meeting. It lists who holds the most shares.
Dividend	A payout to every shareholder, usually cash (or sometimes shares).

Sentence starters

- At ____, each share has ____ vote(s), so ____.
- Class ____ is ____% of the shares but ____% of the votes because ____.
- The ____ (filing) says ____ on ____ (date).

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student page

Scan the code or type: **cityfort.co/class/votes**

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