



Conversation Partners: Reading and Vocabulary Activities

This packet is intended to be used as a self-study resource as well as a starting point for discussion in your Conversation Partners sessions.

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How to Use this Guide

1. **Each section includes suggested topics.** This includes fun facts or general points to start an interesting conversation.
2. **Each section also features an activity** designed to get you thinking more about the topic in relation to Philly culture or American culture in general and using the vocabulary from that section in real-life contexts.
3. **Additional resources are intended as discussion points or references.** Rather than using academic articles, the resources focus on current news, grammar tips, and other accessible information that takes relatively little time to read and discuss either during or outside of session time.

Philadelphia Culture and Geography

Basic Facts and Discussion Questions:

Philadelphia has many nicknames, including: Philly, Illadelph, and the City of Brotherly Love. Philadelphia is also known as a city of neighborhoods and the birthplace of America.

Philadelphia is both the name of a city and a county. Do you know the difference between a county and a country?

Philly is the 5th largest city in the United States after New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston. What other U.S. cities have you visited?

Activity: Reading Neighborhood and Subway Maps

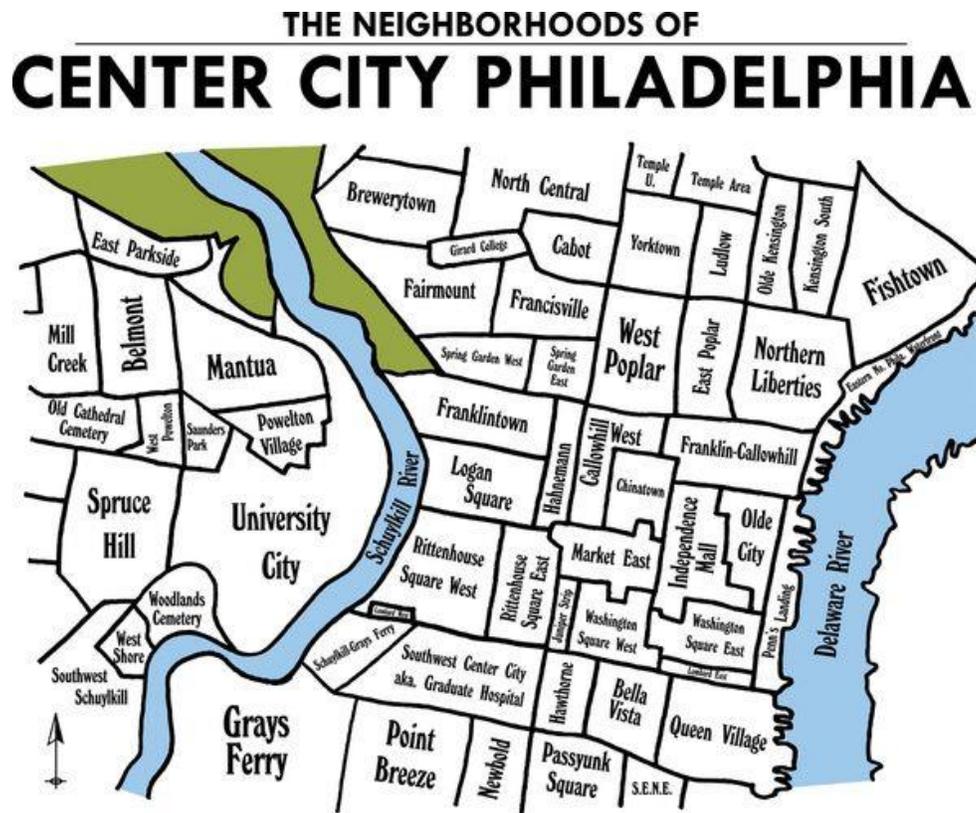
Which neighborhoods are the historic parts of the city?

Which neighborhoods are part of Center City?

Where are Drexel and the University of Pennsylvania located?

Where is Fairmount Park?

Where is City Hall?



Below is a map of the Broad Street line (otherwise known as the orange line), which is the closest stop to Temple University.

1. If you want to get to Temple from another part of the orange line, would you take the local or express train?
2. What stop would you get off at if you were attending a Phillies game?

3. What is the other subway line you can connect to at City Hall?

<http://www.septa.org/service/bsl/>



Image source: www.septa.org

Additional Resources:

❖ Temple's City Life Page: <http://www.temple.edu/life-at-temple/city-life/philadelphia>

- ❖ Must-see sites and monthly events
 - Phillyfunguide.com
 - Uwishunu.com
- ❖ Philly Slang and Vocabulary: <https://www.whoseyourlandlord.com/blog/2016/02/12-words-you-need-to-know-if-you-live-in-philly/>
<http://phillytalk.com/philly-slang>
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/fkransome/people-try-to-guess-philly-slang>
- ❖ Philadelphia History
 - UShistory.org
 - ESLcivics.com (for lower proficiency students)
- ❖ Maps of Philadelphia
 - Interactive Maps:
 - <http://www.visitphilly.com/philadelphia-neighborhoods/view-map/>
 - <https://openmaps.phila.gov/>

Things to do around Philly

South Philadelphia

Popular Neighborhoods: Passyunk Avenue, Bella Vista, Queen Village, Graduate Hospital

South Street Area: This street has a lot of restaurants and shops that are fun to explore. The shops and restaurants start around 10th and South and continue all the way to South and Front Street.

- **[The Magic Gardens \(10th and South\)](#)**: A mosaic garden designed by muralist Isaiah Zagar
Cost: \$5
- **[Eyes Gallery \(4th and South\)](#)**: A shop featuring hand-picked items from around the world with a focus on fair trade art from Latin America. Shop is owned by artist Isaiah Zagar and his wife.
Cost: Free
- **[Jim's Steaks \(4th and South\)](#)**: One of the top cheesesteak places in the city, it has a reputation that rivals [Pat](#) and [Geno's](#)
- **[Lorenzo's \(4th and South\)](#)**: A well-known pizza place in the area
- **[4th Street Deli \(4th and Bainbridge\)](#)**: A Jewish deli that is famous for its massive sandwiches, soups, and baked goods. President Obama came here when he visited Philadelphia in 2010.
- **[The Theater of Living Arts \(TLA\)](#)**: A music venue that often features indie musicians
- **[The Headhouse Market](#)**: Although this market is currently closed, the market typically opens in the late spring and sells fresh produce every Sunday morning.
- **Thrift Shopping**: The South street area is also known for its thrift and vintage shops.
 - [Green Street Consignment Shop \(7th and South\)](#)
 - [Philly AIDS Thrift \(5th and Bainbridge\)](#)
 - [Urban Princess \(4th and South\)](#)
 - [Retrospect Vintage \(5th and South\)](#)
 - [Moon and Arrow \(4th and Fitzwater\)](#)
- **[The Mummies Museum \(4th and Washington\)](#)**: Go learn more about the Philly Mummies, who are famous for the New Year's Day and Saint Patrick's Day parades. While there enjoy some pho at one of the many Vietnamese restaurants in this area.
- **[Passyunk](#)**: Passyunk Avenue, which runs diagonally from 5th and Bainbridge into the heart of South Philadelphia, features many hip restaurants, bars, and shops. Pat's and Geno's are at 9th and Passyunk.

- **Penn's Landing**: Located along the Delaware River, it features the Blue Cross River Rink (open until March 2nd). It also includes the Independence Seaport Museum and the Moshulu, a restaurant aboard the world's oldest rigged sailing vessel. Also, did you know that you can walk onto the Benjamin Franklin Bridge? There are some great photo-taking opportunities (access to bridge is at 5th and Race)

Old City

Popular Areas: Old City, Society Hill, Penn's Landing

This neighborhood (sometimes spelled "Olde City") is the original center of Philadelphia, and where many of the historical sites can be found.

- **Independence Hall** (5th and Chestnut): Where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were developed and signed. Admission is free (free tickets are available at the Independence Visitor Center on 6th and Market)
<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/attractions/independence-hall/#admission-info>
- **The Liberty Bell** (5th and Chestnut): Come see the famous cracked liberty bell and learn its history.
- **The Bourse**: Grab lunch at this historic commercial complex that features a shopping mall and food court.
- **The Ritz Theater**: A series of movie theaters in Olde City that feature independent films.
- **Elfreth's Alley**: This is the oldest residential street in the U.S., with original historical houses from the colonial period that date back to 1702. It's a beautiful place to visit, and best of all, it's free!
- **First Friday**: On the first Friday evening of every month, art galleries in Old City open their doors for special exhibitions that often feature free wine, cheese, and appetizers. Come view original artwork, listen to music, and explore the area. It's completely free. Start at 2nd and Arch Street and walk north to find the galleries.

Center City

Popular Areas: Rittenhouse, Market East, Chinatown

- **Reading Terminal Market (11-12th and Arch)**: Sample authentic produce, chocolate, baked goods, and other food. This market is especially known for its Amish products, seafood market, and a beer garden.
- **Rittenhouse Square (between 18th and 19th and Walnut Streets)**: A park with lots of restaurants and shops.
- **The Mutter Museum (22nd and Chestnut)**: Featuring medical oddities and other unusual exhibits, this museum is not for someone squeamish (\$16 admission for students)
- **The Kimmel Center (Broad and Spruce)**: The Kimmel Center also features performances by the Pennsylvania Ballet company, Opera Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.
- **Mural Arts Tours**: Did you know that Philly has the world's largest collection of outdoor public art? The Philly Mural Arts Program leads walking, trolley, and bike tours around the city to showcase its murals. Go to www.muralarts.org for more information.

West Philadelphia

Popular Areas: University City, Baltimore Avenue, Powelton Village

West Philly features parks, cafes, as well as a thriving food scene with Ethiopian, Middle Eastern, and Southeast Asian foods!

- **[World Café Live \(31st and Walnut\)](#)**: A restaurant that features bands and other artists. Great place to get dinner and entertainment at the same time
- **[Fairmount Park](#)**: Located between Center City and the Schuylkill River, this park goes past the art museum and all the way to the Philadelphia Zoo.
- **[The Philadelphia Zoo \(34th and Girard\)](#)**
 - Directions: Route 15 Trolley or Route 38 Bus
 - Price: \$20
- **[The Mann Center for Performing Arts \(5201 Parkside Avenue\)](#)**: An outdoor concert venue in Northwest Philly that also features discussion panels and film screenings. Many events are free to the public. Check www.manncenter.org for more information.

Well-known West Philly Restaurants:

- **[Saad's Halal Restaurant \(45th and Walnut\)](#)**: Features falafel, chicken shawarma, and even cheesesteaks! This place is well-known throughout the city.
- **[Manakeesh \(45th and Walnut\)](#)**: A Lebanese bakery across the street from Saad's that features traditional sweets, coffees and teas, and brunch food.
- **[Ethiopian Restaurants \(near 45th and Locust, Baltimore, and Chestnut streets\)](#)**: No one does Ethiopian like West Philadelphia. Check out Abyssinia or [Gojjo](#) for authentic food.
- **[Baltimore Avenue](#)**: Features local book stores, thrift shops, and a brewery (Dock Street Brewery; located at 52nd and Baltimore)

Northern Liberties

An up and coming neighborhood just north of Center City, Northern Liberties (or "No-Libs" for short) has some fun restaurants and shops.

- **[The Piazza](#)**: Lots of concerts and events are hosted in this square.
- **[North Bowl](#)**: One of the most affordable bowling alleys in the city. Check website for hours and prices, which vary by day.

Fishtown

Similar to Northern Liberties, Fishtown is another neighborhood undergoing a lot of changes and development. There are art galleries, bars and restaurants, and community gardens in this neighborhood.

- **[Philadelphia Brewing Company \(24th and Frankford\)](#)**: Tours from 12-3 on Saturdays
- **[Yards Brewing Company \(901 N. Delaware Ave\)](#)**: Free tours from 12-4 on Saturdays and 12-3 on Sundays
- **[Frankford Hall \(1210 Frankford Ave\)](#)**: This beer garden often hosts events like trivia, special guests, music, and more.

Fairmount

- **Eastern State Penitentiary (2027 Fairmount Ave)**: Offers historic tours as well as ghost tours and scary Halloween tours. See www.easternstate.org for more information.

Local Day Trips:

Longwood Gardens: A beautiful garden right outside Philadelphia in Kennett Square, PA. Tickets for students are \$20 (Non-peak days) and \$27 (Peak days or during Christmas Season).

Morris Arboretum: Located in the outskirts of Philadelphia, this site features some of Pennsylvania's oldest and biggest trees, along with beautiful flowers and plants. This public garden is only \$10 for students.

Pay What You Wish at the Philadelphia Museum of Art: First Sunday of the month 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. and every Wednesday 5:00–8:45 p.m., the museum is “free” admission (basically, it is optional to pay the full ticket amount).

Wissahickon Park: An extension of Fairmount Park

Manayunk: Walk up and down main street to check out local restaurants and shops.

Monthly Events/Holidays

First Friday: On the first Friday of each month, the art galleries in Old City are open to the public from 5 to 9PM. Most of the galleries are between Front and Third from Vine to Arch Streets (get off at 2nd and Market on the blue line).

Fourth Friday: Come to Fabric Row on Fourth and South Street for food, shopping, and special vendors. Go to www.southstreet.com for more information.

Christmas Village (Center City): Every year from Thanksgiving until the last Sunday of December, Love Park features a special holiday market featuring European food, drinks, and crafts. Go to <http://www.philachristmas.com/> for more information.

Mummer's Parade: Every New Year's Day, there is a parade by the Philadelphia Mummers, who are costumed entertainers. The parade goes along Broad Street, with special performances in front of City Hall. The parade has been around since 1900, so it is one of the longest standing traditions in the city.

Night Market: Night Markets feature food trucks and street food from all over the city. Each Night Market is hosted in a different neighborhood. Check out www.thefoodtrust.org/night-market/ for more information.

Vintage Flea Market: A flea market featuring antique furniture, vintage clothing and jewelry, and more. The flea market is usually hosted at 16th and Callowhill, but it also travels around the city. Go to www.philafleamarkets.org to get information on dates and locations.

Headhouse Market: A historic market on 2nd Street between Lombard and South. A farmers market and craft fair featuring local vendors are hosted here in the spring, summer and early fall. Visit



<http://thefoodtrust.org/farmers-markets/market/headhouse> for more information. The Headhouse District also features street festivals

Other Resources for Things to Do in Philly:

[Phillyfunguide](#)

[UWISHUNU Philadelphia](#)

[Visit Philadelphia](#)

[Philadelphia Weekly](#)

Vocabulary List: Culture and Geography

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>Bustling</i>	Crowded; lots of people moving	The streets are bustling every morning.

<i>Peaceful</i>	Very calm (another synonym: tranquil)	The town is very quiet and peaceful.
<i>Historic (or historical)</i>	Something that has an interesting or important history	Old City is the historical part of Philadelphia.
<i>Modern</i>	New	This building has modern architecture.
<i>Industrial</i>	“industrial” refers to manufacturing and factories. Many American cities are old industrial centers. Today, some of these industries have stopped and many of the buildings are abandoned.	A lot of industrial buildings have been transformed into loft-style apartments.
<i>Littering</i>	Leaving garbage on the street	No littering signs on the street
<i>Pollution</i>	dirty air; also called “smog”	Polluted city/polluted air

Transportation

	Word	Meaning	Context
	<i>Token</i>	A coin used to pay for the bus, trolley, or train	A token costs \$1.80.
	<i>Transfer</i>	If you need to take more than one bus or train in a trip, buy a transfer when you use your token. It is a small piece of paper that you give to the bus driver of subway attendant when you change bus or train lines.	A transfer costs \$1.00.
	<i>Transpass</i>	An unlimited monthly or weekly pass to use all public transportation	A monthly transpass costs \$91.

Culture

	<i>Art exhibit</i>	When a gallery or store shows its art to the public	Every First Friday of the month, the art galleries in Old City open their doors to the public from Front to 3 rd Streets between Race and Vine, 5-9PM.
	<i>Hoagie</i>	A sandwich on a long roll	Hoagies are also called sub sandwiches in most other parts of the country.
	<i>Jawn</i>	A place or thing (a very general word)	Check out this new jawn!

Vocabulary List: Culture and Geography (continued)

<i>Expressions</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
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<i>I'm a city person.</i> <i>I'm a country person.</i>	This person likes living in the city or country, or grew up there.
<i>I like the fast pace of the city.</i> <i>I like the slow pace of the country.</i>	"Pace" refers to the way people live in a certain place. Most Americans think of cities as "fast" and stressful, while the country is considered "slow" or relaxed
<i>Catch the bus/train/taxi</i> <i>Another example: I have a plane to catch.</i>	To get on the bus, train, or taxi (usually refers to something with a schedule)
Nicknames for Famous Cities	
<i>"The city that never sleeps"</i> or <i>"The Big Apple"</i>	New York City
<i>"The city of brotherly love"</i>	Philadelphia
<i>"The windy city"</i>	Chicago

Education

Suggested Topics:

- There are both **public** and **private** universities in the United States. State universities tend to be public. Are universities in your country mostly private, public, or both?
- Many American students receive **financial aid** in the form of **federal loans**. How is education paid for in your country?
- Most undergraduate degrees in the U.S. can be completed in 3-5 years of full-time study. However, some students also work **part-time** or **full-time** while getting degrees. Is it common for students to both work and study in your country?

Reading Activity

Can you guess these acronyms for different degrees and what they mean?

Which degrees are undergraduate and which ones are graduate level?

B.A.
M.F.A.
B.S.
M.S.Ed.
M.B.A.
J.D.
Ph.D.
M.D.
M.S.W.
RN

Additional Resources:

- ❖ Introduction to U.S. Higher Education (OWL Purdue)
- ❖ https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/english_as_a_second_language/esl_students/us_higher_education_a_cultural_introduction/index.html Extended Vocabulary Lists
 - http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blwordgroups_education.htm

Vocabulary List: Education

Word	Meaning	Context
<i>Student body</i>	The whole population of students	Temple has a diverse student body.
<i>Campus-wide</i>	Across or including the whole campus	Football games are an example of a campus-wide event
Class-related Verbs		
<i>Audit</i>	To attend a class without receiving a grade	You usually need to get permission from a professor before auditing a class.
<i>Transfer</i>	To change or move	Transfer credits; transfer schools
<i>Drop (drop out)</i>	To exit or leave	I dropped the course because it was too difficult. / She dropped out of school to pursue acting.
<i>Pass/fail</i>		
<i>Cram</i>	To study for a test (usually at the last minute)	I am cramming all night for a big test that I have tomorrow.
<i>Public school</i>		
<i>Private school</i>		
<i>Boarding school</i>	A school where students live on-campus	She is from New York, but she went to boarding school in New Hampshire.
<i>Homeschooling</i>	A student goes to school at home; usually a parent teaches the child based on a required curriculum	Homeschooling is a popular option for families who move or travel a lot.
<i>Long term goals</i>	Near future	
<i>Short term goals</i>	Distant future	
Expressions		
<i>All-nighter</i>	Studying (or staying awake) all night without sleeping	I pulled an all-nighter to prep for this test.
<i>Cram</i>	to study something very quickly, usually at the last minute	
<i>Pre-req</i>	abbreviation for pre-requisite	I'm taking all my pre-reqs this semester.
<i>Fluff course</i>	A course that is easy or used just to fill space on a class schedule	This class is a fluff course since my other classes are hard.

Titles and other abbreviations Abbreviation for:

<i>Grad</i>	Graduate
<i>Post-doc</i>	Post-doctorate fellow
<i>Pre-med</i>	Pre-medicine
<i>Adjunct</i>	A professor who does not hold a permanent or tenure-track position at that university

Food

Suggested Topics:

Philadelphia cuisine is famous for several things:

- ❖ **Restaurant Week:** Hosted twice a year, many well-known Philly restaurants offer a three course dinner for \$35 (or \$20 for lunch). <https://centercityphila.org/explore-center-city/ccd-restaurant-week>

Stephen Starr Restaurants: Stephen Starr is a famous restaurateur who owns several of the best restaurants in Philly, including:

- Alma de Cuba
- Buddakan
- The Continental
- El Vez
- Jones
- Morimoto
- Pod
- Butcher and Singer
- Barclay Prime
- Parc
- Pizzeria Stella
- El Rey
- The Dandelion
- Fette Sau
- Frankford Hall
- Serpico
- Il Pittore
- Talula' Gardens
- Squareburger
- Granite Hill

Activity:

- Identify these American foods. Which ones are specific to Philly?
- Which ones do we typically eat at breakfast? Lunch? Dinner?
- Which ones are specific to a particular culture, holiday, or diet?

Hoagie	Burrito	smoothie
brownies	tofurkey	chicken fingers
pancakes	Muffin	quesadilla
Cheesesteak	Donut	pie
French toast	Veggie patty	lasagna
Omelette	Water ice	casserole
Tater tots	Bagelwich	deviled eggs
Chicken fingers	shake	gingerbread

Famous Philly Food:

Cheesesteak: Can be ordered “one whiz wit,” which means you’d like whiz cheese with fried onions, or “whiz wit-out” which means you’d like it without fried onions. You can also get Provolone or American cheese, in which case you’d say the same thing but with a different cheese, such as “one prov wit,” or “one American wit-out.”

Water Ice: Sometimes pronounced “wooder ice,” this is known as Italian ice in other parts of the country. It is shaved ice with flavored syrup.

Pretzels: Philly is famous for its pretzels, and we even have our own Philly Pretzel company that has stores all around the city.

Hoagies: Hoagies, otherwise known as sub sandwiches in other parts of the U.S., are served on long, hard rolls. They typically include sandwich meats (salami, ham, or turkey), cheese, lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise, although the toppings vary.

Cream Cheese: Although many people think Philly is known for Philadelphia cream cheese, it is usually only eaten with bagels.

Candy: Philly is the home of Peanut Chews and Tastycakes. A Peanut Chew is usually made out of peanuts and molasses with a chocolate coating. Tastycakes is a Philadelphia-based company that makes brownies, cupcakes, donuts, and other treats that are typically found in convenience stores. Basically, they are what Americans call “junk food.”

Taboo Foods:

Most Americans consider certain meats taboo to eat, mainly because we keep these animals as pets, or they simply aren’t common in American cuisine:

Common Foods:

- Beef (burgers, steaks)
- Turkey
- Ham, bacon, and pork*
- Dairy (cheese, milk, yogurt)
- Most vegetables (especially salads)
- Most fruits (smoothies and juices are popular)

Taboo Foods:

- Horses
- Cats
- Dogs
- Bugs
- Mice or other small rodents
- Snakes (and sometimes frogs)

*Note: Pig and cow are the names of animals, but beef, ham, and pork refer to the meat. Exceptions to this rule are: chicken, turkey, duck, and lamb, which refer to both animals and types of meat.

In your country, do you have foods that are taboo to eat? What foods are less common than here in the United States?

Additional Resources:

- ❖ Go to Yelp, Menupages, or The Urban Spoon to read user-created reviews of restaurants
- ❖ Use Grubhub or Seamless for ordering take out online
- ❖ Best of Philly: <https://www.phillymag.com/foobooz/50-best-restaurants/> (last updated Dec. 19, 2018)
- ❖ Tipping in the United States (page 16): <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g191-s606/United-States:Tiping.And.Etiquette.html>
- ❖ Taboo Foods (NPR) (page 15): <https://www.npr.org/2013/02/19/172412895/after-horse-meat-scandal-why-is-some-food-taboo>

Who should pay?

Romantic date: This is a widely debated topic in American society. Traditionally, a man would pay for a woman's meal. However, things have changed a lot in recent years, and it is more common to split the bill or "go dutch."

Business dinner: Usually, if a superior in your company is hosting the dinner, he or she will pay with company credit. However, don't assume this is always true. Sometimes, you will have to split the bill. It is a good idea to reach for your wallet. If the person insists on paying, say thank you and put your wallet away.

Birthdays: The friends of the person celebrating his or her birthday pay for that person's meal and drinks. The only exception is if the friend is hosting a party with pre-paid food or drink specials.

If someone else is paying: It is generally considered rude to order a very expensive dish if you are not paying. Mimic what the other person is doing: If they skip drinks or dessert, you should too

Tippling in the United States:

Most servers in the United States are paid minimum wage. They depend on customer tips for most of their salary.

Tippling in this country is between 15% and 20% of the bill. Leaving no tip usually means that you REALLY didn't like your waiter or waitress. In the current economy, 20% has become the normal tip, but 15% is still acceptable.

In some cases, you may wish to leave a small tip if the waiter was rude, ignored you, or didn't get what you asked. If you don't leave a tip, however, get out of there fast, because people get angry when they don't get tipped!

The following people should get at least a 20% tip if they are friendly and do a good job:

- Hairstylist
- Waiter
- Any beauty service (massage, nails, etc.)
- Bartenders (usually \$1-2 per drink)

The following people should also get a small tip:

- Bell staff (the person who opens the door and carries your luggage at a hotel; usually \$1-2 per bag); doormen don't get tips unless they carry bags or call a cab
- Valet parking (usually \$1-2)
- Taxi driver (usually \$1-2)
- Coat checker (usually \$1 per coat or item)
- Housekeeper (anywhere from \$2-5 per night)

Sometimes, the tip (also called “gratuity”) will be added to the bill. When you get your bill, if you see a gratuity fee, you are required to pay it. It is not optional! Gratuity fees are usually added for large groups of people at a restaurant.

Note: Do not include the sales tax when you’re calculating your tip! Most phones have a tip calculator, and there are now lots of phone apps that do this internationally (such as GlobeTipping)

Another good resource is this website:

<http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g191-s606/United-States:Tipping.And.Etiquette.html>

Vocabulary List: Food

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<i>Types of American Food</i>		
<i>Pub food</i>	Food you find in an American or Irish Bar	Hamburgers; Fries, Fish and Chips
<i>Take out</i>	Food you order for delivery or to pick up at the store	The most popular take out foods are Chinese and pizza, but almost any food can be take out.
<i>All you can eat/buffet</i>	Pay one price and get as many plates as you want.	Sushi buffet, all you can eat chicken wings
<i>A diner</i>	Usually open 24 hours. They serve breakfast any time.	Pancakes, waffles, burgers, eggs, sandwiches

<i>Ethnic food</i>	Food from another culture.	Americans eat a lot of Chinese, Greek, Italian, and more. You can find almost any country's food across the U.S.
<i>Cafeteria or Food Court</i>	Usually you find food courts at a shopping mall. They have many restaurants that all share one place to sit.	Mall food court Company food court Campus food court
<i>Fast Food</i>	Any food that is served to you instantly is called "fast food".	Taco Bell, Burger King, McDonald's
<i>Restaurant Chain</i>	A chain is a restaurant that has multiple locations. Many fast food restaurants are also chains.	TGIF's, Chili's, Applebees, Chipotle
<i>Holiday food</i>	Americans eat certain food for different holidays and seasons	<p>Examples</p> <p>Fall: apples, pumpkin, squash, corn</p> <p>Winter: gingerbread, hot chocolate, baked ham</p> <p>Spring: peas, herbs</p> <p>Summer: lemonade, crab cakes, tomatoes</p>
<i>Food Preferences</i>		

<i>Spicy or Mild</i>	Spicy-hot ; mild-not hot	Spicy chili, mild sauce
<i>Sweet or Sour</i>	Sweet-sugar sour-bitter	Sweet and sour chicken
<i>Vegetarian and vegan</i>	<p>Vegetarians don't eat meat, but usually eat eggs and dairy. Vegans do not eat any animal product at all. Pescetarians eat fish, but do not eat any other meat.</p>	<p>U.S. restaurants are changing a lot to accommodate a growing number of vegans and vegetarians. A "V" on the menu usually means it is safe for a vegetarian to eat. Some Americans become vegetarian for health reasons, or because they care about animals.</p>
<i>Kosher and Halal</i>	<p>Meat prepared in special ways according to religious law, and usually blessed. Kosher refers to Judaism, and Halal to Islam.</p>	
<i>Eating Out</i>		
<i>Tip or gratuity</i>	What we pay the server	Usually the tip is 15-20% of the total bill. It is very rude not to leave a tip, unless service was bad.

<i>Split the bill</i>	To pay the bill equally	My friend and I split the bill and each paid \$25.
<i>Cover the tab; pick up the tab</i>	To pay the entire bill	It was his birthday, so I picked up the tab.

Expressions:

“Do you want to grab brunch?” or “Do you want to go to brunch?”

“Brunch” is a combination of breakfast and lunch. We usually eat it on weekends between 10AM and 1PM. It could include breakfast and lunch food. “Grab” is used to mean get a quick meal or to eat together casually.

The person is probably inviting you to eat with him or her. If you say “no, I haven’t,” the other person might say “Do you want to grab something to eat?”

“Did you eat yet?”

This is usually an invitation to eat, not just a yes/no question.

A: *Did you eat yet?*

B: No, not yet.

A: Want to grab a bite with me?

Recreation and Social Life

Suggested Topics:

American speech is often characterized by:

- ❖ Talking with our hands
- ❖ Interrupting each other frequently
- ❖ Commenting on our surroundings
- ❖ Asking opinions

Small talk is our way of starting a conversation in the following situations:

- ❖ Running into an acquaintance
- ❖ Meeting someone for the first time
- ❖ Waiting in public places

Activities

Read the following exercises that feature small talk. Where do you think these people are? What might be the circumstances?

- ❖ It's really cold out here!
- ❖ I know, I'm ready for spring to start! Have you been waiting long?
- ❖ Nearly twenty minutes.

- ❖ This place seems popular.
- ❖ It is! I come here every Saturday.
- ❖ Oh neat! Have you had the fries here?

- ❖ Do you know the host(s)?
- ❖ I just came with my roommate. I think she's friends with Steve.
- ❖ Oh. I heard Steve is in Alpha Delta Phi.

- ❖ Have you taken a class with this professor before?
- ❖ Yeah, I took his European history class. It was a lot of fun, he's a great teacher!
- ❖ Glad to hear it. Are you a history major?
- ❖ Nah, I just enjoy taking this professor's classes.
- ❖ Is he a tough grader?
- ❖ Yea, but he's fair about it. He'll always give you chances to rewrite your papers.

Vocabulary List: Recreation & Social Life

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>First Impressions</i>		
<i>Small talk</i>	Conversation we have when meeting someone for the first time, or to open a conversation	Examples of Small talk: "Can you believe this weather we're having?" "How have you been?" "How's your family?" "Last time I saw you, you were _____. How is that going?"
<i>Catch up</i>	To talk to or spend time with someone after a long time of not seeing each other	"It's been forever! Let's catch up over lunch."
<i>Keep in touch</i>	To stay in contact	"Let's keep in touch! Here is my email address."

Social Norms

"I'm sorry, I can't."
or "I have to ____."
or "I wish I could make it!"
 - Usually, we say "I'm sorry" when rejecting an invitation.

"Is it alright if I come a little late?"
 - It is important to let your host/friend/date know if you are running late.

"Sure, I'd love to!"
 - This is one way of accepting an invitation. The person is excited to participate

"How about ____ instead?"
 - Sometimes, in a one-on-one meeting, we can suggest another time to meet

<i>Other Vocabulary</i>	Meaning	Context
<i>Happy Hour</i>	After work, many people get a drink with friends or coworkers. At many bars, drinks are discounted from 5-7PM.	Most restaurants and bars in Center City offer Happy Hour Monday through Thursday.
<i>Potluck</i>	A dinner where everyone cooks something and brings it with them. Usually the potluck happens at someone's home. Sometimes, there is a list of things	I'm having a potluck at my place next Saturday. Can you bring a pasta dish?

	to make, and people can choose what they want to bring.	
<i>Grab bag</i>	This happens around Christmas or at parties. Everyone brings a small gift (usually no more than \$20 value) and everyone chooses a gift without knowing what is inside.	At a grab bag, people can swap gifts or “steal” gifts from other people.

Race & Gender

Suggested Topics:

What are some stereotypes that are common in your country?

What are some of the minority groups in your town or city?

How are work and family roles shared in your home?

Additional Resources:

Suggestions for some articles that could be used for discussion.

- ❖ Article about Marissa Mayer (CEO of Yahoo!) that discusses balancing family and work roles: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bonnie-fuller/marissa-mayer-office-nursery_b_2769296.html
- ❖ For lower proficiency students- “Rwanda: World’s First Women-Led Country”: http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0809/080918-gender_equality.html
- ❖ Dispelling Stereotypes (About Saudi Students) <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Dispelling+stereotypes.-a0189236354>
- ❖ Men vs. Women: Who are the better drivers? <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-drive/culture/commuting/men-vs-women-who-are-better-drivers/article1389780/>

Suggested Questions:

Race

- ❖ What racial groups do you have in your country? Do they get along?
- ❖ Have you seen racism here on campus?
- ❖ What is a “stereotype”? What are some stereotypes in your country? (Discuss American stereotypes as well)
- ❖ What do you see (related to race or gender) that makes you feel comfortable? What do you see that makes you feel uncomfortable?

Gender

- ❖ Are men and women equal in your country? How are their roles different?
- ❖ Do you think American men and women are equal? Why or why not?
- ❖ What are the expectations of your family (or culture) as a man/woman?
- ❖ Do you consider yourself a typical man/woman? Why or why not?

Some terms below adapted from itgetsbetter.org

Vocabulary List: Race & Gender

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
First Impressions		
<i>Racism; racist</i>	When someone discriminates, or treats someone differently, based on color of skin or ethnicity	Racist comment Anti-racism Racial slur
<i>Discrimination</i>	Discrimination is more general than racism—it includes treating someone differently for age, gender, language, religion, or country of origin	Most U.S. employers and universities have an anti-discrimination policy.
<i>Stereotype</i>	A stereotype is when we assume that something must be true about everyone from a particular group	There is a stereotype that men are better drivers than women, but that is not true. Each gender is better at certain aspects of driving.
<i>Intersectionality</i>	This term addresses how different cultural patterns of discrimination overlap. For example, intersectional feminism includes feminist issues specific to women of color or LGBTQ populations. Intersectionality might also address something like people of color who have disabilities, trans women, biracial populations, and more.	Examples: Intersectional feminism Intersectionality also exists in health, immigration, and community activism.
Acceptable terms to use for different racial and ethnic groups		
	Uses	Contexts
<i>An African American</i> <i>A black person</i> <i>African</i> <i>Plural:</i> <i>African Americans</i> <i>Black people</i> <i>Africans</i>	“African American” refers to someone who is of African heritage, but was born and raised in the U.S. It is not the same as African. “Black” can refer to African or African American.	African Culture Africana Studies Black culture
<i>An Arab</i> <i>Arabs</i>	“Arab” usually refers to origin, and “Arabic” refers to the language.	The Arab World
<i>An Asian</i> <i>Asians</i> <i>Asian-American</i> <i>Southeast Asian (Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh, etc.)</i>	These are the most polite terms. You may also see “Oriental,” as in “Oriental Supermarket.”	Asian culture Eastern culture
<i>Hispanic</i> <i>Latino/Latina</i> <i>Latinx</i>	Hispanic is the most polite term. “Spanish” is a language. It also refers to people from Spain.	Latin America Hispanics

	<p>Hispanics <i>speak</i> Spanish, but they are not all Spanish.</p> <p>Latinx is a term used lately as a gender-neutral term in place of Latino/Latina.</p>	
<p><i>An Indian</i> <i>Indians</i></p>	<p>“Indian” generally refers to someone from India, but sometimes means Native American. It is much more polite to call indigenous peoples “Native Americans.”</p> <p>“Native American” refers to someone from the native tribes of North America.</p>	<p>Native American Tribes Native American Ancestors Indian reservation American Indians</p>
<p><i>Multiracial</i> <i>Mixed race</i> <i>Interracial</i></p>	<p>Someone who has parents or family members of different races or heritages</p>	<p>Multiracial families are fairly common in the U.S. It is usually impolite to ask someone “what are you?” or “what races are you?”</p>
<p><i>A white person</i> <i>White people</i> <i>Caucasians</i></p>	<p>Caucasian is usually only used in more formal situations, such as filling out a form.</p>	<p>White privilege</p>
<p><i>Religious Groups:</i> <i>A Jewish person or Jewish people</i> <i>A Christian or Christians</i> <i>A Muslim or Muslims</i> <i>A Buddhist or Buddhists</i> <i>A Hindu or Hindus</i> <i>An atheist or atheists</i></p>	<p>Remember to include the article “a” or “an” if you are referring to a single person of a religious group</p>	<p>Practicing versus non-practicing Denominations</p>
<p><i>A woman → women</i> <i>A girl → girls</i> <i>A lady → ladies</i></p>	<p>“Girls” is used to talk about someone who is fairly young, either a child or someone in their teens or early twenties. Woman is usually a more polite term. Lady can be used in many contexts, usually if it is someone you don’t know, but it is not polite in professional or academic situations.</p>	<p>I ran into a lady who used to live in my neighborhood. They have three little girls (three small children). She inspires other women to pursue their dreams.</p>
<p><i>A man → Men</i> <i>A guy → guys</i> <i>A dude → dudes</i> <i>Man (no article)</i></p>	<p>“A guy” is less formal than “a man.” Guys or “you guys” can be used to talk about a group of men and/or women, but in singular form, always refers to a man. “Dude” or “man” is the</p>	<p>He is a tall man. Are you guys coming to my party? Hey dude, what are you doing tonight? Hey man, what are you doing tonight?</p>

	least formal and should not be used except with friends.	
<i>Questioning</i>	Someone who is in the process of questioning or experimenting with their gender expression, identity, or sexual orientation	I am in the process of questioning my sexuality.
<i>Gender Non-Conforming</i> <i>Non-binary</i> <i>Trans</i> <i>Cisgender</i> <i>(All of the above have to do with gender identity)</i>	Someone who is non-binary is someone whose gender identity and expression don't conform with cultural expectations of gender, particularly male and female. A trans person identifies with a gender different from the one he or she was born with. A person's gender expression matches their assigned gender at birth	I don't consider myself male or female, but non-binary.
<i>Gay</i> <i>Lesbian</i> <i>Bisexual (Bi)</i> <i>Queer</i> <i>Pansexual</i> <i>Asexual</i> <i>(All of the above have to do with sexual orientation)</i>	These names are appropriate to use in English. Gay can refer to both males and females, while lesbians usually refer to females. Usually, when talking about homosexuals in general, we say "the gay community." Queer is a general term for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual. A pan sexual person is attracted to the person rather than a specific gender attached	Are you going to the Gay Pride Parade tomorrow? There is a neighborhood in Center City Philadelphia called the "Gayborhood." There is a growing gay community in this area.
<i>Gender expression</i>	The external manifestations of gender, expressed through names, pronouns, hairstyles, clothing, etc.	As a child were you free to express different gender expressions?
<i>Gender identity</i>	One's internal, deeply held sense of gender	Do you deeply identify with a specific label?
<i>Sex</i>	The gender assigned to an infant at birth.	How was gender talked about in your house?
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	The desire one has for emotional, romantic, and/or sexual relationships with others based on their gender expression	Who you are attracted to.
<i>Ally</i>	Someone who supports equal civil rights, gender equality, and LGBTQ+ social movements; advocates for others and challenges fear and discrimination in all its forms.	An ally might be from a privileged group, but still stand up for the rights of an oppressed group, like a straight person who challenges homophobia.

Holidays

Suggested Topics:

The U.S. has secular and religious holidays, as well as federal holidays. A secular holiday (or secular tradition) is one that is not associated with any particular religion or set of spiritual beliefs. Does your country have secular holidays?

What is considered one of the most important holidays in your country? Why?

Activity

Match the tradition below to its appropriate holiday or event. Some traditions might match more than one holiday!

Dyeing eggs

Going shopping

Watching the ball drop

Decorating a tree

Dressing in costumes

Splitting a wishbone

Watching fireworks

Watching football

Making gingerbread houses

Receiving candy

Betting money

Wearing fancy hats

Playing pranks

April Fool's Day

Kentucky Derby

the Superbowl

The 4th of July

Thanksgiving

Halloween

New Year's Eve

Additional Resources:

- ❖ A Comprehensive List of Holidays: <http://eslholidaylessons.com/>

Which phrases go with which holidays?

Season's Greetings

Trick or treat!

Be mine

Which activities go with which holidays or popular events? There might be more than one holiday for some traditions, and some holidays are not listed here. There are even a couple unofficial holidays listed here.

Painting eggs

Receiving gifts

Eating a huge family meal

Costume parties

Waking up very early to go shopping

Eating unleavened bread

Using noisemakers

Hosting a Star Wars marathon (watching all of the Star Wars movies in a single day)

Having a barbecue

Playing a prank (joke) on someone

Watching a parade

Vocabulary List: Popular Holidays

<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Why is it important?</i>	<i>How do we celebrate?</i>
<i>January 1st: New Year's Eve</i>	Americans celebrate with family and friends and make New Year's resolutions. Resolutions are things we promise to do in the upcoming year (for example, lose weight or quit smoking).	Americans usually have a big party and watch the ball drop. Every year, a large ball drops in Times Square in New York City. Right before midnight, there is a "count down" of the last ten or fifteen seconds. Many people also drink champagne.
<i>February 14th: Valentine's Day</i>	Although this is not a federal (government recognized) holiday, many people celebrate this day of love by doing something romantic.	A couple usually goes out to a nice dinner or exchanges gifts. Children also celebrate by exchanging Valentines, or small cards, with their friends and classmates.
<i>Ramadan Lasts for a month (Dates vary as they are based on Islamic Calendar)</i>	A Muslim holiday where families fast during sunlight to celebrate the Holy Month	Families get together to break the fast at sundown and enjoy a big meal after fasting all day.
<i>Last Monday of May Memorial Day</i>	This day commemorates the lives of men and women who died serving the U.S. military. It first honored the lives of soldiers from the Civil War, but now recognizes soldiers from any war fought by the U.S.	Americans might go visit a cemetery or war memorial on this day. They also usually go to a barbeque outside with family and friends. They might go swimming, go to a park, or watch a parade.
<i>July 4th Fourth of July or Independence Day</i>	This is the official day when the United States recognizes its independence from Great Britain.	Americans will go watch fireworks outside or watch a parade. There are a lot of festivals with food and outdoor games too.
<i>October 31st Halloween</i>	Like Valentine's Day, Halloween is not a federal holiday. It is widely popular in American culture, especially with children. The holiday is a combination of many other traditions, but most Americans today celebrate it just to have fun.	Americans will dress up in costumes. A costume can be scary or funny, and some people even make their own costumes. Children walk around their neighborhoods and knock on doors to ask for candy. This is called "trick or treating." Adults might go to parties dressed in their costumes, but usually don't go trick or treating. Black and orange are considered Halloween colors.

<p><i>Third Thursday of November Thanksgiving Day</i></p>	<p>This day represents a historical event when pilgrims and Native Americans ate and celebrated the fall harvest together. Now, the holiday is a time for family and friends to eat a big dinner and give thanks.</p>	<p>Americans might watch a parade and then go eat a large dinner that includes turkey, potatoes, stuffing (bread inside the turkey), cranberry sauce, and squash. A typical dessert is pumpkin pie.</p>
<p><i>Chanukah/Hanukkah Lasts 8 days, usually in December, the starting date alternates since the Jewish calendar is different</i></p>	<p>A Jewish holiday celebrating the “Festival of Lights” for eight days that</p>	<p>Families light a special candlestick called a menorah, eat special foods, and receive special gifts</p>
<p><i>December 25th Christmas Day</i></p>	<p>Many Americans view Christmas as both a religious and secular (commercial) holiday. Sometimes, people of different cultures or religions celebrate Christmas too.</p>	<p>The secular parts of Christmas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Christmas tree inside the house with decorations • Red and green colors • Carols (special music) • Opening presents <p>Baking cookies</p>
<p>Expressions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p><i>Hallmark holiday</i></p>	<p>Hallmark is a well-known card company in the United States. Many people refer to a commercial holiday as a “Hallmark holiday” because they think it is a holiday just for companies to get more business and make more money.</p>	<p>Valentine’s Day is often called a <i>Hallmark holiday</i>.</p>
<p><i>Holiday spirit</i></p>	<p>Have some enthusiasm for the traditions or beliefs of the holiday.</p>	<p>Let’s decorate the tree to get into the <i>holiday spirit</i>.</p>

Family

Suggested Topics:

- ❖ U.S. culture is often viewed as being driven by the individual, rather than family-driven. It is common for Americans to move far away from their families to follow a career opportunity.
- ❖ Asking “are you married?” is usually not one of the first questions we ask in a conversation with a new person.
- ❖ Immediate versus extended family

Activity: Read the words below and discuss what each one means with a Conversation Partner.

- Only child
- Middle child syndrome
- Soccer mom
- Empty nest syndrome
- Military/army brat (sometimes offensive)
- Single parent
- Godparent
- Destination wedding
- Elopement

Additional Resources:

- ❖ Knot Yet: <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/mar/15/news/la-heb-delayed-marriage-knot-yet-economics-20130315> (also a great tie-in to a discussion on gender)
- ❖ Huffington Post Video about Challenges as a Single Dad: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/17/single-parent-corey-dade-_n_3294113.html

Family Structure

- ❖ Who makes the major decisions in your family?
- ❖ Do you like spending time with your family? How do you typically spend time together?
- ❖ Do you feel that you have any choice of career, or do your parents have certain expectations of what you will study and do in life?
- ❖ Are single mothers or fathers common in your country? Why or why not?

Marriage

- ❖ When people in your culture get married, are they expected to live in a new home? Do they live with other family members?
- ❖ Is divorce or separation common in your culture, or is it taboo?

Family Names

- ❖ In your culture, do women keep their last name when they get married? Do men? Are family names combined?
- ❖ Is your family name common? Does it have any special significance?

Vocabulary List: Family

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
General Questions		
<i>Immediate family</i>	Your close family (also called a nuclear family). Your immediate family is directly related to you.	This includes your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Parents ❖ Grandparents ❖ Siblings (brothers and sisters)
<i>Extended family</i>	Your entire family	This includes your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cousins ❖ Aunts and uncles ❖ In-laws
<i>Patrilineal/patriarchal</i>	The family name or ancestry runs through the father	U.S. society is often patriarchal.
<i>Matrilineal/matriarchal</i>	The family name or ancestry runs through the mother	
<i>Only child</i>	A child who has no brothers and sisters.	"I'm an only child." This is fairly common in U.S. culture.
<i>Adopted</i>	When someone completes a legal process to become a child's parent or guardian. Usually, the child is not biologically related to the parent.	"I'm adopted. My biological mother/father is from ____."
Family Structure		
<i>Nuclear Family</i>	When a mother, father, and children live together.	Most American families live under this structure, although grandparents may also live with a nuclear family.
<i>Foster Family</i>	When a child's parents cannot care for him or her, the child is placed into foster care. A foster family is usually arranged by the state or social services. Foster families are paid to take care of the children.	Some children might live in multiple foster homes throughout their childhood.
<i>Step-family: step-father, step-son, step-daughter, etc.</i>	Examples: A step mother is the new spouse of your father A step-son is your new spouse's son, but not yours	
<i>Half-brother; half-sister</i>	A brother or sister with whom you share one but not both parents	
Marriage		
<i>Elope (Noun: elopement)</i>	To get married without telling your family or friends. The verb literally means "to run away."	Some couples in the U.S. elope, but many families

		expect a couple to have an official ceremony.
<i>Arranged marriage</i>	A marriage planned by other family members. A family member plans who his or her child will marry	Arranged marriages are not common in American families, unless they are first generation Americans. Most Americans highly value being able to choose a partner themselves.
<i>Domestic partnership</i>	When a couple lives together for an extended period of time. After ten years, it is called a “civil union,” and has legal status. The laws are different in every state for civil unions.	Many same-sex couples live as domestic partners or in civil unions, but this is changing now with new marriage laws.
Family Names		
<i>Maiden Name</i>	Your original family name before getting married (usually applies to women)	Her married name is Anderson, but her maiden name is Schwartz.
<i>Hyphenated Names</i>	Some couples combine or hyphenate their name. Instead of changing her name, a woman may choose to keep her maiden name, or use both her maiden name and married name.	Examples: Lisa Simmons Brown James Levy-Cohen

Expressions

<i>Like father, like son</i>	This expression refers to when a child is very similar in behavior or personality to one of his or her parents.
<i>Like mother, like daughter</i>	
<i>Family-driven</i>	Someone who prioritizes family above all else
<i>Career-driven</i>	Someone who prioritizes career above all else
<i>Family-friendly</i>	The event, movie, etc. is appropriate for families with children.

Jobs

Suggested Topics:

- Resume writing conventions: avoid using first person “I”. Why do you think pronouns are removed from resumes?
- References should be coworkers, former supervisors, or others who know you in a professional capacity. This is preferred over family and friends. Are references used in your country? Who can be used as a reference.
- Most job seekers today write thank you letters to their interviewers after the interview. What do you think a thank you message should include?

Activity 1:

Which of the things below should be included on a resume when looking for jobs in the U.S.? What is unnecessary? Hint: For some of these the answer might vary depending on your age and education level.

- References
- Photo of yourself
- GPA
- Marital status
- Languages you speak
- High school clubs and activities
- Title of thesis

Activity 2:

Which of these words are most professional? Which are less professional and should be avoided in a resume? Match synonyms together.

did	collaborated	rewrote
planned	encouraged	managed
conducted	worked together	distributed
designed	executed	amended
assisted	fixed	shared
led	designed	reviewed
met	made	consulted

Activity 3:

Interview Questions

How would you address these issues in a job search or interview? Discuss with a Conversation Partner.

You have a gap in your employment because you were unemployed for six months.

You've applied for a job that you are barely qualified for. You have the necessary skills, just not as much experience as the job is asking for.

You are applying for your first job in the U.S., so you don't have any references from past supervisors (or your references live outside the country).

You've been offered two jobs and you're not sure which one you want to choose. You have to give the first job an answer by tomorrow, but you need more time to decide.

The interviewer said you'd hear about their decision in a week. It's been almost two weeks, but you haven't heard back.

Additional Resources:

- ❖ Careerrealism: This site updates daily with new advice articles on all aspects of employment. Students can also subscribe to their newsletter and webinars.
- ❖ Illegal Interview Questions: <http://www.careerealism.com/illegal-interview-questions/>
- ❖ Interview Questions Listed by Industry: <http://jobsearch.about.com/od/job-specific/interview-questions-jobs.htm>
- ❖ Cover Letter and Resume Templates: <http://susanireland.com/letter/cover-letter-examples/>
http://jobsearch.about.com/od/coverlettersamples/Sample_Cover_Letters.htm
- ❖ Popular Job Sites: Higher Education Jobs, Indeed, Phillyjobs, Idealist, Monster
- ❖ Imagine PhD (for careers outside of academia): <https://www.imaginephd.com/>

Suggested Interview Questions:

First Impressions

- ❖ Tell me about yourself.
- ❖ Why are you interested in this position?
- ❖ Tell me about your experience working at _____.

Challenges, Strengths, and Weaknesses

- ❖ What skills would you bring to this position?
- ❖ What was the most challenging aspect of your last position? How did you face that challenge?
- ❖ Tell us about a problem you had to solve. How did you solve it?
- ❖ If you had to describe yourself in three words, what words would you use and why?
- ❖ What do you consider to be some of your greatest achievements?
- ❖ What's your leadership style?

Future Plans:

- ❖ Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?
- ❖ Do you see yourself working in a similar position long-term?
- ❖ What are some of your long-term and short-term goals?

Logistical Questions

- ❖ Why are you leaving your current position?
- ❖ Why did you leave your last job?
- ❖ When would you be available to start?
- ❖ What do you hope to accomplish in your first 60 days working here?

Questions to Ask the Interviewer:

- ❖ What does a typical day look like for this position?
- ❖ What is the office like on a day to day basis?
- ❖ I saw in the job description that you are looking for _____. Could you tell me a little more about that?
- ❖ Is there any room for upward mobility in this position?

Vocabulary List: Jobs

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>Networking</i>	A general term for any type of communication with someone that leads to new academic or career opportunities	Online networking Face-to-face networking Meet and greet
<i>Job Fair</i>	Multiple employers meet in the same place to recruit	
<i>Employment Rate; unemployment rate</i>	The percentage of people who do and don't have jobs	In 2013, the unemployment rate in the U.S. is around 7.6%.
<i>Cold Call</i>	When you contact an employer without knowing if there is a job opportunity or not	I cold called the manager to find out if there were any job openings.

Interviewing

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>Interviewer</i>	The person leading the interview	
<i>Interviewee</i>	The applicant	
<i>Panel interview</i>	Interview in which multiple people ask the interviewee questions	
<i>Eye contact</i>	Looking someone in the eye	
<i>Presence</i>	If we say that someone "has presence," it means that someone looks very confident and leaves a good impression.	When she speaks, she has presence. I listen to everything she says.

Resumes and Cover Letters

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>Curriculum vitae (CV)</i>	Usually used in academic positions. The term "resume" is used more in business and other professional settings.	
<i>To Whom it May Concern:</i>	This is a standard greeting used on a cover letter if you don't know the hiring manager's name. There is some controversy over using this, because it is impersonal. It is better to use a name if you have one.	To Whom it May Concern: I am applying for the position of _____ at _____.
<i>I look forward to hearing from you.</i>	This is a standard closing to a cover letter.	I look forward to hearing from you about the _____ position.

<i>References</i>	Generally, you include three references on your resume. Most of the time, you should not use family members or friends as references.	Acceptable references include: Current or past supervisors Pastors, group leaders, etc. Coworkers Teachers and Professors Other professional contacts
<i>Thank you for your time and consideration.</i>	A formal and polite way to close a letter	
<i>I am emailing to check on the status of my application.</i>	In other words, was my application received or not?	

Other Vocabulary

	<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>Fired vs. laid off</i> <i>Let go</i>		Fired means to lose your job, usually for disciplinary reasons. Laid off refers to someone who loses a job due to structural changes in the company	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He stole money from the company, so he got fired. 2. When the store closed, everyone was laid off. 3. He was let go.
<i>Transferred</i>		Moved to another office location or department	He was transferred from IT to accounting.

Titles

	<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Context</i>
<i>Mr.</i>		Appropriate in most situations when addressing a male.	
<i>Ms.</i>		Appropriate in most situations when addressing a woman, regardless of her marital status. This term refers to married, single, divorced, or widowed women.	
<i>Miss</i>		This term refers to single women. Do not use it in professional situations.	
<i>Mrs.</i>		This term refers to married women. Do not use it in professional situations.	
<i>Sir/Madam</i>		“Dear sir/madam” is impersonal. “Sir” and “ma’am” are usually used with strangers.	Excuse me sir, did you drop your pen? Thank you, ma’am. May I help you miss?

Vernacular English & Pop Culture

Suggested Topics:

- ❖ Informal English or non-Standard English is sometimes considered bad, lazy English, but all Americans use slang and non-standard English, whether they realize it or not.
- ❖ Non-standard varieties of English DO have rules. What non-standard varieties of your language exist? What kinds of rules do they have?

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Do you follow celebrity news? Why or why not?
- ❖ What is your favorite genre? Use vocabulary list to guide the student.
- ❖ Are celebrities loved and/or respected in your country? Why or why not?

Activity:

Slang words and nonstandard English phrases are often added to English dictionaries and officially made part of the English language.

Take a look at some recently added words (from 2012-2014). How many do you know? Discuss with a Conversation Partner.

Bling	buff
selfie	vacay
babymoon	buzzworthy
flash mob	ohmigosh
young adult	senioritis
beatboxer	dance-off
bestie	

See <http://public.oed.com/the-oed-today/recent-updates-to-the-oed/> for more dictionary updates.

See “OMG, FYI, LOL Added to Oxford Dictionary”, an ESL lesson plan on Breaking News English: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1103/110326-omg.html>

Activity 2:

Decide what the difference is between each phrase in the pairs below. Which ones are formal? Which ones are informal? In what situations do we use each one?

1. Hey guys
Good evening, ladies and gentlemen
2. Would you care for a drink?
Whatcha wanna drink?

3. I promise.
You betcha.
4. Could you show it to me?
Lemme see it!
5. Please give my phone back to me.
Gimme that!

Additional Resources:

- ❖ Comprehensive List of Common Slang Words:
 - <http://www.manythings.org/slang/>
- ❖ Informal Contractions (Gonna, Wanna, Coulda):
 - <http://www.englishclub.com/esl-articles/200109.htm>

Vernacular English

Word	Meaning	Context
<i>Like</i>	In vernacular English, “like” is used as a discourse marker, or a divider between parts of the sentence. It can also be a “placeholder” like “um” or “uh”	“I have, <i>like</i> , ten million things to do.” “She was <i>like</i> , ‘Don’t do that!’”
<i>Ain’t</i>	Ain’t is used as a negative contraction to replace “isn’t” or “not”	“I <i>ain’t</i> no cook.” “She <i>ain’t</i> playing.”
<i>Be</i>	In vernacular English, it replaces the conjugation of “to be” (am, is, was, were)	“She <i>be</i> looking at me all funny.” “I <i>be</i> scared when the lights go out.”

Informal Contractions

Word	Meaning	Context
<i>Gonna, wanna</i>	Going to and want to	“Are you gonna go?” “You wanna come with me?”
<i>Gotta</i>	Got to	I gotta go.
<i>Coulda, shoulda</i>	Could have, should have	I shoulda studied last night.
<i>Whatchu</i>	What are you	Whatchu doin? (What are you doing?)

Pop Culture

Words	Meaning	Context
<i>Genre</i>	A type or category, used for movies, books, and TV	Drama, comedy, romance, science fiction, documentary Books include these genres and more: memoir, true crime, fiction and non-fiction,
<i>Tabloid</i>	A magazine about celebrity gossip or that has unreliable news	People magazine writes about celeb gossip. Some people call it a tabloid.
<i>One hit wonder</i>	Someone who has one famous song or movie, and then falls out of the spotlight (is no longer famous)	She was a one hit wonder. After that movie, she never acted again.

Steal the spotlight

To take the attention or fame away from someone else

We use spotlight, star, and limelight to refer to both celebrities and our own notions of fame and attention-getting.

Expressions:

How you been? Meaning: A shortened form of “How have you been?” or “How have you been doing?”

Where you at? Meaning: Where are you?

Long time no see! Meaning: I haven’t seen you in a long time.