A new Congress* begins in January

On January 3, the 116th Congress* will meet in Washington, D.C. Americans elected this Congress on November 6, 2018.

Many changes

There are 535 members* of Congress: 100 senators and 435 representatives. The new Congress is the most diverse* in U.S. history. There are now 125 women. That’s 23% of the total.

Fifty-five members of the 116th Congress are black, 40 members are Hispanic. Four are Native Americans.

Most members of Congress are

(continued on page 9)

Life in the U.S.A.

Crimes* and punishments*

Crimes are acts that are against the law*. Some crimes are not doing something that the law says people must do.

Types of crimes

There are personal crimes, property* crimes, incomplete crimes, and statutory* crimes.

Personal crimes are: harming* or threatening to harm another person. Kidnapping*, murder, manslaughter*, rape*, and child abuse* are personal crimes.

Property crimes take away a person’s right to have and use his or her own property. Some property crimes are: robbery, burglary*, shoplifting*, embezzlement*, forgery*, arson*, carjacking*, identity theft*, scams*, and receiving stolen goods*.

Incomplete crimes are crimes that have been planned or started, but not completed: attempted* robbery, attempted murder, and conspiracy* to commit* a crime.

Statutory crimes are acts that are not allowed by a state or federal statute*.

Some examples are perjury*, driving

(continued on page 10)
January

January is the first month of the year. The name comes from the Roman god Janus. Janus was the god of beginnings and endings, doorways, and gates. He had two faces. One face looked to the past, and one face looked to the future.

Janus. Photo: Wikipedia.com

New Year’s Day

New Year’s Day is a national holiday. Banks, schools, and most workplaces and stores are closed. Some people just sleep late on this day. Other people visit family and friends. There are many football games on TV. For Roman Catholics, it is a holy day. Some people make their plans for the future on this day.

New Year's Resolutions*

New Year’s Day is a good time to have a new start. Some people make New Year’s resolutions. Here are some examples.

“I will stop smoking.”
“I will lose 20 pounds.”
“I will exercise every day.”
“I will always do my homework.”

Old habits* are very hard to break. It isn’t easy to create new habits. Some people say that it takes 21 days to create a new habit. Here are some tips for keeping your resolutions:

Write a list of the good things that will come from the new habit. Read it each day.

Don’t give up. One mistake doesn’t mean your resolution was a bad idea. If you fail, start again.

Orthodox Christmas

Why do some Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7th? It’s 13 days after other people thought Christmas was over.

The Gregorian calendar is the calendar that most people around the world use today. Eastern Orthodox Christians use a Julian calendar for the dates of their holidays. This calendar is 13 days out of sync* with the Western calendar. Russian, Greek, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, and Serb Orthodox Christians celebrate their Christmas on January 7. That’s because January 7 on the Julian calendar is December 25 on the Gregorian calendar.

Orthodox Christians prepare for Christmas differently from western Christians. They do not have a lot of parties in December. They eat very little meat, milk, eggs, cheese, or other food from animals during the 40 days before Christmas. They spend more time praying and helping poor people.

Giving to the poor helps the Orthodox Christians feel connected with other people. Limiting their food helps them feel more in control of themselves and their appetites*. They feel closer to God. They feel more love and sympathy for others.

On Christmas Day, people eat a good meal to break the long fast*. The food tastes much better because they have gone a long time without delicious food. It is a time of peace and new hope.

There are special activities at their church on Christmas Day. Candles burn in churches. People give gifts.

The Mummers* Parade

On January 1, many people travel to Philadelphia to see the Mummers’ Parade. This New Year’s Day event began more than 2,000 years ago in Rome.

Today, mummers spend months making their costumes*. The parade can last from six to ten hours. There are prizes for the best costumes.

Events in January 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Orthodox
* Janus
* Holy
* New Year’s
* Orthodox
* Julian
* Out of sync
* Fast
* Sympathy
* Appetites
January

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most important leaders of the twentieth century. He was born January 15, 1929. Americans celebrate his life on the third Monday of January. This year it is January 21.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Christian minister*. He led a nationwide movement* to end segregation* and to get complete civil rights* for black people.

The work was dangerous. The police arrested* King for leading a bus boycott* in Alabama. When he got out of jail, someone threw a bomb into his house. It almost killed him and his family.

Even though other people were violent, King taught non-violence*. He said that love was stronger than hate. He formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to fight segregation. He wrote books, went on speaking tours, and led sit-ins* in restaurants. In 1958, a person with a knife stabbed King and almost killed him.

He visited India to study the way that Gandhi used non-violence to free India from Great Britain.

March* on Washington

In 1963, 250,000 people came to Washington, D.C. They wanted Congress to pass a voting rights law. King spoke to the crowd that day. His speech became the most famous speech of the twentieth century. People call it the I Have a Dream speech.

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. was the youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize* for his work. King then started to work for the rights of all poor people, white and black. He started the Poor People’s Campaign*. He spoke against U.S.A.’s war in Vietnam.

King is assassinated*

In 1968, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. He was just 39 years old. He left behind his wife and four young children. Police caught his killer, James Earl Ray. Ray pleaded* guilty* to shooting King. He spent the rest of his life in jail.

There is a memorial to honor* Martin Luther King Jr. in the Washington, D.C. Mall*. You can hear his famous “I Have a Dream” speech* on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

The State* of the Union*

How is the country doing? What are the most important problems we have? What does the government need to do?

In late January each year, the President of the United States tells Congress about conditions* in the nation. The President’s speech is called the “State of the Union address*.” He tells about his goals* for the country for the year.

The senators* and the representatives* meet together in the House of Representatives. The President’s Cabinet*, the Supreme Court justices*, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff* will also be there. The First Lady*, Melania Trump, will be there. There will be special guests whom the President wants to honor*.

Many TV networks* will broadcast* this speech. The date was not yet decided when Easy English NEWS went to press. Check Google for “Date and time for State of the Union Address, 2019”.

Martin Luther King Jr. AP Photo

Memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bigstockphoto.com

Last year’s State of the Union address: President Donald Trump spoke to both houses of Congress in the House of Representatives, January 30, 2018 AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

A Montgomery police officer takes Rosa Parks’ fingerprints. Rosa Parks was a black woman in Montgomery, Alabama, who refused to give her seat on a segregated bus to a white passenger. When she was arrested*, black people in Montgomery boycotted the bus company for 382 days. AP Photo

Martin Luther King, Jr. AP Photo

I Have A Dream
New Year's Eve plans

My boyfriend and I were excited about New Year's Eve. We got tickets for a romantic dinner on a party boat. We thought it was a great way to celebrate this special time! We were in line for the boat with many people. The boat was late. We waited in very cold weather for over an hour. I couldn’t feel my feet or toes. Finally, they let us in!

It was very cold on the boat. We sat down and had some drinks. It helped us warm up a little bit.

The boat captain announced that they cancelled all the plans because of bad weather. They would give us our money back.

Now, we had a problem about where to go and what to do. Then they announced, “Food is ready if you’d like to have some dinner.” We were fine with that!

The food was good. It was warm and free! It was strange to be on a boat that didn’t move. After all the problems, we were happy.

We just wanted to go home. We took the train and thought our troubles were over. On the way home, our train broke down. We were stuck there for an hour.

Our plans didn’t work out the way we wanted them to. We still had fun. We hope we have many more crazy, surprising, and unforgettable New Year’s Eve celebrations.

Wrong answer

I was very nervous when I went to get my alien document*. The woman who asked me questions wasn’t very friendly. She asked me if I knew my husband’s parents. I told her that I did. She said, “His parents died before you could meet them.”

In Brazil, when we use the word parents, we mean our own family. We don’t mean our husband’s parents. I didn’t understand the question.

She didn’t give me the document. She said that she would look at it again. After 30 days, she said that everything was okay.

Now I have my alien card. I was so happy that my wrong answer didn’t stop me from getting it.

Edvane Silva
Jacksonville, Florida (Brazil)

Places to visit

I visited different places with my friends and family. I wanted to know more about this country.

New York City was one of my favorite cities. There is always something going on. It’s very busy and has many places to visit: Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Madison Square Garden, Central Park, and Chinatown.

Washington, D.C. is another busy city with lots of tourists*. There are important landmarks: Capitol Hill, the White House, and National Monument. There are also many museums to visit.

Florida is a great place to have fun with younger family members at Disney World. You can visit: Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, and Epcot. Here you can learn about American culture in a fun way.

Hawaii is a beautiful island that grows coffee plants. It has public beaches and beautiful scenery.

Chicago has many beautiful and famous skyscrapers* and public artwork. You can visit Millennium Park, Willis Tower, John Hancock Center, and many wonderful museums. You can also enjoy Chicago’s delicious deep-dish pizza.

I hope you have a chance to visit some of these wonderful places!

Marylu I. Bhuiyan
Woodbridge, Virginia (Bangladesh)

Strange way to eat

I traveled in Europe with a friend. We stayed in a hotel. A man from India talked to us about Indian culture and traditions. He told us that Indian people eat with their toes. I was shocked to hear this! When I came back to the U.S., I told a friend what the man said.

She laughed and said, “You mean fingers, not toes! (Dedos de mano, not dedos de pie) don’t you?” I was so glad she explained this to me. I was happy to learn that this strange Indian custom wasn’t true.

Yesica Duran
New Rochelle, New York (Dominican Republic)

Fishing fun

One weekend my brother took me fishing at the lake. I was so excited! I was going to catch a big fish. I set up my fishing pole. I warned everyone behind me. I said, “This is my first time!” I threw my pole back. I needed to bring it forward into the water.

My brother yelled, “You didn’t catch a fish! You caught me! Don’t move the pole or I’ll get hurt.” I didn’t move. I was so scared. I didn’t know I caught him. I apologized. I didn’t mean to hurt him.

I moved far away from others. I tried again to put the fishing pole into the water. I waited and waited to catch a fish. I didn’t catch anything.

Choua Vang
Minneapolis Minnesota (Thailand)

Stranger surprise

I teach in a small town in Kentucky. I walk to the grocery store because I don’t have a car. It takes me about 30 minutes.

One morning, I finished grocery shopping. I had five bags in my hands. A truck stopped in front of me. The driver said, “Hello. Where do you live? Do you need a ride?”

It was such a surprise. This never happened to me in China. Strangers never offered rides. I thought for a minute and said, “Hi. I live beside the high school. Can you drive me there?” He said, “No problem!”

We talked a lot on the way home. In America, people are friendly. They are happy to give a ride to someone in need.

Editor’s Note: We’re glad that this turned out ok. However, Police warn everyone: Never take a ride from a stranger!

Mehtap Sever
Westport, Connecticut (Turkey)

* all the places to go

Send your story to ESL@elizabethclaire.com. Write your story title and your name in the subject line.

Please see our website for writer’s guidelines. We pay $20 for each story we publish. Write your name, and mailing address so we can send you payment if we print your story. Tell us your home country, and your email address, too.

Dr. Lynne Corigliano
An eclipse* of the Moon

On the night of January 20 there will be a total* eclipse of the Moon. In a total* eclipse, the earth’s shadow* completely covers the Moon. The Moon looks red. It reflects* light from the earth. It is an amazing sight.

There are two or three lunar* eclipses each year. They happen only at times of full Moon. Only people “on the night side” of the earth can see a lunar eclipse.

People in North and South America can see the January 20 eclipse if the skies are clear. As the eclipse begins, you can see the round shadow of the earth covering up part of the Moon. After about an hour and ten minutes the shadow will completely cover the Moon.  

Source: Timeanddate.com

**January 20-21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time zone</th>
<th>Eastern</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Mountain</th>
<th>Pacific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eclipse begins</td>
<td>11:41 PM</td>
<td>10:41 PM</td>
<td>9:41 PM</td>
<td>8:41 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total eclipse</td>
<td>12:12 AM</td>
<td>11:12PM</td>
<td>10:12PM</td>
<td>9:12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eclipse ends</td>
<td>12:43AM</td>
<td>11:43 PM</td>
<td>10:43 PM</td>
<td>9:43 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Listen to this article at Elizabethclaire.com

On the night of January 20 there will be a total* eclipse of the Moon. In a total* eclipse, the earth’s shadow* completely covers the Moon. The Moon looks red. It reflects* light from the earth. It is an amazing sight.

There are two or three lunar* eclipses each year. They happen only at times of full Moon. Only people “on the night side” of the earth can see a lunar eclipse.

People in North and South America can see the January 20 eclipse if the skies are clear. As the eclipse begins, you can see the round shadow of the earth covering up part of the Moon. After about an hour and ten minutes the shadow will completely cover the Moon.

Ask a speech coach

Dear Gene Zerna,

My Spanish-speaking students always put an extra vowel* before words like school, spoon, street. They say eschool, espoon, estreet. How can I help them?

Ms. Rosalie Durman

Dear Ms. Durman,

Words in Spanish never begin with sc, sl, sm, sn, sp, or st. So when Spanish speakers speak English, they have trouble with these sounds. They need instruction and practice.

**Step One:** Practice a hissing sound with no vowel* in front of the s. This should not be a problem:

ssssssssssssssssss

**Step Two:** Make the hissing sound and quickly add the rest of the word.

ssssss poon
ssssss chool
ssssss treet
Sssss pain
ssssss kate
ssssss kin
ssssss peech
Sssss panish
ssssss ky
ssssss team

**Step Three:** Have the students repeat the words after you at a normal speed. (If students insert the e at the beginning of the words, go back and practice Step Two.)

school street skin
skate speech sky
steam spoon stand
stove stick stuff
stump still stink
stair space sport
spell slap sleep
slide sloppy skirt
skank snack scout
snake smoke smell
small speak smile

**Step Four:** Practice these sentences:

Ssssssteve ssssstudies Sssssspanish
in sssssschool.
Steve studies Spanish in school.

I ssssmell sssssmoke.
I smell smoke.

The scout spoke about Spain.
I sleep but I don’t snore.

The spoon is on the stove.
She wore a skinny skirt.

**Step Five:** Practice this story:

Once upon a time, there was a young man named Steve. He woke up when he smelled a very strange smell. He thought it might be a skunk. It really stank*.

Steve stared out his window. A skinny stranger* was smoking a stinky* cigar.

Steve slammed* the window down and went back to sleep.

Gene Zerna is the producer and director of Master Spoken English, Feeling Phonics. This five-DVD program helps speakers improve* pronunciation and fluency. It’s also great for training teachers in helping students modify their accents.

Gene Zerna is available for private coaching via webcam, small groups, and teacher training. Very reasonable rates.

Visit MasterSpokenEnglish.com

Contact Gene at Gene@MasterSpokenEnglish.com

Listen to this article at Elizabethclaire.com

Gene Zerna is the producer and director of Master Spoken English, Feeling Phonics. This five-DVD program helps speakers improve* pronunciation and fluency. It’s also great for training teachers in helping students modify their accents.

Gene Zerna is available for private coaching via webcam, small groups, and teacher training. Very reasonable rates.

Visit MasterSpokenEnglish.com

Contact Gene at Gene@MasterSpokenEnglish.com

*NOTE: In Spanish, the letter s never begins a word.

Step One: Practice a hissing sound with no vowel* in front of the s. This should not be a problem:

ssssssssssssssssss

Step Two: Make the hissing sound and quickly add the rest of the word.

ssssss poon
ssssss chool
ssssss treet
Sssss pain
ssssss kate
ssssss kin
ssssss peech
Sssss panish
ssssss ky
ssssss team

Step Three: Have the students repeat the words after you at a normal speed. (If students insert the e at the beginning of the words, go back and practice Step Two.)

school street skin
skate speech sky
steam spoon stand
stove stick stuff
stump still stink
stair space sport
spell slap sleep
slide sloppy skirt
skank snack scout
snake smoke smell
small speak smile

Step Four: Practice these sentences:

Ssssssteve ssssstudies Sssssspanish
in sssssschool.
Steve studies Spanish in school.

I ssssmell sssssmoke.
I smell smoke.

The scout spoke about Spain.
I sleep but I don’t snore.

The spoon is on the stove.
She wore a skinny skirt.

Step Five: Practice this story:

Once upon a time, there was a young man named Steve. He woke up when he smelled a very strange smell. He thought it might be a skunk. It really stank*.

Steve stared out his window. A skinny stranger* was smoking a stinky* cigar.

Steve slammed* the window down and went back to sleep.

Gene Zerna is the producer and director of Master Spoken English, Feeling Phonics. This five-DVD program helps speakers improve* pronunciation and fluency. It’s also great for training teachers in helping students modify their accents.

Gene Zerna is available for private coaching via webcam, small groups, and teacher training. Very reasonable rates.

Visit MasterSpokenEnglish.com

Contact Gene at Gene@MasterSpokenEnglish.com

*NOTE: In Spanish, the letter s never begins a word.
America the Beautiful
Yosemite National Park

Yosemite [yo SEM ih tee] National Park is in California. It is one of the most beautiful places in America. More than three million visitors come here each year to see the high waterfalls, deep valleys*, huge rocks, giant trees, and lovely wild flowers. There are many squirrels, mule* deer, bears, bighorn sheep, and many other animals.

Yosemite Valley was formed by a glacier*. When the glacier melted*, it left rounded domes* and huge* monoliths*.

El Capitan is a huge granite* monolith. It’s nearly 3,000 feet high. Rock climbers come from around the world to climb El Capitan. They also try to climb Half Dome*. Half Dome rises 4,733 feet from the valley.

Visitors can go hiking* and horseback riding on 800 miles of trails*.

The park has many family activities. There are nature walks with park rangers*. The rangers talk about the nature and history of the valley. At night people sing around campfires. Rangers give lessons about the stars.

You can get basic information and maps of Yosemite National Park in Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, and Chinese at http://www.nps.gov/ yose/planyourvisit/brochures.htm

All photos from Bigstockphoto.com

There are many colorful birds at Yosemite. This one is Stellar’s jay.
Heroes and History

How did the smartphone get so smart?

by Kimberly Kopfman

Two hundred years ago, it was very difficult to communicate with people who were far away. News and letters could take weeks to get to their destinations.

The telegraph

In the 1830s, British inventors found a way to send an electrical signal over a wire. In 1838, an American, Samuel Morse created a special code to use. The code used short and long electrical pulses to stand for letters of the alphabet.

In 1861, the lines reached California. A message could now travel across the United States instantly.

The telegraph made a huge difference. The country was connected. But the telegraph could not send a person’s voice.

The telephone

In 1860, an Italian immigrant, Antonio Meucci, invented a way to convert sound vibrations to electrical signals. The human voice could travel over telegraph wires. Meucci did not have the money to get a patent. Alexander Graham Bell got a patent for his own invention of the telephone in 1876.

When President Rutherford B. Hayes saw Bell’s telephone he said, “That’s an amazing invention. But who would ever want to use it?”

Alexander Bell started the Bell Telephone Company to make and sell telephones. By 1910 there were six million telephones in the United States. Operators connected people’s calls.

Radio

Nikola Tesla invented the first radio in 1892. He caused electricity to flow into a transmitter to produce radio waves. Radio waves travel through the air at the speed of light. They don’t need wires.

Tesla didn’t get a patent for his radio quickly enough. In 1896, Guglielmo Marconi patented the radio as his invention.

Radios could send and receive messages from ships at sea. People used two-way radios to talk to other people with radios. In 1920, the Westinghouse Company set up the first public broadcasting station. It broadcast news, music, and sports events. That helped Westinghouse sell a lot of radios.

The iPhone

In 1946, the Bell Telephone Company made radiophones for cars. Police could communicate with each other. Truck drivers could talk to each other on the roads.

In 1992, IBM created the first smartphone, the Simon Personal Communicator. It could send and receive emails and faxes. It had an address book and a calendar.

About that time, Japan and South Korea were making the first cell phones.

Cell phones are different from landline telephones. Cell phones use radio waves to send and receive sounds through the air. Cell towers increase the distance the radio signals can travel. Many companies began making cell phones and building cell towers. Cell phones came with a stylus. People used the stylus to tap the numbers they wanted to call.

In 2007, Steve Jobs, the chairman of Apple Incorporated, introduced the iPhone. (The i stands for Internet.) It completely changed the world of smartphones.

The way it worked was very different. It had a touch screen. It had enough memory to download and play music. It could do most of the things that a computer was able to do. A person could now carry the Internet in his or her pocket! Apple sold a million iPhones in just over two months.

Another reason smartphones are so smart is because of apps (short for applications). An app is a small computer program. There are apps to get news, weather, maps, a camera, a flashlight, an alarm clock, music, a calendar, calculator, translators, and more.

Many apps come free with a smartphone. You can pay for other apps by credit card. You can choose from two million apps to download onto your smartphone.

With an app for your bank, you can deposit checks and pay bills. With a GPS app, you can get directions for driving your car to your destination. If you don’t have a car, an app will let you call Uber or Lyft when you need a ride.

Changes in people’s lives

In the past ten years, smartphones have changed the way people get news and other information. They have changed the way businesses reach their customers. They have changed the way people meet new people and socialize with friends and family.

The average smartphone owner spends 140 minutes a day using their phone. They spend less time with the actual people in front of them. They text instead of talk. Teenagers suffer from neck pain from looking down at their phones. There may be dangers from radiation.

There are five billion cell phone users in the world. Cell phones have brought the world closer together. But in some ways they have kept people farther apart.
Idiom Corner

Illustrations by Dave Nicholson

Have you heard people use these idioms?

1. to hang by a thread*
   to be in danger of losing, dying, failing, etc.

   Oz was hit by a truck. He’s in the hospital and his life is hanging by a thread.

   Their marriage is hanging by a thread. I hope they see a counselor.

2. rob Peter to pay Paul
   to take money from one person to pay for another

   If we pay our rent, we won’t have enough money to buy food. We have to eat, so we’ll be late with our rent payment. That’s robbing Peter to pay Paul.

3. (not) touch that with a ten-foot pole
   to stay away from a disliked thing, or a difficult problem

   “Do you like cats?” “No, I wouldn’t touch one with a ten-foot pole.”

   Jack has stopped eating beef*. He says he wouldn’t touch it with a ten-foot pole.

4. from the bottom of the barrel
   what is left that no one else wants

   These apples are from the bottom of the barrel. They look rotten*.

   It’s very easy to get into Pickles University. Their students are from the bottom of the barrel.

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. The month before February
7. Past tense of sit
10. An individual thing; one of something in a measurement.
   A mile is a ___ of distance.
11. That is; id est (abbreviation)
12. A prefix that means before
13. A thick slice of meat from beef, fish, or lamb
15. A South American animal that carries things for farmers
17. Computers, cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, etc., are all modern ___.
19. Connecticut (abbreviation)
21. “Be quiet.” (interjection)
23. Common Era (abbreviation)
24. When it’s cold, put on some ___.
27. To correct a writer’s mistakes
29. New Mexico (abbreviation)
30. A soft knock on a door
31. Man’s name
33. Automated Teller Machine (abbreviation)
34. Read the ___ manual to find out how to put the bike together.
38. Street (abbreviation)
39. North, South, ___, and West
40. Opposite of yes

Down
1. Fair treatment under the law
2. A pronoun must have the same gender and number as its ___.
3. Your brother’s or your sister’s daughter is your ___.
4. Salt Lake City is in the state of ___.
5. Rhode Island (abbreviation)
6. Speak in a very loud voice: “You don’t have to ___; I can hear you easily.”
7. Italian food with tomato sauce and meatballs
8. Military land force; organization of soldiers
9. A hot drink
10. Preposition Let’s meet ___ o’clock.
11. From the bottom of the barrel
12. Opposite of yes
14. Street (abbreviation)
18. Part of a stove; you can bake bread in an ___.
22. Extrasensory Perception (abbreviation)
24. New Jersey is a ___.
25. Verb (be): He ___ a student.
26. Spanish name for Raymond
28. Intravenous tubes used in a hospital to put liquids into a person’s veins (abbreviation)
32. National Rifle Association (abbreviation)
33. Preposition Let’s meet ___ o’clock.
34. Verb (be): He ___ here.
35. Pronoun for “you and me”
36. Connecticut (abbreviation)
37. Same as 40 Across

Answers

1. Because it’s too far to walk.
2. Any animal can. Houses cannot jump.
3. Your brother’s or your sister’s daughter is your niece.
4. A hot dog
5. Ox was hit by a truck. He’s in the hospital and his life is hanging by a thread.

Riddles*

1. Why do birds fly south?
2. What kind of dog has no tail?
3. What kind of animal can jump higher than a house?

Answers

1. Any animal can. Houses cannot jump.
2. I because it’s too far to walk.
3. To correct a writer’s mistakes
4. Salt Lake City is in the state of Utah.
5. Rhode Island (abbreviation)
6. Speak in a very loud voice: “You don’t have to yell; I can hear you easily.”
7. Italian food.
8. Military land force; organization of soldiers
9. A hot drink
10. Preposition Let’s meet at 3 o’clock.
11. From the bottom of the barrel
12. Opposite of yes
14. Street (abbreviation)
18. Part of a stove; you can bake bread in an oven.
22. Extrasensory Perception (abbreviation)
24. New Jersey is a state.
25. Verb (be): He is a student.
26. Spanish name for Raymond
28. Intravenous tubes used in a hospital to put liquids into a person’s veins (abbreviation)
32. National Rifle Association (abbreviation)
33. Preposition Let’s meet at 3 o’clock.
34. Verb (be): He is here.
35. Pronoun for “you and me”
36. Connecticut (abbreviation)
37. Same as 40 Across

Funny Stuff

1. Why do birds fly south?
2. What kind of dog has no tail?
3. What kind of animal can jump higher than a house?

Answers

1. Because it’s too far to walk.
2. Any animal can. Houses cannot jump.
3. Your brother’s or your sister’s daughter is your niece.
4. A hot dog
5. Ox was hit by a truck. He’s in the hospital and his life is hanging by a thread.

Riddles*

1. Why do birds fly south?
2. What kind of dog has no tail?
3. What kind of animal can jump higher than a house?

Answers

1. Because it’s too far to walk.
2. Any animal can. Houses cannot jump.
3. Your brother’s or your sister’s daughter is your niece.
4. A hot dog
5. Ox was hit by a truck. He’s in the hospital and his life is hanging by a thread.
Christian. There are also seven Jews, three Muslims, three Buddhists, and three Hindus.

Many “firsts”

The first two Muslim women were elected to Congress: Rashida Tlaib, a Palestinian-American, is a representative from Michigan. Ilhan Omar, a Somali-American is a representative from Minnesota. The first two Native American women were elected: Debra Haaland from New Mexico (Laguna Pueblo), and Sharice Davids from Kansas (Ho-Chunk Nation).

The first Eritrian-American, Joseph Neguse, son of African immigrants, was elected from the state of Colorado.

The youngest woman ever elected to Congress is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez from Queens, New York. She is 29.

Non-voting members of Congress

There are non-voting members in the House of Representatives. They may speak, but they do not vote. They are from U.S. territories*: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and The United States Virgin Islands.

Voters in Washington, D.C. also elect a member to represent* the city, but she or he does not vote.

Who's in charge?

Congress is split* between two political parties*. The House of Representatives* has 235 Democrats* and 200 Republicans*. The Democrats have the majority* in the House.

The Senate* has 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats. The Republicans have the majority in the Senate.

Problems for Congress

Democrats and Republicans do not agree* on how to fix many problems. They don’t even agree on what the problems are.

Some of the problems the country needs Congress to work on:

• a new immigration law
• lower costs of health care and medicines
• prepare for climate change*
• pay down the national debt*
• decide about taxes
• repair highways, roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, and other parts of our infrastructure*
• strengthen gun-control laws
• approve* the USMCA treaty* about free trade with Canada and Mexico
• clean up corruption*
• reduce* the influence* of money in politics
• strengthen laws about ethics* and voting rights.

Some Democrats want to impeach* President Trump and Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh. Some Republicans want to investigate* possible illegal activity by former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. They also want to investigate James Comey, former Director of the FBI.

With a Democratic House and a Republican Senate, it will not be easy to pass laws. President Trump can veto* laws he doesn’t like. Congress can pass the law “over” his veto if two thirds of each house of Congress votes for it.

Leaders in Congress

Each political party in Congress chooses its leaders in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

Senate: Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, is still the Senate majority leader. Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York, is the Senate minority leader*. They had those same jobs in the 115th Congress.

House: Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, is the Speaker of the House*. Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, is the minority leader in the House.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, a Republican, presides* over the Senate. When there is a tie vote* (50-50), the vice president votes to break the tie.

All photos from Wikipedia.com
Crimes and punishments

(continued from page 1)

under the influence*, selling drugs, selling alcohol or cigarettes to a minor*, and leaving the scene* of an accident.

Misdemeanors* [MIHS duh MEEN uhrs]

Minor* crimes are called misdemeanors. The penalty* for a misdemeanor is a fine* or up to one year in jail. Each state decides which crimes are misdemeanors. Some misdemeanors are shoplifting*, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, illegal gambling*, disturbing the peace*, public intoxication*, carrying a concealed weapon, and resisting a police officer.

Misdemeanors are divided into classes. Punishments for a Class I misdemeanor may be a fine of up to 25,000 dollars, time in jail up to twelve months, or both. Thirty-two states have a death penalty for murder; 18 states have a death penalty for murder; 18

prison or up to life in prison. Thirty-two

are more than one year in

punishments*

Felonies*

jail time.

Punishments for a Class I misdemeanor

which crimes are misdemeanors. Some

misdemeanors have lower fines and shorter

jail time.

Felonies*

Major* crimes are called felonies. The punishments* are more than one year in prison or up to life in prison. Thirty-two states have a death penalty for murder; 18 states do not.

Some of the most common crimes today are identity theft*, scams* over the Internet. Young people, immigrants, and older people are often victims. Never give out your personal information to a person or place that you are not 100% sure of. Some scams have fake websites that look real.

Immigration crimes

It is illegal to enter the U.S. without permission. It’s a crime to use forged* documents to get a residence card in the U.S. It is a crime to marry someone for the purpose of helping them get permission to live in the United States. It is a crime to hire a person who is not a legal resident of the United States.

To see a complete list of crimes in your state, search Google for “list of crimes” or go to http://www.mass.gov/courts/docs/admin/sentcomm/mastercrimelist.pdf.

Next month, in February’s Easy English NEWS: What happens when a person is arrested*?

Welcome to the United States! Our purpose is to help newcomers learn English while they learn about the culture, customs, laws, holidays, history, heroes, geography, and government of the U.S.

Easy English NEWS is published ten months a year, from September to June. It is sold by subscription. Class discounts are available. A monthly Teacher’s Guide and Reproducible Quizzes are included in every subscription. Additional teacher aids, monthly tests, and audio readings are available at our website.

Stories for This Is Your Page should be sent by email. Please see the writers’ guidelines at our website.

All material in Easy English NEWS is protected by copyright. It is against the law to photocopy it without written permission from the publisher.

Easy English NEWS
2100 McComas Way, Suite 607
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

©2019 Elizabeth Claire, Inc.
ISSN: 1091-4951
Telephone: (757) 430-4308
Toll free: (888) 296-1090
Fax: (757) 430-4309
Email: ESL@elizabethclaire.com
Website: www.elizabethclaire.com

Easy English NEWS

Published by ..........Elizabeth Claire, Inc. Editor ............Elizabeth Claire Associate Editor .............Carol Brigham This Is Your Page Editor ....Dr. Lynn Corigliano Copy Editor Sharon Flynn, Ann Early, Gene Zerna, Ellen Craft, Nadine Simms Writers ..........Elizabeth Claire, Gene Zerna, Kimberly Kopfman Design Assistant ...........Charles Gnilka Customer Service ............Amanda Scott, Elaine Simpson Circulation .........................GT Marketing Illustrations ..........Dave Nicholson Printed by ...Trumbull Printers, Trumbull, CT

Order form to: Easy English NEWS
2100 McComas Way, Suite 607
Virginia Beach, VA 23456   or
FAX it to: (757) 430-4309

I am paying by Visa or Mastercard #:_________________________
I will pay by an Authorized Purchase Order PO # _______________
I have enclosed a check for $________ (U.S. funds), payable to
Easy English NEWS

Easy English NEWS is published ten months a year, from September to June. It is sold by subscription. Class discounts are available. A monthly Teacher’s Guide and Reproducible Quizzes are included in every subscription. Additional teacher aids, monthly tests, and audio readings are available at our website.

Welcome to the United States! Our purpose is to help newcomers learn English while they learn about the culture, customs, laws, holidays, history, heroes, geography, and government of the U.S.

Easy English NEWS is published ten months a year, from September to June. It is sold by subscription. Class discounts are available. A monthly Teacher’s Guide and Reproducible Quizzes are included in every subscription. Additional teacher aids, monthly tests, and audio readings are available at our website.

Stories for This Is Your Page should be sent by email. Please see the writers’ guidelines at our website.

All material in Easy English NEWS is protected by copyright. It is against the law to photocopy it without written permission from the publisher.

Easy English NEWS
to: Easy English NEWS
2100 McComas Way, Suite 607
Virginia Beach, VA 23456   or
FAX it to: (757) 430-4309

I am paying by Visa or Mastercard #:_________________________
I will pay by an Authorized Purchase Order PO # _______________
I have enclosed a check for $________ (U.S. funds), payable to
Easy English NEWS

Easy English NEWS is published ten months a year, from September to June. It is sold by subscription. Class discounts are available. A monthly Teacher’s Guide and Reproducible Quizzes are included in every subscription. Additional teacher aids, monthly tests, and audio readings are available at our website.

Welcome to the United States! Our purpose is to help newcomers learn English while they learn about the culture, customs, laws, holidays, history, heroes, geography, and government of the U.S.

Easy English NEWS is published ten months a year, from September to June. It is sold by subscription. Class discounts are available. A monthly Teacher’s Guide and Reproducible Quizzes are included in every subscription. Additional teacher aids, monthly tests, and audio readings are available at our website.
To All Readers of Easy English NEWS:

We want your ideas!

Easy English NEWS is your newspaper. We need your ideas to make it better and better.

We are going to send a survey to our readers in January. You will get it in your email if you have signed up at our website, elizabethclaire.com.

The survey will ask questions about Easy English NEWS and what you are learning from it. It will ask what other kinds of articles you’d like to read about.

Make sure you are signed up so you can give us your ideas. The survey is easy. It may take less than ten minutes. You just click to answer the questions.

Elizabeth Claire

Let’s talk about it

A new Congress begins in January (pages 1 and 9)

1. How many senators and how many representatives are in Congress?
2. Which party has the majority in the Senate? Which party has the majority in the House? Which party does President Trump belong to?
3. Tell ten important jobs Congress has to do.
4. Which of these jobs seems most important to you? Why?
6. What can President Trump do if he doesn’t like a law the Congress passes?
7. Tell the meaning of these words: majority, debt, veto, minor, penalty, shoplifting.

Events (pages 2 and 3)

1. What are some New Year’s Day activities in the U.S.?
2. What are some customs in your home country for New Year’s Day?
3. Do you have plans for New Year’s Day? Tell about them.
4. Will you make any New Year’s Resolutions?
5. What will help you keep your resolutions?
6. Why do Eastern Orthodox Christians have Christmas on January 7?
7. How do Orthodox Christians prepare for Christmas?
8. What feelings do they have after 40 days of limiting their food?
9. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
10. Listen to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech.

Finish this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot ___.” What does it mean to you?

1. Why did Yesica Duran misunderstand the word for fingers?
2. Why is it dangerous to get into a car with a stranger?
3. Have you ever gone fishing? Tell about it.
4. Tell the meaning of these words: romantic, cancel, announce, document, landmark, hook.

Eclipse of the Moon (page 5)

1. What causes an eclipse of the Moon?
2. How often is there an eclipse of the Moon?
3. Can people see the eclipse from any place in the world?
4. Have you seen an eclipse before?
5. Will you stay up late to see the eclipse on January 20? What time will it be in your time zone?
6. Tell the meaning of these words: eclipse, shadow, orbit, total, lunar, reflect.
Some of the words below have many meanings. We give only the meanings you need for this month’s newspaper.

**assassinate** verb To kill an important person.

**arson** noun Stealing a car from a store.

**appetite** noun Desire to eat.

**arrest** verb To take into custody by the police.

**assimilate** verb To kill an important person.

**avoid** verb To try to do something.

**average** noun In the middle.

**beef** noun Meat from a cow.

**beginning** noun The start of something.

**black** verb To use physical force.

**broadcast** verb To give news or information on TV or radio.

**bank** noun A place to keep money.

**bar** noun A place to drink alcohol.

**bark** verb To make a loud noise.

**bass** noun The part of the music.

**bash** verb To hit something with force.

**believe** verb To have faith in something.

**beef** noun Meat from a cow.

**beefcake** noun A man who is very attractive.

**begin** verb To start doing something.

**big** adjective Very, very big.

**bigoted** adjective Having a very narrow view.

**big-name** noun A person who is known to everyone.

**black** verb To use physical force.

**blackboard** noun A place to write on.

**blackout** noun A period of time when there is no light.

**blacklist** noun A list of people who are not allowed to do something.

**blink** verb To close the eyes quickly.

**blow away** verb To make something disappear.

**blow up** verb To make something very big.

**blue** adjective Having a color of the sky.

**blueprint** noun A plan for something.

**buy** verb To take something from a store.

**call** verb To speak to someone.

**cancel** verb To stop an event from happening.

**cape** noun A piece of clothing.

**car** noun A vehicle for transportation.

**card** noun A thin piece of plastic.

**care** verb To show kindness to someone.

**career** noun A period of time when you do something.

**careerist** noun A person who is always looking for a better job.

**castle** noun A large building.

**cause** noun A reason for doing something.

**cell** noun A part of a plant or animal.

**cell tower** noun A place to send and receive signals.

**center** noun A place to do something.

**centerfold** noun A picture of a person.

**catalog** noun A list of things.

**cabinet** noun The group of the president’s top advisors.

**cable** noun A wire or cable.

**calendar** noun A way to keep track of time.

**calligraphy** noun The art of writing.

**capital** noun The building where Congress works.

**cannibalize** verb To break something into parts.

**canal** noun A narrow waterway.

**canoe** noun A boat made of wood.

**cape** noun A piece of clothing.

**castle** noun A large building.

**cause** noun A reason for doing something.

**cell** noun A part of a plant or animal.

**cell tower** noun A place to send and receive signals.

**center** noun A place to do something.

**centerfold** noun A picture of a person.

**catalog** noun A list of things.

**calligraphy** noun The art of writing.

**capital** noun The building where Congress works.

**cannibalize** verb To break something into parts.

**canal** noun A narrow waterway.

**canoe** noun A boat made of wood.

**cape** noun A piece of clothing.

**castle** noun A large building.

**cause** noun A reason for doing something.

**cell** noun A part of a plant or animal.

**cell tower** noun A place to send and receive signals.

**center** noun A place to do something.

**centerfold** noun A picture of a person.

**catalog** noun A list of things.

**calligraphy** noun The art of writing.

**capital** noun The building where Congress works.

**cannibalize** verb To break something into parts.

**canal** noun A narrow waterway.

**canoe** noun A boat made of wood.