

Is English your new language? This paper is for you! (It's for anyone else, too!)



Easy English NEWS

June 2020

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See page 10 for prices and ordering information.

When will it be over?



Americans are asking important questions: *When can we go back to work? When will schools open? How can we pay our bills? When will this **pandemic*** be over?*

There is some good news

Two hundred forty thousand Americans have **recovered*** from COVID-19 as of May 13.

Doctors have found a **treatment*** that may help some people with COVID-19 get better faster.

Many scientists are working to find a safe and **effective* vaccine*** against COVID-19.

There are faster tests to find out who has the virus. Almost eight million Americans have been tested.

The government has helped small businesses with loans and **grants*** to pay employees. The government has sent \$1,200 to many American adults. It may send more in the future. It has **supplemented* unemployment insurance***.



Schools, families, clubs, and even government officials meet on ZOOM while staying home. These are members of the Vermont House of Representatives in an online meeting on April 23, 2020, in Montpelier, Vermont. Wilson Ring/Zoom via AP

Some people don't want to wait

Business owners want to reopen. People want to go back to work and school. They want to get haircuts, see movies, eat at restaurants, and have fun with their friends. Many people are **frustrated***. They are tired of staying indoors and not able to go to work. In some states, people are

(continued on page 5)

Words in **black** print with a star (*) are in **WORD HELP** on page 12.



Life in the U.S.A. Starting your own business

A lot of businesses are in trouble because of the **coronavirus***. The government decided that only **essential*** businesses could stay open.

Most state governments ordered many stores to close. Most states said that stores that sell clothing, office supplies, **electronics***, and **crafts*** are **non-essential***. They ordered places where people come into close **contact*** with each other to shut down. Movie theaters, sports **arenas***, restaurants, bars, barber shops, hair **salons***, and nail salons had to **lay off*** their workers and close. Many schools and colleges closed. Some changed to **online*** classes. Some companies have gone out of business.

As of May 13, thirty-three million Americans were **unemployed***. They



This young man loves to make things. He started a business selling them on his website. Bigstockphoto.com

may be able to collect **unemployment insurance*** for a while.

On the other hand, some businesses are doing very well. **Grocery stores*** and food preparers have more customers. Businesses that sell things online

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Events in

Flag Day



American flags
Bigstockphoto.com

Flag Day is June 14. On this day, Americans show their love for the flag as a **symbol*** of **liberty***.

The first “Stars and Stripes*” was made in 1777 for General George Washington. There was one star and one stripe for each of the first 13 states. Later, each time a new state joined the **union***, a new star was added to the flag.

Today the flag has 13 red and white stripes. There are 50 white stars on a **field*** of blue.

Our **national anthem*** is “The **Star-Spangled* Banner***.” It is a song about the American flag. Francis Scott Key wrote the words during a **battle*** in the War of 1812 against Great Britain.

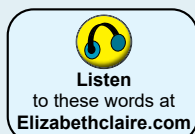
British ships sailed into Chesapeake Bay. They were trying to **capture*** Fort McHenry, near the city of Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Scott Key was on a ship nearby. He could see the terrible battle.

The shooting went on all night. The lights from the **explosions*** were very bright. The glare¹² of the rockets lit up the American flag flying over Fort McHenry. That meant that the Americans had not yet lost the battle.

The Star-Spangled Banner

by Francis Scott Key

O, say can you see,
by the dawn’s¹ early light,
What so proudly² we hailed³
at the twilight’s⁴ last gleaming⁵?
Whose broad⁶ stripes and bright
stars
through the perilous⁷ fight,
O’er⁸ the ramparts⁹ we watched,
were so gallantly¹⁰ streaming¹¹?
And the rockets’ red glare¹²,
the bombs bursting¹³ in air,
Gave proof¹⁴ through the night
that our flag was still there.
O, say does that star-spangled
banner¹⁵ yet wave
O’er the land of the free¹⁶
and the home of the brave¹⁷?



WORD HELP

- ¹ dawn: early morning
² proudly: with pride and love
³ hail: wave to, salute, greet
⁴ twilight: sundown, evening
⁵ gleaming: soft light
⁶ broad: wide
⁷ perilous: dangerous
⁸ o’er: over (poetic use)
⁹ ramparts: walls of the fort
¹⁰ gallantly: bravely
¹¹ streaming: flying in the wind
¹² glare: bright light
¹³ bursting: exploding
¹⁴ proof: fact that shows that something is true
¹⁵ star-spangled banner: flag with stars all over it
¹⁶ the free: free people
¹⁷ the brave: brave people

Summer begins

Summer begins on June 20. Usually, school **terms*** end in June. This year, many schools were closed from March until the end of the school year.

June is a time for high school **graduations***. But there may be no big **celebrations*** this year—no **proms***, no parties.

Will there be summer school? Will there be summer day camp or **sleep-away camp***? Will families go on vacation? No one is sure.



Summer brings hot temperatures: 90° F. (degrees Fahrenheit) and even 100+ °F. Will people be able to get cool at beaches, lakes, pools, woods, and mountains? Some of these places may be closed.

Summer safety tips

Continue the **social distancing***: stay six feet away from others. **Avoid*** crowds. Wash hands often. Wear a mask.



It’s important to drink extra water during the day. Protect your skin from sunburn. Wear light, long-sleeved clothing, or use **sunscreen***. Stay out of direct sunlight during the middle of the day. **Insect repellent*** can prevent mosquito bites and ticks. Use it when you go outside in the evening or anytime you go into the woods.

Never leave a sleeping person, a child, or an animal in a car parked in the sun. The heat inside the car can reach 140° F. A person or animal will die in that heat.

Hurricane season begins June 1. If you live on the Gulf Coast or the East Coast, you need to be prepared. See *Hurricane Safety in Simple English* at Elizabethclaire.com.

Father’s Day

Father’s Day is the third Sunday in June. It’s a day to think about fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and the other men in our lives. It’s a day to thank them for the job they do.

Children usually do something special for their fathers on this day. They may write a letter of thanks or make something for Dad. The family might go on a picnic or do some activity that Dad enjoys. Popular gifts on Father’s Day are ties, tools, and sports equipment.



Father and son fishing
Bigstockphoto.com

June and July

June 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

The Fourth of July

July 4th is America's birthday. The United States will be 244 years old. On this day in 1776, leaders of the 13 British colonies* approved* the Declaration of Independence*.

People learn stories about American history. There are usually community* picnics and parades in many towns. Some towns have races and contests* for children. Community leaders make speeches.

Some people have picnics or barbecues* in their back yards. Many people go to beaches. In the evening, there are band concerts and fireworks*. None of this is certain this year.



A Fourth of July barbecue
Dreamstime.com

The Fourth of July is a very noisy holiday. You may hear firecrackers all day long. The noise may frighten family pets. Keep your dog indoors. See seattledogspot.com/10-tips-to-keep-your-dog-safe-during-july-4th-fireworks/.

In many states, fireworks that can be used at home are illegal*. Firefighters or other experts* manage town fireworks shows.



A Fourth of July firework celebration* in Bay City, Michigan
Bigstockphoto.com

Political Conventions*

The two major* political parties scheduled* their conventions during the summer. The Democratic National Convention was scheduled for mid-July. Because of COVID-19, it was changed to August 17-20. It will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Republican National Convention will be from August 24 to 27 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

There are three main purposes of a political party convention:

1. **Nominate*** the party's candidate* for president. Create excitement about this person through speeches, videos, music, and cheering.

2. Nominate the party's candidate for vice president.

3. Create the party's goals*. What promises will the candidates make in their campaigns*? This is called the platform*.

How will COVID-19 affect the conventions?

In previous election years, thousands of people went to the conventions. The delegates* from all the states went to the conventions. So did all the important people in the party, such as state governors, senators, representatives, and past presidents. There were also guests and reporters from the news media*.

If the conventions take place, how will delegates be safe? Will there be many cases of illness after the convention?

Will the conventions have to be virtual*? What would that be like?



Donald Trump
Photo: Michael Vadon



Joe Biden
Photo: Wikipedia

The Republican Party will nominate Donald Trump. This is the usual case when there is an incumbent* president.

At the Democratic convention, Joe Biden is the likely nominee*. He has to receive 1,991 delegate votes. Bernie Sanders

dropped out of the race but may keep his delegates.

Many people watch the conventions on C-SPAN*, PBS, CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. Smaller political parties are called third parties. They also have conventions during the spring and summer to choose their candidates.

Then the campaign for the presidency begins.

The presidential election is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.



This is your page

Holiday clothes

I was excited about my first Fourth of July in the USA. There was a parade in our town. My family and I carefully chose our clothes. We wanted to look our best. We walked to a place where we'd have a good view of our first Independence Day parade.

We saw many people waiting on the street to watch the parade. Everyone was wearing regular summer clothes. They wore shorts, sandals, flip flops, short-sleeved tops, and t-shirts. These are clothes we see at the beach. We were shocked!

Our Independence Day in Peru is a very special time. The parade is an important celebration. Everybody wears their best clothes when they come and watch it.



My parents were also surprised when they visited us the following year. We were the only ones who wore their best clothes to the parade. I think people in this country are more **informal***. It's hard for us to give up our traditions. Maybe next year we'll be able to wear our regular summer clothes.

*Nadia Olarte-Enciso
Unionville, Connecticut
(Peru)*

New friends

I was very nervous when I rode on an airplane for the first time. My English wasn't very good.

I couldn't understand anything they were saying on the airport **loud speakers***.

I looked for my seat when I got on the airplane. I thought I found it, but I wasn't sure. I asked the other two people if it was my seat. They said, "Yes. Welcome, kid." At the time I was 25 years old.



They bought me soda, food, and water during the trip. When we arrived in Minnesota, I gave them a bag of candy from Mexico. They gave me a five dollar bill.

I didn't want to take it. I said, "I wasn't charging you. It's a gift. Why did you give me \$5?" The man said, "Sorry. I only gave you \$5." Then he gave me a \$50 bill.

I arrived in Minnesota with extra money in my pocket and two new friends. Thanks guys!

*Luis Limon
Minneapolis, Minnesota
(Mexico)*

My own parade*

I moved from China to America on the 4th of July. My husband picked me up from the airport. I was very tired. My mother-in-law made a big dinner to welcome me into the family.

After dinner my father-in-law said to me, "We put on a big parade to welcome you to America." I was tired, but I couldn't say no because the parade was just for me.

We went outside and watched the parade for over an hour. The musicians, **acrobats***, **gymnasts***, and dancers were very good. I had fun watching it. I felt that I was very special. I immediately loved this country.



The following year I found out that the parade wasn't just for me. It was the American celebration of Independence Day. They have it every year on the 4th of July. Even though the parade isn't just for me, I still watch it every year. I love this country more and more. I especially love the freedom. God bless America!

*Ping Verga
Gloucester, Massachusetts
(China)*

New York language

I've lived in the U.S. for about 3 years. I've always worried about my **accent***. I wondered how important this was for people who lived here. I met an interesting man who is a native English speaker. I told him about my fear.

He said, "You don't have to worry about your accent. Everyone in New York has



different accents and **dialects***. It's called "The New York language."

Since then, I don't worry about my accent. I'm okay with it. I'm just trying to speak the New York language better and better!

*Natalia Burylova
Brooklyn, New York
(Russia)*

Best friends

I have a seven-year-old son named Jo. We came from Japan last year. I was worried that he wouldn't be able to make friends.

One day, he came home from school with a letter from a classmate named Torben. It was written in beautiful Japanese by Torben's father. It said, "What kind of **Pokemon*** does Jo like?" I was surprised and delighted by his beautiful Japanese.

My son and I wrote a letter back in both Japanese and English. He gave it to Torben. The following day, my son got another letter from Torben's father.

He said that he loves Japan. He studied there for a year when he was in high school. He said that Pokemon was the reason he became interested in Japan. We were so happy.



My son became best friends with Torben. His father invited us to his birthday party, Christmas dinner, Easter family lunch, and other celebrations. Torben's grandmother made the best American food I've ever eaten!

This year my son and Torben are in different classes, but they are still best friends.

*Kimiko Hiramatsu
Maple Grove, MN
(Japan)*

Inside clothes

It was my first month in America. I walked down

Brighton Beach Street. It was winter. A strong, cold wind blew. I stopped at a traffic light. A girl came and stood next to me. She was wearing pajamas, slippers and no hat. I was wearing a warm jacket, boots, gloves, jeans, and a hat.

I looked at the girl. I didn't understand why she wasn't cold. I thought something was wrong. Maybe she took out the **trash***, closed the door, and forgot her keys. I asked her what happened and if she needed help.

She looked at me and said that everything was fine. I said, "If you're cold, I can give you my jacket." She didn't answer and moved away from me. The traffic light turned green. She quickly walked away.

I told this story to my American friend. He explained to me that this is **normal*** for Americans. They're used to the weather and dress lightly. They don't

care how they look.

It was a big

surprise for me. In Ukraine, if a person walked along the street during the winter in slippers and pajamas, everyone would think that he/she had just escaped from a mental hospital.

After that, during the cold season I saw American men in shorts, sandals, and t-shirts. American women wore t-shirts, shorts or pajamas, and slippers. I don't offer help to anyone anymore.

I still don't understand why these people aren't cold. How can they walk outside in the same clothes they wear when they are inside?

*Oleg Bezkrvnyi
Brooklyn, New York
(Ukraine)*

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Dr. Lynn Corigliano

When will it be over?

(continued from page 1)

protesting* against rules that keep stores, restaurants, bars, and barber shops closed. They don't want to stay home. They don't want to wear masks. Protesters say that the government has no right to keep people and businesses locked down.

Rules for reopening

Dr. Anthony Fauci* said that we have to continue the **social distancing***, staying home, and wearing masks in public. He said we have to have ways to test people. If someone tests positive, we need to be able to find and test the people they have been near.

President Trump wants to restart the **economy*** and pull the country out of **recession***. He has said that the coronavirus will go away by itself.

Health experts say that is not true.

Each part of the country has different levels of danger. The governors of each state will decide when businesses and schools can open.

The **CDC*** created **guidelines*** for the governors. The guidelines give three conditions before a state can lift **restrictions*** and open places for business:

1. The number of new cases of COVID-19 needs to **decrease*** for 14 days.
2. Hospitals have all the equipment and beds that they need.
3. There are enough test kits to test people for COVID-19. People who test positive can be **isolated*** and not spread the disease to others.

In **Phase*** One, some gyms, restaurants and movie theaters can open with social distancing. Schools will stay closed. Workers should work from home if possible. People must keep six feet of distance between themselves and others. Restaurants may have 25% of their usual number of customers at one time. People must wear masks in public places.

Phase Two allows other businesses to open with **precautions***. This can only happen if there is no **increase*** in cases 14 days after Phase One. If Phase Two goes well for 14 days, then Phase Three allows other businesses, theaters, and sports events to open with restrictions.

Can we save lives and the economy?

Many states did not wait for 14 days of decreasing numbers of new cases. They do not have enough testing equipment or people to do the testing. They began to end restrictions early in May.

Health **experts*** say it is too soon to end restrictions. They **predict*** that there will be many more cases of COVID-19. They remind us that people can have coronavirus without any **symptoms***. People can still spread the virus by talking, coughing, or just **exhaling***. In a store, you may be standing next to someone who's



Demonstrators ask the California governor to lift restrictions against businesses closed due to COVID-19 in Riverside, California, on May 5, 2020. Photo: Watchara Phomicinda/The Orange County Register via AP



Josh Rosenbaum gets his hair cut by Yuri Isakov at Uptown Barbershop, May 8, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona. Hair salons and barbershops across Arizona began reopening after being closed for more than a month. Most customers will wait outside in their cars until their turn. AP Photo/Matt York

contagious* but doesn't know it. All people should wear masks in public—not to protect themselves, but to protect others.

“The moment you **relax***, the number of cases will start climbing,” said Dr. Ashish Jha, Director of Harvard's Global Health Institute.

As predicted, new cases of COVID-19 continued to rise in states where the governors did not wait.

Is this the price to pay to keep the economy from **collapsing***? Many economic experts think so.

Some Americans are not in a hurry to come out of their homes to shop or go to restaurants, bars, or the movies. They are staying at home in order to protect people at serious **risk***: people over 60; people with **diabetes***, high blood pressure, or **obesity***; and people in treatment for cancer or other serious diseases. That's 25% of all the people in the country.

People in **crowded*** conditions such as jails, **nursing homes***, and **dormitories*** are at greater risk, too.

“We don't have an easy way to return to normal,” Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzger said. “We have to figure out how to live with COVID-19.” In Pritzger's plan, sporting events, conventions, and large gatherings cannot **resume*** until there is a vaccine, a treatment, or **herd immunity*** to COVID-19.

Some bad news

The United States has the most

COVID-19 cases in the world. As of May 13, there were 1.41 million cases of the virus. Eighty-four thousand Americans have died. The current rate of death is more than 1,000 per day. Prisons, nursing homes, and other crowded places have the highest rates of illness from COVID-19.

Hundreds of small businesses will never open again. Large companies have gone **bankrupt***. Thirty-three million people are unemployed.

New York and New Jersey have had the most cases and deaths from COVID-19. That's because of the international airports that brought people to the U.S. from Europe and Asia. New York and New Jersey also have the greatest **density*** of population.

Congress passed four acts to help businesses and the unemployed. It cost 2.4 **trillion*** dollars. The government is \$25 trillion in **debt***.

Some experts say that there will be a lot more sickness and economic problems in our future. Others say that the country will recover in a short time, and be better than ever.

Sources: Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Presidential briefings; Andrew Cuomo briefings. CNN; NEWSY; Fox NEWS; NBC Nightly News; Dr. Ashish Jha, Director of Harvard's Global Health Institute; [Worldometers.info/coronavirus](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus)



COVID-19 in the White House*

On May 8, the President's **valet*** tested **positive*** for COVID-19. Vice President Pence's press secretary has also tested positive for COVID-19.

Eleven members of the **Secret Service*** have also tested positive. Some of them are staying away and **self-quarantining*** for 14 days. Dr. Fauci is self-quarantining, too. He had been with **staff*** members who tested positive. Ivanka Trump's personal assistant tested positive as well.

White House officials will now be testing the President and “everyone who comes into the President's breathing space” every day. They must make sure that Trump, Pence, and their staff stay healthy.

Symbols* of

1. The Statue* of Liberty*

The Statue of Liberty is on Liberty Island in New York **Harbor***. The people of France gave the Statue of Liberty to the people of the United States in 1886.

The statue is 305 feet tall. There is a stairway inside that goes up to the **crown***.

The outer "skin" is made of **copper***. Copper turns green when it is in the open air. That's why the statue is green.



5. The Golden Gate Bridge



The Golden Gate Bridge connects San Francisco, California, to Marin County, California. It's 1.7 miles long. It was the longest **suspension bridge*** in the world until 1981. More than 100,000 people drive across the Golden Gate Bridge every day.

6. The oak tree



The oak is America's national tree. It is a symbol of strength, knowledge, and long life. Oak trees grow in nearly every state.



2. The bald* eagle

The bald eagle is America's national bird. It represents strength, power, and freedom. The adult bald eagle has a brown body, a sharp, curved **beak***, and a white head. It isn't really bald.

3. The Great Seal* (front)



You can see the Great Seal of the United States on the back of the one dollar bill and on many **official* U.S. documents***. The front of the Great Seal shows a bald eagle holding 13 arrows and an **olive branch***. The 13 arrows symbolize strength. The olive branch symbolizes peace. *E pluribus unum* on the scroll means *out of one, many*. This is the U.S. motto.

4. The Great Seal (back)



The back of the Great Seal shows an unfinished **pyramid*** with 13 **layers***. The **Roman numerals*** for "1776" are written on the bottom layer. The eye at the top of the pyramid symbolizes the eye of God watching over the country.

7. One World Trade Center



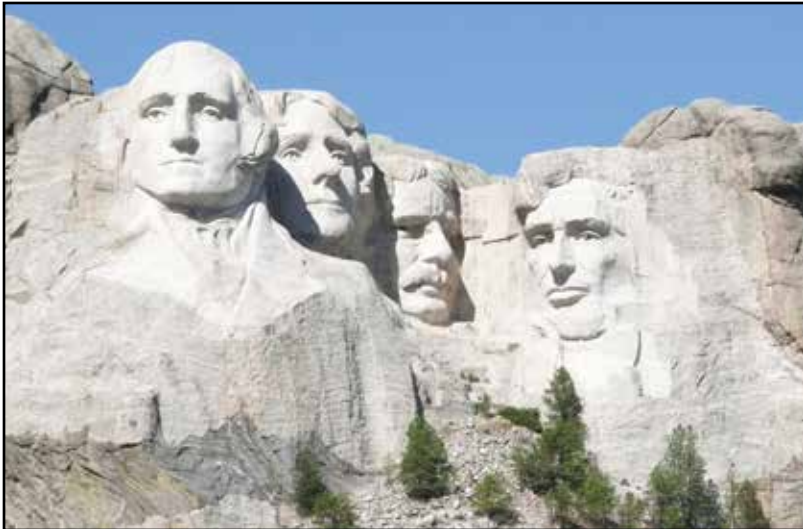
One World Trade Center is in New York City. It was built to replace the Twin Towers that were destroyed in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. It is 1,776 feet tall. It is the tallest building in the Americas.

America



All photos from
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8. Mount Rushmore



Mount Rushmore is a huge **sculpture*** in the Black Hills in South Dakota. The faces are four great U.S. presidents (left to right): George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Each face is around 60 feet tall. Four hundred men worked for 14 years to cut the faces into the hard rock.

12. Uncle Sam

Uncle Sam is a symbol of the United States. He **represents*** the country or the government. In most pictures, Uncle Sam wears a blue suit, a white shirt, red and white **striped*** pants, and a red bow tie. The U.S. Army used posters of Uncle Sam to **recruit*** soldiers during World War One and World War Two.



9. The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell is in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is a symbol of American independence. The bell first rang in 1752. It rang on many important days in U.S. history. It cracked several times and was repaired. The last time it cracked, the bell could not be repaired. After that, the bell traveled around the U.S. as a symbol of freedom.



10. The Constitution*

The Constitution is the basis for all laws in the U.S. It is the "law of the land." The first three words are "We the People." That shows that it was not a king who made our Constitution. The **Founding Fathers*** of the U.S. signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787.



11. The Gateway Arch



The Gateway Arch is in St. Louis, Missouri, on the Mississippi River. It is the world's tallest arch. It is 630 feet tall.

13. The White House



The president lives and works in the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. It has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, 28 fireplaces, a bowling alley, and a movie theater. The president's office in the White House is called the **Oval Office***.

14. The Mississippi River

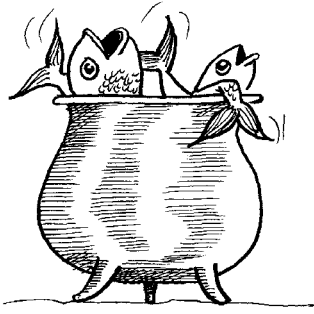


The Mississippi River is one of the largest rivers in the world. It is 2,320 miles long. It runs from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. It has been important for travel, **trade***, and farming in America's history.

Idiom Corner

Illustrations by Dave Nicholson

Have you heard people use these idioms?

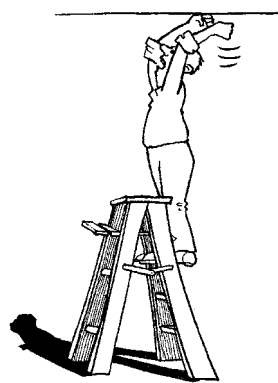


1. a fine kettle of fish

a difficult situation

Oh no! The dog ate my school project. This is *a fine kettle of fish*.

The car just got a flat tire, and we have to be at the airport in 15 minutes. What *a fine kettle of fish*.



2. to hit the ceiling

to get very angry

Isaac's mother *hit the ceiling* when he came home two hours late.

Ted *hit the ceiling* when someone scratched his new car.

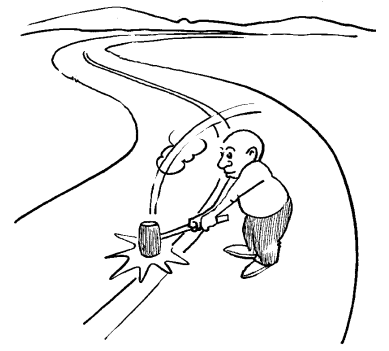


3. hot potato

a topic that is dangerous to talk about

Raising taxes is a *hot potato* with many candidates.

At a dinner with new friends, don't discuss a *hot potato* like gun control.



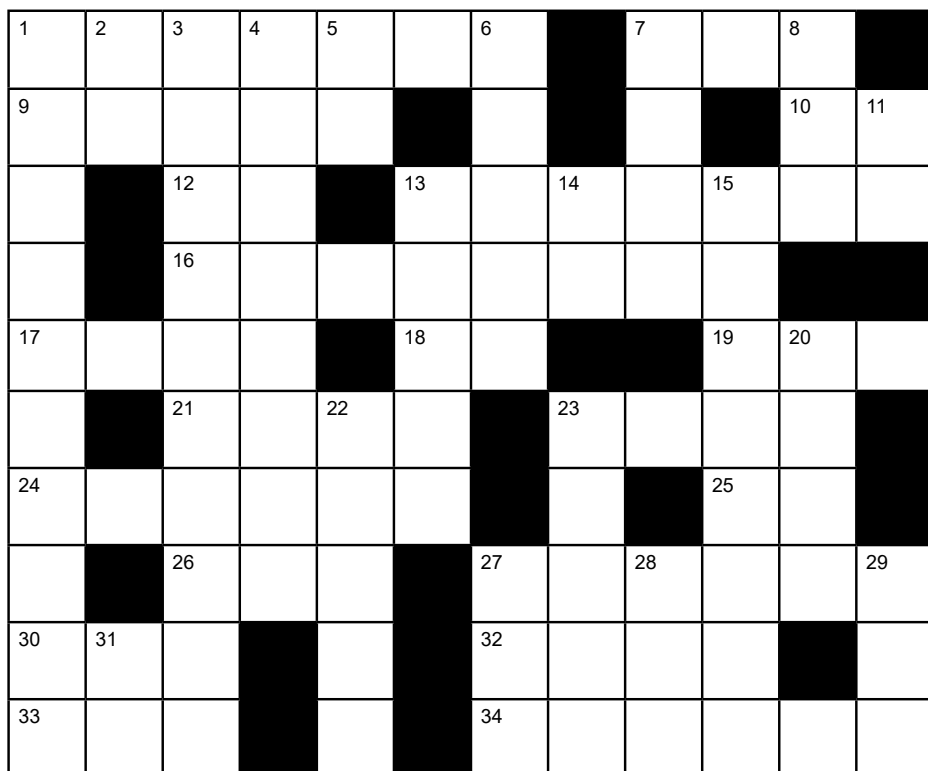
4. to hit the road

to leave a place or begin a journey

I'd love to stay longer at your party, but I have *to hit the road* now.

Kelly's family *hit the road* yesterday. They're driving across the country to Las Vegas.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. The United States of _____
7. June 14 is Flag ____.
9. The signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged "our ____, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."
10. Short name for Emily
12. Associated Press (abbreviation)
13. Makes someone sad
16. The most fortunate
17. A slang word for *food*
18. Pronoun for a thing. "Let me see ____."
19. Boys with the names Edward and Edwin are _____.
21. Juice from this plant is used in skin creams and to treat burns.
23. Opposite of *less*
24. Rooms at the tops of houses
25. Northeast (abbreviation)
26. Frozen water
27. You can go up or down these.
30. Chief Executive Officer (abbreviation)
32. Account (abbreviation)
33. Easy English NEWS (abbreviation)
34. Contraction for *they will* _____.

Down

1. "I pledge _____ to the flag..."
2. Michigan (abbreviation)
3. Judgment of a person's test, health, etc.
4. The United States is a democratic _____.
5. Verb. Father's Day ____ the third Sunday in June.
6. We will ____ your visit next week.
7. Another word for fathers
8. A unit of money in Japan
11. Master of Science degree
13. Plural form of *sky*
14. Delaware (abbreviation)
15. Forever is an _____.
20. Forest animal; Bambi is one.
22. Atlantic ____
23. Use this to start a fire.
27. Past form of *sit*
28. The top card in a deck of playing cards: _____, King, Queen, Jack.
29. Girl's name; short for Sally
31. Ellen East's initials

Funny Stuff

Patient: "Doctor, I'm really nervous. This is my first operation."

Doctor: "I know exactly how you feel. This is my first operation, too."



Answers are on page 11.



Starting your own business

(continued from page 1)

have **increased*** their sales. Delivery companies are hiring more and more people. Sellers of online education programs and exercise machines have been successful.

It may seem like a bad time to start your own business. But one way to have a job is to make your own. It can be a very good time to start a business.

Do you have a good idea for a business? Are you willing to plan and work hard? Are you willing to put in your time and money? It seems simple at the beginning: Make or buy a **product***. Sell it at a **profit***. Or provide a service, and **charge*** for your time. If you have a **skill*** that others need, you might teach your skill online.



Write down your ideas and plans. Keep careful records. Bigstockphoto.com

A good business meets people's needs. Those needs are changing in these difficult times. Right now, it has to be a business that doesn't need people to be near each other. Otherwise, plan your business to open when the

world has become free of COVID-19.

There is no upper **limit*** on how much money a business can earn. That's exciting. There is also no limit on the time and money a business can lose. That's **scary***.

What do you need?

You need business training. Work for someone else's small business to earn money while you learn about running a business. You may have to start as a **volunteer***. The **Small Business Administration*** has a website with help for starting a business: **SBA.gov**.

At **SCORE*** (**Score.org**), there are business **executives*** who help new business people at no cost. A SCORE executive can answer many questions about starting or managing a small business.

Making a business plan

Sit down with paper and pencil (or your computer), and make a business plan. Think about these questions: *What will I do or sell? Who are my **customers***? Can I do my business online?*



Immigrants own one out of every five small businesses in the U.S. Bigstockphoto.com

*Do I need a website? What will that cost? Can I make a website myself? How much will I charge for my products or services? What will it cost to ship my products? Will I **accept*** checks? Will I accept credit cards?*

*Will I be in business as a **sole proprietor***? A **partnership***? A **corporation***? Will I hire employees?*

*What will I name my business? (You cannot have the same name as another business in the country.) You can find where to check business names at **e-secretaryofstate.com**.*

Who else is in this business? How will my product, service, or classes be different from theirs?

*What are the **expenses*** for the products, salaries, **utilities***, telephone, rent, furniture, equipment, computer, **advertising***, cable, website, car, and **liability insurance***?*

*How much **capital*** will I need to get started and pay my bills? Where will I get it? Will I have money to live on until my business makes a profit?*

Sadly, most businesses fail in the first five years. A big reason is that they did not have enough capital. Banks don't lend money to new businesses. Borrowing money at a high interest rate is a bad idea. Even worse is borrowing on credit cards. This is the most expensive form of **debt***.



A business card helps let people know about your business. Bigstockphoto.com

How will I let customers know about my services or products? What kind of advertising will work best?

Steps to get your business started

Once you have decided to go ahead, **register*** your business with the **county clerk***. Apply for a **federal tax identification number*** (TIN). When you have that, a bank will let you open a business checking account.

Find out if you need a business **license*** in your city or state. You may need a **permit*** from your state to collect sales tax. You need a **device*** for taking payment by credit cards.

If you **hire*** employees, you must learn about payroll taxes, federal and state **withholding taxes***, and **Workers' Compensation insurance***.

You must keep your business expenses and income separate from your personal account. You will need to keep careful **records*** of all income and expenses.

A business is like a baby. It takes a lot of time and work. It's exciting to watch it grow. There are often new problems to **solve***.

Make sure you also spend time with your family, eat right, exercise, and have some fun in your life.

Multi-level marketing

You may hear about multi-level marketing (MLM) from a friend or neighbor. The idea is to become a

distributor* and "have your own business." You buy products such as vitamins, cleaning products, telephone service, insurance services, clothing, jewelry, or skin care products from a **sponsor***.

Then you sell the products to friends, family, and neighbors. The products may be good but very expensive and hard to sell. Next, you **recruit*** other people to sell those products. Your sponsor explains that you can earn money in two ways: as a distributor and as a sponsor. You earn profit on your own sales. You earn a small percentage of the sales that your **downline*** people sell.

You have to pay for product **samples***, advertising, **brochures***, travel, and telephone costs. Your sponsor will train you and help you. You will learn about being in your own business. Later, you will train and help the people you recruited into the business.

Most multi-level marketing companies promise part-time work and "**unlimited potential***." Unfortunately, most MLM business owners do not earn much money. In 2018, 73% of MLM business owners made no money or lost money. (Source: AARP)

Watch out for business scams*

People who are looking for a way to make money may fall for a scam. One example is an ad such as "Make money from home **stuffing*** envelopes...no experience needed." Well, that sounds like easy work, doesn't it? However, you have to buy the company's envelopes and pay for stamps to send them out.

Another scam that hooks people is an ad that says, "Earn up to \$10,000 a month with your own business!" You spend a lot of money for someone to create a website for you. That person provides the products for you to sell at your website. But no one comes to your website. Next, they ask you to spend more money to have more products to sell. After some time, you may learn that there are hundreds of websites all selling the same **overpriced*** items, all created by the same company.

Remember: *If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true.*



Keep careful records of your income and expenses. Save your receipts to use with your taxes. Bigstockphoto.com

Job benefits*

For most people, the most important benefit of a job is a paycheck. People get other benefits from their jobs, too. They may enjoy their work. They may like the people they work with. They may like creating things, building things, and being useful. They like learning new **skills***.

When an employer **hires*** a new worker, there may be a **benefits package***. **Fringe benefits*** are things such as paid vacations, paid holidays, life insurance, health insurance, dental or **vision*** insurance, **uniforms***, day care services, scholarships, **bonuses***, **sick days***, **personal days***, **discounts***, or **retirement plans***.

There are no laws that **employers*** must give fringe benefits. There are many jobs that have no fringe benefits at all.

Fringe benefits help employers to get good **employees*** and keep them happy. At some jobs, **unions*** work to get the benefits for workers. The unions sign **contracts*** with employers about pay and benefits for workers.

Many workers look for a job with good benefits. The pay may be low, but benefits make the job worth more. For example,

health insurance may be worth \$6,000 a year for a single person or \$12,000 a year for a family.

Independent contractors*

Independent contractors usually do not get benefits.

They have to pay their own **federal*** and state taxes. They have to pay the employer's share of **Social Security*** and **Medicare*** taxes as well as their own share. They must buy their own health insurance. In ordinary times, they won't get unemployment insurance when the job ends. (During this time of the coronavirus **pandemic***, they can apply for unemployment insurance if they are not working.)



Hmm, my pay is not very high, but my benefits are good. iStockphoto.com © MachineHeadz

Are you an employee or an independent contractor?

The law says that an employer may not call a worker an independent contractor just to save money, benefits, or paperwork.

You are probably an *employee* if:

- you work at the employer's place of business
- the employer directs the work you do
- you accept the pay the employer offers
- you work full time for only one employer over a long period of time.

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EditorElizabeth Claire
Managing Editor.....Carol Brigham
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Copy Editors Fran Davis, Sharon Flynn,
Lynn Schaefer, Cathie Whitmire
Writers.....Elizabeth Claire
Customer ServiceAmanda Scott
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Required* Benefits for Employees

Federal laws say employers must give certain benefits to employees. Social Security plus Medicare tax is 15.3%. Employers pay half of this for employees. The employee pays the other half.

Employers pay state and federal **unemployment*** insurance. Employers must also pay for **Workers' Compensation Insurance***.

Employers of 50 or more employees must **allow*** a worker to be absent for 12 weeks (unpaid) to care for a new baby or a sick family member. Since 2015, employers of 50 or more people have had to pay part of the cost of health insurance for their employees.

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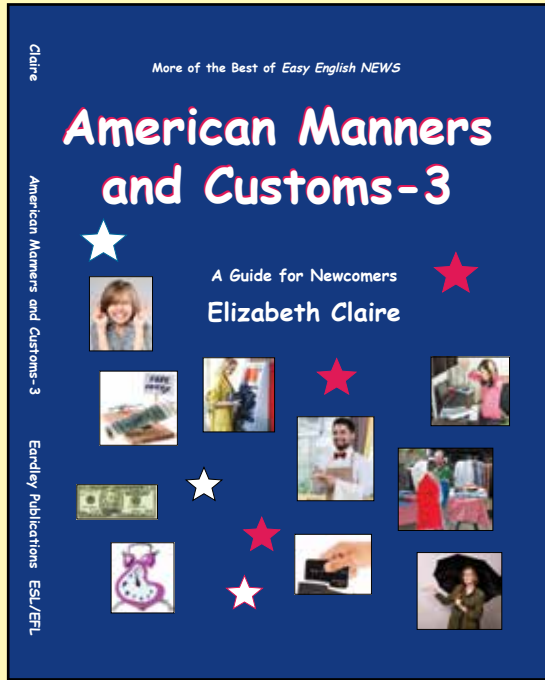
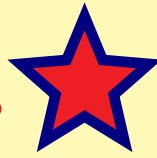
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by Elizabeth Claire



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- Manners and Customs about Time
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It's great for self-study or classwork. The book has twenty chapters, two pages each. Each chapter has two pages of discussion and comprehension questions, vocabulary questions, and culture sharing questions. Difficult words are in a Word Help at the back of the book. **96 pages**

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A: \$18
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Like many people and many businesses, *Easy English NEWS* is making changes to adapt to the "new normal." Please register at our website Elizabethclaire.com to follow summer news about our digital edition for large classes. We'll still be printing the paper edition that our readers are familiar with and love. Most students like to share it with family and friends when they have finished reading it. They also say they remember things better when they "can hold the paper in their hands." Please tell all your friends and colleagues about this hard-working newspaper that has won Mensa's Award for "Intellectual Benefit to Society." Encourage students to subscribe if they are leaving your program. (Order form on page 10)

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

T	L	A	E	H	T	N	N	E	E
V	T	C	C	V	V	O	E	C	
S	R	I	A	T	S	E	C	I	N
E	N	A	S	C	I	T	T	A	
E	R	O	M	E	O	L	V	I	
S	D	E	T	I	B	U	R	G	
T	S	E	I	K	C	U	L	E	
S	N	E	D	D	V	S	P	V	T
M	E	A	M	S	E	A	I	T	
A	V	D	A	C	I	R	E	M	A

Let's Talk About It

When will it be over? (pages 1 and 5)

1. Tell five ways that there is hope for the future after COVID-19.
2. What do you hope for in the future?
3. Why do many people want life to get back to normal? What do you miss in today's conditions?
4. Are President Trump's opinions different from the medical experts' opinions? In what way?
5. What are three conditions that the CDC wants before a state lifts restrictions?
6. How safe do you feel about going back to school or work, or out to a restaurant? Explain.
7. Follow the news. What are the latest numbers of cases in the United States? Which places are "hot spots"?
8. Have you or anyone you know had COVID-19? Tell about it.
9. What is the latest news about people at the White House and COVID-19? How do you feel about that?
10. Tell the meaning of these words: *recover, treatment, frustrated, ZOOM, recession, guideline, isolated, social distancing, precautions, predict, expert, collapse, test positive, herd immunity.*

Starting your own business (pages 1 and 9)

1. Why are a lot of businesses in trouble these days?
2. What kinds of businesses had to close? What kinds of businesses are making more money these days?
3. What is one way to make your own job?
4. Tell ten questions to think about when you are making a business plan.
5. What are some expenses a business must pay?
6. What are some ways to advertise a business?
7. Do you work in a business? How does it get customers?
8. Why do many small businesses fail in the first five years?
9. What is multi-level marketing?
10. What is a business scam? How do many people get hurt in these scams?
11. Tell the meaning of these words: *essential, contact, lay off, online, product, profit, charge, corporation, limit, market, expense, utilities, debt, license, scam.*

Events in June and July (pages 2 and 3)

1. Describe the American flag. Draw the flag of your home country. Tell the class about it.
2. What did the first "Stars and Stripes" look like?
3. What gave Francis Scott

- Key the ideas for "The Star-Spangled Banner?"
4. Does your country have a national anthem? Sing it for the class.
 5. Who are the important men in your life? Tell about one of them.
 6. Why are fathers important in children's lives?
 7. Tell five rules for summer safety.
 8. How do people celebrate July 4th in your community?
 9. What is the purpose of the two big conventions in August? Where will they be?
 10. Tell the meaning of these words: *national anthem, delegate, media, platform, Declaration of Independence, barbecue, graduation.*

This is your page (page 4)

1. Have you celebrated July 4th in the U.S.? Is it different from Independence Day in your home country? Tell about it.
2. How are clothes in the U.S. different from clothes in your home country?
3. Tell about a time you made a new friend.
4. Has your accent ever made you nervous? Tell about it.
5. Tell the meaning of these words: *informal, parade, accent, acrobats, dialects, normal.*

Symbols of America (pages 6 and 7)

1. Tell eight symbols of the United States. Where can you see them?
2. Tell the meanings of five American symbols.
3. What are some symbols of your home country? What meanings do they have?
4. What colors symbolize the United States? What colors symbolize your home country?
5. Where does the leader of your country live? Does he or she work there too?
6. Tell the meaning of these words: *trade, constitution, Founding Fathers, sculpture, liberty.*

Job benefits (page 10)

1. What job benefits might a worker get besides a paycheck?
2. What job benefits *must* an employer give?
3. Why do some employers give fringe benefits?
4. Why do you think independent contractors don't receive benefits?
5. Do you have a job? What benefits do you get?
6. Tell the meaning of these words: *uniform, bonus, unemployment, union, hires.*

WORD HELP

Some of the words below have many meanings. We give only the meanings you need for this month's newspaper.

accent *noun*. The way a person pronounces words.
accept [ak SEPT] *verb*. To say yes to an idea or person; to receive something for payment.
acrobat *noun*. A person who entertains people by tumbling, flipping, and doing tricks.
advertising *noun*. Ways of getting attention to a business, product, or event.
allow *verb*. To give permission to someone.
approve *verb*. To officially say that something is good.
arena *noun*. A large area in which a sport event takes place.
avoid *verb*. To stay away from.
bald *adjective*. Having no hair; seeming to have no hair.
bankrupt *adjective*. Unable to pay one's debts and bills.
banner *noun*. Flag.
barbecue [BAR buh kyoo] *noun*. Food cooked over a fire (or a party with such food).
battle *noun*. A fight between two armies.
beak *noun*. The hard pointed part of a bird's mouth.
benefit *noun*. Something good for a worker besides pay.
benefits package *noun phrase*. A list of the extra good things that go with a job.
bonus [BOH nihs] *noun*. Extra pay.
brochure *noun*. [broh SHOOR] A small booklet to advertise a company.
campaign [kaem PAYN] *noun*. The speeches, ads, and efforts to get a person elected.
candidate *noun*. A person who is trying to get elected.
capital *noun*. 1. Money to invest in business. 2. The city where the government works.
capture *verb*. To catch; to take control of.
CDC Centers for Disease Control *noun*. The Government agency that advises about health in the U.S.
celebration *noun*. A special occasion or holiday.
charge *verb*. To ask a certain price for a service or product.
collapse *verb*. Fall apart; lose value; become worth nothing.
colony *noun*. An area that is ruled by another country.
community *noun/adjective*. (For) all the people in a town or neighborhood.
Constitution *noun*. The basic set of laws for the United States.
contact *noun*. Being close to or touching something or someone.
contagious *adjective*. Easy for a person to catch from another person.
contest *noun*. A competition to see who will win.
contract *noun*. A written agreement between two people or groups of people.
convention *noun*. A large meeting of people in an organization.
copper *noun*. A goldish pink metal (CU)
coronavirus *noun*. The virus that causes the disease COVID-19.
corporation *noun*. A type of business that is owned by many people.
county clerk *noun phrase*. A person in charge of records, deeds, lists, etc. in a county.
crafts *noun, plural*. Things made skillfully by hand.

crowded *adjective*. With many people in one place.
crown *noun*. A head piece for a king or queen, often made of gold with jewels.
C-SPAN *noun*. A cable TV network that has live coverage of important political events and speeches.
customer *noun*. A person who buys things.
debt [DEHT] *noun*. Money that a person or organization owes.
Declaration of Independence *noun phrase*. The document in which the 13 British colonies said they were no longer ruled by Britain.
decrease *verb*. To get smaller or have less of something.
delegate [DEHL uh giht] *noun*. A person who represents others at a meeting.
density *noun*. A measure of how close together people are.
device *noun*. A small machine or tool to use to do a job.
diabetes [DIY uh BEE teez] *noun*. An illness when a person has too much sugar in the blood.
dialect *noun*. A way of speaking the language in different parts of a country.
discount *noun*. A lower-than-usual price for something.
distributor *noun*. A person who sells or delivers products.
document *noun*. A paper with important information.
dormitory *noun*. A group home for many people, as in colleges.
downline *noun*. Distributors that a sponsor has recruited and trained, and earns profits from.
Dr. Anthony Fauci *noun*. Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
economy *noun*. The financial condition of a country or family
effective *adjective*. Able to do what it is supposed to do.
electronics *noun, plural*. Devices that use electricity to function: TV's radios, computers, smartphones, etc.
employee *noun*. A person who works for another person.
employer *noun*. A person who gives another person a job.
essential *adjective*. Important; necessary.
executive *noun*. A person who manages a business or organization.
exhale *verb*. To breathe out.
expense *noun*. Money that is paid for needed things.
expert *noun*. A person who knows a lot about a subject or who does a job very well.
explosion *noun*. A violent burst.
federal *adjective*. National.
federal tax identification number *noun phrase*. A number for a business to identify it to the government.
field *noun*. An open area.
fireworks *noun, plural*. Explosive devices that give off bright lights or loud noises.
Founding Fathers *noun phrase, plural*. The men who wrote the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
fringe [FRIHNJ] *benefit noun phrase*. A good thing that an employer might give to workers.
frustrated *adjective*. Upset because one can't do the things one wants to do.
goal *noun*. Something that a person hopes to achieve or get.
graduation *noun*. A ceremony at

the end of high school or college.
grant *noun*. An amount of money given for a particular purpose.
grocery store *noun*. A small store that sells food and other goods.
guidelines *noun plural*. Instructions telling how something should be done.
gymnast *noun*. A person that can do flips and other tricks.
harbor *noun*. An area where ships can safely stay.
herd immunity *noun phrase*. A condition that happens when 70% or more of a population has been vaccinated or has had a disease. Other people are then in less danger of catching the disease.
hire *verb*. To give someone a job.
illegal *adjective*. Against the law.
increase *verb*. To get larger or have more of something.
incumbent *adjective*. Having the job now.
independent contractor *noun phrase*. A worker who is not a regular employee.
informal *adjective*. Relaxed, casual, unofficial.
insect repellent *noun*. A spray to keep bugs away from the skin.
isolate *verb*. To cause someone to stay alone, away from others.
lay off *verb phrase*. To temporarily let workers stay home from work.
layer *noun*. One level across.
liability insurance *noun phrase*. Insurance to protect a company if its product causes harm and someone sues the company.
liberty *noun*. Freedom.
license *noun*. A document from the government that gives permission to do something.
limit *noun*. A maximum or minimum amount; a boundary.
loud speaker *noun*. A device to make announcements in a large area.
major *adjective*. Large and important.
media [MEE dee uh] *noun, plural*. TV, radio, newspapers, the Internet.
Medicare *noun*. A federal health insurance program for people 65 and over.
national anthem *noun phrase*. A country's official song.
nominate *verb*. To name a candidate for a political party
nominee *noun*. A person who is nominated.
non-essential *adjective*. Not very necessary.
normal *adjective*. What someone is used to; standard, usual.
nursing home *noun phrase*. A place that cares for people who have long-term illnesses.
obesity *noun*. The condition of being very fat.
official *adjective*. Approved by the government.
olive branch *noun phrase*. A small piece of an olive tree; a symbol of peace.
online *adjective or adverb*. Using the Internet.
Oval Office *noun phrase*. The room where the president works.
overpriced *adjective*. Costing more than it is worth.
pandemic *noun*. A disease that has spread to many countries.
parade *noun*. A march of people, cars, bands, floats down a street.
partnership *noun*. A business that is owned by two or more people.
personal days *noun plural*. Days that an employee may stay away from work for any reason.
permit [PER miht] *noun*. A document that gives permission

to do something.
phase [fayz] *noun*. One part of a series of events.
platform *noun*. A set of ideas of a political party; actions a party promises to fulfill if elected.
Pokemon *noun*. A Japanese video game, trading cards, and television show where cartoon monsters fight each other.
precaution *noun*. An action to prevent something bad from happening.
predict *verb*. To tell what will happen in the future.
product *noun*. Something that is made and then sold.
profit *noun*. Money that is left after all expenses of a business are paid.
prom *noun*. A high school or college formal dance party.
protest *verb*. To disagree with someone or some law.
pyramid *noun*. A large four-sided structure whose sides are all triangles.
recession *noun*. A condition where the economy is bad; many people are unemployed
record *noun*. Written lists of information important to a business.
recover *verb*. To get better after being sick.
recruit [ree KROOT] *verb*. To invite others to join an organization.
register *verb*. To put one's name on a list of names.
relax *verb*. To lower strict rules; to take it easy.
represent *verb*. 1. To stand for or symbolize something. 2. To speak or vote for others.
required *adjective*. Necessary by law; needed.
restriction *noun*. A rule that tells people what they may not do or where they may not go.
resume [ree ZOOM] *verb*. To continue after stopping for a while.
retirement plan *noun phrase*. Payments to an employee's IRA or 401K account for when he or she stops working.
risk *noun*. A danger.
Roman numerals *noun phrase, plural*. Letters that stand for numbers: I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100, D = 500, M = 1,000.
salon *noun*. A place for an activity such as cutting hair, painting nails.
sample *noun*. A small amount of a product for a customer to try.
scam *noun*. A way to cheat people out of their money with false stories or promises.
scary *adjective*. Causing fear.
schedule *verb*. To plan an event for a certain time and date.
SCORE *noun*. An organization of executives who advise new business owners.
sculpture *noun*. [SKUHLP tyuhr] A piece of art made by carving or shaping stone, metal, clay, etc.
seal *noun*. A special symbol stamped on official documents.
Secret Service *noun*. The agency that protects the President and Vice President.
self-quarantine *verb*. To stay at home without being in contact with others.
sick days *noun phrase*. Paid days when a worker is absent.
skill *noun*. Ability.
sleep-away camp *noun phrase*. A place where young people can learn outdoor activities, swim, hike, and form friendships.
Small Business Administration

noun phrase. A government agency that assists small businesses.
social distancing *noun phrase*. Staying away from groups of people. Staying six feet away from others.
Social Security *noun phrase*. a federal government pension for workers who retire or are disabled.
sole proprietor *noun phrase*. [proh PRIY uh tehr] A business owned by one person.
solve *verb*. To find the answer to a mystery or a problem.
sponsor *noun*. A person who brings another person into an organization.
staff *noun*. The people who work in an office.
star-spangled *adjective*. Having many stars.
statue *noun*. A large image made of stone, metal, wood, etc.
stripe *noun*. A long, narrow band of color.
striped *adjective*. Having alternating bands of color.
stuff *verb*. To put something into another thing.
sunscreen *noun*. A product to protect one's skin from getting burned by the sun.
supplement *verb*. To add to something that wasn't large enough.
suspension bridge *noun phrase*. A bridge hung from multiple cables that are held up by towers.
symbol *noun*. Something that makes you think of another thing.
symptom *noun*. A sign of an illness: fever, sore throat, coughing, sneezing, pain, etc.
term *noun*. A period of time at a school, or for a job.
test positive *verb phrase*. Proof that a person has an illness.
trade *noun*. Buying and selling goods.
trash *noun*. Garbage.
treatment *noun*. Medicine that can help heal an illness.
trillion *noun*. 1,000,000,000,000.
unemployed *adjective*. Not having a job.
unemployment *noun*. A condition of having no work.
unemployment insurance *noun phrase*. Money from the government for a period of time that a person is not working.
uniform *noun*. Specific clothing required for everyone at a job.
union *noun*. 1. The United States. 2. An organization of workers.
unlimited potential *noun phrase*. Having nothing to stop it from growing very very large and successful.
utilities *noun, plural*. Telephone, heat, electricity, gas, and water.
valet [væ LAY] *noun*. A male attendant.
vaccine [vak SEEN] *noun*. A medicine that can prevent a disease.
virtual *adjective*. Not actual; taking place on a computer screen.
vision *noun*. Eyesight.
volunteer *noun*. A person who works willingly without pay.
White House *noun phrase*. The home and office of the president.
withholding taxes *noun phrase, plural*. Money that an employer keeps out of a paycheck and sends to the government.
Workers' Compensation Insurance *noun phrase*. Insurance paid by employers for medical expenses if a worker is hurt on the job.