Why should we stay home?

The U.S. government, doctors, nurses, and many others are working hard to stop the spread* of COVID-19*. Everyone in the country has an important job to do. If you aren’t an essential* worker, you have an important job too: Stay home. Anyone can get COVID-19. People without symptoms* can carry the disease* and pass it on to others. If you must go out to buy food, wear a mask*. Stay six feet or more away from everyone else.

The U.S. needs many things to fight against COVID-19.

Many hospitals are full. They need more beds for people sick with COVID-19. The U.S. Army has set up field hospitals* in tents* on parking lots, in sports arenas*, or in large convention centers* such as the Javits Center in New York City.

President Trump ordered the U.S. Navy hospital ship Mercy to go to Los Angeles. It has 1,000 beds. They can be used for patients* with COVID-19 or any other medical problem. The other Navy hospital ship, Comfort, arrived in New York City March 30.

More equipment* for doctors and nurses

Doctors and nurses at the hospitals need equipment: masks,

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What’s Inside?

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

Life in the U.S.A.

Help for the economy*

COVID-19 has affected* millions of Americans. Schools closed. Businesses closed. Factories* closed. People are not going to work. They aren’t traveling, shopping, or going to restaurants, bars, or movies. Parties, weddings, and funerals* cannot have more than ten people.

Millions of workers are unemployed*. How will they pay their rent? How will they buy food and medicines? How will businesses survive*?

Money from the government

The government is trying to help. The U.S. Congress* has passed a bill* to help the economy. The bill will put 2.3 trillion dollars ($2,300,000,000,000) into the bank accounts of workers and businesses.

This 2.3 trillion dollar stimulus* will help some people for a short time. There may be another stimulus bill after this one.

Who will get money?

Businesses will get help to keep their employees* working. Workers who lose their jobs can get unemployment* insurance*.
Asian / Pacific Heritage Month

In May, Asian Americans and Pacific Island Americans celebrate their heritage*. This month includes the anniversary* of the first Japanese immigrants* to the United States (May 7, 1843). It’s also the month when the transcontinental* railroad was completed (May 10, 1869). Thousands of Chinese workers helped build the railroad.

About 5.6% of the people in the United States are Asian or Pacific Island American. In May, many schools have special programs to show the art, music, food, languages, and cultures* of their homelands. Many communities* have parades, music, dance, art exhibits, food tasting, and demonstrations* of martial arts*. This year, because of COVID-19, things will be different.

Asian Americans and Pacific Island Americans are active in American business, science, medicine, literature*, sports, TV, movies, music, news reporting, art, and government.

Asian Americans own many restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores*, and vegetable markets. Asian Americans have started big corporations* such as Yahoo, Inc., Hotmail, and YouTube.

Asian ideas in health and medicine have become popular in the U.S. Americans are now very familiar with yoga*, acupuncture*, and meditation*.

Asian Groups in the U.S.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Filipino</td>
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<td>Hmong</td>
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<td>Pakistani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>237,283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>2,100,000</td>
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</table>
| Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Groups in the U.S.* | 1,400,000 

Source: American Community Survey 2017

Ramen

Ramen is a holy* month for Muslims*. This year, the first day of Ramadan in the U.S. was April 23.

Ramadan ends on May 23. During Ramadan, Muslims over age 12 fast* during the daylight hours. Fasting helps Muslims learn self-discipline* and sympathy* for hungry people. Young children, sick, people, pregnant women, and travelers do not have to fast.

Muslims read the Koran* each day during Ramadan. Because of the coronavirus, mosques* may be closed. They may show evening prayers on the Internet. People will stay home and pray. Families might use ZOOM* to join other families for the evening.

Eid al-Fitr

At the end of Ramadan (May 23), Muslims celebrate a special holiday called Eid al-Fitr [EED al FITruh]. They decorate their homes. Usually, they get together for a big meal with their families and friends. This year, Muslims may show evening prayers on the Internet. People will stay home and pray. Families might use ZOOM* to join other families for the evening.

Sources: The Fiqh Council of North America, Aljazeera

Cinco de Mayo

The Fifth of May (Cinco de Mayo) is an important holiday for Mexican Americans. On this day in 1862, a small Mexican army defeated* 8,000 well-trained French soldiers.

History

Mexicans had won independence from Spain in 1821. But from 1858 to 1861, the Mexicans had a civil war*. Napoleon III [the third] of France thought it was a good time to invade* Mexico. He wanted to set up an emperor* in Mexico.

The battle of Puebla

The French army invaded Mexico in 1862. The French armies won many victories* in Mexico. But when that army came to the town of Puebla, Mexicans were ready for them. In a one-day battle* on May 5, the Mexicans defeated the French.

The war goes on

The victory at Puebla made Mexicans hopeful. Napoleon sent over more French soldiers. The French army took over the capital, Mexico City. Maximilian of Austria became Emperor of Mexico. However, Mexicans did not want a foreign ruler. In 1866, Napoleon III withdrew* the French soldiers. Benito Juárez became president again. Mexico was free.

Cinco de Mayo today

The holiday Cinco de Mayo today is more popular in the United States than in Mexico. Here in the U.S., Mexican Americans usually celebrate the victory with parades, parties, mariachi* music, and Mexican folk dancing. Towns had fiestas* with traditional Mexican foods. This year, celebrations have been canceled or postponed* to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Source: The Fiqh Council of North America, Aljazeera

Events
in May

May 2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 10, is Mother’s Day. On this day, children thank their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other women in their lives. They may make handmade cards for their moms.

What would we do without our mothers?

Favorite gifts for moms are books, clothing, flowers, photos, jewelry, or handbags. Most gifts may be bought online this year because many stores are still closed due to COVID-19.

Children might do some of Mom’s work on this day. They may make breakfast for her or do some of her chores. Families might take Mom on a picnic.

Armed Forces* Day

Armed Forces Day is May 16, the third Saturday in May. It’s a day to think of how the U.S. protects itself and its allies.

Today there are more than 1.3 million men and women on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. There are also nearly 800,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves.

For the last 47 years, the United States has had an all-volunteer military. There is no draft. However, all male citizens and non-citizens who live in the United States who are 18 to 25 years old must register with Selective Service.

This does not include foreign college students on student visas. If you need to register, you can do so online at sss.gov/register.

Memorial* Day

Memorial Day is the last Monday of May. On this day, Americans remember the men and women who have fought and died in wars for the United States. Cities and towns usually have parades. People visit cemeteries. They bring flowers and flags to the graves of fallen soldiers.

On Memorial Day, there are special services in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. The President and other important leaders make speeches. This year, many of these local and national celebrations have been canceled because of COVID-19.

Memorial Day is part of a three-day weekend. There are usually picnics and barbecues. People will still have to practice social distancing. There may not be much travel on this weekend. Beaches may not open for the summer.

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel again;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Other important leaders make speeches.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the gravestones.

Poppies have become a symbol of remembering soldiers who died in wars.

Word Help

*Flanders Fields: A war cemetery
*poppies: Red flowers
*blow: Blossom
*crosses: Grave markers
*larks: Birds
*scarce: Almost not
*amid: In the middle of
*dawn: Morning light

*glow: Shine softly
*lie: Are dead and buried
*quarrel: Fight
*foe: Enemy (Germany)
*torch: The fire, the war against the enemy
**ye: You
*break faith: Don’t keep a promise to fight on until the war is won.
Delicious* dessert*

I was a dishwasher at a diner. It was my first job in America. I met a lot of people from different countries. Many of them were from Mexico. I asked many questions about their culture. They did the same thing with me. It was fun.

They wanted to learn about different foods we eat in the Dominican Republic. I told them about a very popular dessert called sweet beans. It is made with beans, evaporated milk*, sugar, cinnamon sticks, sweet potatoes, and raisins. It was hard to convince* them that this dessert is so delicious. They couldn’t imagine eating beans with sugar.

This dessert is usually made during Easter Week. This is an important holiday week in our culture. I promised to make this special dessert for them. I changed jobs before I had the chance to do this. I still feel a little sad that I couldn’t keep my promise.

Jose Sepulveda
Staten Island, New York
(Dominican Republic)

So much help

My wife and I visited San Francisco. We bought two tickets on the Muni* (Municipal Railway). The lady at the window was interested in my eye glasses. They were different. She thought they looked good. I put my glasses on the counter* and took the tickets. Then we got on the train.

After some time, a female police officer came to us and asked, “Did you forget something?” We were frightened to see a police officer. We couldn’t speak at all.

She smiled and said, “Don’t be afraid. You forgot your glasses at the ticket counter. Please go back to get them.” She helped us take another train back to the ticket counter.

When I got my glasses, the lady took our old tickets and gave us new ones. She told us that she wouldn’t charge us for the two new tickets.

We got back on the train. We were so surprised by all this. The police officer must have had trouble finding us. Then, she personally helped us get on the return train.

We also talked about the kindness of the ticket agent. She took the time to ask the police officer to bring us back. Then, she didn’t charge us for the new tickets.

This memory still brings tears of happiness to our eyes. We are surprised by how much help the American people give to others. It’s rare* to get this kind of help in India.

Shashi Kumar Dhoopar
Maple Grove, Minnesota
(India)

No funny stories

My daughter is a junior in high school. She is now applying to colleges. I received a letter from one of the colleges. I had to give them some information about my daughter.

The letter told me to write an anecdote* about her challenges* in high school. I was confused. In Russia, the word anecdote means a funny story. I tried to think of a funny story about my daughter. I couldn’t think of any. She’s a very quiet and serious girl.

Finally, I told my daughter about this problem. She laughed and explained that an anecdote is just a short story about something in your life. Now, I knew what to do!

Natalia Vukolov
Staten Island, New York
(Russia)

Not stolen

I went to Costco for the first time. It’s a very large store that sells many different things at lower prices. I bought a pair of shoes at a really low price. I paid for them and went to the door.

The man at the door asked for my receipt*. I showed it to him. He checked my receipt and said, “It’s a steal.” I thought I heard wrong. I asked, “I beg your pardon?” He said again, “It’s a steal.”

I said, “I didn’t steal it. I paid for it!” He laughed out loud. He explained that he meant my shoes were very cheap. The price was very low.

Teonsoo Park
Austin, Texas
(South Korea)

Tornado* togetherness

I experienced a tornado for the first time when my family and I came to Minnesota. My husband’s sister told us what to do if there was a tornado.

She said that when we hear a siren*, it means a tornado is near. We should go to a safe place in our home, like a basement or another room without windows.

One day we heard the siren. We went to our basement. The wind was very strong. It knocked down trees. We lost electricity. My children were scared. I was terrified, but I didn’t show it. I had to be calm* to show them we were safe.

After that, my 7-year-old daughter took a bag with her every time we went to the basement. I didn’t know what was in it. We unpacked the bag together when the tornado season ended.

Inside the bag was her favorite stuffed animal, a jar of peanut butter, a packet of rice cakes, and four bottles of water. My little girl thought about her whole family. She brought something for everyone. This made me happy.

Joanna Tomczyk
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
(Poland)

Restaurant bill

When I first came here, I worked as a server in a restaurant. I served drinks and lunch. When the customers finished eating, I asked them if they wanted coffee or dessert. They said, “No thanks.”

My boss asked me if I asked the customers about dessert or coffee. I said, “I asked them, but they didn’t want any.” Then, he went to the computer and printed out their bill. He told me, “Ok, you can give them the bill.”

I was shocked! In Brazil, it’s rude* for the server to bring the bill before you ask for it. We would never do that. When I told my boss this he said, “Don’t worry. It’s normal here. You can say, ‘Here is your bill, but take your time.’”

I did that and it was really okay. Everyone must be used to this. The customers thanked me and left a good tip*.

Cristiana Nóbrega Cardosa
North Arlington, New Jersey
(Brazil)

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, too.

Dr. Lynn Corigliano

All Photos from Bigstockphoto.com
Who will run against Donald Trump for president?

The choices for president

There is now just one Democratic candidate* for president: Joe Biden.

On April 8, Senator Bernie Sanders dropped out* of the race. He saw that there was no way to get enough delegates* to win the nomination*. On April 13, he endorsed* Joe Biden for president.

In addition, news about the COVID-19 pandemic became more important than the primary elections*.

President Donald Trump has already won enough delegates to win the Republican nomination to be his party’s candidate.

Now the country wonders how people will vote. Most states have “STAY AT HOME” orders. Will states need to change to voting by mail?

Will the Democratic and Republican conventions* take place in August? Will people be able to vote in person in the November presidential election?

We will find out later.

COVID-19 takes over the news

Part of the reason was the COVID-19 pandemic*. It changed the campaign*.

There was no way to travel around the country safely by plane. Candidates could not have rallies* with thousands of people. Sanders’ volunteers* could not go door to door to talk to voters.

Who will run against Donald Trump

May 2020

In this photo, Robert Wilson, wearing a mask, looks over his ballot*. April 7, 2020. He voted in Wisconsin’s presidential primary election at the Dunn, Wisconsin’s highway garage building. The state of Wisconsin had a stay-at-home order because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there was no way to change the date for the state’s presidential election. There was not enough time to change to voting by mail. Voters did not want to give up their right to vote. They stood in line in the rain for hours in order to vote. John Hart/Wisconsin State Journal via AP

Your Health: Dr. Ali’s Breakfast

by Dr. Majid Ali

One of the most important things to do to stay in good health is to have the right breakfast.

Start the day right with hydration* and good nutrition* for the bowel*, blood, and liver. This will give you energy for the morning’s work. It will help prevent* up-and-down changes in your blood sugar levels during the day.

I suggest* this breakfast for my patients who are in poor health. It’s great for anyone who wants to be in optimum* health.

Many illnesses, aches, and pains get their start in a dehydrated* body. When you are dehydrated, your body cannot get rid of* the waste products* it produces.

I believe in overhydrating* in the morning. That means drinking several glasses of plain water. After that, I suggest a drink made with organic* vegetable juice with protein powder. I drink it myself every day.

My patients* call it Dr. Ali’s Breakfast. Here is the recipe:

Choose several of these for the vegetable juice: organic celery, cucumber, sweet red pepper, carrots, parsley, chard, kale, or zucchini.

If you like, sweeten the drink with a little stevia*. You can add a few ounces of club soda*.

At first, patients say, “I can’t drink that! I won’t like the taste,” and “I don’t have time to make juice and clean a juicer!” or “I’m not hungry in the morning.”

I tell them, “Begin with just a few ounces. You can use Very Veggie bottled organic vegetable juice. Get accustomed* to it, and soon you will notice the benefits*.

When our body gets what it needs, the taste of that food changes for us. We begin to like it. Many of my patients now enjoy “Dr. Ali’s Breakfast.” It has become delicious to them. They tell me that they have good energy all day long. They can think more clearly, feel more optimistic*, and sleep better. Some say that their allergies* have disappeared. Their skin is clearer. They have no constipation* and no arthritis* pain.

Get more information on Dr. Ali’s Breakfast at majidalimd.me/2014/05/29/breakfast-and-health/

Word Help

acustomed (to) adjective. Used to; familiar with.

allergy noun. The body’s reaction to a substance in the environment, causing sneezing, rash, illness, headache, etc.

arthritus noun. Pain in the joints (hips, knees, elbows, shoulders, back).

benefit noun. Something good. bowl noun. The small and large intestines.

carburetor noun phrase. Unflavored, unsweetened carbonated (bubbly) water.

constipation noun. Difficulty in moving one’s bowels (going to the bathroom).

derhydrated adjective. Dry; not having enough water.

good noun. The small and large intestines.

get rid of verb phrase. To remove, dispose of, take out.

grind verb. To cut into extremely small pieces with a grinder.

hydration noun. The amount of water in the body.

lectin noun. An antioxidant from egg yolks and soybeans; it is rich in B complex vitamins; it helps keep fat from getting spoiled.

nutrition noun. The science of the body’s need for certain foods and the results of those foods.

optimistic adjective. Having a hopeful and positive feeling about the future.


stevia noun. A natural sweetener.

sugar levels during the day.

suggest verb. To give advice.

waste product noun phrase. The part that is left over after the good part is used.

(Dr. Ali’s articles are for information and are not prescriptions for you. Always talk to your own health practitioner if you are ill and need medical advice.)

Dr. Majid Ali is an integrative physician with practices in Manhattan, New York, and Denville, New Jersey. He is the author of many books on healing and causes of disease. You can see his many free videos at Majidalimd.me

Protein* powder: 2 Tablespoons

Lecithin*: 1 Tablespoon

Freshly-ground* flax seed: 1-2 Tablespoons.

Water: 15 oz. (ounces)

Vegetable juice: 15 oz.
Shenandoah National Park is a wilderness area in northwestern Virginia. It’s just 75 miles away from Washington, D.C. More than a million visitors come to the park each year.

Ninety percent of the park is covered with forest. Thousands of different creatures make their home in this park. Part of the Blue Ridge Mountains are in the park. In the 1930s, U.S. President Herbert Hoover had his summer home in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was cooler there than in Washington.

Hikers love the beautiful scenes of quiet woods, waterfalls, and grand views from the mountain tops. You can camp, fish, ride horses, and watch birds and other wildlife.

Water evaporates from the leaves of the trees. The water vapor over the trees makes the tops of the mountains look blue from far away. That’s how the Blue Ridge Mountains got their name.

Streams and waterfalls make this a peaceful place to enjoy nature. The Black-eyed Susan is one of the 850 different kinds of wildflowers in Shenandoah National Park.

The Appalachian Trail goes through Shenandoah National Park.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, parts of the park will be closed. Check at nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/alerts.htm

Visitors may be surprised by deer, bears, raccoons, and other animals.

Rangers in the park show visitors hidden secrets of animal life.

Many people come to Shenandoah to camp out in the woods for days or weeks.

Photos are courtesy of the National Park Service

A swallowtail butterfly visits a purple thistle flower.

Skyline Drive is a road that winds around the upper parts of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are many wonderful views.
Heroes and History

Living through a pandemic*

A highly contagious* illness, COVID-19, has affected* millions of people around the world.

The world has had new viruses* before. But the world was not prepared* for a virus that was so contagious or so dangerous. The world was not prepared for the changes in our everyday lives.

Doctors are working night and day to develop treatments* and cures* for COVID-19. A year or more from now, there may be a vaccine*. The country will be back at work and at school again. But some things will never be the same.

This is history

This pandemic is one of the most important events in human history. People will be talking about COVID-19 for a long, long time. Years from now, you will be telling your grandchildren about this year’s conditions. People will talk about life “before the pandemic” and life “after the pandemic.”

How has COVID-19 affected you?

What details* will you remember?

You may want to keep a journal* during these historic times. History books will write about it, but your stories will be your family’s history for your children and your children’s children.

In your journal, tell where you were during the pandemic. Tell what you, your family, and neighbors had to do. How did you help prevent* spreading the virus? What new habits* did you learn?

Did you or someone in your family lose their job or their business? Were you able to shop for food and other things you needed?

Was anyone in your family sick with COVID-19? What was that like?

Did your school close? For how long? How did you learn? What school events did you miss?

Did you read books, watch TV, play games with your family? Tell about them.

How did you exercise?

When could you go out to get sunshine and fresh air?

How did it feel to be away from friends?

What were the most difficult things you had to do during the pandemic?

How did others help you or your family?

How did you help others?

It has become a tradition in many cities around the world: People come to their windows or their balconies to sing, make noise, or clap to thank the health care workers and others who are working so hard to save lives. This family in Portland, Oregon came out to clap at 7 PM on April 6, 2020. Photo by John Rudoff/Sipa USA Sipa via AP Images

Parks and beaches in Los Angeles County, California are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic March 23, 2020. Yellow tape on the park benches tell people not to use the tables. Photo by Ted Soqui/SIPA USA (Sipa via AP Images)

A sign on Southeast Cesar Chavez Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, March 23, 2020, tells people to stay at home. Governor Kate Brown gave a statewide order to stay home except for essential* needs and essential workers. Photo by Alex Milan Tracy/Sipa USA (Sipa via AP Images)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing started March 22, 2020, in the parking lot of the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. People age 65 and over are being tested here. Photo: mpi04/MediaPunch /IPX

Members of the Arizona National Guard* pack bags of food at a food bank*, March 26, 2020, in Mesa, Arizona. Governor Doug Ducey called the Guard up to help move the supply of food. Packing at the food bank was one of their first jobs. AP Photo/Matt York

Eric Timpson, center, and Thomas Nicolaysen, right, give blood at the American Red Cross Donation Center* March 23, 2020, in Murray, Utah. The U.S. Surgeon General* asked healthy Americans to donate* blood. The supply of blood was getting low during the pandemic. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Shonia Hall, director of Oklahoma City Public Schools Nutrition Service*, hands a bag lunch through a car window at Rockwood Elementary School in Oklahoma City March 24, 2020. The Nutrition Service was able to give free meals to students at 42 locations around the city while schools were closed. AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki

Eric Timpson, center, and Thomas Nicolaysen, right, give blood at the American Red Cross Donation Center* March 23, 2020, in Murray, Utah. The U.S. Surgeon General* asked healthy Americans to donate* blood. The supply of blood was getting low during the pandemic. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Shonia Hall, director of Oklahoma City Public Schools Nutrition Service*, hands a bag lunch through a car window at Rockwood Elementary School in Oklahoma City March 24, 2020. The Nutrition Service was able to give free meals to students at 42 locations around the city while schools were closed. AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki
Idiom Corner
Illustrations by Dave Nicholson
Have you heard people use these idioms?

1. **to hit the ceiling**
to show a great deal of anger
Maurizio hit the ceiling when he saw that his money was gone.
Flora hit the ceiling when her boyfriend kissed her sister.

2. **dirty words**
vulgar* words about sex or bathroom activities
Yusuke learned dirty words in English before learning the polite ones.
It is rude* to say dirty words in public.

3. **to play by ear**
to do something without having a plan or practice
Jon never took music lessons. He plays the piano by ear.
I don’t know what I’m going to say to the boss; I’ll just play it by ear.

4. **to rub elbows**
to be in the company of certain people
Stacey moved to Los Angeles. She hoped she could rub elbows with movie stars.
Movie stars often rub elbows with presidential candidates.

Crossword Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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**Across**
1. Marches on Memorial Day
5. *Do re__fa sol la ti do*
7. Smallest state (abbreviation)
8. Many times; frequently
11. He ______ the mistakes he makes.
15. Small insect; it likes picnics.
16. A person who makes water splash all over
18. Short name for Ellie
19. Without any gun, knife, or other weapon
22. Not applicable (abbreviation)
23. Department of Defense (abbreviation)
24. Certain
26. Tennessee (abbreviation)
27. One thing
29. Bright color
30. Make with a needle and thread
32. American _____ is an island in the Pacific Ocean.
34. Listen and hear with this.
37. Same as 7 Across
38. Myself
39. Second Sunday in May

**Down**
1. Give these to Mom on Mother’s Day.
2. A way to travel
3. *Doesn’t* is a contraction for these two words: ___ ___
4. Adverb. It’s Saturday, ___ school is closed.
5. Past form of meet
6. Preposition. I live ___ NYC.
9. Places for cows, pigs, and chickens
10. Same as 26 Across
12. Alabama (abbreviation)
13. Country: ___ Arabia
14. Slang term for sunglasses
17. Emergency Room (abbreviation)
20. Unit of money in Europe
21. Like a dream; vague
25. Short name for Edward or Edwin
28. A planet near the Earth
31. Opposite of dry
33. Prefix: in the middle
35. Sound of satisfaction
36. Regarding; about (abbreviation)

Funny Stuff

An ESL student heard a voice. He looked down and saw that a frog was talking to him!

The frog said, “If you kiss me, I will turn into a beautiful princess.”

The student picked up the frog. He didn’t kiss it. The frog spoke again, “Hey, kiss me! I’ll be a beautiful princess.”

The student didn’t say anything. The frog asked, “What’s the matter? Why won’t you kiss me?”

The ESL student said, “Look, I have to study English all day and all night. I don’t have time for a princess. But a talking frog? Wow!”

Answers are on page 11.
Why should we stay home?

(continued from page 1)

**Flatten the curve**

No one has immunity to COVID-19. It is very contagious. Many people can get the disease very quickly.

The yellow curve on the chart (on the right) shows that there will be too many people sick at one time. The health care system (the green line) will not be able to handle them all. That means more people will die.

To “flatten the curve,” we have to slow the spread of the disease. People have to stay home from work and school. We have to wash our hands often. Now, everyone should wear a mask when shopping for food or when getting close to other people.

This all helps to slow the spread of the disease. Sick people can get medical help. The blue line shows a flatter curve. This can save lives until there is a cure or a vaccine. That’s why doctors and the government are saying, “Flatten the curve.”

Help for the economy

(continued from page 1)

They must be American citizens or legal permanent residents.

**How much will workers get?**

Each single adult with an income last year up to $75,000 will get a payment of $1,200. Married couples with income up to $150,000 get $2,400. Couples with children get an additional $500 for each child under 17.

Single adults who earned between $75,001 and $99,000 and married couples who earned between $150,001 and $198,000 get smaller amounts of money.

Adults who earned more than $99,000 and married couples who earned more than $198,000 will not receive this stimulus money.

**Will I get money from the government?**

The government will send the money directly to your bank account, IF:

- you are over 17,
- you have a Social Security number,
- you filed an income tax return for 2018 or 2019,
- you used your account numbers of your bank to receive your refund last year.

You don’t have to do anything. If you didn’t use a bank account for an income tax refund, the government will mail the check to you. If you didn’t file an income tax return last year because you didn’t have to, then file a tax return. When you file, include your bank account number and the bank routing number.

**When will the stimulus money arrive?**

Direct payments to bank accounts started happening April 14. If the government has to mail your check to you, it could take much longer.

**What else will help people?**

The deadline for filing federal income tax returns for 2019 has been moved from April 15 to July 15.

People can apply for unemployment insurance if they lose their job because of COVID-19. That includes independent contractors (1099 workers). The government is adding an extra $600 a week.

In some states, landlords cannot evict people who are not able to pay their rent for the next 120 days. They will still owe the rent money and will have to pay it later. Many banks will not take away a person’s house if the person cannot make the monthly mortgage payments because of COVID-19. These people will have to pay the mortgage payments they missed later.
Other terms* in the news

1918 flu — A deadly pandemic (the Spanish flu) that made 500 million people sick around the world. It killed about 50 million people.

asymptomatic [A SIMP toh MA tik] — Adjective to describe a person who has a disease but does not show any symptoms.

clinical trial — Using people to test new medicines to see if they work and if they are safe.

epidemiologist [Eh puh DEE mee AHL ih jist] — A scientist who studies diseases and how they spread among people.

essential workers — Workers who must go to work. These include doctors and nurses and people who work in farming, food processing, manufacturing, construction, trash collection, grocery and household goods, hardware stores, home and auto repair, pharmacies and other medical facilities, health care, Post Offices, UPS, and other shippers, newspapers, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics*, pet stores, public transportation, and hotels.

fatality rate — The percentage of people with a disease who die from it. Scientists and public health officials do not know the actual fatality rate from COVID-19 because no one knows how many people have it without showing any symptoms. It could be 1%.

high-risk — In more danger of becoming very sick with COVID-19. Examples include people over 80; people with cancer, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure; or people whose immune* systems are weak.

incubation period — The time between when a person is exposed to* a virus and when that person begins showing symptoms* of that virus. The incubation period of the new coronavirus is two to 14 days.

mitigate — To make something less difficult, less terrible, less painful.

outbreak — A sudden beginning of a disease.

social distancing — Closing schools, stores, churches, and gatherings. People are told to stay home and to stay 6 feet away from others if they must be out in public. These actions can slow down a fast-spreadinfection, so fewer people get sick at the same time.

shelter-in-place — Stay at home except for trips to doctors, food stores, or pharmacies.

state of emergency — A declaration by a government during a time of trouble in the country. It gives that government new powers to do things it usually cannot do.

White House Coronavirus Task Force — A group of top doctors and health officials. The task force chairman is U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.