



Dear Colleague:

Greetings and happy holidays to you and all your students! Our gift to you is a 20%-off sale on all books, CDs, and games by Elizabeth Claire. It's a great time to order in quantity at our website, **Elizabethclaire.com**. Order before the end of the month. In addition to the 20% discount, we're including a gift of FREE U.S. shipping. Just put in the coupon code **HOHOHO** during checkout. A free Holiday Song Book is available at our website, too: Eighteen traditional holiday songs, illustrated, with word help for each song.

*Easy English NEWS* went to press just a few days after the election, so we can't cover all the ways Americans are reeling from the surprise. Bring in updated news to keep your students informed. It's a good time to learn how democracy and the transition of power should work. There were very strong feelings on both sides, and protesters who use violence and destroy property have forgotten that democracy means that the people and states vote, and the president is then president of us all. As Hillary Clinton said, we owe Donald Trump an open mind.

Many of our undocumented newcomers or those who have undocumented family members might be concerned about what may happen during Trump's presidency. We don't have access to a crystal ball, but we suspect that immigrants with no criminal record are probably safe for a while. (*A student's immigration status should NOT be discussed in the classroom.*) Trump will be focusing on gang members, criminals, and drug dealers for deportation.

Trump's campaign promises may be worse than the reality. He has a lot to learn, too. Trump appreciates hard-working people and we suspect that he will soon understand that businesses need immigrants, and that America needs a path for our undocumented immigrants to be here legally. You might say that anyone who is fearful about being deported should contact a social service organization in their own language or ethnic group or a lawyer.

If any of your students report being

bullied or called names because of their religion or immigration status, please call in your school's guidance counselor and let the principal know.

*Is Trump a racist xenophobic anti-gay misogynist? Is Clinton a corrupt criminal who endangered America's security and despises the working class?* Many voters believed one statement to be true, and many believed the other statement to be true. Some believed both to be true and voted for third party candidates. Many stayed home and didn't vote. It's a teachable moment: Feeling right is just that, a feeling. It causes anguish, violence and wars. When we learn that the feeling is not the accurate assessment of a situation, we can live together with peaceful ways of resolving differences. That's what an election is supposed to do.

*Elizabeth Claire and Adelaide Coles*

### President-elect Donald Trump! (pages 1 and 9)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell the names of the President-elect, the Vice President-elect. They will know how many electoral votes each candidate won, and which candidate won the electoral votes in your own state. They'll be able to explain why a person who wins the popular vote doesn't always become president. Students will know the names of the people elected to major offices in your state. (You'll have to provide or help them find this information.) **Preparation:** Bring in any recent news items and photos etc. about the election.

**Procedures:** Prior to reading the article, review with the class what they already know about the election. Introduce new vocabulary. Ask students questions such as: *How do you think the loser in the election feels? How do you think that person's supporters feel? How do you think the winner and the winner's supporters feel? Why are some people protesting the election?* Have students look at the calendar to notice the date (**December 19**) for the electoral college to meet, and the January 6th date for counting the ballots in Congress. Ask students to imagine how next four years will affect life in the United States. (Next month we will detail a bit more on Trump's promises, the

new Congress, Trump's Cabinet, and the inauguration.)

### Events in December (pages 2 & 3)

**Prophet's Birthday** Have any Muslim students in your class explain what their family does on this day, or invite a Muslim in to talk about traditional customs on *Eid Milad ul-Nabi*.

**Hanukkah** Students will be able to tell when Hanukkah is, who celebrates it, and tell several customs connected with the holiday. If there are any Jewish students in your class, have them tell about the way their families celebrate Hanukkah. You can have students play the Dreidel game and make potato *latkes* from a mix in class or bring some in, heat in a microwave, and eat with applesauce.

**Kwanzaa** This holiday was invented by Dr. Maulana Karenga, who wanted a way to bring a sense of history, culture and unity among African Americans.

Invite someone who celebrates Kwanzaa to speak to your class about it, and let students ask questions. The original intention of Kwanzaa is to avoid commercialism, and promote creativity, not spending. Have students think of a holiday they would like to invent that does not now exist. *What would it celebrate? When would it be? Why? What are some activities? What foods would be served?*

**Anniversary of flight** The Wright Brothers' story can inspire students to persist in the face of self-doubt or others saying something can't be done. Have students measure out 852 feet in the school hall or school yard to see how far the fourth flight of the Wright Flyer stayed in the air on December 17, 1903. Ask students about their flights to the U.S., if they came by plane. Compare with the 1903 flight.

**Winter begins** Depending on where you live, explain to the new arrivals from warmer countries about adjusting to the temperature changes. Point out the need to "dress in layers" so one can take off a coat and not overheat, but still have a long-sleeve sweater for protection. Talk about the dangers of hypothermia and frostbite. Find out where there is a free coat exchange or a thrift shop that sells winter

coats at very low prices.

**Who is Santa Claus?** Before reading the article, ask questions such as: *Who is Santa Claus? What does he do? Where does he live? Who helps him? Where did the tradition of Santa Claus begin? Does Santa come to children in your home country? Who brings gifts to children in your home country?* Spelling point: Teach the irregular plural of certain *-f* and *-lf* words: *elf/elves; self/selves; wolf/wolves; knife/knives;* and the irregular plural *deer/deer; reindeer/reindeer; sheep/sheep; ox/oxen, etc.*

**Holiday customs in the U.S.** Begin by having students tell of December holidays and customs in their native countries. Read the article and ask if any American customs are similar to their own. Point out that each family might have its own traditions, in addition to common traditions. There are two parts to the Christmas tradition: religious—going to church, celebrating the birth of Jesus—and secular (that is, not religious), such as decorating a tree, giving gifts, baking cookies, giving to charity. Also point out that Christmas creates a lot of jobs for people—retail in stores, manufacturing gifts, sales, deliveries. Point out that many young people fall into a trap of getting into debt at holiday time, because they feel pressure to buy gifts; credit cards are given easily to anyone with a job (or even without a job.) However, it’s a time of creativity, too, with people making gifts, decorating the house, baking foods.

**New Year’s Eve** Find out if your community has a tradition of “First Night” with alcohol-free activities for the whole family, and explain these to your students. Point out that many people prefer to stay home and stay safe this evening because of drunk drivers on the roads.

### This Is Your Page (page 4)

After reading each story, have students tell similar tales of error, mistakes, confusions and blunders. Relate the stories to students’ own experiences. Ask questions such as: *Does your name cause you any problems? Would you ever change your name? What’s your favorite flavor of ice cream? What’s a safety rule about opening your door to strangers?*

### Ask a Speech Coach (page 5)

**Objectives:** Students will be able tell the difference between voiced

and voiceless consonant sounds, and demonstrate both. **Procedures:** Have students practice the voiced consonant examples slowly so they can feel the vibration in their vocal cords.

### Your Health (page 5)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell three causes of high blood pressure, the conditions in which yeast can grow in the bowel, the function of the liver, four foods to avoid to prevent yeast from taking over the bowel, and three actions that can help reduce toxins and acids in the blood.

### Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (page 6)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell three important events in American history that happened in Philadelphia; the city’s most famous resident, and two nicknames for Philadelphia. They will be able to tell where the Declaration of Independence was signed, name Philadelphia’s sister city in China, and tell nine sites to see in Philadelphia.

### Heroes and History: The Bill of Rights (page 7)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to state that the Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, name four rights contained in the First Amendment, and tell what the Second and Fifth amendments protect. They will be able to tell three additional rights. They will be able to state why these rights are important to their lives.

**Procedures:** Explain *bill* and *amendment*. Read each of the amendments and clarify the meaning. (Explain that this is the easy English version. Read the original version if students are advanced in English). (Free at my website in “free stuff.”) Relate the meaning of each right to the students’ lives. Ask students if people in their home country have the same rights. *Do they have other rights that Americans don’t have?*

**Rights in the news.** Point out that sometimes the government, businesses, or organizations do things that conflict with the rights of others. Different people interpret the words and the rights in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution in different ways. People sue one another or the government over rights. It is sometimes up to the Supreme Court to rule on what the rights actually mean.

Each of the photos illustrates some recent or current case where rights are in question. The First Amendment protects the right of free speech. The first photo illustrates the conflict between individuals

and the local law. The First Amendment also protects Americans’ rights to assemble in groups. They can ask the government to make changes in laws. This is illustrated in the second and bottom photo. The Fifth Amendment protects people from having to admit to a crime. (This amendment was passed to make sure that prisoners were not tortured to force them to confess to a crime they didn’t commit.) The third photo illustrates this.

Point out that the Constitution can be changed. In addition to the first ten amendments, other important amendments ended slavery in the U.S., gave citizenship to former slaves, and gave the right to vote to black people, women, and people aged 18 or over. Amendments changed the way senators are elected and when the president takes office. An amendment prohibits more than two elected terms for a president and one allowed the government to collect income tax.

### What does the color red mean? (pages 10 and 11)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell five meanings of the word *red* in American English, and tell fourteen terms or idioms that use the word *red*.

**Procedures:** Elicit from students the meanings of the color *red* in their home countries. *How are the meanings similar to the American meanings? How are they different? What meanings do other colors have in your home country?*

### ANSWERS

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. d                | 16. T                     |
| 2. a                | 17. F (Benjamin Franklin) |
| 3. d                | 18. T                     |
| 4. c                | 19. F (guns)              |
| 5. b                | 20. F (people)            |
| 6. a                | 21. H (warrant)           |
| 7. b                | 22. E (carols)            |
| 8. d                | 23. C (elves)             |
| 9. c                | 24. A (nickname)          |
| 10. b               | 25. J (charities)         |
| 11. F (Hanukkah)    | 26. D (tour)              |
| 12. F (Wright)      | 27. B (scoop)             |
| 13. T               | 28. F (toddler)           |
| 14. F (New Year’s)  | 29. G (fly)               |
| 15. F (December 15) | 30. I (side effects)      |

## December 2016 Quiz I

Choose the best answer. Write its letter on the line in front of the number.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The President from 2013 to 2017 will be
- a) Barack Obama.
  - b) Joe Biden.
  - c) Hillary Clinton.
  - d) Donald Trump.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mike Pence was just elected
- a) vice president.
  - b) president.
  - c) governor of Indiana.
  - d) mayor of Chicago.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The new president's term will begin
- a) November 8, 2017.
  - b) New Year's Day, 2017.
  - c) January 3, 2017.
  - d) January 20, 2017.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Donald Trump won the electoral vote but did not win
- a) the states' votes.
  - b) Mike Pence's vote.
  - c) the popular vote.
  - d) Congress's vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The new president will quickly have to
- a) choose a vice president.
  - b) choose members of his Cabinet.
  - c) protest the election.
  - d) cast a ballot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called
- a) the Bill of Rights.
  - b) the Perfect Union.
  - c) the Declaration of Independence.
  - d) the Rights of Man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The First Amendment gives Americans the right
- a) to cruel and unusual punishment.
  - b) to free speech, press, religion, and to gather peacefully.
  - c) to have soldiers stay in their homes.
  - d) to the death penalty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When people disagree over rights, the matter is decided by
- a) the police.
  - b) lawyers.
  - c) the president.
  - d) the courts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Fifth Amendment says that people who are accused of a crime have the right to
- a) carry a gun.
  - b) establish a religion.
  - c) remain silent.
  - d) be tried again for the same crime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Police may not search a person or enter a person's home without
- a) a gun.
  - b) a warrant from a judge.
  - c) a trial by jury.
  - d) a lawyer.

**II. From Here and There**

**True or False?** Write “T” for true, and “F” for false. If the sentence is *false*, *make it true*. Write a word to replace the underlined word.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Jewish families light the menorah on the eight nights of Kwanzaa.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Wilbur and Orville Trump invented the airplane. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The tradition of Santa Claus was brought to the U.S. by Dutch immigrants. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. One tradition on Christmas Eve is to watch a ball of lights fall at Times Square. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Bill of Rights Day is January 15.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. “The City of Brotherly Love” is Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. George Washington helped start the first hospital, public library, and post office in Philadelphia.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were written in Philadelphia.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The Second Amendment protects Americans right to own cars.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. All powers that are not given to the national government belong to the states and to the churches.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Building Vocabulary**

Write the best word to complete each sentence. Write the letter of that word on the line in front of the number.

**Word List**

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. nickname | F. toddler      |
| B. scoop    | G. fly          |
| C. elves    | H. warrant      |
| D. tour     | I. side effects |
| E. carols   | J. charities    |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. A paper from a judge that lets police search a house is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. People sing \_\_\_\_\_ during the December holiday season.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. \_\_\_\_\_ are small, imaginary people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. People may call a person by his or her own name or by a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Many people give money to \_\_\_\_\_ during December.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a trip to look around a place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. A spoon for making balls of ice cream is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a child who has learned to walk.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the zipper in the front of a person’s jeans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. Many medicines treat symptoms of disease, but they may have bad \_\_\_\_\_.