



Dear Colleague:

Thank you for the feedback you've given on the Survey Monkey about our February issue. We'll be sending out a very short survey each month around the middle of the month for your opinions, comments, corrections, wishes, preferences, etc. Our aim is to make sure we are meeting the needs of our readers. We like to know which of the teacher aids you are using, or if there are some we can stop preparing.

### Hold on to your money! (pages 1 and 9)

Sadly, scammers are finding more and more ways to trick people out of their money. I was able to warn many people away from some scams, but I was scammed myself out of a few hundred dollars a few years ago, so I realize it can happen to anyone. Western Union even has a sign in front of their desk: "Are you being scammed?" because scammers prefer to get their money in ways that cannot be traced. Scammers also like gift cards.

**Objectives:** Students will tell how to recognize possible scams and give fifteen warnings to avoid them. They will be able to describe a variety of scams, and tell why it's hard for police to arrest scammers. Students will be able to explain any scams they have encountered.

**Procedures:** Have students look at the photo. What do they think this article will be about? Present the vocabulary to get started: *scam, fall for, trick, phisher*. Have the students read the article out loud. Ask at each bullet point what might happen if the reader didn't have this warning.

### Trial by jury (pages 1 and 10)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell the rights of a person who is accused of a crime. They will be able to explain the difference between *innocent* and *not guilty*. (A court cannot state that an accused person is innocent; it can only state that there was not enough evidence to prove a person is guilty.) Students will be able to explain the jobs of the prosecutor, the judge, the defense attorney, and the jury. They will explain what a defendant may do during a trial (but is not required to take the stand). Students will be able to explain

how a jury's verdict must be, and explain several kinds of punishments if the accused person is found guilty.

**Procedures:** This article follows up on last month's article on what happens when a person is arrested. Review information in the February issue if necessary. Ask students if they have watched movies or TV shows that have a trial in them, and to tell about it. Courtroom drama can be highly charged. Explain that trials are public, and that they may go to see a trial if they like.

*What rights do accused people have? What if a person has no money for an attorney? (What does a trial attorney cost? (\$250 an hour in NJ, last we checked.) Why do you think a person needs an attorney in a trial? (Some educated English speakers do not use an attorney in small cases.) What other people are important in a trial?*

The article is dense with vocabulary, so don't try to rush it all in one session. Draw a schematic of a courtroom on the board, with stick figures in place (*judge, witness, defendant, attorneys, prosecutor, jury, security officer*, etc.) The concepts are important but abstract.

Have a role play, after reading the article. Accuse one student (the defendant) of a "crime" (sleeping in class, for example), and appoint students to the roles of defense attorney, prosecutor, judge, witnesses, and members of the jury.

Trials are public, so if there is any way you can take your class (or send) to watch a court trial, this lesson will be less abstract. Talk about Legal Aid attorneys who are assigned to cases where a defendant cannot afford a lawyer. Discuss the oath to *tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*. Explain *perjury* and its consequences.

### Events in March (pages 2 and 3)

**Calendar** Elicit from your students any special days celebrated in their countries in March. Also, ask who has a birthday, anniversary, or other celebration in March. What school events will take place in March? Have students write these directly on the calendar.

Talk about the phrase, *March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb*. Have students take note of the weather on the first few days of March. *Is it like a lion? Or a lamb? In what ways?* Note the weather the last days of March so you can see if the old saying was true this year.

**Women's History Month** Ask questions such as: *Are there customs about men and women in your country that are different from the U.S.? In your family, who does these jobs: shop for food? take care of young children? clean the house? cook? take out the garbage? work in the yard? bring home a paycheck? handle the family's money? Have your family's customs changed since you came to the U.S.?*

**Read Across America Day** Ask students how many books they have read in their own language this year? Stress that reading either in English or their own language is a great builder for concepts and vocabulary. On March 2, choose a short story to read to the class. (A Dr. Seuss book may be a good choice, such as *Oh, the Places You'll Go*.)

**Saint Patrick's Day** Talk about the way immigrants bring their customs and holidays with them to a new country. *What customs and holidays do you still celebrate in the U.S.? Do you share your holiday with others?* The Irish invite everyone to "be Irish for a day" to help celebrate their St. Patrick's Day. Point out that Halloween also came to the U.S. with Irish immigrants. Explain that some people drink too much on St. Patrick's Day; Talk to your class about the safety hazards of that. (Alcohol poisoning, Drunk drivers, etc.)

Bring in pictures of the symbols students might see on St. Patrick's Day: Leprechauns, shamrocks, pot of gold, green beer, the color green. Invite students to be Irish for the day and wear green. Talk about the "little people" of Ireland. Explain how St. Patrick used the shamrock's three leaves to teach the Irish about Christianity's Trinity (three persons) of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Daylight Saving Time** Read the article. Have students realize how moving the hour ahead allows us to have more daylight at the end of a workday. *Does it save daylight*

for everyone? (Farmers work by the sun with their animals or crops, so they don't get any benefit from daylight saving time.)

**Ash Wednesday and Lent** Ask any Catholics in the class or others who mark Lent to explain what they do, what the purpose is, and how they feel when they have given up some favorite food or activity for Lent.

**Mardi Gras** The days before Ash Wednesday. Ask any students who have been to a Mardi Gras event to tell about it.

**Spring** Have students keep a journal to describe the changes that warming weather and longer days in spring bring to your area of the country. *What signs of spring can you see in a large city?*

### This is your page (page 4)

Assign pairs or groups of students to each story. Have the group read their story together and discuss it. Then have each group choose one of their members to retell the story in their own words. Have other students ask questions about the story for the group to answer. Invite students to tell about similar experiences that they may have had.

### Ask Elizabeth about spelling (page 5)

**Objectives:** Students will be validated in their frustration with spelling English. They will be able to demonstrate (on the board) examples of several ways to spell the sounds /ae/, /ee/, /i/, /o/, /u/, /f/, /sh/, /s/, and /j/.

**Procedures:** Read the article aloud as students follow along. They will need to hear the correct pronunciation of the words. Have students tell about any difficulties in spelling in their own language.

Explain that American students spend a lot of time in school learning to spell. Some tips for learning spelling: copy the words several times; visualize the words; say the spelling out loud. Write sentences using two or more of these odd-spelling words.

Have a stand up spelling bee, or a sit down practice test. Point out that doing a lot of reading in English is the best way to get better in spelling.

### Paying income tax (page 6)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell the purpose of an income tax return, the Form 1040 to do a return on, and the due date for filing a return. They will be able to explain terms such as *income*, *W-2 form*, *1099 form*, *file*, *dependent*, *deduction*, *schedule refund*.

**Procedures:** Explain that people who earn money in the United States must file an income tax return based on last year's income. Elicit various ways people might earn money: *work*, *rent*, *interest*, *pension*, *unemployment insurance*, *lottery winnings*, etc. (Explain that taxes for middle-income earners may be 40% of their income, if they add their property tax, sales tax, Social Security tax, federal tax, state tax, and gas tax.) Even low-wage workers have to pay 7% for Social Security, which is a tax/insurance cost, and they pay sales tax, gas tax, and part of the cost of the rent they pay is for taxes that the landlord pays.

Taxes aren't all bad. We get something for our taxes: Have students brainstorm what they think national, state, and local governments give us in return for our taxes: (Government services, police, fire department, national defense, veterans benefits, Welfare, National School Lunch Program lawmakers' salaries, courts, education, student loans and grants, help to agriculture, regulations to protect the environment, health, and safety, MEDICAID and Medicare, Customs and Border Protection, the Federal Prison System, highway construction and repairs, streetlights, airports, trash collection, water delivery, sewage system, research, weather reports, interest on the debt, and more.)

Review last month's article on the W-2. If a person doesn't get a W-2 form, he or she should use their pay stubs and other records so they can report their income accurately. Form 1040 is a legal document; the taxpayer signs it to verify that his report is true. There are penalties for tax evasion or fraud.

**Procedures:** Download and print enough Form 1040 from IRS.gov so your students can practice filling them out with information you supply: Josey Jones is single with no dependents; Her Social Security number is 010-555-1234. Wages: \$8,635. Federal tax withheld: \$491.88. Social Security tax withheld: \$535.37. Medicare tax withheld: \$125.22. State income tax withheld: \$129.55. Employer's Tax ID number: 04333-5555.

### Heroes and History First Ladies (page 7)

**Objectives:** Students will be able

to identify what a First Lady is and how someone gets to be First Lady. Students will also be able to identify some of the great things First Ladies have done for America.

**Preparation:** Read more about First Ladies at [www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/first-ladies](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/first-ladies) and [history.com/topics/first-ladies](http://history.com/topics/first-ladies). These sites provide more background for each of the Presidents' wives. Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_First\\_Ladies\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_First_Ladies_of_the_United_States)) provides a list of all the acting First Ladies throughout U.S. History.

**Procedures:** Find out what students already know about first ladies. Ask questions such as: *Who is President Donald Trump's wife? What do Americans call her? What do you think a first lady does? Have you heard of any other first ladies?*

There have been 45 presidents of the United States, and 53 First Ladies. Write the question on the board: *What special projects did each First Lady in the article do?* Have students read the article silently or out loud in small groups to find answers to this question. Play the audio recording if available.

Have the groups discuss which first lady is their favorite and why. Have advanced students look up more about their favorite first ladies. Have them report to the class about what else the first ladies have done.

### ANSWERS

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. c            | 16. F (year)            |
| 2. a            | 17. T                   |
| 3. c            | 18. F Martha Washington |
| 4. d            | 19. T                   |
| 5. b            | 20. F (Hillary Clinton) |
| 6. b            | 21. D (refund)          |
| 7. c            | 22. F (hostess)         |
| 8. d            | 23. C (cyberbully)      |
| 9. d            | 24. E (leprechauns)     |
| 10. a           | 25. B (activists)       |
| 11. T           | 26. H (pension)         |
| 12. F (Ireland) | 27. I (victim)          |
| 13. T           | 28. G (defendant)       |
| 14. F (23)      | 29. J (withhold)        |
| 15. F (Japan)   | 30. A (highway)         |

## March 2019 Quiz I

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A scam is
- a) money that a person inherits.
  - b) a link to a website.
  - c) a trick to get people's money.
  - d) a virus on a computer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When someone from the IRS calls you on the phone
- a) hang up.
  - b) do whatever the person says.
  - c) you may be arrested.
  - d) you owe back taxes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. On an application for a job posted on the Internet, which of these are safe to write?
- a) your birth date
  - b) your Social Security Number
  - c) your email address
  - d) your bank account number
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. You are selling your old car. Which should you accept?
- a) a check
  - b) a credit card
  - c) a debit card
  - d) cash
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. If something seems too good to be true,
- a) you can be sure it's true.
  - b) it probably isn't true.
  - c) it may be a prize you won.
  - d) pay the costs to get the prize.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. In the U.S., a person who is accused of a crime
- a) is guilty until proven innocent.
  - b) is innocent until proven guilty.
  - c) must answer questions about the crime in court.
  - d) must go to jail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A prosecutor's job is to
- a) appoint an attorney for the defendant.
  - b) defend the accused person.
  - c) prove that the defendant committed a crime.
  - d) decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If the jury's verdict is guilty, then
- a) the defendant is free.
  - b) the prosecutor is free.
  - c) the jury must continue to deliberate.
  - d) the judge will sentence the defendant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The person who makes the rules for the trial and the courtroom is
- a) the defense attorney.
  - b) the prosecutor.
  - c) the witness.
  - d) the judge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. In a criminal trial, the jury's decision
- a) must be unanimous.
  - b) must agree with the prosecutor.
  - c) must agree with the defendant.
  - d) must agree with the witnesses.

**Quiz II. From Here and There**

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. March is Women’s History Month.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. St. Patrick is the patron saint of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Day and night have an equal number of hours on the vernal equinox.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Sunday, March 10 will have 25 hours because of Daylight Saving Time.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. In 1912, the people of Ireland gave 3,000 cherry trees to the people of the U.S.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Once a month, Americans must report their income to the Internal Revenue Service.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Americans report their income to the government on a 1040 Form.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The first first lady was Melania Trump.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. A first lady whose son also became president was Barbara Bush.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. A first lady who was elected to Congress and later ran for president was Eleanor Roosevelt.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Quiz III. Building Vocabulary**

Write the letter of the best word for each sentence.

**Word List**

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| A. highway     | F. hostess   |
| B. activists   | G. defendant |
| C. cyberbully  | H. pension   |
| D. refund      | I. victim    |
| E. leprechauns | J. withhold  |

- 21. If you pay more taxes than you owe, you can get a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 22. The woman who throws a party and greets the guests is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 23. Someone who makes fun of another person on Facebook, Instagram, or other social media is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24. Irish people tell stories of the “little people” or \_\_\_\_\_ who live in the woods.
- 25. The \_\_\_\_\_ made signs and marched for equal rights for all people.
- 26. A retired or disabled person may receive a Social Security \_\_\_\_\_.
- 27. A person who loses his or her money in a scam is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 28. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is accused of a crime.
- 29. Employers must \_\_\_\_\_ money for taxes and Social Security from employees’ paychecks.
- 30. Don’t throw things out of your car window on the \_\_\_\_\_.