



**Introduction to
Common English
Expressions, Local
Culture & Geography**

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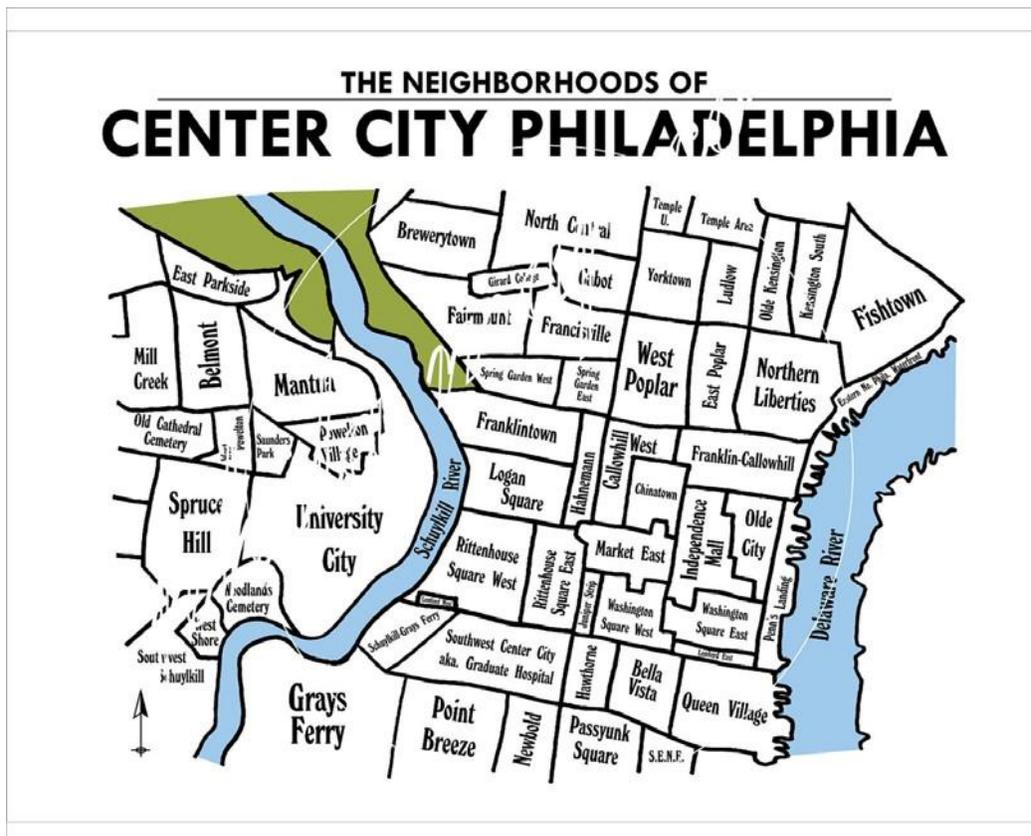
Introduction to Philadelphia Culture and Geography

Basic Facts and Discussion Questions:

- Philadelphia has many nicknames, including: Philly, Illadelph, and the City of Brotherly Love.
- Philadelphia is also known as a city of neighborhoods and the birthplace of America.
- Philadelphia is both the name of a city and a county. Do you know the difference between a county and a country?
- Philly is the 5th largest city in the United States after New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston. What other U.S. cities have you visited?

Interactive Maps of Philadelphia

- <http://www.visitphilly.com/philadelphia-neighborhoods/view-map/>
- http://www.nationalgeographic.com/walkingtours/Philadelphia_Walking_Tour/



Additional Information about Philadelphia:

Must-see sites and monthly events

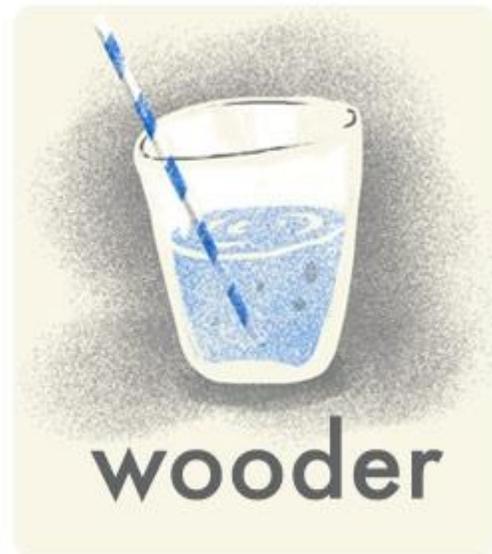
- www.phillyfunguide.com
- <http://www.uwishunu.com/>

Philly Slang and Vocabulary

- <http://phillytalk.com/philly-slang>

Philadelphia History

- <https://www.nps.gov/inde/index.htm>
- <http://www.historyofphilly.com/philadelphia-history-channel>



Things to Do in Philadelphia Neighborhoods & the Surrounding Area

South Philadelphia

Popular Neighborhoods: South Street and Passyunk Avenue, Bella Vista, Queen Village, Graduate Hospital

Things to See & Do

- **South Street:** This street has a many restaurants and shops that are fun to explore. The shops and restaurants start around 10th and South and continue all the way to Front Street.
- **The Magic Gardens** (10th and South): A mosaic garden designed by muralist Isaiah Zagar. Cost: \$5.
- **Jim's Steaks** (4th and South): One of the top cheesesteak places in the city. It has a reputation that rivals Pat and Geno's.
- **Lorenzo's** (4th and South): A well-known pizza place in the area.
- **4th Street Deli** (4th and Bainbridge): A Jewish deli that is famous for its massive sandwiches, soups, and baked goods. President Obama came here when he visited Philadelphia in 2010.
- **The Theater of Living Arts (TLA):** A music venue that often features independent musicians.
- **Headhouse Market:** A historic market on 2nd Street between Lombard and South. Farmers market and craft fair featuring local vendors is hosted here in the spring, summer and early fall. For more information, visit: www.thefoodtrust.org/farmers-market . The Headhouse District also features street festivals.
- **Thrift Shopping:** This area is also known for its thrift and vintage shops like:
 - ✓ Green Street Consignment Shop (7th and South)
 - ✓ Philly AIDS Thrift (5th and Bainbridge)
 - ✓ Urban Princess (4th and South)
 - ✓ Retrospect Vintage (5th and South)
 - ✓ Moon and Arrow (4th and Fitzwater)
- **The Mummers Museum** (4th and Washington): Go learn more about the Philadelphia Mummers, who are famous for their New Year's and Saint Patrick's Day parades. While there, enjoy some pho at one of the many Vietnamese restaurants in this area.

- **Passyunk:** Passyunk Avenue, which runs diagonally from 5th and Bainbridge to the heart of South Philadelphia, features many hip restaurants, bars, and shops. Pat's and Geno's are at 9th and Passyunk.
- **Penn's Landing:** Located along the Delaware River, it features the Blue Cross River Rink (open until March 2nd). The Independence Seaport Museum and the Moshulu, a restaurant aboard the world's oldest rigged sailing vessel is also located here. You can access the walkway for the Benjamin Franklin Bridge here for some great photo-taking opportunities (access to bridge is at 5th and Race).

Old City

This neighborhood (sometimes spelled "Olde City") is the original center of Philadelphia, and is where many of the historical sites can be found.

Popular Areas: Old City, Society Hill, Penn's Landing

Things to See & Do

- **Independence Hall** (5th and Chestnut): Where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were developed and signed. Admission is free. (Tickets are available at the Independence Visitor Center on 6th and Market).
- **The Liberty Bell** (5th and Chestnut): Come see the famous cracked Liberty Bell and learn its history.
- **The Bourse:** Grab lunch at this historic commercial complex that features a shopping mall and food court.
- **The Ritz Theater:** A series of movie theaters in Old City that feature independent films.
- **Elfreth's Alley:** This is the oldest residential street in the U.S., with original historical houses that date back to 1702. It's a beautiful place to visit, and best of all, it's free!
- **First Friday:** On the first Friday evening of every month, art galleries in Old City open their doors for special exhibitions that often feature free wine, cheese, and appetizers. Come view original artwork, listen to music, and explore the area. It's completely free. Start at 2nd and Arch Street and walk north to find the galleries.

Center City

Popular Areas: Rittenhouse, Market East, Chinatown

Things to See & Do

- **Reading Terminal Market** (11-12th and Arch): Sample fresh produce, chocolate, baked goods, and other foods. This market is especially known for its Amish products, seafood market, and a beer garden.
- **Rittenhouse Square** (between 18th and 19th and Walnut Streets): A park bordered by lots of restaurants and shops.
- **The Mutter Museum** (22nd and Chestnut): Features medical oddities and other unusual exhibits. This museum is not for the squeamish. \$16 admission for students.
- **The Kimmel Center** (Broad and Spruce): The Kimmel Center features performances by the Pennsylvania Ballet company, Opera Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.
- **Mural Arts Tours:** Did you know that Philly has the world's largest collection of outdoor public art? The Philly Mural Arts Program leads walking, trolley, and bike tours around the city that showcase its' murals. For more information, go to: www.muralarts.org.

West Philadelphia

West Philly features parks, cafes, as well as a thriving food scene with Ethiopian, Middle Eastern, and Southeast Asian foods!

Popular Areas: University City, Baltimore Avenue, Powelton Village

Things to See & Do

- **World Café Live** (31st and Walnut): A restaurant that features bands and other musicians. Great place to get dinner and entertainment at the same time.
- **Fairmount Park:** Located between Center City and the Schuylkill River, this park goes past the art museum all the way to the Philadelphia Zoo.
- **The Philadelphia Zoo** (34th and Girard)
This is the oldest zoo in the United States. Use the Route 15 Trolley or Route 38 Bus to get there. Admission = \$20 per person.

- **The Mann Center for Performing Arts** (5201 Parkside Avenue): An outdoor concert venue in Northwest Philly that also features discussion panels and film screenings. Many events are free to the public. For more information, check: www.manncenter.org.

Well-known West Philly Restaurants:

- **Saad's Halal Restaurant** (45th and Walnut): Features falafel, chicken shawarma, and even cheesesteaks! This place is well-known throughout the city.
- **Manakeesh** (45th and Walnut): A Lebanese bakery across the street from Saad's that features traditional sweets, coffees and teas, and brunch food.
- **Ethiopian Restaurants** (near 45th and Locust, Baltimore, and Chestnut streets): No one does Ethiopian like West Philadelphia. Check out Abyssinia or Gojo for authentic food.
- **Baltimore Avenue**: Features local book stores, thrift shops, and a brewery (Dock Street Brewery is located at 52nd and Baltimore).

Local Day Trips:

- **Longwood Gardens**: A beautiful garden right outside Philadelphia in Kennett Square. Tickets for students are only \$8.
- **Morris Arboretum**: Located in the outskirts of Philadelphia, this site features some of Pennsylvania's oldest and biggest trees, along with beautiful flowers and plants. Admission to this public garden is only \$8 for students.
- **Pay What You Wish at the Philadelphia Museum of Art**: The 1st Sunday of every month, the museum offers "free" admission. Basically, this means it is optional to pay the full ticket amount.
- **Wissahickon Park**: An extension of Fairmount Park with beautiful trails for hiking and biking.
- **Manayunk**: Walk up and down Main Street to check out local restaurants and shops.

Monthly Events/Holidays

- **Fourth Friday**: Come to Fabric Row on Fourth and South Street for food, shopping, and special vendors. For more information go to: southstreet.com.
- **Christmas Village (Center City)**: Every year from Thanksgiving until the last Sunday of December, Love Park features a special holiday market featuring European food, drinks, and crafts. For more information, go to: www.philachristmas.org.

- **Mummer's Parade:** Every New Year's Day, there is a parade conducted by the Philadelphia Mummers, a group of costumed entertainers. The parade goes along Broad Street and includes special performances in front of City Hall. The parade has been around since 1900, so it is one of the longest standing traditions in the city.
- **Night Market:** Night Markets feature food trucks and street food from all over the city. Each Night Market is hosted in a different neighborhood. For more information, check out: www.thefoodtrust.org/night-market/.
- **Vintage Flea Market:** A flea market featuring antique furniture, vintage clothing and jewelry, and more. The flea market is usually hosted at 16th and Callowhill, but it also travels around the city. To get information on dates and locations go to: www.philafleamarkets.org.

Common Vocabulary & Expressions

Words Used In and About Cities

Word	Meaning	Context
Bustling	Crowded; lots of people moving	The streets are bustling every morning.
Peaceful	Very calm (another synonym: tranquil)	The town is very quiet and peaceful.
Historic (or historical)	Has an interesting or important history.	Old City is the historical part of Philadelphia.
Modern	New	There are many examples of modern architecture on campus.
Industrial	Industrial refers to manufacturing and factories. Many American cities are old industrial centers. Today, some of these factories have shut down and many of the buildings are abandoned.	A lot of industrial buildings have been transformed into loft-style apartments.
Littering	Leaving garbage on the street.	No littering signs.
Pollution	Dirty air; also called "smog"	Polluted city/polluted air.
Transportation		
Token	A coin used to pay for the bus, trolley, or train.	A token costs \$1.80.
Transfer	If you need to take more than one bus or train during a trip, buy a transfer when you use your token. It is a small piece of paper that you give to the bus driver or subway attendant when you change bus or train lines.	A transfer costs \$1.00.
TransPass	An unlimited monthly or weekly pass to use on all public transportation.	A monthly TransPass costs \$91.
Culture		
Art exhibit	When a gallery or store shows its art to the public.	Every First Friday of the month, the art galleries in Old City open their doors to the public from Front to 3rd Streets between Race and Vine, 5-9PM.
Hoagie	A sandwich on a long roll.	Hoagies are also called sub sandwiches in most other parts of the country.
Jawn	A place or thing (a very general word).	Check out this new jawn! (Most likely in this case referring to a song.)

Expressions	Meaning
I'm a city person.	This person likes living in the city or
I'm a country person.	country, or grew up there.
I like the fast pace of the city.	Pace refers to the way people live in a
I like the slow pace of the	certain place. Most Americans think of
country.	cities as fast and stressful, while the
	country is considered slow or relaxed.
Catch the bus/train/taxi/plane	To get on the bus, train, or taxi (usually
	refers to something with a schedule).
Nicknames for Famous Cities	
The City that Never Sleeps	
The Big Apple	New York City
The City of Brotherly Love	Philadelphia
The Windy City	Chicago

Education

Word	Meaning	Context
Student body	The whole population of students.	Cabrini has a diverse student body.
Campus-wide	Across or including the whole campus.	Football games are an example of a campus-wide event.
Class-related Verbs		
Audit	To attend a class without receiving a grade.	You usually need to get permission from a professor before auditing a class.
Transfer	To change or move schools.	Students either transfer credits or go to other schools.
Drop (drop out)	To leave school or a class before completing the semester or degree.	I dropped the course because it was too difficult. She dropped out of school to pursue acting.
Pass/fail	A class where students do letter grade but instead either pass or fail.	Research skills is a pass/fail class.
Public school	A tuition free elementary or high school that is funded by taxes.	Philadelphia public schools have been underfunded for the past couple of years.
Private school	An elementary or high school where parents pay tuition so their children can attend.	Friends Select is a private school.
Boarding school	An elementary or high school where students live on-campus.	She is from New York, but she went to boarding school in New Hampshire.
Homeschooling	A student goes to school at home where a parent usually teaches the child based on a state required curriculum.	Homeschooling is a popular option for families who move or travel a lot.
Goals		
Short term	Near future	My short term goal is to pass this exam, but my long term goal is to graduate from college.
Long term	Distant future	

Titles and other abbreviations Abbreviation for

Grad	Graduate or graduate student.
Post-doc	Post-doctorate fellow
Pre-med	Pre-medicine
Adjunct	A professor who does not hold a permanent or tenure-track position at a university.

Expressions

All-nighter	Studying (or staying awake) all night without sleeping.	I pulled an all-nighter to finish the paper due today.
Cram	To study something very quickly, usually at the last minute.	I had to cram for my chemistry test since I did not begin to study until the night before.
Pre-req	Abbreviation for pre-requisite.	I'm taking all my pre-reqs this semester.
Fluff course	A course that is easy or used just to fill space on a class schedule.	I am taking a fluff course since my other classes are hard.

Food/Eating

Word	Meaning	Examples
Types of American Food		
Pub food	Food you find in a bar.	Hamburgers; fries; fish and chips.
Take out	Food you order for delivery or to pick up at the store.	The most popular take out foods are Chinese and pizza, but almost any food can be taken out.
All you can eat/buffet	Pay one price and take as many plates as you want.	Sushi buffet All you can eat chicken wings.
A diner	Usually open 24 hours. They serve breakfast any time.	Pancakes, waffles, burgers, eggs and sandwiches are served at a diner.
Ethnic food	Food from another culture.	Americans eat a lot of Chinese, Mexican and Italian food. You can find almost any country's food across the U.S.
Cafeteria or Food Court	These have many restaurants that all share one place to sit.	Usually you find food courts at a shopping mall.
Fast Food	Any food that is served to you instantly.	Taco Bell, Burger King, McDonald's
Restaurant Chain	A chain is group of restaurants that have multiple locations. Many fast food restaurants are also chains.	TGIF's, Chili's, Applebee's, Chipotle
Holiday food	Americans eat certain foods for different holidays and seasons.	Fall: Apples, pumpkin, squash, corn. Winter: Gingerbread, hot chocolate, baked ham Spring: Peas, herbs. Summer: Lemonade, crab cakes, tomatoes.
Food Preferences		
Spicy or Mild	Spicy=hot; mild=not hot.	Spicy chili, mild sauce
Sweet or Sour	Sweet=having the taste of sugar or honey; sour=bitter.	Cake vs. lemonade

Vegetarian and vegan	<p>Vegetarians don't eat meat, but usually eat eggs and dairy products. Vegans do not eat any animal products at all. Pescetarians are vegetarians who eat fish, but do not eat any other meat.</p>	<p>U.S. restaurants are changing a lot to accommodate a growing number of vegans and vegetarians. A "V" on the menu usually means it is safe for a vegetarian to eat. Americans become vegetarian for health reasons or because they care about animals.</p>
Kosher and Halal	<p>Meat prepared according to religious law, and usually blessed. Kosher refers to products that are suitable for those of the Jewish faith to eat who keep kosher. Products labeled Halal obey the dietary restrictions associated with Islamic law.</p>	
Paying		
Tip or gratuity	<p>What we pay the server for providing good service.</p>	<p>Usually the tip is 15-20% of the total bill. It is very rude not to leave a tip unless the service was very bad.</p>
Split the bill	<p>To pay the bill equally</p>	<p>My friend and I split the bill and each paid \$25.</p>
Cover the tab; pick up the tab	<p>To pay the entire bill</p>	<p>It was his birthday, so I picked up the tab.</p>
Invitations to Share a Meal		
<p>Do you want to grab brunch? Do you want to go to brunch?</p>	<p>"Brunch" is a combination of breakfast and lunch. We usually eat it on weekends between 10AM and 1PM. It could include breakfast and lunch food. "Grab" is used to mean get a quick meal or to eat together casually. The person who says this is probably inviting you to eat with him or her.</p>	
Did you eat yet?	<p>This is usually an invitation to eat, not just a yes/no question.</p>	<p>Did you eat yet? No, not yet. Want to grab a bite with me?</p>

Recreation and Social Life

Word	Meaning	Context
Conversational Expressions		
Small talk	Conversation we have when meeting someone for the first time or sometimes used to open a conversation.	Examples of small talk: Can you believe this weather we're having? How have you been? How's your family?
Catch up	To talk to or spend time with someone after a long period of not seeing each other.	Last time I saw you, you were_____. How is that going? It's been forever! Let's catch up over lunch.
Keep in touch	To stay in contact.	Let's keep in touch! Here is my email address.
Responses		
I'm sorry, I can't. I have to _____.	Usually, we say "I'm sorry" when rejecting an invitation.	
I wish I could make it!		
Is it alright if I come a little late?		
Sure, I'd love to!	This is one way of accepting an invitation. The person is excited to participate	
How about ___instead?	Sometimes, in a one-on-one meeting, we can suggest another time to meet.	
Other Terms		
Happy Hour	After work, many people get a drink with friends or coworkers. At many bars, drinks are discounted from 5-7PM.	Most restaurants in Center City offer Happy Hour Monday through Thursday.
Potluck	A dinner where everyone cooks something and brings it with them. Usually the potluck is held at a person's home. Sometimes there is a list of things to make and people can choose what they want to bring.	I'm having a potluck at my place next Saturday. Can you bring a pasta dish?
White Elephant	This happens around Christmas or at parties. Everyone brings an inexpensive gift to exchange.	At a white elephant, people can swap or steal gifts from other people.

Race & Gender

Word	Meaning	Context
Racism; racist	When someone discriminates, or treats someone differently, based on their color of skin or ethnicity.	Racist comment; racial slur.
Discrimination	Discrimination is more general than racism. Broadly, it involves treating someone differently because of their age, gender, language, religion, or country of origin.	Most U.S. employers and universities have an anti-discrimination policy.
Stereotype	A stereotype is when we assume that something must be true about everyone from a particular group.	There is a stereotype that men are better drivers than women, but that is not true.
Acceptable terms to use for different racial and ethnic groups	Uses	Contexts
African-American A black person African Plural: African Americans Black people Africans	African-American refers to someone who is of African heritage, but was born and raised in the U.S. It is not the same as African. Black can refer to African or African-American.	African Culture Africana Studies Black Culture
An Arab Arabs	Arab usually refers to origin, and "Arabic" refers to the language.	The Arab World
An Asian Asians Asian-American Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Thai, Bangladeshi, etc.) Hispanic Latino/Latina	These are the most polite terms. You may also see "Oriental," as in "Oriental Supermarket."	Asian culture Eastern culture
	Hispanic refers to people from Spain or who <i>speak</i> Spanish. The term Latino/Latina is also preferred by some.	Latin America Hispanics

An Indian or Indian

Indian generally refers to someone from India, but sometimes means Native American. It is more appropriate to call indigenous peoples Native Americans. Native American refers to someone from the native tribes of North America.

Native American Tribe
Native American ancestors
Indian Reservation
American Indians

Multiracial; Mixed race; Interracial

Someone who has parents or family members of different races or heritages.

Multiracial families are fairly common in the U.S. It is usually impolite to ask someone "What are you?" or "What races are you?"

**A white person
White people
Caucasians**

Used to refer to people of European descent. Caucasian is usually only used in more formal situations, such as filling out a form.

White privilege

Religious groups

- A Jewish person or Jewish people**
- A Christian or Christians**
- A Catholic or Catholics**
- A Muslim or Muslims**
- A Buddhist or Buddhists**
- A Hindu or Hindus**
- An atheist or atheists**

An individual or group who chooses to identify with a specific religious practice or system of beliefs. Remember to include the article "a" or "an" if you are referring to a single person of a religious group.

Gender

- A woman -> women**
- A girl -> girls**
- A lady-> ladies**

"Girls" is used to talk about someone who is fairly young, either a child or someone in their teens or early twenties. Woman is usually a more appropriate term. Lady can be used in many contexts, usually if it is someone you don't know, but it is not polite to use in professional or academic settings.

I ran into a woman who used to live in my neighborhood. They have three little girls (three small children). She inspires other women to pursue their dreams.

<p>A man->Men A guy->guys A dude-> dudes Man (no article)</p>	<p>Saying "a guy" is less formal than saying "a man." "Guys" or "you guys" is said to talk about a group of men and/or women, but in singular form, this term always refers to a man. "Dude" or "man" is informal and should only be said when speaking with friends.</p>	<p>He is a tall Indian man. Are you guys coming to my party? Hey dude, what are you doing tonight? Hey man, what are you doing tonight?</p>
<p>Transgender(ed)</p>	<p>A person who identifies with a gender different from the one he or she was physically identified as at birth.</p>	<p>Caitlyn Jenner is a transgender celebrity.</p>
<p>Homosexual Gay Lesbian Bisexual (Bi)</p>	<p>These names are appropriate to use in English. Gay can refer to both males and females, while the term lesbian usually refer to females. Usually, when talking about homosexuals in general, we say "the gay community."</p>	<p>Are you going to the Gay Pride Parade tomorrow?</p> <p>There is a neighborhood in Center City Philadelphia called the "Gayborhood." There is a growing gay community in this area.</p>

Holidays

Holiday	Why is it important?	How do we celebrate?
January 1st: New Year's Eve	A celebration of the start of the New Year.	Americans celebrate with family and friends and make New Year's resolutions. Resolutions are things we promise to do in the upcoming year like lose weight or quit smoking. Americans usually have a big party and watch the ball drop in Times Square in New York City. Right before midnight, there is a countdown of the last ten or fifteen seconds.
February 14th: Valentine's Day	This is not a federal (government recognized) holiday, but it is meant to celebrate love.	A couple usually goes out to a nice dinner or exchanges gifts. Children also celebrate by exchanging Valentines, or small cards, with their friends and classmates.
Last Monday of May: Memorial Day	This day commemorates the lives of men and women who died serving in the U.S. military. It first honored the lives of soldiers from the Civil War, but now recognizes soldiers from any war fought by the U.S.	Americans might go visit a cemetery or war memorial. They usually barbeque with family and friends. They might also go to a park or watch a parade.
July 4th: Fourth of July or Independence Day	This is the official day when the United States recognizes when it gained independence from British rule.	Americans will go watch fireworks outside or watch a parade. There are a lot of festivals with food and outdoor games too.
October 31st: Halloween	Halloween is not a federal holiday. It is widely popular in American culture, especially with children. The holiday is a combination of many other traditions, but most Americans today celebrate it just to have fun.	Americans will dress up in costumes. A costume can be scary or funny, and some people even make their own costumes. Children walk around their neighborhoods and knock on doors to ask for candy. This is called "trick or treating." Adults might go to parties dressed in their costumes, but usually don't go trick or treating. Black and orange are considered Halloween colors.

**Third Thursday of
November: Thanksgiving
Day**

This day represents a historical event when pilgrims and Native Americans ate and celebrated the fall harvest together. Now, the holiday is a time for family and friends to eat a big dinner and give thanks.

Americans might watch a parade and then go eat a large dinner that includes turkey, potatoes, stuffing (dressed bread placed inside the turkey), cranberry sauce, and squash. A typical dessert is pumpkin pie.

**December 25th =
Christmas Day**

Many Americans view Christmas as both a religious and secular (commercial) holiday. Sometimes, people of different cultures or religions celebrate Christmas too.

The secular parts of Christmas include:

- A Christmas tree inside the house with decorations
- Red and green colors
- Carols (special music)
- Opening presents
- Baking cookies

Expressions

**Hallmark or
card company holiday**

Hallmark is a well-known card company in the United States. Many people refer to a commercial holiday as a "Hallmark or card company holiday" because they think it companies invented the holiday in order to sell cards.

Valentine's Day is often called a Hallmark holiday.

Holiday spirit

Have some enthusiasm for the traditions or beliefs of the holiday.

Let's get into the holiday spirit by decorating the tree.

Family Relationships

Word	Meaning	Context
Immediate family	Your close family. Your immediate family is directly related to you.	This includes your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents • Grandparents • Siblings (brothers and sisters)
Extended family	Your entire family.	This includes your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cousins • Aunts and uncles • In-laws
Patrilineal/patriarchal	The family name or ancestry is tracked through the father.	U.S. society is often patriarchal.
Matrilineal/matriarchal	The family name or ancestry is tracked through the mother.	
Only child	A child who has no brothers and sisters.	"I'm an only child." This is fairly common in U.S. culture.
Adopted	When someone completes a legal process to become a child's parent or guardian. Usually, the child is not biologically related to the parent.	"I'm adopted. My biological mother/father is from _____."
Family Structure		
Nuclear Family	When a mother, father, and children live together.	Most American families live under this structure, although grandparents may also live with a nuclear family.
Foster Family	When a child's parents cannot care for him or her, the child is placed into foster care. A foster family is usually arranged by the state social services agency. Foster families are paid to take care of the children.	Some children might live in multiple foster homes throughout their childhood.
Step-family = Step-father; step-mother; step-son; step-daughter	Immediate family members who are related through marriage. Usually these new relationships are formed after a divorce.	A step-mother is the new spouse of your father. A step-son is your new spouse's son but not yours.

Half-brother; half-sister	A brother or sister with whom you share one, but not both parents.	I have a half-brother, but he lives with my father.
Marriage		
Elope (Noun: elopement)	To get married without telling your family or friends. The verb literally means "to run away."	Some couples in the U.S. elope, but many families expect a couple to have a formal ceremony and reception attended by family and friends.
Arranged marriage	A marriage planned by other family members. A family member plans who his or her child will marry.	Arranged marriages are not common in American families, unless they are first generation Americans. Most Americans highly value being able to choose a partner themselves.
Domestic partnership	When a couple lives together for an extended period of time. After ten years, it is called a "civil union," and has legal status. The laws for civil unions are different in every state.	Many same-sex couples live as domestic partners or in civil unions, but this is changing now as new marriage laws are being enacted.
Family Names		
Maiden Name	Your last name before getting married (usually applies to women).	Her married name is Anderson, but her maiden name is Schwartz.
Hyphenated Names	Some couples combine or hyphenate their name. Instead of changing her name, a woman may choose to keep her maiden name, or use both her maiden name and married name.	Examples: Lisa Simmons Brown James Levy-Cohen
Expressions		
Like father, like son Like mother, like daughter	This expression refers to when a child is very similar in behavior or personality to one of his or her parents.	This expression is by a person used usually after witnessing a child's behavior or speech.
Family-driven	Someone who prioritizes family above all else.	Women are expected to be family-driven, but men are expected to be career driven in American culture.
Career-driven	Someone who prioritizes career above all else.	
Family-friendly	An event, movie or place that is appropriate for families with children.	A Disney movie is family-friendly.

Employment

Word	Meaning	Context
Networking	A general term for any type of communication with someone that leads to new academic or career opportunities.	Online networking Face-to-face networking Meet and greet
Job Fair	Multiple employers meet in the same place to recruit for their organizations.	People who are unemployed often attend job fairs.
Employment rate; Unemployment rate	The percentage of people who do or don't have jobs.	In 2013, the unemployment rate in the U.S. was around 7.6%.
Cold Call	When you contact an employer without knowing if there is a job opportunity available.	I cold called the manager to find out if there were any job openings.
Interviewing		
Interviewer	The person who questions a person they are considering for a job.	Interviewers can conduct interviews in person or via phone or Skype.
Candidate	A person who has been selected for an interview.	There were only three candidates selected for on-campus interviews.
Panel interview	Interview where multiple people ask the interviewee questions.	Panel interviews are often challenging on the phone because it is hard to identify who is speaking.
Eye contact	Looking someone in the eye.	
Presence	If we say that someone "has presence," it means that someone looks very confident and leaves a good impression.	It is important to make eye contact during an interview. When she speaks, she has presence. I listen to everything she says.
Resumes and Cover Letters		
Curriculum vitae (CV or vita)	A curriculum vitae lists experiences, publications and committee work. It is used to apply for academic positions.	When I was a teacher, I used a resume to apply for positions. Now that I am in higher education, I use a CV.
Resume	A resume lists pertinent experiences, skills and organizational membership. It is used in business and other professional settings.	

To Whom It May Concern:	This is a standard greeting used on a cover letter if you don't know the hiring manager's name. There is some controversy over using this, because it is impersonal. It is better to use a name if you have one.	To Whom It May Concern: I am applying for the position of _____ at ____.
I look forward to hearing from you.	This is a standard closing to a cover letter.	I look forward to hearing from you about the_ position.
References	Generally, you include three references on your resume.	Acceptable references include: current or past supervisors, pastors, group leaders, co-workers teachers and professors. Most of the time, you should not use family members or friends as references.
Thank you for your time and consideration.	A formal and polite way to close a cover letter.	
I am emailing to check on the status of my application.	In other words, was my application received or not?	
Other Phrases/Terms		
Fired and let go vs. laid off	Fired or let go means to lose your job, usually for disciplinary reasons. Laid off refers to someone who loses a job due to structural changes in a company.	He stole money from the company, so he was fired/let go. When the store closed, everyone was laid off.
Transferred	Moved to another office location or department	He was transferred from IT to accounting.
Titles		
Mr.	Appropriate in most situations when addressing a male.	It is good to meet you, Mr._____.
Ms.	Appropriate in most situations when addressing a woman, regardless of her marital status. This term refers to married, single, divorced, or widowed women.	When is it best for us to meet, Ms._____?
Miss	This term is used to address single women in informal situations. Do not use it in professional situations.	May I help you miss?

Mrs.

A term used to refer to married women. Do not use it in professional situations.

My second grade teacher was Mrs. Cannon.

Sir/Madam/Ma'am

"Dear sir/madam" is impersonal.
"Sir" and "ma'am" are usually used to address strangers.

Excuse me sir, did you drop your pen?
Thank you, ma'am.

Vernacular English & Pop Culture

Word	Meaning	Context
Vernacular English		
Like	In vernacular English, "like" is used as a discourse marker or a divider between parts of the sentence. It can also serve as a placeholder like "um" or "uh."	I have, like, ten million things to do. She was like, "Don't do that!"
Ain't	"Ain't" is used informally as a negative contraction to replace "isn't" or "not."	I ain't no cook. She ain't playing.
Be	In vernacular English, it replaces the conjugation of "to be" (am, is, was, and were).	She be looking at me all funny. I be scared when the lights go out.
Gonna, wanna	Going to and want to	Are you gonna go? You wanna come with me?
Gotta Coulda, shoulda Whatchu	Got to Could have, should have What are you. . .	I gotta go. I shoulda studied last night. Whatchu doin'? (What are you doing?)
Pop Culture		
Genre	A type or category, used for movies, books, and TV.	Drama, comedy, romance, science fiction, documentaries are all movie genres. Books include these genres as well as memoir, true crime, fiction and non-fiction.
Tabloid	A magazine about celebrity gossip or that has unreliable news.	<i>People</i> magazine writes about celebrity gossip. Some people call it a tabloid.
One hit wonder	Someone who has one famous song or movie and then is no longer famous.	She was a one hit wonder. After that movie, she never acted again.
Steal the spotlight	To take the attention or fame away from someone else.	We use spotlight, star, and limelight to refer to both celebrities and our own notions of fame and attention-getting.

Expressions	Shortened Form of
How you been?	How have you been?" or "How have you been doing?"
Where you at?	Where are you?
Long time no see!	I haven't seen you in a long time.

Packet adapted and expanded based on:

Ursell, Elizabeth. "Conversation Partners: Reading and Vocabulary Activities." *Resources for English Language Learners*, Aug. 2014, www.temple.edu/writingctr/english-language-learners/documents/ConversationPartnersResourcesv2.pdf.