

## I Think I Can, I Think I Can

My husband presses the button to call the elevator. The little light goes on. The elevator does not come. Two seconds pass. He presses the button again, this time harder. No elevator. More presses then the elevator comes. My husband smiles, pleased that his actions worked. Do people all over the world try to speed up elevators in this way? Maybe so. But this is a good example of some deep American values.

Edward Stewart and Milton Bennett (in their classic book, *American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*) describe typical Americans as *effort-optimists*.

*Optimism* is the belief that everything will probably go well, as opposed to *pessimism*, the belief that, probably, something bad will happen. Americans are not simply optimists; they are *effort optimists*. That is, they tend to believe that it is *through their actions* that good things will happen.

Pressing elevator buttons is a silly, small

example. We also see this effort optimism in deeply important parts of American life. You may have met this belief in your life here:

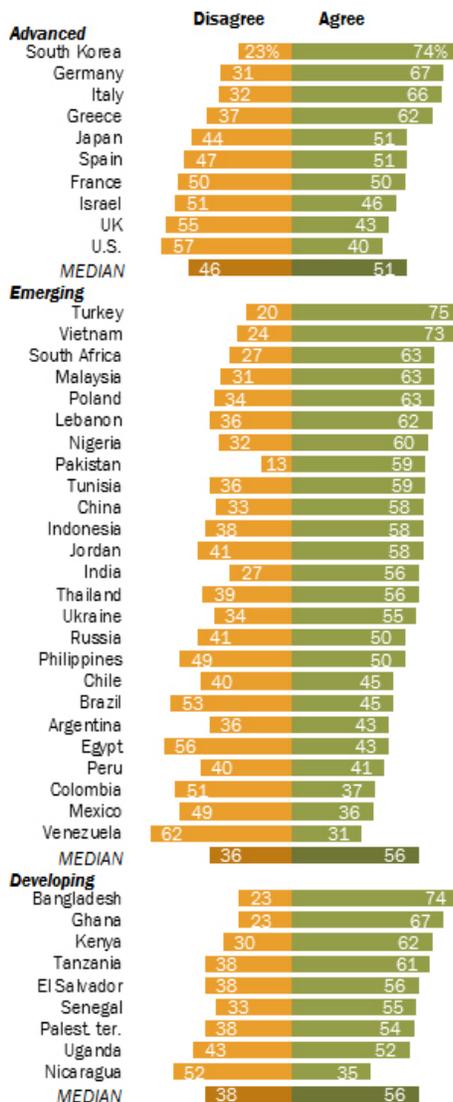
- ♦ American managers want action, and they want it now. They expect fast results and look

to the next quarter for success. They believe results will come from strong individual actions. An employee who does not get fast results must not be trying hard enough. You may be from a culture that takes a longer-range view about results. Or you may prefer making decisions by group *consensus* (agreement).

- ♦ Americans believe that if you are unhappy or sick or your child misbehaves, it can be fixed through some new action. Go to therapy. Take a pill. Read a book by an expert. If the situation does not improve, you must be doing something wrong. You may come from a culture in which problems are seen as a part of life.

### Most Say Success Determined by Outside Forces

*Success in life is determined by forces outside our control*



Source: Pew Research Center

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## Compliments of English at Large

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## Auld Lang Syne

*Auld Lang Syne* is a Scottish song, written by the poet Robert Burns. Or rather, written down by him — he had heard it from an old man and then, perhaps, added a few verses himself.

The phrase *Auld Lang Syne* means “Old Long Ago.” It is pronounced like this: Old Lang Zyne. Here are the words in English, in case you want to study for New Year’s Eve:

*Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind  
Should old acquaintance be forgot and  
Days of auld lang syne  
For auld lang syne my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.*

Don’t worry; most Americans forget the words too. Just sing *La La La* till the last line! Or, go the other way and impress your friends by singing the (little known) second and third verses:

*And there’s a hand my trusty fiere  
[friend],  
And give me a hand of thine  
And we’ll take a right guid-willie  
waught [drink/toast],  
For auld lang syne*

*We two have run about the braes  
[hills]  
And pulled the gowans [daisies] fine,  
But we’ve wandered many a weary  
fit [foot]  
Since auld lang syne.*

## New Year’s Eve & New Year’s Day

In the US, New Year is a time for parties and celebration. You may be invited to several different kinds of parties on New Year’s Eve (December 31) or New Year’s Day (January 1). Here are some tips for enjoying the holiday:

- ◆ You do not need to bring a gift to the host of a New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day party.

- ◆ It is common to serve alcohol at these parties. Be careful while driving those days — even if you have not been drinking, others

have been. To be safe, some people take taxis or public transportation, hire a limousine with friends, or stay at the party without drinking until their alcohol level is acceptable. Police will be out, and accident rates will be high.

- ◆ People often get very dressed up on New Year’s Eve. Ask if the party will be formal.

- ◆ At a New Year’s Eve party, strange things happen at exactly midnight, so be prepared! It is traditional to throw *confetti* (tiny pieces of paper) into the air, wear silly hats, blow small horns, kiss the person you came to the party with (and anyone standing nearby too), drink champagne, sing *Auld Lang Syne* (see Sidebar on this page) and shout “Happy New Year!” If you are uncomfortable with any of this, it is fine just to watch.

- ◆ Many people turn on the TV at midnight to watch a huge ball slide down a 77-foot pole in Times Square in New York City. The ball is five feet across and holds 180 light bulbs. The ball touches the bottom of the pole at exactly midnight (broadcast later in other time zones).

- ◆ On New Year’s Day (January 1), Open House parties are common. The invitation may say something like “2:00 to 5:00.” This means that you can come any time during that period and stay for as long as you like. You are not expected to stay for the whole time, but you may, if you like. Most people stay at least 45 minutes.

- ◆ A traditional drink for New Year’s Day is egg nog. “Real” egg nog is made of uncooked eggs, milk, sugar, cream, bourbon, and

rum. The egg whites and the cream will be whipped, so the drink is usually thick and frothy (full of small bubbles). You can also buy ready-made egg nog in the supermarket. It has no alcohol (but may have artificial rum flavoring). It also has no froth and no lightness. The real thing is better.



- ◆ On New Year’s Day, many Americans watch college football on TV - for example, the Rose Bowl, the Citrus Bowl and the Sugar Bowl, all played that day. Before the Rose Bowl, watch the Tournament of Roses Parade on TV — all the floats are made with flowers or other natural materials.

- ◆ Besides parties and football, the other tradition of New Year’s Day is to make a list of “New Year’s Resolutions.” A *resolution* is a promise to yourself. Many people resolve to do things like finish a long-term project, lose weight, stop smoking, or learn a new language. This is also a good chance to think about the past year. How would you like to be able to finish this sentence on January 1, 2019: “I am happy that in 2018, I \_\_\_\_\_.”

# Drinking and Driving in the US

Many factors have led to a decrease over the last 20 years in the number of people in the US killed in alcohol-related car crashes and in the proportion of traffic deaths from accidents in which a driver was drinking alcohol.

In 1984, the federal government passed a law that required states to raise the minimum legal drinking age to 21 by 1988, or else lose federal money for maintaining and building highways. The raised legal drinking age clearly lowered traffic deaths of younger drivers. In 2000, a similar federal law pushed all states in the US to set a maximum blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, or lower.

States have experimented with many kinds of rules and punishments for drinking and driving. In most states, just having a BAC over .08 while you are driving is illegal even if you are not driving recklessly, and having an open container of alcohol in a car is not allowed. In all states except Vermont and Mississippi, there are increased penalties for driving with BAC levels over .10 to .20 (differing by state).

## Alcohol Myths

The US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that traffic fatalities are significantly higher on New Year's Eve than on any other non-holiday winter evening. It notes the following myths and facts:

**Myth:** Drinking coffee will make you sober more quickly.

**Fact:** Not so. It takes time for the body to metabolize alcohol and even longer to return to normal. Time is the only cure.

**Myth:** If you take aspirin and a lot of water before you go to bed, you won't have a hangover.

**Fact :** The water helps (by preventing dehydration) but the aspirin can do more harm (to your stomach) than good. Non-aspirin alternatives can be bad for an alcohol-soaked liver.

**Myth:** If you eat before going to bed, the food will soak up the alcohol and prevent nausea.

**Fact :** Better to eat food in the morning, especially complex carbohydrates (like cereals and bread) that replenish blood sugar and make your stomach feel better.

**Myth:** An alcoholic drink in the morning will cure a hangover.

**Fact :** It may feel good for a moment, but the only cure is to get all alcohol out of your system.

In most states, you'll lose your license for a few months after being caught driving drunk the first time. All states have a zero tolerance law for drivers under age 21 — these laws set the maximum BAC at 0 to 0.02 for this age. And now, in all states, in some circumstances, people who have been caught driving with a high BAC must install an instrument in their cars that keeps them from starting their cars when their BAC is at or above a set point. Some states have laws that make bartenders or even private hosts legally liable if they serve drinks to someone who then drives and causes an accident. At some sports stadiums, no alcohol is served during the end phases of the games to prevent drinking and driving.

Perhaps most important, people have simply become more aware of the dangers of driving and drinking. It is now common — and socially acceptable — for groups of friends to have a “designated driver” who agrees not to drink alcohol during an evening.

To learn your state's rules, go to [www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/impaired\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/impaired_laws.html).

## How Can I Judge My BAC?

Every person's body metabolizes alcohol differently. For example:

- ♦ a 100-pound woman who has drunk 1½ beers within an hour will have a blood alcohol level of 0.08, the legal limit in all states.
- ♦ a 160-pound man could drink that same beer in that same time and have a level of .04.

Your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) depends on several factors:

- ♦ how much alcohol you have drunk: US beer contains 2-8% alcohol; wine has 12-14%; and hard liquor (like whisky or rum) has 40-50%. So a 12-ounce beer, a 6-ounce glass of wine, and a cocktail with 1.5 ounces of rum all contain about .6 to .7 ounces of pure alcohol.
- ♦ time: The typical person burns off about 0.02% blood alcohol/hour.
- ♦ food: Drinking on an empty stomach increases the level of driving impairment.
- ♦ your sex and body weight: for males: blood alcohol level = (#fluid ounces of pure alcohol)/(body weight x 0.13); for females: blood alcohol level = (#fluid ounces of pure alcohol)/(body weight x 0.115)

Or, go to [www.onlineconversion.com/bac.htm](http://www.onlineconversion.com/bac.htm) and have the computer figure out your limits. Or, when you're out, use one of the many smartphone apps that are available. *IntelliDrink* gets good reviews.

## King, in His Own Words

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Martin Luther King, Jr. is best known for these words, from a speech in Washington in 1963:

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character...*

King was an inspirational speaker. You cannot really understand his power by reading his words. Go to YouTube to hear parts of his most famous speeches.

Still, here are some more of his words to read (from several different speeches and writings). As with all real wisdom, they are relevant not just to his time and place, but to many situations and problems today:

*I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for the law.*

*...[T]he Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not [the openly-racist bigot], but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice;...who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; ...who constantly advised the Negro to*

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# Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (Junior) was born on January 15, 1929. By the time he was killed at the age of 39, he had shaken the conscience of Americans who believed in equality but ignored unfair laws. He was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. On the third Monday of January (this year, on January 15) we honor King and his work.

King was inspired by many people. His father was a Baptist minister in Georgia and taught his son to believe deeply in Jesus' lesson that we should love our enemies. King was also deeply influenced by the work of Mahatma Gandhi, who showed the power of nonviolent resistance in India. Henry David Thoreau's idea of civil disobedience (refusing to obey an unfair law, even if one went to jail) was another of King's basic tools for change.

King became a minister like his father. In 1954 he took his first job, in a church in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time in Montgomery, as in many places in the US, public facilities were segregated. Blacks and whites had to use different waiting rooms in train stations, different toilets, and different water fountains. There were separate schools for black and white children. The facilities were supposed to be "separate but equal," but they were not — the ones for blacks were usually inferior.

One law in Montgomery required blacks to sit at the back of public buses, and to give their seats to a white person. In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black woman, refused to give up her seat for a white person. The police arrested her. King was one of a group of black ministers who organized a boycott of the bus company to protest her arrest. (In a boycott, people refuse to buy a product or use a service,

to force the owner to make some change.) Many joined the boycott, refusing to ride the city buses. It was an early example of the kind of nonviolent protest King favored. At the end of the one-year boycott, the US Supreme Court decided that states could not have bus segregation laws. Today, Rosa Parks is a hero and a symbol of the Civil Rights movement.

King led two other kinds of nonviolent protests: marches (in which thousands of people would walk quietly and peacefully from one place to another, as a way to show the power of their numbers) and sit-ins (where blacks would simply sit down in a place that was known not to serve blacks). For example, in one sit-in, four college men in North Carolina took seats in a restaurant that would not serve blacks. They sat patiently all day, but were never served. Soon others held sit-ins in the same town. Within days, the restaurants closed down. Other times the protesters, including King, were arrested. King said they should be proud of this kind of civil disobedience.

As a Civil Rights leader, many thought of King as the moral leader of the US. In the last years of his life, King tried to focus attention on the economic problems of poor people of all races, and on ending the Vietnam War. Many people, black and white, were critical of him for this shift. He felt discouraged at the time he was killed.

For his use of nonviolent means for social change and for meeting hatred with love, King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. The Civil Rights movement changed the lives and hopes of blacks in the US. As its leader, King changed the lives of people of all races who value freedom, justice, and equality.



# Prepare Today for April 15, 2018 (and for April 15, 2019, Too)

If you must pay US income taxes, January is a good time to begin to prepare. If you keep good records through the year, it will not be difficult to complete the forms due on April 15 (2018, and especially 2019!). Read the tax rules now or talk with a tax counselor.

First learn if you will be considered a resident alien, nonresident alien, or have dual status (for part of the year you were resident, but nonresident the other part of the year). Resident aliens are taxed like US citizens. Different rules apply for nonresidents.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency that collects federal taxes. It has many free publications that explain the rules. Find them in your Post Office or a public library, by calling 1-800-829-3676 (English or Spanish), or by going to [www.irs.gov/publications](http://www.irs.gov/publications). See:

Publication 515: "Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities."

Publication 519: "US Tax Guide for Aliens"

Publication 521: "Moving Expenses"

Regardless of the outcome of the current tax bill debate, any new laws and rates will not apply for your 2017 taxes. Here are some tax points to keep in mind:

salary, bonus, commission	Keep all pay-check stubs, but especially the final December one, which will list the whole year's salary, taxes, and benefits.
other income and benefits	You may have to pay tax on other non-cash benefits from your job, like stocks, retirement income, allowances, use of company car for personal use, tuition payments, etc.
interest and dividends	Keep a record of all income you get, including any earned in another country.
moving expenses	If you moved to a new home because of your job and if your employer did not pay for the move, you may be able to deduct some of the costs.
child care expenses	If you paid someone to care for your child so you could have (or look for) a job, you may be able to deduct some of the costs.
medical expenses	Keep receipts for prescription drugs, doctor and dentist bills, hospital visits, eyeglasses, and insurance payments; they may be deductible.
taxes you paid	You can deduct state and local taxes, real estate and personal property taxes, occupational taxes, and (if you do not claim them as a tax credit) foreign income taxes.
interest on a mortgage	If you have a mortgage, your lending organization should send you a statement at the end of the year that lists the total amount of interest you paid.
contributions you made to non-profit organizations	If you gave money or property (like clothes, toys, appliances) to a non-profit organization (like an arts organization or school), you may be able to deduct this amount. Try to get a receipt for what you give. If you cannot get one (for example, if you left clothes at a donation center), keep a regular written account of these gifts. Gifts to non-US organizations are not deductible but you may be able to deduct gifts to US organizations that transfer funds to a charitable foreign organization.
casualty or theft losses	If something is stolen from you (theft loss) or you lose something through a fire, car accident, or a flood, you can deduct the value if it was not paid for by insurance.
job and other miscellaneous expenses	You may be able to deduct "job and other miscellaneous expenses" like union dues, uniforms, costs of business travel (tolls, meals, hotel, business meals, entertainment and gifts). These job expenses require detailed records. Read the rules now or talk to an accountant or tax advisor now.

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*wait until a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.*

*When an individual is no longer a true participant, when he no longer feels a sense of responsibility to his society, the content of democracy is emptied. When culture is degraded and vulgarity enthroned...the individual [must] pull away from a soulless society. This process produces alienation — perhaps the most pervasive and insidious development in contemporary society.*

*[Time] can be used either destructively or constructively...[P]eople of ill will have used time much more effectively than the people of good will...We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.*

*I know you are asking today, "How long will it take?" I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth pressed to earth will rise again. How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long, because you still reap what you sow. How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.*

## What to Do If the Police Stop Your Car

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We have included the following information in our welcome materials for newcomers to the US, for more than 20 years. It's good advice for everyone.

- When you see the flashing lights behind you, stop your car on the side of the road as soon as it is safe.
- Do not get out of your car. Wait for the officer to come to your car. Then lower your window.
- The police officer will ask to see your driver's license and your automobile registration.
- Let the officer tell you why you were stopped.
- Cooperate and be courteous.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets and visible at all times.
- Do not try to pay your fine in cash to the policeman. If he misunderstands you, he may think you are trying to bribe him. Pay all fines by mail or to the clerk of a court.

Once a police officer has stopped your car, he or she can look at anything in the car that is in plain view. However, officers can search the car (look in the trunk, under or inside boxes, etc.) only:

- if they see something that looks like a weapon, or
- if they have reason to believe you are hiding something illegal in the car, or
- if you give them your permission (say it is OK).

Always cooperate as much as possible with the officer.

## Your Car in Winter

Is your car ready for a cold winter? Cold temperatures (even without snow) can mean trouble. Some tips:

- A car's problems tend to get worse in the cold weather. This is a good time for a tune-up. Find a mechanic you trust (by asking a co-worker or neighbor for a recommendation). Be clear with the mechanic what you would like him to do. Ask him to call you before doing any un-planned work.
- Never add plain water to your radiator if it needs more liquid; plain water will freeze and crack the radiator. New cars today usually come with a mixture of water and antifreeze in their radiators. If the mixture is half water and half antifreeze, the liquid will not freeze until it is -34°F (-37°C). (Antifreeze also raises the boiling temperature, so it is a good idea to keep it year-round.) (But do not add much more than 50% antifreeze — it can actually damage the car.) You should start with a fresh mixture every 2 years.
- At freezing temperatures (32°F, 0°C), your car battery loses about 35% of its power. At 0°F (-18°C), it loses about 60%. So be sure your battery is in good shape. Are the cable connections strong and clean? Have your mechanic test the battery to be sure it is charging well.
- In very cold weather, the oil in your car gets thicker, making the engine's job harder. A lighter oil (like 5W-30) may be good for your car, year-round.
- Tire pressure drops with the cold weather too (one pound of pressure for every 10°F of temperature drop). You can usually check your tire pressure (and add air) for free at any gas station.
- Be prepared to have a clear windshield. Have plenty of washer fluid in the tank. Consider buying special snow wipers, if you find your regular wipers become stuck in the snow.
- Whether you need special snow tires or chains depends on: (a) how much snow falls, (b) the kinds of roads you travel, (c) whether the roads will be cleared by snow plows, and (d) the kind of car you have. Ask your mechanic and neighbors to help you decide what you need.
- Put these in your trunk, and leave them there through the winter:
  - a square-headed shovel, for digging yourself out of a pile of snow
  - an old piece of carpet or wire mat, and a bag of dry sand to put between your tire and ice if you get stuck
  - a window scraper and brush
  - emergency supplies in case you have to wait for help: a blanket, some food and water, a first-aid kit, a flare (strong candle)
- If you have never driven in the snow and ice, call your local Driving School and ask for a lesson in snow driving. Explain that you are an experienced driver, but not in the snow. They will wait for a snowy day and take you for a lesson (in *their* car!). It is important to learn how to use your brakes on ice without skidding, and how to get in and out of a parking spot in the snow.

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You may be more accepting of twists of fate. Or you may see solutions to problems as more complex than Americans do.

♦ Americans believe that hard work will bring individual success. This individual success — being known for your work rather than for who you are — is the highest goal. If someone is not successful in this way, Americans tend to see it as that person’s fault (see chart on page 1). They institutionalize this belief in social policy — Americans are reluctant to provide a social welfare net for people, especially if doing so would mean giving up some privacy. You may come from a culture in which being in a particular group or place in a social structure is more important than individual success. You may be slower to find fault with people who do not succeed.

What is the root of this effort-optimism? Part of the answer is historical and social. As new Americans moved west in the 1600s to 1800s, the beliefs they brought with them from Europe slowly changed. The idea that people are born into one place in society, with little hope of

improving that place, slowly changed. There was no complex society in these new small towns. The people who survived did so through hard work and being clever. Even today, Americans talk with pride about *Yankee ingenuity*, the ability to solve difficult problems with few resources.

And part of the explanation for this belief is religious. American culture is heavily influenced by Protestant Christian beliefs because these were held by the earliest US leaders, teachers, and industrialists. You may have heard the phrase *Protestant work ethic*. In the 1700s, at the start of modern industry, Protestants in Europe and the US taught that working hard and doing good work were important because that could bring *salvation* (eternal life and a better world).

Strong effort-optimism leaves people at some disadvantage. They are not well prepared to cope with the kinds of tragedy in which individual action does not help. Their business plans may be short-sighted. They can think of few solutions to social problems besides “Try harder.” And they may suffer blame from their neighbors for things that are not their fault.

## Birthday Biography: Horatio Alger

I wouldn’t be surprised if you never heard of author Horatio Alger, but he did more to teach the value that we can control our own fate (discussed in the article on page 1) than any single American I can think of.

Alger was born on January 13, 1832, in Massachusetts. After a brief career as a minister, he started working with teenage boys who were in legal trouble. Using their stories as an inspiration, he began writing the boy adventure stories that made him famous.

In his typical book, a young boy starts life in poor circumstances but by the end of the book, has become successful and secure. This “rags to riches” story is part of an American dream that continues today to be motivating to many. Alger’s characters were generally honest and moral, and the lesson he meant to be drawn from his books was usually something like, “If you work hard and are a good person, you can succeed in life.”

Ironically, in fact, his characters’ good fortune was often a result of luck, not hard work — the poor orphan just happens to meet some wealthy man who adopts him and sets him up in business, for example. Still, the boy’s good work, courage and strong character lead to success.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Alger.

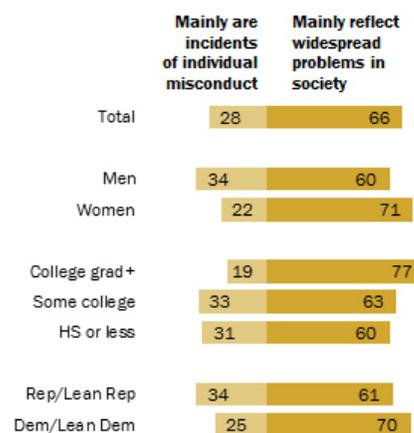
## Today’s News: Sexual Harassment

Wow. Every day brings news of another famous person - entertainer, politician, businessman, educator - forced to resign because of sexual misconduct. Of course this is not a new problem. This is a very very old problem newly come to light. The last national conversation about it was in 1991 when lawyer Anita Hill accused Judge Clarence Thomas (then under consideration for a place on the US Supreme Court, which he won) of sexual harassment. Clearly, there is much much more work to be done, as the chart to the right shows.

If you are not already, you should become familiar with the rules at your workplace about what is and what is not acceptable behavior and how problems will be handled.

### Most Americans say reports of sexual misconduct reflect societal problems

% who say recent allegations of sexual harassment and assault ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 29-Dec. 4, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Newcomer's Almanac is published monthly by The Interchange Institute, for people who have recently moved to the United States. Its goal is to promote international understanding by providing information about the American holidays, customs, values, social issues, and language that often confuse and surprise newcomers. It is written by Anne P. Copeland, PhD, who is a clinical psychologist and the Director of The Interchange Institute. She is an American and has lived and worked overseas with her family.

The Interchange Institute is a not-for-profit organization that studies the impact of intercultural transitions on individuals, their families, and the organizations for which they work. From the results of this research, the Institute offers seminars and workshops, produces publications, and provides consultative services to the international newcomers, their organizations, and to host communities, recognizing that change and insight on both sides facilitates smooth transition.

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## That Crazy English: Change

The New Year is a time of change. Here are some idioms to help you talk about it:

When they bought the business, they brought in a *new guard*. (...they brought in *new leaders*.)

It is hard to understand what is happening with the political situation, because *the sands are shifting*. (...because *the situation changes from moment to moment*.)

The group was always in favor of that policy, but now *the tide has turned* and I think they will vote against it. (...but now *the conditions have changed and the majority have a different view*..)

I was *in a rut* but now I have some new ideas. (*I had been doing things exactly the same way for a long, boring time*..)

I know the project is in trouble, but I don't think we should *change horses in midstream*. (...I don't think we should *make major changes in how we work in the middle of a project*.)

She had a *change of heart* when she saw him come in with flowers. (*She had one strongly held view, but changed her mind* when she saw him..)

I love the new ideas and attitude you bring to our group; you are a *breath of fresh air*. (...you are a *welcome change from the old ways we have done things*.)

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, I

Read about [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) on page 4. Mark each of these statements as "True" (T) or "False" (F). Make corrections so false statements are true.

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Martin Luther King, Jr. died at the peak of his popularity.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked to end the Vietnam War.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, schools, buses, and restaurants were often segregated by race. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. King believed that sometimes violence was the only way to make an unfair system more fair.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. King developed the philosophy of non-violence and civil disobedience from his reading of the Bible.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. King's father was also a minister.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The "separate but equal" law ensured that children of all races got an equally good education.                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Sit-ins were effective non-violent approaches to social change in the 1950s.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## VOCABULARY, I

Read [Your Car in Winter](#) on page 6. It includes many words that have several meanings. Write the several meanings of these words. How many others can you find? (I count 9!)

- cold (adjective): \_\_\_\_\_ (noun): \_\_\_\_\_
- mean (verb): \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective): \_\_\_\_\_
- tips (noun): \_\_\_\_\_ (verb): \_\_\_\_\_
- tend (verb): \_\_\_\_\_ (verb): \_\_\_\_\_
- clear (adjective): \_\_\_\_\_ (verb): \_\_\_\_\_
- plain (adjective): \_\_\_\_\_ (noun): \_\_\_\_\_
- shape (noun): \_\_\_\_\_ (noun): \_\_\_\_\_

## HOMEWORK

## WITH A PEN

1) Read [New Year's Eve and New Year's Day](#) on page 2. Write a description of your home country's new year celebration. When is it held? Is it a time for families to gather? Are there special foods, music, or ceremonies? Is it a serious holiday? a festive one?

2) Read [King, in His Own Words](#) on page 4-5. Some of the vocabulary in these writings is difficult. Pick one segment and translate every word you do not know. Then write, in your own words, what King was trying to say.

3) Read [Auld Lang Syne](#) on page 2. Think of a song that is traditionally sung at the new year, or for another holiday in your home country. Write a translation of the words in English. Briefly describe the meaning/history of the song, if you know it.

4) Read [Drinking and Driving in the US](#) on page 3. Make a list of any laws that exist in your home country about drinking and driving.

5) Read [Prepare Today for April 15, 2018 \(and for April 15, 2019, Too\)](#) on page 5. Write a list of reasons people in your home country pay more vs. fewer taxes. Compare your list to the one in the US list in the newsletter article.

## VOCABULARY, II

Read [King, in His Own Words](#) on page 4-5. Use the context of the writing to decide the correct meaning of each of these words:

	<b>word</b>	<b>paragraph</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1.	content	"I have..."	happy, satisfied	makeup, substance
2.	submit	"I submit..."	suggest, present	give in to
3.	conscience	"I submit..."	type of science	sense of right
4.	unjust	"I submit..."	not exact	not fair
5.	arouse	"I submit..."	bother	awaken, raise
6.	block	"The Negro's"	building tool	barrier
7.	order	"The Negro's"	well-arranged calm	giving directions
8.	paternalistically	"The Negro's"	like a father	like a son
9.	shallow	"The Negro's"	not sensitive or deep	not honest
10.	inevitability	"Time can..."	with certainly	being invisible
11.	persistent	"Time can..."	difficult	continuous
12.	ally	"Time can..."	friend	enemy
13.	stagnation	"Time can..."	progress	lack of progress
14.	pressed	"I know..."	reduced	ironed
15.	sow	"I know..."	pig	plant

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, II

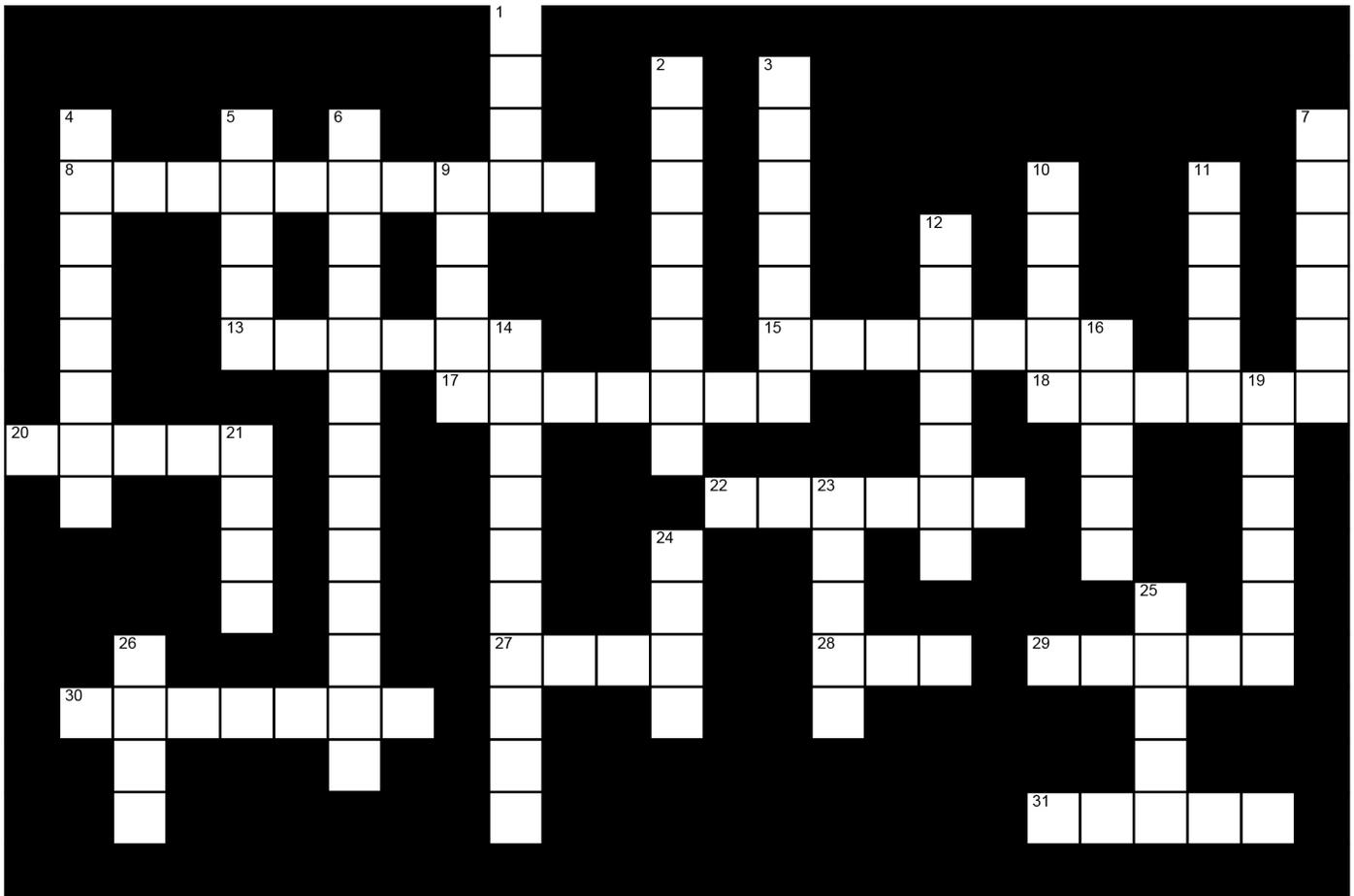
Read [Prepare Today for April 15, 2018 \(and for April 15, 2019, Too\)](#) on page 5. Match each item in the left-hand column below with the tax category on the right.

If you \_\_\_\_:

- gave \$25 to a shelter for homeless families
- earned interest from a savings account
- interest you paid to the bank that lent you money to buy a house
- paid a moving truck to move your furniture to the US so you could take a job here
- had a bicycle stolen
- took a trip for work and did not get paid back
- paid a babysitter so you and your spouse could work it would count as \_\_\_\_:

it would count as \_\_\_\_:

- interest on a mortgage
- a theft loss
- interest & dividends
- a job expense
- moving expenses
- child care expenses
- a contribution to a non-profit organization



**cross**

- 8. Auld Lang Syne means \_\_\_\_ (3 words)
- 13. A designated \_\_\_\_ does not drink alcohol during a party.
- 15. Most Americans think that \_\_\_\_ is not determined by outside forces.
- 17. The Internal \_\_\_\_ Service collects taxes in the US.
- 18. It's usually a bad idea to change \_\_\_\_ in midstream.
- 20. the \_\_\_\_ are shifting, things are slowly changing
- 22. traditional drink for New Year's Eve (2 words)
- 27. the \_\_\_\_ has turned, people now have a different view
- 28. in a \_\_\_\_, stuck
- 29. change of \_\_\_\_, new different feelings
- 30. refusing to buy a product or service, to protest a policy
- 31. She refused to sit in the back of the bus in Alabama, Rosa \_\_\_\_

**Down**

- 1. leader of the Civil Rights movement in the US, Martin Luther \_\_\_\_, Jr.
- 2. At \_\_\_\_ temperatures, your car battery loses 35% of its power.
- 3. If a police officer stops your car, he/she will ask to see your registration and \_\_\_\_.
- 4. The majority of Americans see sexual harassment as a sign of \_\_\_\_ problems.
- 5. \_\_\_\_ alcohol concentration (BAC)
- 6. Dr. King wrote, "human progress never rolls in on the wheels of \_\_\_\_."
- 7. Resident vs. non-resident \_\_\_\_ are taxed differently
- 9. He wrote 'rags to riches' stories.
- 10. breath of \_\_\_\_ air, a new idea
- 11. A big ball slides down a pole on New Year's Eve at \_\_\_\_ Square.
- 12. Many people drink \_\_\_\_ on New Year's Eve.
- 14. a promise to yourself
- 16. Drinking coffee does not make you \_\_\_\_ more quickly.
- 19. \_\_\_\_ optimism, the belief that through your actions, something good will happen
- 21. If you see a police car behind you with flashing lights, \_\_\_\_ immediately.
- 23. a new \_\_\_\_, new leadership
- 24. At an \_\_\_\_ House party, you may arrive any time within the times on the invitation.
- 25. Never add plain \_\_\_\_ to your car radiator in the winter.
- 26. Early American leaders taught others to have a "Protestant \_\_\_\_ ethic."

**OUT AND ABOUT**

1) Read [Today's News: Sexual Harassment](#) on page 7. If you are employed in the US, find out the rules at your workplace about sexual harassment - they will be in your employee handbook and/or on line.

2) Read about [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) on page 4. On January 15, or the weekend before, try to see film clips of Dr. King on TV. Or go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in his name. Listen to the power of his speaking voice and to his words.

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1) Read [Drinking and Driving in the US](#) on page 3. Go to: [www.intox.com/wheel/drinkwheel.asp](http://www.intox.com/wheel/drinkwheel.asp) and compute your Blood Alcohol Concentration on-line. Put in different amounts and types of drinks, amounts of time, and weights to see what happens to the BAC. Now try comparing the BAC in different countries.

2) Read [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) on page 4. Go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=I47Y6VHc3Ms](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I47Y6VHc3Ms) to hear and see King's most famous speech and see some of the protest that day.

3) Read [I Think I Can, I Think I Can](#) on pages 1 and 7. Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EhpgcXoxGI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EhpgcXoxGI) to watch a movie of a classic American children's story, *The Little Engine That Could*.

## WITH A FRIEND

1) Read [Your Car in Winter](#) on page 6. Describe to a partner any seasonal climate changes (like rain, temperature, or wind) that affect cars in your home country. What do you do to cope with these changes? What happens if you do not?

2) Read [New Year's Eve and New Year's Day](#) on page 2. Discuss answers to each of these questions with a partner.

- ♦ What was the best thing that happened to you in 2017?
- ♦ What was something that happened to you in 2017 that you wish had not happened?
- ♦ What are five things you did in 2017 that you had never done before?

3) Read [Drinking and Driving in the US](#) on page 3. Tell a partner about alcohol use in your home country. Is it allowed? Are restrictions on its use different than in the US?

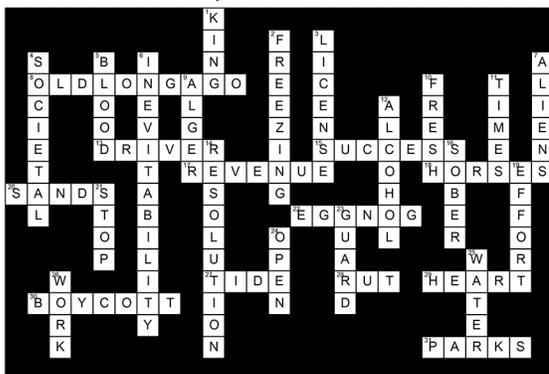
4) Read [Alcohol Myths](#) on page 3. Did you believe any of these "myths?" Are there other beliefs about alcohol — and how to avoid its negative effects — that are common in your home country? Are they true or "myths"?

5) Read [Prepare Today for April 15, 2018 \(and for April 15, 2019, Too\)](#) on page 5. Describe to a partner how your home country gets the money it needs. Are there taxes on income? If so, are they higher or lower than in the US? Are there taxes on real estate? things you buy? gasoline? cigarettes? How do you pay these taxes?

6) Read [Today's News: Sexual Harassment](#) on page 7. Tell a partner or friend (a) whether rules about workplace relationships are different in the US and your country, and (b) whether actual behavior is different.

7) Read [That Crazy English: Change](#) on page 8. Take turns with a partner or friend making up sentences using each idiom as you describe some time in your life when you made a change, large or small.

8) Read [What To Do If the Police Stop Your Car](#) on page 6. Is this the same advice you would offer to a newcomer to your home country? Why or why not?



## ANSWER CORNER

### Understanding What You Read, I

1F. When MLK, Jr. died, many people were critical of him. 2T 3T 4F. King believed that violence was never the way to make systems fair. 5F. King developed...from reading Gandhi and Thoreau. 6F. King died at the age of 39, a young man.

### Understanding What You Read, II

1g 2c 3a 4e 5b 6d 7f

### Vocabulary, II

1b 2a 3b 4a 5b 6b 7b 8a 9a 10a 11b 12a 13b 14a 15b 16a

### Vocabulary, I

1. adj: not hot/noun: virus  
2. verb: indicate/adj: nasty  
3. noun: advice; verb: leans over  
4. verb: usually; verb: take care of  
5. adj: obvious; verb: eliminate  
6. adj: nothing added; noun: flat land  
7. noun: condition; noun: form

Others: charging, harder, lighter, tire, drops, check, free, trunk, brush (plus lots that have related meanings — like crack (a break, or to make a break), oil (lubricating fluid, or to add oil), etc.



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