

That Spring Cold

Spring is here, or around the corner at least! It's a common time to get a common cold. Here is some basic information about the medications you can buy "over the counter" (without a prescription).

1) Over-the-counter (OTC) medicines are usually weaker than prescription medicines. If you are concerned about your symptoms or they last more than a few days, see a doctor.

2) You may be surprised at the variety of stores that sell OTC medicines -- pharmacies, small food shops and large supermarkets, news stands...However, a drug store will have a licensed pharmacist to answer your questions. You can describe your symptoms, or ask for help in finding something equivalent to what you used to buy in your home country.

3) The labels on cold medications will always list the exact drug included and the amount of each, often in tiny tiny print under "Active Ingredients." In bigger letters on the front, they will list either the symptom (like For Cough and Stuffy Nose) or the general type of drug (like Cough Suppressant and Nasal Decongestant). If you do not care which particular drug is included, just read the front labels.

4) Many large drug stores make their own *generic* brands of the most popular OTC medicines. These are chemically the same as the more expensive famous brands — compare the Active Ingredients to find an exact match. The generic brands will be cheaper.

5) If you are buying medication for a child, always use one that is designed for children. Follow the instructions on the label for the right dose.

6) Most of the products you will find are multi-symptom medications. This means they help several *symptoms* (problems) at once — a runny nose *and* a fever, for example. Or a cough, sneezing, *and* a stuffy nose. But even if you find a multisymptom drug that is exactly right for you this time, you may have a different set of symptoms next time you get sick. If you look carefully, you can buy separate medications for each symptom. I like to make my own mix.

7) Some people take both an *antihistamine* (for allergy or runny nose) and a *nasal decongestant* (for stuffy nose) at the same time, so the side effects of one (drowsiness with antihistamines) counter-balance the side effects of the other (hyper-alertness with decongestants).

Popular Over-the-Counter Medications

| Problem | Sample Brand | Generic Name |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Headache, Fever, Pain or Swelling | Bayer Tylenol Advil Aleve | aspirin acetaminophen ibuprofen naproxen sodium |
| Allergy, Sneezing, or Runny Nose | Benedryl Claritin | diphenhydramine loratadine (<i>antihistamines</i>) |
| Stuffy Nose | Sudafed Afrin | pseudoephedrine oxymetazoline (<i>decongestants</i>) |
| Cough (calms) Cough (expectorant) | Robitussin Mucinex | dextromethorphan guaifenesin |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| That Spring Cold | 1 |
| Easter | 2 |
| Easter Eggs and Bunnies | 2 |
| Passover | 3 |
| How Old Are You? | 3 |
| St. Patrick's Day | 4 |
| St. Pat's Symbols | 4 |
| Birthday Biography: Dr. Seuss | 5 |
| Academy Awards | 5 |
| Summer Camps | 6 |
| 11 Questions to Ask a Day Camp | 6 |
| Mosquitoes | 7 |
| The Meaning in the Mosquitoes | 7 |
| That Crazy English: Nose idioms | 8 |

Compliments of

English at Large

Distribution restricted per terms of educational site license.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author alone and may not reflect those of the site license holder.

Easter Eggs and Bunnies

The egg is an ancient symbol of new life. Long before Jesus lived, eggs were a traditional springtime gift. For Christians, the egg is a sign of the new spiritual life that Jesus promised his believers.

The *hare* (like a large rabbit) was an ancient symbol of the moon and the goddess Eostre. Hares are born with their eyes open. The full moon is said to be the open-eyed watcher of night.

In the US, the rabbit (similar to a hare but more common here) has replaced the hare as a central image of Easter. Children call rabbits “bunnies,” so we have the Easter Bunny.

Unlike Christmas’ Santa Claus (about whom there is agreement), there is no one standard Easter Bunny. Is it a male or female? Rabbit-size or human-size? Does it wear clothes? How does it get into the house? Does it bring baskets filled with eggs, or does it hide eggs for children to find? Does it bring its own eggs or use the eggs the children decorated? What do you think?

And why does an Easter bunny, a mammal, bring Easter *eggs*? The story goes that a German woman had hidden eggs in her garden for children to find. As they looked, a hare hopped by. The children thought the hare had laid the eggs... and a legend was born.

Easter

Note: Observations of both Easter and Passover begin, this year, in March and continue into April. We have chosen to include a description of them in the March newsletter.

Easter is perhaps the most important Christian holiday of the year. While Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas, at Easter, they remember his death and the story of his *resurrection* (coming back to life). Christians believe that Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the dead, offering spiritual rebirth (new spiritual life) to all his followers. Here is the Easter story:

Jesus had become a powerful teacher and leader. Although he was popular with his many followers, he angered many other people. He went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover with his 12 *disciples* (close followers). While there, an angry group of priests and elders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. The crowds wanted Pilate to kill Jesus. Pilate agreed. Jesus was nailed to a cross on a Friday, now known as Good Friday. (Some say this name comes from “God’s Friday.” Others think “Good” refers to “holy.”)

After Jesus died, his body was taken to a tomb. A large round stone was rolled in front of the opening. On Sunday morning, two of his followers, Mary and Mary Magdalene, found his tomb empty. They received a sign that Jesus was alive. His resurrection is the central event of the Easter celebration. According to the Bible, Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples before returning to heaven.

In many languages, the name of this holiday comes from the Hebrew word for Passover (*Pesach*). But the English name comes

from the goddess of spring, Eostre. Eostre was honored in Germany and England in a celebration of the *vernal equinox* (the day when both day and night are exactly 12 hours long). In Western Christian churches, Easter is the Sunday following the first full moon after March 21 (or the “ecclesiastical vernal equinox”). This year, Easter is April 1.

It is traditional to dye eggs at Easter time and display them in a basket. German immigrants to the US brought this custom. To try it, buy a [food-safe] dye kit in any supermarket at Easter time and follow the very easy directions. Hard-boil the eggs first. Or punch a small hole



in one end of an uncooked egg, piercing the yolk. Punch a larger hole (3-4mm) in the other end. Blow into the smaller hole, holding the egg over a bowl. The yolk and white will come out, into the bowl. Wash the shell carefully then dye it. It will last for years!

Good Friday (March 30 this year) is a government

holiday in some states. Stores and businesses may be closed. Easter is not an official federal holiday (although it is always a Sunday, so government offices are closed anyway). The Monday after Easter is not generally observed as a holiday in the US as it is in some other countries. Gift- and card-giving are not traditional parts of the season (but the stores will certainly try to convince you otherwise). Many families gather for Easter dinner.

More Americans of Christian belief or descent go to church on Easter Sunday than on any other day except perhaps at Christmas. If you are interested in learning about the Christian religion in the US, Easter would be a good time to visit a church. There will be many visitors there, and you would be welcome.

Passover

Passover is one of the most important Jewish holidays in the year. Passover begins on the 14th day of the month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar. This year it starts on March 31 (but note that in the Jewish calendar, days start at sunset on the previous day, so observation of Passover will begin at sunset on March 30) and will end on April 7. At Passover, Jews remember the story of their *exodus from* (going out of) slavery in Egypt 3000 years ago:

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt when God ordered Moses to lead them to freedom. God sent a series of plagues to the land — frogs, disease, locusts, and more. Each time, God stopped the plague when the *Pharaoh* (king, pronounced “FAY-roh”) promised to let the Israelites go free. But each time a plague ended, the Pharaoh broke his promise. Finally, Moses announced that the next plague would be the killing of all first-born children in Egypt. He told the Israelites to put some blood of a lamb on the door posts of their homes. This would be the signal to God to “pass over” their house and not kill their first-born children.

This time, the Pharaoh finally told the Israelites to go free. The people traveled toward the Red Sea. When they got there, the Pharaoh’s army (sent by the Pharaoh who had, again, changed his mind about freeing them) was close behind. The water parted so that the Israelites could cross through to safety. It closed again when Pharaoh’s army was crossing, drowning them all.

For several thousand years, the story of Passover has been told in this spring season. It is a story of the re-birth of life and of a people who find new political freedom and unity. At Passover, many Jews remember people of all religions around the world who still do not live in freedom.

Passover lasts seven or eight days (depending on the type of Jewish group).

Throughout Passover, Jews eat no food that has *leavening* (like yeast) in it. They may go to religious services on the first evening of Passover, then return home for a *seeder*. A seder is a dinner, and an important, ceremonial part of observing Passover. It is not simply a family holiday meal. A seder includes many special symbolic foods (see below). The youngest person at the table asks a series of four questions about the meaning of Passover. The Passover story is told, along with prayers and songs of praise to God.

If you are not Jewish, you will not be expected to do any thing special during the Passover week. If you live in a town with many Jewish families, public schools may be closed for the first day or two of Passover. But most businesses and government agencies are not closed. For the first one or two days of Passover, many Jews, even those who are not very religious, will follow tradition. They may not be at work or school. In some Jewish families, inviting non-Jews to a seder is part of the tradition of telling the Passover story to those who do not know it. Go, if invited.

The Symbolic Foods of Passover

| This food: | symbolizes: |
|---|--|
| Matzah (unleavened bread) | The Israelites’ quick departure, leaving no time for bread to rise |
| Lamb bone and egg | Festival sacrifice |
| Mild bitter greens (parsley or lettuce) dipped in saltwater | The Israelites’ tears, the sea and springtime |
| Bitter herbs (like horseradish) | The bitterness of slavery |
| Charoset (nuts, fruit and wine) | Brick/mortar used by slaves |

Question from a Reader: How Old Are You?

Q: I am surprised, when Americans are so willing to speak to strangers in the elevator, and to share so much personal information about themselves, that there are some questions we should not ask - like “how old are you?” In Japan we need to know someone’s age so we know how to talk to them properly.

A: Americans tend to think of themselves as very open and willing to talk about anything, part of their self-image of honesty and directness. But you’re right, there are topics that feel too intimate to many Americans.

Asking about someone’s age is OK only if the person is clearly younger than 21 or older than about 90! Remember that in the US, youth is highly valued; respect for older people is not so obvious. So if you have to guess someone’s age, guess low. (“How old do you think I am?” says a 50-year-old. “Um...32?” you say. “Oh, you’re wonderful!”)

In the US, unless someone is very different from you in age (say, 20 years or more), your social relationship and your language with that person will not be very influenced by age.

For example, I am “60-something” (see — I won’t even tell *you!*). I am on a committee with two other women. One is 40-something, the other a little older than I am. I do not think there is a hierarchy among us that is age-based.

St. Pat's Symbols

You will see many signs of St. Patrick's Day this month. Some are symbolic of St. Patrick's teaching, but many are important simply because they are Irish:

Shamrocks. St. Patrick used a *shamrock* (three-leaf clover) to



illustrate the Trinity, a core aspect of Christianity. The Trinity refers to the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, three who are One. A four-leaf clover is sometimes seen too, a good luck symbol.

Little Men in Green Hats. These men in green clothes are a modern-day blend of the 19th century Irish farmer and the *leprechaun* (fairy) (pronounced LEP-ra-kon) that is said to live in Irish forests.



Pot of Gold.

If you catch a leprechaun, he will offer you a pot of gold for his freedom. But be careful — he usually escapes before you get the gold!

Pipes, Fiddles, and Harps. The harp is an Irish symbol of sorrow and joy. These two emotions have



inspired Irish writing and music for centuries.

St. Patrick's Day

On March 17, many Americans — including non-Irish people — celebrate St. Patrick's Day. In the fifth century, Patrick was a bishop of the Catholic Church. He brought Christianity to Ireland through his teaching.

Why do Americans celebrate an Irish saint? Probably because of the large immigration from Ireland to the US. Some say that on St. Patrick's Day, "Everybody is a little bit Irish." In fact, today, almost 37 million Americans claim some Irish ancestry (see the chart below). This is a lot bigger than the current population of Ireland! While Irish-

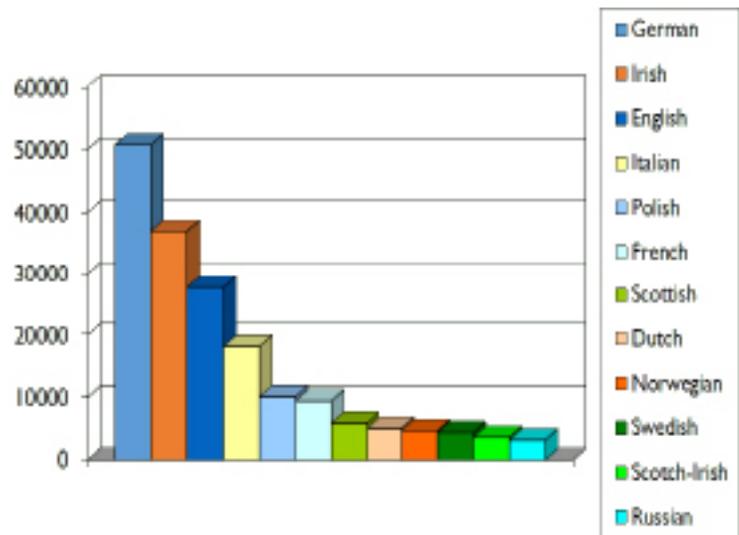
Americans can be either Catholic or Protestant, celebration of St. Patrick's Day is usually seen as an act of connection to the (mostly Catholic) Irish Republic. In the US, St. Patrick's Day is a non-religious celebration of Irish culture. The spirit is one of fun and friendliness. You do not have to be Irish to join in.

Your children may tell you that they are supposed to wear something green that day. It's not a real school rule, but wearing green is a way of showing appreciation of Irish culture — its spirit, its music, its writing. But you will not of-

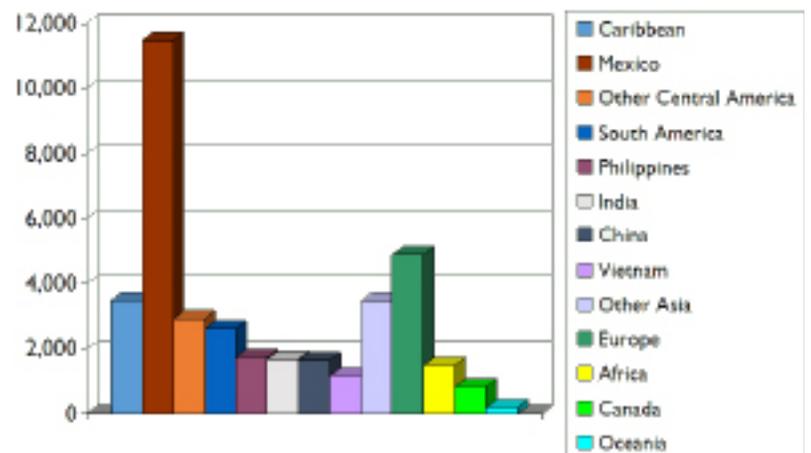
ferend anyone if you do nothing. On St. Patrick's Day, you'll see parades, especially in cities with a large Irish-American population. Many bars, especially Irish-style pubs, have special celebrations. If you are offered a green beer, don't panic — it's just green food coloring.

Gifts and cards are not part of the tradition of this day (although you will find plenty of green items to buy if you want to). St. Patrick's Day is not a legal or business holiday.

National Ancestry of US Americans (in thousands)



Country of Birth of US Immigrants



Source: US Census Bureau

Birthday Biography: Dr. Seuss

The Cat in the Hat. Green Eggs and Ham. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas. If you have ever had a young child (or, perhaps, were a young child yourself!), you will know the name Dr.

Seuss, author and illustrator of these children's books and 43

others. His whacky characters with crazy names (Sneetches and Wockets and Bar-ba-loots) and his simple but fun rhymes have delighted children and parents for more than 50 years.

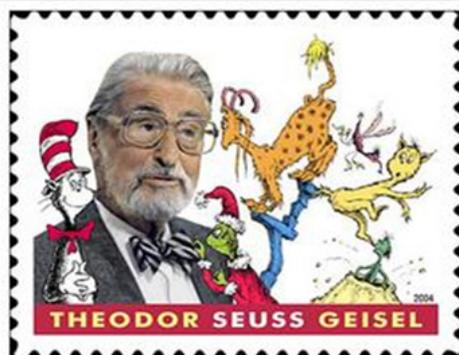
His books have sold more than 220 million copies around the world, in 20 languages. And they have helped millions of children have fun learning to read.

Dr. Seuss was born Theodor ("Ted") Seuss Geisel on March 2, 1904, to German immigrant parents. Ted's mother had worked in her father's bakery as a young woman. One of her jobs was to tell the customers what kinds of pies they had. She invented chants to help memorize the list ("apple pies, cherry pies, peach pies and more"). Later, when her young son Ted had trouble sleeping, she would repeat the chants — these soothing tones and rhythms formed the basis of his writing.

Geisel spent his early career as a cartoonist and illustrator. He wrote his first book (*And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*) in 1937; 27 publishers rejected it before it was finally accepted by Vanguard Press. Its success allowed him to write 11 more books over the next 20 years (including *Bartholomew and the Obleck* and *Horton Hears a Who*).

In the mid-1950s, educators began to object to the boring textbooks being given to children who were learning to read. One critic called them "antiseptic" and the children in them

"unnaturally clean." Geisel (now publishing as Dr. Seuss) was hired to write a children's *primer* (book used to teach reading skills), using just 220 new-reader words. Dr. Seuss met the challenge with *The Cat in the Hat* which



was an instant success.

Schools didn't always love it — what kind of mother would leave her two small children in the care of a fish? — but children and parents did. (*Editor's Note: It was published the year I learned to read — lovers of *The Cat and the Hat**

don't come any older than me!)

Intrigued by Dr. Seuss's skill, his editor challenged him to write a book using 50 words or fewer. *Green Eggs and Ham*, another best-seller, was the result (*To be honest, 50 words allows for, well, limited plot and character development. But then, by the time it came along, I already knew how to read. But hey, this is a biography not a book review...*)

Dr. Seuss's sense of purpose extended beyond the teaching of reading. His *The Butter Battle Book*, published in 1984, was a response to the nuclear arms race — the Yooks and the Zooks hate each other because one group eats their bread with the butter-side up and the other with the butter-side down. Their fight escalates and the book ends with an ambiguous blank page. His *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* (published in 1990) explores life's possibilities and is a common graduation gift for young adults today.

But primarily, Dr. Seuss wrote for children's enjoyment — he said, "Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted."

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss.

Academy Awards

Hollywood's highest honor, the Academy Awards (also called *Oscars*, for reasons lost to history) will be announced at a televised ceremony on March 4. Awards are chosen by the 6000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This is an honorary professional organization — members have to be invited by the Board to join one of its divisions, and have to have "achieved distinction" in some aspect of film making. Members are mostly white, male and over age 60. Efforts are in place to diversify membership, doubling its numbers of women and minorities by 2020.

There are 17 divisions: Actors, Casting Directors, Cinematographers, Costume Designers, Designers, Directors, Documentary, Executives, Film Editors, Makeup/Hairstylists, Music, Producers, Public Relations, Short Films and Feature Animation, Sound, Visual Effects, and Writers.

Academy members nominated films or people for awards in their division — that is, Directors nominate for Best Director; Actors for Best Actor; etc. Members in all divisions can nominate films for Best Picture. The top people/films are the Academy Award Nominees; these were announced in January. (See www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2018 for a list of nominees.) Final winners are chosen by all eligible Academy members, regardless of their membership division. They send their votes to PriceWaterhouseCoopers, which keeps the votes very secret until the night of the Awards ceremony, broadcast on TV and livestreamed. Enjoy the show!

11 Questions to Ask a Day Camp

Here are 11 questions to ask:

Is the camp well organized?

- 1) Did the camp return your telephone calls promptly?
- 2) Did they send a brochure when you asked for one?
- 3) Is their registration process well-run and fair?
- 4) Was the open house useful?

If any of these answers is "no," watch out. The camp will probably not be better organized in the summer when hundreds of children are there!

Is the camp safe?

- 5) How many counselors will your child have?
- 6) How many adults will be at the pool when your child is swimming?
- 7) What are their safety rules for sports activities like gymnastics and football?
- 8) If English is new for your child, will there be any counselors who speak your language?

If you are worried, talk to the camp director. Having more information may be helpful.

Will my child have fun?

- 9) What activities does the camp offer? How often will your child do the activities that sound most fun?
- 10) Will your child have any choice in what to do?
- 11) What happens if your child does not want to do what the rest of the group is doing?

Summer Camps

US school children have a 10-12 week vacation in the summer. This schedule began many years ago to allow children to help with their families' summer farming jobs. Over the years, families moved to the cities, but the school calendar stayed the same. You may need to make plans for this schedule now, in March.

Do not assume that your neighborhood will be filled with friends for your children. In some neighborhoods, children spend their days at home. But many families in the US send their children to a summer day camp or sleepover camp, especially if both parents have jobs. Children at day camps return home each afternoon. At sleepover camps, children (usually age 8 or older) stay for one to several weeks at a time, sleeping in cabins or tents.

Here is some information about day camps:

- ♦ Registration for many day camps is in the spring. Sign up now, or the camp you want may be full.
- ♦ The phrase *day camp* refers to any summer program. It may or may not include activities that you think of as "camping," like nature and outdoor living. Many day camps offer a mixture of sports, games, crafts, and music. Other day camps focus on one activity, like soccer, computers, gymnastics, or art. These camps usually offer lessons, coaching, and a lot of practice time in the special activity. Many children go to one of these special camps for a week or two. Then they go to a camp with a broader mixture of activities.
- ♦ Most day camps start between 8 and 9am, but the ending time varies widely. They may end at 12 or mid- or late afternoon. Pick one that fits your schedule and your child's age.
- ♦ Some day camps serve lunch. At others, children bring their own lunches. Ask about

this if you want your child to eat (or not eat) particular foods.

- ♦ Most camps hire high school and university-age counselors (group leaders) to work directly with the children in small groups. Some also hire adults (like school teachers) to supervise the younger counselors closely. It is especially important for very young children to have adults involved in their day camp life.
- ♦ Some camps are at public parks or school playgrounds, so there is an emphasis on outdoor games and simple crafts. Other camps offer horse-back riding, video movie making, computer lessons, pottery, or musical instrument lessons — these need special facilities. Be sure to understand how often your children will be able to do the activities that interest them most.
- ♦ Some day camps have a schedule that all children in a group follow. Others offer each child a choice of what to do each hour. Some day camps separate boys and girls. Others have mixed-sex groups. Some separate children by age, others by activity or interest.
- ♦ Day camps cost from about \$60 to several hundred dollars per week. Camps may also offer bus transportation at an extra cost. The more expensive camps should offer more and older counselors and more special activities.
- ♦ Most day camps have a springtime Open House or a written brochure that describes their program and the cost.



Day Light Savings Time

For most of the US (except Hawaii and most of Arizona), Daylight Saving Time starts at 2am on the second Sunday of March (March 11 this year) and ends at 2am on the first Sunday of November. Set your clock forward one hour to begin Day Light Savings Time.

Mosquitoes

I ran an International Writers' Club in my community for about 10 years. For each meeting, a few members wrote a short essay or story about a cultural difference they had observed while living in the US. At their request, I made edits to their stories then passed them around to the other members. We met to discuss them, and learned about the interesting cultural differences in practices and expectations between our countries. With the writers' permission, I have published a collection of 60 of these stories, with Questions for Reflection and a brief commentary (written by my colleague Marissa Lombardi and me). Here's a sample, relevant to this month's story about summer camps. Information about ordering the book is below.

Mosquitoes

Moon-Ju Kim

I came to America full of expectation. When I visited the school, I was very happy because of a lot of kind teachers, and clear, quiet and convenient buildings. But my children didn't have much time to become friendly with American classmates, because summer vacation began as soon as they started to go to the school. So I enrolled them in a summer sleepover camp.

There were lakes and a forest. The place was good. But I worried there were too many mosquitoes. I really wanted mosquitoes not to bite my son, so I talked to the nurse. She said to me, "Don't worry. No mosquitoes will bite your son and if something is wrong with your son, I'll just call you back." Therefore, my husband and I returned to my house with relieved minds.

We visited the camp three times to try to meet my son. At last, when I met my son, we were really, really surprised at my son's face because mosquitoes bit his whole body from face to feet. Mosquitoes bit my son while he slept because there was a hole in the cabin next to his bed.

But nobody took care of my son. The nurse didn't call me and when we asked her about this, she said that there was no problem. The chief of the camp also said, "No problem." I don't understand. We came back home with my son; after that we took care of him and helped him to relax. We gave him an ice massage and gave him antihistamine and antibiotics for his bites.

The next day when we visited the camp, we asked for a refund. The chief said, "You should visit the Y next Monday." We visited the responsible person at the Y even though she never tried to see my son. "If you want a refund, you should submit a document of a pediatric diagnosis."

Therefore, we asked for the refund, because my husband is a cardiologist and a professor for sixteen years in Korea. So, we thought my husband's opinion would be accepted and then they would refund it. However, they refused to refund it. I really can't understand why the word of an expert couldn't be accepted. If this same situation occurred in Korea, the chief would visit us directly and apologize about this bad incident. I can hardly understand this part of American culture.

To read some more sample stories and cultural comments, and to order this book, please go to: www.interchangeinstitute.org/html/intheirown.htm

Correction

A reader alerted me to two mistakes in the February 2018 *Newcomer's Almanac* article, *Presidential Facts*. Donald Trump is the second president to have been divorced. And, perhaps he should be included in the list of presidents who have served without salary, as he promised to do during the campaign. However, legally, he is required to take a salary. He has, so far, donated his salary to a government agency, so I think that counts. Thanks, Alert Reader!

The Meaning in the Mosquitoes

Here is an excerpt from our cultural commentary:

... Moon-Ju's frustration was made worse as she tried to address the situation. ... The culture clash is clearest in her belief that her husband's letter would be sufficient evidence of an expert opinion to warrant a camp refund. The camp director was asking for an independent medical opinion that the mosquito bites warranted withdrawal from the camp. In the US, no parent, no matter how expert or accomplished, could supply the required degree of independence of judgment here, as the father's clear personal interest in the outcome would threaten to outweigh his independent opinion. In low power distance cultures like the US, priority is put on the opinions of those with no vested interest in the outcome. In contrast, in high power distance cultures like Korea, the credibility that comes with being an esteemed professor for sixteen years (even in a different medical specialty) is expected to carry more weight than independence.

Finally, Moon-Ju felt that no one from the camp apologized sufficiently to her and her family. An apology from the chief would have been very meaningful to her. In the US, especially in situations involving medical issues, staff may not apologize, for fear that an apology would connote guilt. Here, an apology seems to mean, "We did something wrong that we should not have done" rather than "We regret that your son had such an uncomfortable experience at our camp, and we wish it were not so."

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.

Subscriptions: Please contact The Interchange Institute for information about subscription fees, site licenses, and discount rates:

The Interchange Institute
Tel. 617.566.2227
www.interchangeinstitute.org
email: newcomer@interchangeinstitute.org



The
Interchange
Institute

Copyright 2018.
Anne P. Copeland.
All rights reserved.
No photocopying
allowed except under
terms of site license.

That Crazy English: Nose Idioms

Is your nose giving you a hard time in this season of the spring cold? Here are some idioms you might find timely:

I smell a rat. (I am suspicious.)

He was very clever during the investigation and came out *smelling like a rose*. (He was very clever during the investigation and *at the end, it appeared as if he had done nothing wrong*.)

I smell trouble. (Even though there are no outward signs of trouble, *I think something is wrong*.)

I smell blood. (I think I am very close to winning this difficult fight.)

She *bit off his nose*. (She scolded him very aggressively.)

Do not *turn up your nose* at this offer. (Do not assume that this offer is not good enough.)

His *nose was out of joint* after she picked someone else for the job. (He was *insulted and upset* after she picked someone else for the job.)

I just *have a nose* for this sort of thing. (I am *naturally good* at this sort of thing.)

It is *no skin off my nose* if you want to skip that meeting, but I think you will regret it. (It *does not matter to me personally* if you want to skip that meeting, but I think you will regret it.)

IDIOMS

Read [That Crazy English: Nose Idioms](#) on page 8. Think of some idioms in your home language that refer to noses (or other parts of a face - eyes, mouth, ears, chin). Write the idiom in your home language, then a literal translation of it, then its meaning.

| Home language | Literal Translation | Meaning |
|---------------|---------------------|---------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

VOCABULARY and RHYMES

Read [Birthday Biography: Dr. Seuss](#) on page 5. Rhymes are central to Dr. Seuss's success. For each word below, think of a rhyme for it, and then write a brief definition of the word.

| Word and paragraph | Rhyme | Definition |
|--------------------|-------|------------|
| 1. Ham (1) | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Chants (2) | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Boring (4) | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Plot (5) | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Blank (6) | _____ | _____ |

HOMEWORK

WITH A PEN

1. Read about [Summer Camps](#) on page 6. Write a letter to an imaginary day camp director asking about whether they have space for your (or an imaginary) child. Ask how often your child will be able to do his/her favorite activities. Ask about any worries or concerns.

2. Read [St. Patrick's Day and St. Pat's Symbols](#) on page 4. Write a description of a holiday in your home country in which one color is very important (as green is, on St. Patrick's Day). What does the color stand for?

3. Read [St. Patrick's Day](#) on page 4. Look at the charts on that page. Using any information you have (including your personal impression), draw a chart of some demographic difference in your home country.

4. Read about [St. Pat's Symbols](#) on page 4 and the [Easter Bunny](#) on page 2. Draw a picture and write a description of some mythical animals or characters from your home country's stories or customs.

5. Read [Mosquitoes](#) on page 7. Write a story or essay about some cultural difference you have observed in the US. How does this compare to your home country? What would you like Americans to understand about this difference?

WORDS IN CONTEXT

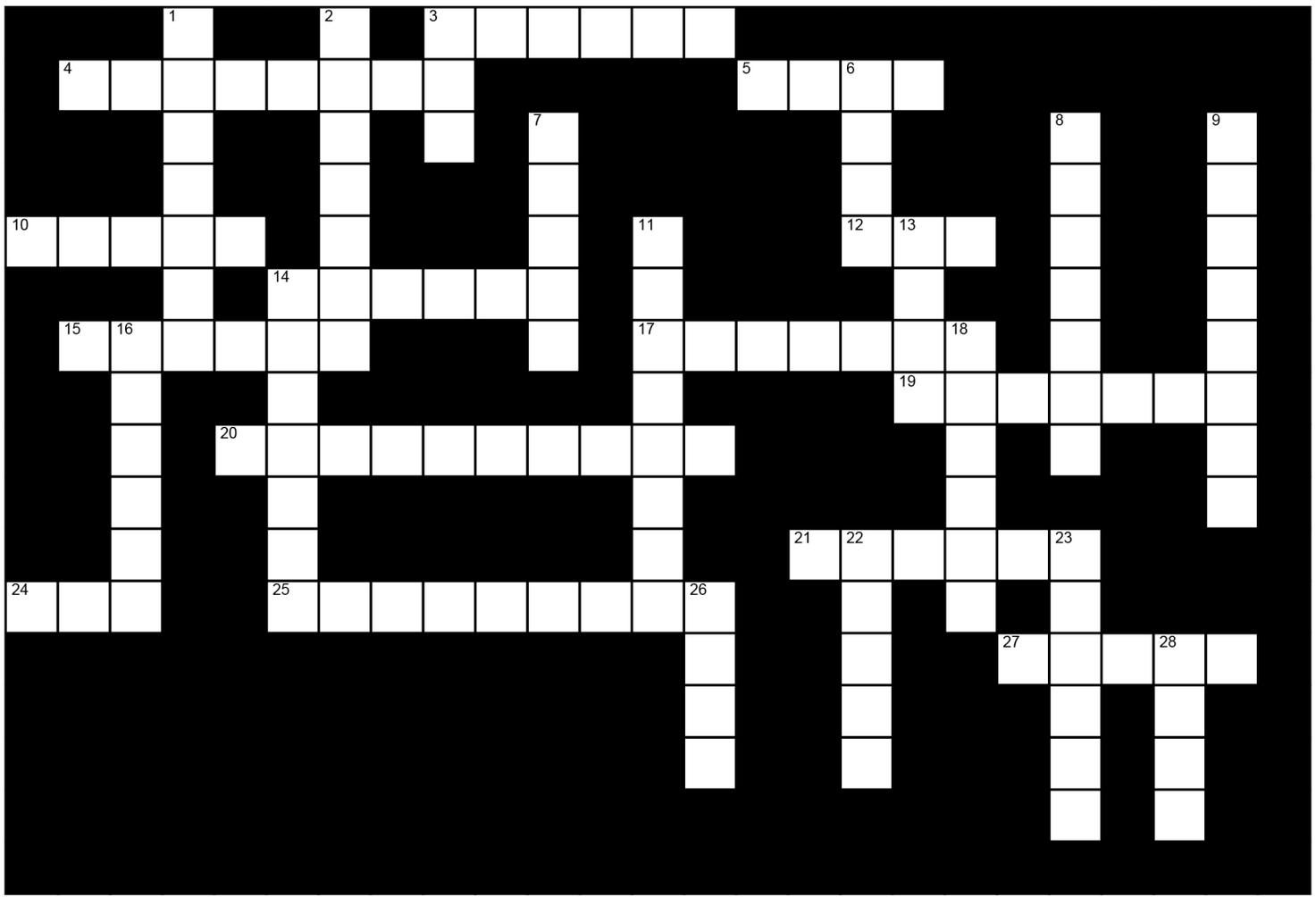
Read about [St. Patrick's Day and St. Pat's Symbols](#) on page 4. Circle the correct meaning of each word in column one:

| | Paragraph | A | B |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| St. Patrick's Day | | | |
| 1. bishop | 1 | religious leader, high priest | student, scholar |
| 2. ancestry | 2 | family of birth, family roots | knowledge, familiarity |
| 3. spirit | 3 | ghost | mood, basic sense |
| 4. appreciation | 3 | increase in value | respect |
| 5. crazy | 4 | insane | silly and fun |
| St. Pat's Symbols | | | |
| 6. signs | 1 | billboards | reminders |
| 7. illustrate | 2 | draw | teach about, make clear |
| 8. core | 2 | central, basic | often misunderstood |
| 9. blend | 3 | combination | picture |
| 10. escapes | 4 | gets away | gets caught |
| 11. inspired | 5 | caused to do good things | limited, hurt |

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read about [Summer Camps](#) on page 6. Mark each sentence below "True" or "False." Make corrections so false ones are true.

| | True | False |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Children usually sleep in tents or cabins at day camp. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Most camps hire counselors who are between the ages of about 16 and 22. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Day camps usually send a bus to pick children up at their homes, for no extra fee. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Day camps always let the children decide what activities they will do during the day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. All day camps in the U.S. are excellent; parents do not have to be very careful in which they choose. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Day camps always last all day, from breakfast to dinner time. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Across

- 3. The Israelites were ___ in Egypt.
- 4. a three leaf-clover
- 5. traditional irish instrument
- 10. Treat a ___ nose with an antihistamine.
- 12. an ancient symbol of new life
- 14. the largest national ancestry group in the US
- 15. holiday named, in English, after the goddess of spring, Eostre
- 17. Multi-___ medicines can help with more than one problem.
- 19. Many young children spend time at ___ (two words) in the summer.
- 20. little green man with a green hat
- 21. The ___, a nickname for Academy Awards.
- 24. It is generally not polite to ask about someone's ___/
- 25. group leader at children's summer camps
- 27. The Easter ___ brings eggs in a basket.

Down

- 1. Day Light ___ Time begins in March
- 2. Over-the-___ medicines are usually not as strong as prescription ones.
- 3. no ___ off my nose, not important to me
- 6. smell like a ___, look good
- 7. nose out of ___, offended, insulted
- 8. a saint who brought Christianity to Ireland
- 9. close follower of Jesus
- 11. an insect that bits
- 13. ___ Friday, the day Jesus died on the cross
- 14. Brand name drugs are usually more expensive than ___ ones.
- 16. Medicines will always list the ___ Ingredients.
- 18. unleavened bread, a symbolic Passover food
- 22. ___ a rat, suspect something bad
- 23. Treat a ___ nose with a decongestant.
- 26. Dr. Seuss originally wrote books to help children learn to ___/
- 28. bite of his ___, criticize him harshly

OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read [St. Pat's Symbols](#) on page 4. As you walk through your town this month, try to find each of these:

- ♦ a three-leaf clover and a four-leaf clover
- ♦ a pot of gold
- ♦ a harp
- ♦ a leprechaun

IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read [Summer Camps](#) on page 6. Use a search engine (like www.google.com) to search for “summer day camp” and “[your community].” Then try adding some activity you especially like (“crafts” or “tennis”). Anything look fun?

2. Read *Academy Awards* on page 5. Go to www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies. Click on a year on the top bar. Three winners are shown for each year. How many of these winners have you seen?

3. Read [Birthday Biography: Dr. Seuss](#). On youtube you can find many attempts to jazz up *The Cat and the Hat*. See Justin Bieber read it. Or some woman in a yoga pose reading it. (???) Search for yourself. But hm - I’m too old fashioned to like any of them. Just listen, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6GsgGcd6UU.

WITH A FRIEND

1. Read [Summer Camps](#) on page 6. Describe to a friend or partner what you did during school vacations as a child. How much independence from adults did you have? How structured were your days? What do you remember most fondly?

2. Read [Mosquitoes The Meaning of Mosquitoes](#) on page 7. What could the camp nurse have done differently to avoid this cultural miscommunication? What about the Camp director? The parents? Why do you think the Camp did not accept the father’s expert letter? Would a camp in your home country accept the father’s letter?

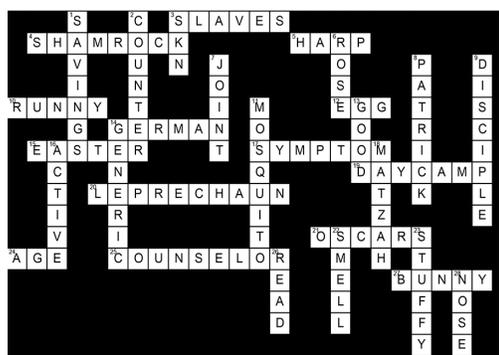
3. Read [Passover](#) on page 3. Think of a celebration or holiday in your home country in which you eat special foods. These may simply be traditional things to eat, or, as in Passover, the foods may have symbolic meaning. Describe these to a friend or partner.

4. Read [Question from a Reader: How Old Are You?](#) on page 3. Discuss these types of questions with a friend or partner. Is it OK to ask someone’s age in your home country? Under what circumstances? What types of questions are *not* OK to ask about? Have you been surprised about any cultural differences in what is OK to talk about in the US?

5. Read [St. Pat’s Symbols](#) on page 4. Tell a partner or friend about a myth, legend, or famous story from your home country. Draw a picture of some special symbol of this story and explain it to your partner.

6. Read [Birthday Biography: Dr. Seuss](#) on page 5. If possible, show a copy of a common children’s book from your home country to a friend or partner. If you do not have access to one, see if there is a description of it on line. Or, simply describe the story and any pictures you remember to a friend. Did you have Dr. Seuss books in your home country?

7. Read [That Crazy English: Nose Idioms](#) on page 8. Tell a partner or friend about something that happened to you in the past week, using as many of these idioms as you can.



ANSWER CORNER

VOCABULARY and RHYMES

(Sample answers)

- Spam, Lamb, Ma’am
Smoked meat from pig
- Pants, Dance, France
Short, simple songs
- Scoring, Pouring, Soaring
Not interesting
- Dot, Fought, Trot
Story line
- Sank, Tank, Thank
Empty

WORDS IN CONTEXT

1a 2a 3b 4b 5b 6b 7b 8a 9a 10a 11a

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- Children usually sleep at home when they go to day camp.
- T
- F Day camps may offer bus transportation, for a fee.
- F Some day camps let the children decide what activities they will do but others do not.
- F Not all day camps in the U.S. are excellent; parents should be careful in which they choose.
- F Some day camps last all day, others end at noon.



© The
Interchange Institute,
2018