A Newsletter for Newcomers to the United States



Latin Vocabulary for Today's News

How's your Latin? Living in the US is like being back in school...

You have probably heard the phrase **quid pro quo** (pronounced *kwid pro kwo*) by now, in the news. It means, in Latin, *giving something for something in return*. There is nothing necessarily illegal about a *quid pro quo* arrangement -- when I say I will babysit your children tomorrow if you can deliver a package to the school for me, that's a *quid pro quo* arrangement. We might also say, "If you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours." Or, the phrase "tit for tat" means roughly the same thing, although it is almost used with some negative tone -- "He forgot to pick her up so she refused to return his phone call" would be a *tit for tat*.

In today's context, the question is whether President Trump offered a quid pro quo and if so, whether it was explicit or not, and whether it was appropriate or legal. It is illegal for people from other countries to interfere in American elections, and it would be inappropriate - at best - for a politician to use his power for his own political gain. In the current case, according to a telephone call transcript released by the White House, Trump apparently asked the president of Ukraine for a "favor," to investigate the family of Joe Biden (the Democratic front-runner in the 2020 election). How closely linked this request was to his releasing almost \$400 million dollars in military aid is in question. President Trump says there was "no quid pro quo" and his critics say there was.

Here are a few other Latin phrases that Americans use often:

ad hoc In Latin, it means to this and is used to mean something done for a specific, one-off reason: "We had an ad hoc meeting in the hallway and decided to close early for the day."

e.g. This is short for the Latin phrase exempli gratia, or for the sake of example and is used at the beginning of a list of examples: "There are several kinds of food I don't eat, e.g., bread, pasta and cookies."

etc. Latin for et cetera (and the rest), this is used at the end of a list of examples: "There are several kinds of things I don't drink: beer, wine, whiskey, etc."

i.e. This is a similar, but different, abbreviation, for the Latin *id est*, or *that is*. It is used to give more specific information (as opposed to e.g., which gives examples): "I have to be on the early train (*i.e.*, the 4pm one) tonight."

status quo Latin for *state in which*, and used to mean *the existing state of things*: "Right now, the *status quo* is fine but I am worried about what comes next."

vs. Used for the Latin *versus*, meaning *against*: "Come to the game tonight; it's our high school vs. my **alma mater** (Latin for *nourishing mother*, used for *school I attended*).

vice versa In Latin, this means in a turned position. It is used to mean that two things are interchangeable: "He loves her and vice versa" (...and she loves him).

November 2019

Inside This Issue

Latin Vocabulary for Today's News1
Thanksgiving2
A Thanksgiving Vegetable
Children Like!2
A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner3
What is "Pumpkin Flavor,"
Exactly?3
The Rules of American Football4
Mailing Packages
Veterans Day5
Birthday Biography: L.E. Waterman5
Americans' Views of
Government6
How Separate are Church
and State? <u>6</u>
That Crazy English:
Football Idioms 8

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English at Large

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A Thanksgiving Vegetable Children Like!

Here's a sure way to get your children to eat butternut squash. I don't think the Pilgrims had canned evaporated milk, but the squash might have been at their table. Its orange color looks great with the peas and cranberry sauce.

- 3 small or 1 large butternut squash (buy it already peeled and cubed, if you can)
- 8 ounces canned evaporated milk (in the supermarket near flour, sugar, and spices)
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup sugar
- 1) Turn oven to Bake and set the temperature to 350°.
- 2) If the squash is not already peeled, remove the outer skin with a vegetable peeler. Cut each squash in half. Throw away the seeds and stringy stuff in the middle. Cut the squash into 1-inch slices. Boil the slices in water till they are very soft (about 20 minutes).
- 3) Put the squash, milk, eggs, vanilla, and sugar into an electric blender or food processor. Blend until completely smooth. Pour the mixture into an ungreased casserole (glass pan that can go in the oven).
- 4) Put the casserole into the hot oven and bake for about one hour. The squash should be set (a soft solid, not liquid).

Makes enough for 6-8 people. **2**

Thanksgiving

In 1620, 102 people from England sailed to North America on a boat called the Mayflower. The boat landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. We call this group the Pilgrims. (A pilgrim is someone who travels to visit a holy place, or for religious reasons.) About half of these 102 were members of a religious group that had separated from the Church of England. They thought that the Protestant Reformation (and the Church of England, in particular) had not gone far enough in breaking from the Roman Catholic Church. They were looking for a land where they could establish their own, new religion. The US has

since been the home of many people fleeing persecution for their ideas, but the Pilgrims were the first.

In the pictures you see today, Pilgrims are usually dressed in black and white, to show their serious

religious beliefs, with hats like the one on this page. In fact, they only wore these clothes on Sundays. Other days they wore the brown and green work clothes they had worn in England. Though religious, they were not afraid of fun — beer and liquor were part of their daily diet.

The other half of the Mayflower group came to the New World for economic reasons. They were paid by investors at home to send back beaver furs, cod, and other products. The two halves worked and lived well together, and shared the job of governing the town.

The Pilgrims shared many difficult times. Of the 102 who left from England, 47 died by the end of the first year, mostly from illness that came from being tired, hungry, and overworked. Of the 18 wives who left England on the Mayflower, 13 had died by the end of the year (though only 3 of the 20 children had died). We know very little about the emotions and thoughts of these women, and can only imagine their fear and sadness.

Some Native Americans were very helpful to the Pilgrims. They taught them to plant corn and barley, to eat oysters, to catch fish with nets, and to hunt wild turkey.

By the end of the first year, the Pilgrims were feeling very grateful. They had grown 20 acres of corn, had started a beaver fur trade, and had built 11 buildings. Fewer people were ill. So they decided to have a three-day harvest

feast — the first Thanksgiving celebration.

They invited Massasoit, the Native American chief in this area. He arrived with 90 men (who came with 5 deer to add to the food). The foods we have today at Thanksgiving are foods that the Pilgrims might have had that first year

— turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin. (In fact, though, the Pilgrims' journals that describe this feast include lists of many kinds of meat but not one ever mentions a turkey!)

Thanksgiving is always the fourth Thursday of November (this year, November 28). The main event of the holiday is the family dinner — try cooking one yourself (see page 3). Americans focus on their love for each other, and gratitude for their freedom and liberty. Cards and gifts are not traditionally given. Many people travel miles to be with their families — airports and highways are traditionally crowded on Wednesday and Sunday.

Thanksgiving is the only holiday in the year that is uniquely US American and is neither political nor religious. Celebrate it as if it were your own!

A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving is the only day of the year when almost all Americans eat basically the same thing: turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and pumpkin pie. Many families add their own favorites; I know a family that adds lasagne and another that adds Chinese dumplings. This holiday is for all religions and all political groups, for newcomers and long-time Americans — everyone who feels thankful for something. Here is how to make a traditional dinner:

How much turkey should I buy?

A guideline is: one pound per person. So for 10 people, buy a 10-pound turkey. On the other hand, it's good the next day, so buy a big one! In general, younger birds are more tender. A fryer-roaster is (was!) 4 months old, a young hen (female) or tom (male) is 5-7 months old, and a yearling is 12 months old. If you buy a frozen turkey, allow it to thaw in the refrigerator (3-7 days) or in cold water (5-15 hours), never at room temperature (bacteria might grow).

How do I stuff a turkey?

There are many variations in recipes, each one a favorite to someone. To be honest, I think packaged stuffing is pretty good, and is very easy. But if you're making a Thanksgiving dinner for the "authentic experience," then try making it yourself. Here is how my Great Aunt Alice always made it. I say it's the best! There are four basic kinds of things in stuffing:

The Bread — White or whole wheat bread, as much like homemade bread as possible. Slice it, and keep it on the counter for a while, covered with a towel, to make it a bit dry. Then tear it by hand into small cubes.

The Herbs and Spices — Salt and black pepper. Sage is traditional, but Aunt Alice didn't like sage.

The Other Stuff — Sautéed onions and celery (cooked briefly in butter) are traditional. Then

be creative with a few of these: boiled chestnuts, oysters, sausage, walnuts, pecans, apples, or dried fruit like apricots.

Something to Make It Moist — Butter is traditional. Or try olive oil, cream, broth, wine, or apple juice.

After you have washed the turkey and removed the little bag of parts from the inside, put some stuffing into the bird. Do this right before you put it in the oven, or bacteria will grow. Do not put too much stuffing into the bird, because it expands while cooking (use about ¾ cup for each pound of turkey). If you have extra, bake it in a dish. When the turkey is done, mix the inside and outside stuffing together.

How do I cook a turkey?

Here are the guidelines for a stuffed turkey, from the National Turkey Federation. Bake: 325°:

8-12 pounds 3-3½ hours 12-14 pounds 3½-4 hours 14-18 pounds 4-4¼ hours 18-20 pounds 4¼-4¾ hours 20-24 pounds 4¾-5¼ hours

Unstuffed turkeys take 15-30 minutes less. A meat thermometer placed in the thigh should reach 180°. I have had good luck with turkeys that come with a "pop-up" thermometer in them. When the turkey is done, a little plastic piece pops up. Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAe7-GpV98E to learn how to carve a turkey.

Need help?

Call (800-288-8372, in Spanish or English) or text (844-877-3456) the Butterball Turkey TalkLine for information on thawing, stuffing, testing for doneness, and more. Or try www.butterball.com for useful videos, recipes, and tips. There are several helpful conversion charts there: www.butterball.com/calculators-and-conversions, helpful for using an American recipe.

What is "Pumpkin Flavor," Exactly?

You may have noticed many many foods sold this fall that are "pumpkin flavor." Do you really want a squash vegetable in your coffee?? Don't worry - here's what you need to know:

When foods and drinks advertise that they are pumpkin-flavored, they usually mean that they will remind you of a traditional pumpkin pie. And what most people associate with traditional pumpkin pie is not the squash itself but the spices that usually go into it: cinnamon, clove, allspice, ginger, nutmeg and vanilla.

You may be getting these spices when you order something "pump-kin" flavored. More likely, you will get a chemical that has the flavor of these spices: cinnamic aldehyde for cinnamon flavor; eugenol for clove flavor; sabinene for nutmeg flavor, for example. They don't even bother trying to find a chemical flavor for the pumpkin itself.

Food scientists claim that if you put the real spices in your coffee, it would taste more like chai; the chemicals do a better job of reminding you of pumpkin pie.

Until you have happy, nostalgic memories of pumpkin pie, the popularity of this flavor may continue to confuse you! That's apparently the case with the newcomer comedian John Oliver:

www.youtube.com/ watch?v=DeQqe0oj5Ls

Mailing Packages

Mail slows down in this season because so many people send Christmas cards and packages to their friends and families. If you are shipping packages for December, try to mail them in November.

Go to <u>ircalc.usps.gov</u> to calculate postage for international letters and packages sent through the US Postal Service; prices may be cheaper if you buy the postage on line rather than in the Post Office:

Priority Mail International (Delivers in 6-10 business days. Use their free flat-rate boxes or envelopes and pay one price up to a maximum weight (\$25.85 for their padded flat-rate envelope, up to 4 pounds; \$46.90 for their Medium box or \$64.50 for their Large box, up to 20 pounds). Get boxes and envelopes at any post office.)

Priority Mail Express International (3-5 business days, to 200+ countries; flat-rate envelopes \$44.50 for up to four pounds.

Here are some private express services:

UPS: <u>www.ups.com</u>
DHL: <u>www.dhl.com</u>
FedEx: <u>www.fedex.com</u>

Most sites are in English or the local language. You can order a pick-up from your home on their website or by telephone, and track the package until it is delivered.

Both the USPS and the private companies will give you nice, sturdy boxes for free.

The Rules of American Football

Americans play football in elementary school, high school, college, and professionally. The rules at these levels differ slightly. They also change frequently, to keep the game safe, fair, and exciting to the crowds. For example, professional rules are changed from time to time to keep the [popular, important, and ... expensive] players safe. Here are the current professional rules.

Basic Facts

- A football is a pointed-oval shaped ball, about 11 inches long and 7 inches wide. It weighs 14-15 ounces.
- Playing time is 60 minutes (four 15-minute quarters). But the clock stops often, for various reasons (for example, after every scored point, and in case of penalties, injuries, and incomplete passes). There is a break after two quarters that may include entertainment and marching bands. Including the half-time break, a typical professional game takes 2.5 to 3 hours.
- A football field is 100 yards long, marked on both ends by a *goal line*. Then there is a 10-yard *end zone*, marked on both ends by an *end line*. There is a *goal post* on each end line. The goal post is really two upright (vertical) poles, connected by another horizontal pole (called the *crossbar*). The field is 53 1/3 yards wide.

END_ZONE

• Each team defends one goal. The object of the game is to score points by getting the ball across the

other team's

goal line. Players can advance the ball by passing (throwing) or carrying it.

GOAL LINE

- Each team has 11 players. When a team has control of the ball and is advancing toward the other team's goal line, they are playing offense. The other team, at that moment, is playing defense. Usually, players specialize in playing offense or defense, and in one of several positions such as quarterback, halfback, fullback, center, guard, and end.
- Teams score points in 4 ways:

touchdown (6 points): a player carries the ball over the other team's goal line, or a player catches the ball while he is in the other team's end zone

field goal (3 points): a player kicks the ball over the crossbar of the other team's goal post

safety (2 points): when a player with the ball is stopped in his own end zone, the other team gets the points and becomes the offensive team

conversion: after a team scores a touchdown, they can try a conversion play — they either kick the ball through the goal post uprights (for 1 point) or they pass or carry the ball across the goal line again, from the 2-yard line (for 2 points)

The Game

Each half of the game starts with a kickoff. Near the center of the field, a player from Team B kicks the ball off the ground toward Team A's goal line. Team A tries to

catch the ball and run toward Team
B's goal line. Team
B runs toward
the ball, trying to stop Team A from advancing (going forward). (At this moment, Team A is playing offense.

is playing offense, Team B defense.) That play ends when any one of these happens:

continued on page 5

Veterans Day

November 11 is Veterans Day, first celebrated in the US in 1919 as Armistice Day, one year after the signing of the treaty that ended World War I. The original focus was on honoring the soldiers who fought and died during World War I. Some people observe a moment of silence at 11:00am on that day (the 11th day of the 11th month), to remember the end of World War I.

Now the focus is broader: to honor those who fought in any American war. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954. (The word *veteran* means someone who is very experienced. You can be a veteran teacher, or a veteran singer. But the word also specifically means a person who has been in the armed services.) You may see people wearing red poppies (flowers) in their buttonholes on Veterans Day — a token of thanks for their

donations to the Disabled American Veterans group. Poppies grew in Belgium where many World War I soldiers were buried.

You can join in the spirit of Veterans Day by honoring all those who have fought for peace. If your country has been in a war with the US, this would be a good time to discuss it. Even though history is complex and difficult, begin to discuss the moral issues involved, and what we can do to prevent war in the future. You will have plenty to talk about...

As You Say a Final Farewell to the Waterman Pen

Compare your typing speed on your smartphone vs. computer at <u>typingtest.aalto.fi</u>. Most people type more slowly on their phones (70% of their computer rate). I'm worse: 64%. But then I'm a one-finger typist on my phone.

continued from page 4

The Rules of American Football

- Team B tackles the Team A player who has the ball (pushes him to the ground, or until his knee touches the ground).
- the Team A player who has the ball runs out of bounds (off the field), or
- Team A catches the ball in the end zone and touches his knee to the ground.

Team A forms a *huddle* (circle) and decides on the next play. The two teams line up on the *line of scrimmage* (the place on the field where the play ended). Team A is still playing offense. This time, instead of a kickoff, the center from Team A *hikes* the ball to the quarterback (throws or hands it to him, backward under his legs).

Team A gets four *downs* (turns) to advance the ball 10 yards. Every time it succeeds, it gets four more downs to advance 10 more yards. If it fails, Team B becomes offense. Sometimes, if a team realizes it is unlikely to advance the 10 yards (and will soon be playing defense), it will punt (kick) the ball as far as possible. Then, the other team has further to go when it starts to play offense. If a Team A member passes the ball to a teammate, a player from Team B may *intercept* the pass (catch it himself). Team B immediately becomes the offensive team, and tries to advance to Team A's goal.

If a player breaks a rule, his team gets a *penalty*. A penalty may mean that the ball is put further back on the field, away from the goal, before the game continues. Or the team may *lose a down*— if they had been taking their second chance at advancing 10 yards, with the penalty it would be considered their third down. The team with more points at the end of the 4th quarter wins. If the two teams are *tied* (have the same score), they play one more 15-minute quarter. If the score is still tied, the game ends anyway, with a tied score.

Birthday Biography: Lewis E. Waterman

Lewis E. Waterman was born on November 18, 1837, in central New York. He invented a fountain pen that doesn't leak. As the world leaves this technology behind, let's give him one last tribute. (And see the note to the left about how to test your typing speed.)

The fountain pen, with its own little reservoir of ink, was the writing instrument of choice for 150 years between the quill feather, or dip pen, and the ballpoint pen. The first one was invented in 1702 in France, with a number of improvements made in the early 1800s. These early fountain pens leaked, smudged or just plain didn't work, though.

In 1883, Lewis Waterman, an insurance broker, had a customer who was ready to sign an important contract. To mark the day as an important one, Waterman bought a fountain pen, which he felt was more stylish. The customer sat down, picked up the pen, started to write...and first, no ink flowed then it leaked onto (and ruined) the contract. Waterman rushed out to get another copy of the contract, but the customer left and signed with a competitor(!). Waterman turned his frustration on the problem of smooth ink flow. His solution was to put a small hole in the nib for air flow. This patented idea worked beautifully and became the standard worldwide. The ballpoint pen, invented in 1938 by the Hungarian Laszlo Biro, used quicker-drying ink and was so convenient, it ended the fountain pen era by the 1950s.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Waterman.

How Separate are Church and State?

Every American school child learns how the Pilgrims came to the New World so they could worship as they wanted (see page 2). Later they learn how religious freedom is protected by the US Constitution. You may have noticed some paradoxes -- politicians who say 'God bless America," money with "In God we trust" written on it, health insurance rule exemptions for religious reasons. Each of these has a long controversy behind it, proving that distance between religion and government is an important value here. Here is a bit of history:

After the War of Independence from England in 1776, the new Americans were naturally influenced by the English system of government as they began to write their new state laws. England had (and has) an established church (a single religious organization that the government supports — the Church of England). Many of the original 13 state governments included a similar relationship between [the Protestant Christian] church and state. For example, in 18th-century Virginia, going to church was required; those who did not believe in the Christian Trinity could be put in prison for three years. In North Carolina and New Hampshire, only Protestants could serve in the state legislature. Some of these laws did not change until the 19th century.

In 1776, the writers of Virginia's new state Constitution argued about religion and government. One group wanted to include a phrase ensuring

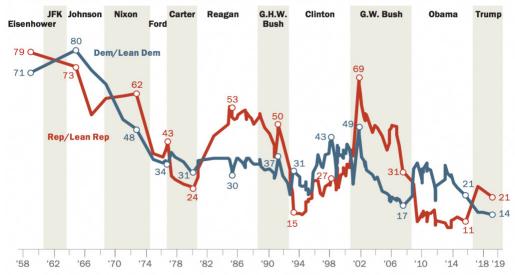
continued on page 7

Americans' Views of Government

One of the underlying stories that is going on right now in the US is the change in attitudes about the role of government. Which (if any!) part of the government is trustworthy? In the chart below, note the high level of trust in the post-World-War-II economic boom days, and a gradual decline since then. There were a few exceptions -- high trust among Republicans in the 1980s and after the September 11, 2001 bombings. Generally, trust is higher among the party of the current President, for understandable reasons, but for the most part, the two parties' trust levels rise and fall together, responding to economic and social influences in the culture. This chart is about trust of the "federal government" in general. What about different parts of it?

Republicans now more likely than Democrats to trust the federal government, but trust is relatively low among members of both parties

 $\% \ who \ say \ they \ trust \ the \ federal \ government \ to \ do \ what \ is \ right \ just \ about \ always/most \ of \ the \ time$



Note: From 1976-2017 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average within each administration

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 20-25, 2019.

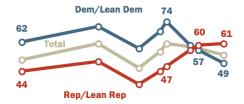
Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.

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Look first at the chart on the next page: public opinion across various federal government agencies. Almost no one is mad at the postal service at the moment! This list of agencies could just as well be listed in order of how much they have been in the news lately. (The data were collected before the CIA whistle-blower story.) No news is [apparently] good news,

Shifting partisan views of the DOJ

% who have a favorable opinion of the Dept. of Justice



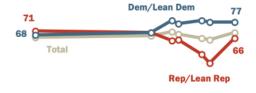
2010 2015 2019

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 5-16, 2019.

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Republicans' views of the FBI rebound

% who have a favorable opinion of the FBI



2010 2015 2019

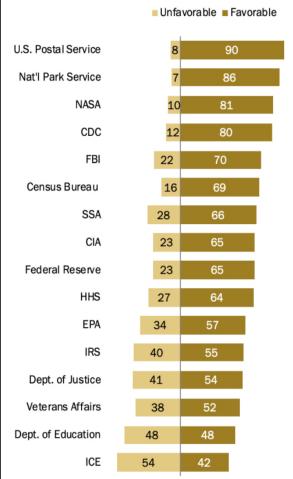
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 5-16, 2019.

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6

Public opinion varies across federal agencies; views of ICE still mixed

% who have a ____ opinion of each



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 5-16, 2019.

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NASA = National Air and Space Administration

CDC = Centers for Disease Control

FBI = Federal Bureau of Investigation

SSA = Social Security Administration

CIA = Central Intelligence Agency

HHS = Health and Human Services

EPA = Environmental Protection Agency

IRS = Internal Revenue Service

ICE = Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Now go back to the two charts at the bottom of the previous page. This is the story I want to highlight about what is happening right now, and that is so surprising to Americans with an eye for history.

Public attitudes about the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation - both organizations focused on the rule of law - have been remarkably consistent in the past. There's been either a modestly higher rating by Democrats (DOJ has been the agency focused on many social justice issues of importance to the Democratic party) or the two parties have been virtually identical (like for the FBI) in their opinion.

News stories in the last four years have put these (and other) law-based agencies in the spotlight. The FBI investigation of Hillary Clinton and its Director (James Comey)'s public statements were controversial. The Attorney General's role in advising the President about the Mueller report and the Ukraine phone call have affected perceptions of trust for some. We see a new division in what 'the rule of law' means, and for whom. Current events have rocked core beliefs in a way not seen before.

Day Light Savings Time

Day Light Savings
Time will end on the
first Sunday of November (November 3,

2019). Put your clocks back one hour. It will start again on the second Sunday of March (March 8, 2020) everywhere in the US except Hawaii and most of Arizona.

continued from page 6

"the fullest Toleration in the exercise of religion." And another group wanted a tax that would be shared among the various *Protestant* Christian sects.

James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, two early leaders of the new United States, rejected these ideas. They wanted the Constitution to guarantee that "all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion." For them, giving one group the responsibility to "tolerate" another group still placed the first group above the others. And they wanted no tax to support any religion of any type.

Madison and Jefferson won in Virginia and set the stage for the wording of the US Constitution. The first phrase of the First Amendment in the US Bill of Rights says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This phrase has come to mean that the "state" (meaning the government, whether state or federal) cannot set up (establish) a church, cannot collect taxes to support religious activities, cannot punish someone for going to or refusing to go to religious services, and cannot show preference to one religion over another, or to any religion over no religion. The First Amendment has not changed since it was passed in 1789 but it has been continually tested and interpreted by the US courts.

Early church-state debates concerned the role of one Protestant sect over another. Today they reflect the more diverse population in the US, and involve the rights of Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Mormons, atheists, and other religious groups.





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: Football Idioms

American English takes many idioms from football:

- He did an end run around them. (He found a way to avoid the obstacles that they usually place in front of him.) (In football, an "end run" is when the player with the ball runs to the edge of the field and then forward to the goal, avoiding all the players in the center of the field.)
- Let's have a kick-off dinner this year. (Let's have a dramatic, special dinner to begin the year.) (Each half of a football game starts very dramatically with one team kicking the ball as far as possible down the field.)
- I'll have to carry the ball this time. (I'll have to be in charge this time.) (The player who carries the ball down the field is the one who is most responsible for winning the game.)
- This is your chance to take the ball and run. (This is your chance to do something important and get public recognition for it.) (In football, it is very dramatic when a player runs down the field with the ball, toward the end zone.)
- They are bringing out the second string now. (They are bringing out people who are second-best in skill.) (The best 11 players on a football team are called the first string. Those who replace them during play are called the second string.)
- I'll run interference for you so you can get the job done. (I'll protect you from problems while you work so you can get the job done.) (A football player who runs interference interferes with opponents so the ball carrier can run toward the goal.)

English Practice Worksheet to Accompany Newcomer's Almanac



November 2019

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read <u>Thanksgiving</u> on page 2. Circle the letter of the best word(s) to complete each sentence:

1. A pilgrim is someone . a. from England. b. who travels for religious reasons. c. who dresses in black and white. 2. The Pilgrims who came to this country in 1620 a. all wanted to separate from the Church of England. b. believed it was wrong to drink alcohol. c. faced much illness and death. 3. The Pilgrims sent back to England. a. fish and animal furs b. people who disobeyed the rules c. money 4. The Native Americans in Massachusetts in 1620 a. taught the Pilgrims how to catch and grow food in North America. b. ignored the Pilgrims, hoping they would not stay. c. were ignored by the Pilgrims. 5. We know from the Pilgrims' journals that the first Thanksgiving dinner . a. included turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin. b. included deer meat. c. was held in secret so the Native Americans would not try to join them. 6. Today, on Thanksgiving Day, _____. a. family members give each other many gifts to show their love. b. it is traditional to wear black and white clothes.

c. families focus on the freedoms they have.

HOMEWORK

WITH A PEN

- 1. Read <u>A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner</u> on page 3 and <u>A Thanksgiving Vegetable</u> <u>Your Children Will Like</u> on page 6. Write a recipe for a traditional food from your country. Pretend an American will be making the food. Be sure to explain anything an American would not understand where to buy the foods, what kind of tool to use, etc.
- 2. Read *That Crazy English* on page 8. Write a list of idioms in your home language that come from sports or games. Use each one in a sentence. Explain what they mean.
- 3. Read *The Rules of American Football* on pages 4-5. Write the rules of a game from your country, for someone who has never played it. Keep it simple!
- 4. Read <u>A Thanksgiving</u> <u>Vegetable Children Like!</u> on page 2. Write a recipe for a vegetable commonly served at a holiday meal in your home country.
- 5. Read *How Separate are Church and State?* on pages 6 and 7. Write a list of ways the church-government boundary is different in the US compared to your home country.

VOCABULARY

Read <u>A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner</u> on page 3. Pick the correct meaning of each word, as it is used in the context of this article. The numbers in parentheses tell which paragraph the word is in.

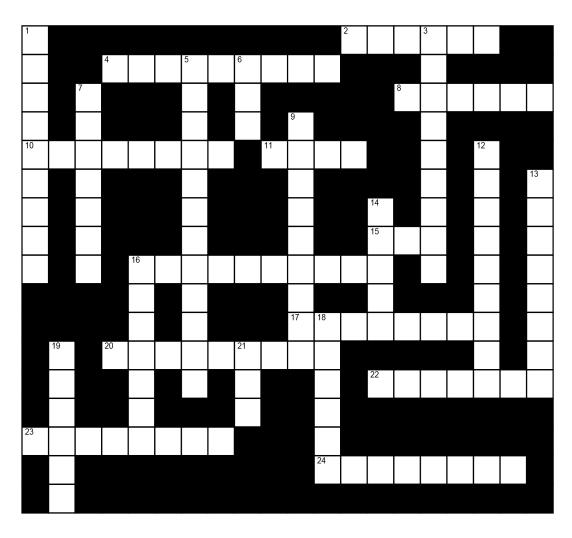
1. guideline	(Z)	a. mark made with a pen	b. general rule
2. authentic	(3)	a. genuine, traditional	b. difficult
3. counter	(4)	a. work table	b. measurement device
4. moist	(7)	a. stuck together	b. wet
5. expands	(8)	a. gains flavor	b. gets bigger
6. stuffed	(9)	a. filled tight	b. covered with

THE ORDER OF EVENTS

Read <u>Veterans Day</u> on page 5. Put these sentences in the right order:

a Americans celebrated Armistice Day

b. Americans give money to the Disabled Veterans group as a way of marking
this holiday.
c. The name of the US holiday changed to Veterans Day to honor all those who
fought in any war.
d. World War I ended.
IDIOMS
Read <u>That Crazy English</u> on page 8. Re-write each sentence using a football idiom:
1. She broke her arm so she will not be able to lead the project.
2. The play was put on by actors who were not the best.
3. The celebration party in September is a good way to begin the school year.
4. There were many problems but she found a way to avoid them and got the job done.
5. Now is the time to do your work and get the credit for it.



Across	Dowr

- 2. the federal agency with the most positive reputation, the US service
- 4. a kind of squash children like like, if cooked the right way
- 8. Almost every American family will eat on Thanksgiving Day.
- Day honors soldiers who fought in an American war.
- 11. a traditional Thanksgiving herb
- 15. Attitudes about the 'rule of 'are changing.
- 16. giving something for something in return (three words)
- 17. used at the end of a list of examples (two words)
- 20. the traditional kind of red sauce to serve with a Thanksgiving turkey
- 22. the US president who enjoyed the highest level of trust in history
- 23. a group of English settlers who traveled to Massachusetts in 1620
- 24. Football players try to get the ball over the ____ (two words).

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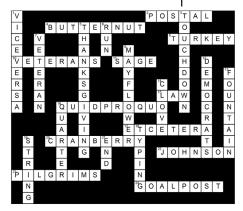
- 1. Latin for 'two things are interchangeable' (two words)
- 3. a football play that earns 6 points
- 5. a holiday that started with the Pilgrims
- 6. take the ball and
- 7. someone who has fought in a war
- 9. the name of the Pilgrims' boat
- 12. Right now, the ____ have a more positive view of the FBI than the other
- 13. Waterman invented a non-leaking pen.
- 14. Eugenol is a chemical flavor that tastes like
- 16. one fourth of a football game
- 18. Most people are slower at ____ on their phone than their computer.
- 19. second , the less good players
- 21. an run, a way to avoid obstacles

OUT AND ABOUT

- 1. Read *The Rules of American Football* on page 4. Watch part (or all) of an American football game. You may see a high school game in your town. Or see one on TV. Watch for an example of: the line of scrimmage, a huddle, a tackle, a touchdown, a field goal and a down.
- 2. Read *Thanksgiving* on page 2. Find pictures of a Pilgrim and a turkey as you walk through your day. Are the Pilgrims wearing their Sunday clothes or their week-day clothes?

IF YOU USE THE **WEB**

- 1. Read *Mailing Packages* on page 4. Say you have a 4-pound package to ship to vour home country. Using the web sites listed, find out the fastest way to send it and the least expensive way to get it there within two weeks.
- 2. Read *A Traditional* Thanksgiving Dinner on page 3. Go to www.buzzfeed. com/nataliebrown/ helpful-charts-forcooking-thanksgivingdinner?smid=fb-nvtdining&smtyp=cur&utm term=.qfpNa6jeoL#. ei0ZAJ05RN for 19 fun visual charts to help you get ready to cook. (I especially like #11, the pie chart - ha!) For some wonderful, less traditional ideas from newcomers to the US like vou, see www. nytimes.com/interactive/2016/11/16/dining/ thanksgiving-dinner-inamerica.html.





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WITH A FRIEND

- 1. Read *The Rules of American Football* on pages 4 and 5. With a partner, take turns being a Football Expert and a Football Newcomer. As Expert, explain the following to the Newcomer:
- "Some of the rules of this game on TV seem different from what I watched last year at the high school. Could that be true?"
- "If a football game has four 15-minute periods, why do the games take so much longer than one hour?"
- "How does a team get points in this game?"
- "When and how does one team become the offense team?"
- "What are the players doing when they all stand in a little circle during the game?"
- 2. Read about *Thanksgiving* on page 2 and 3. Describe to a friend or partner a holiday in your home country that involves a meal.
- What food to you eat? Is there a historic or symbolic reason for eating that food? Who prepares it?
- Who usually comes to the meal?
- Are there special rituals you do at the holiday?
- Are your memories of this holiday positive? Why or why not?
- 3. Read *That Crazy English: Football Idioms* on page 8. With a friend or partner, plan a celebration dinner for your school; every time you each speak, use one of the idioms in the article, even though you are not talking about football.
- 4. Look at the charts on page 4, Americans' View of Government. With a friend or partner, talk about the range of views about your home country's national government. Would you say most people trust it to do the right thing? Are there parts of the government that people trust more than others? What kinds of events have happened in recent years that might have affected people's views?
- 5. Read Latin Vocabulary for Today's News on page 1. Tell a friend or partner whether these or other Latin phrases are used in your home language. If not, does your language borrow words from other languages? Give some examples.

ANSWER CORNER

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ 1b 2c 3a 4a 5b 6c

IDIOMS

- 1 She broke...so she will not be able to carry the ball.
- 2 The play was put on by second string actors.
- 3 The kick-off party in September...
- 4 There were many problems but she did an end run around them and got the job done.
- 5 Now is the time to take the ball and run.

THE ORDER OF EVENTS **VOCABULARY** a2 b4 c3 d1

1b 2a 3a 4b 5b 6a