

Inside This Issue

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## Going “Home”

Paulo found some parts of working in the US frustrating. But after some adjustment, he began to value a lot about American life. He and his wife wonder whether they will be able to step back into life in Brazil when they return next month.

Ulrika was three years old when her family moved to the US from Germany. Now she is nine and they tell her it is time to “go home.” But she feels at home here.

Xiaolu immigrated to the US five years ago. She returned to China to visit her parents for a month. She was surprised at how hard it was to fit back in — she had thought of China as home, and now she felt homeless.

Those who have done it say that going home can be even harder than moving to the US in the first place. This “reverse culture shock” surprises most people — it sounds so easy to go home. Most people expect a move *to* a new country to be stressful, but *not* the move *home*. Their adjustment is made harder because their friends and family at home don't understand why they seem so upset. Here's some explanation:

- People tend to expect their lives at home to be the same as when they left. Their family and friends at home expect them to be the same, too. But everyone changes over several years, especially people who have lived in a new country. Old

relationships are not the same because the people in them have changed.

- People returning home are often eager to share their experiences and tell their stories. But it is common to find that those at home are not very interested. Loneliness and disappointment can be the result.

- “Home” is supposed to be where people are completely comfortable, where they know exactly what is expected of them, where they are accepted as they are, and where everything is familiar. All during the period of adjustment to life in the US, people may think longingly of their home country, imagining it to be a safe and comfortable base. It is a shock to find that one's “home” is no longer such a place — they don't know what to do and they don't quite fit in. It is unsettling to feel homeless.

- Those who return home permanently must now re-make all the adjustments they made when they moved to the US. Work pace, family involvement, attitudes, beliefs — all have been influenced by American life. The person must learn to understand, again, the home country's system.

- Returning employees may worry that their next assignment will not take advantage of their international experience. If this is a realistic fear, companies may lose the employee to another company.

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*Compliments of*



## Expert Help

I just got a fun book called *The Experts' Guide to 100 Things Everyone Should Know How to Do* (created by Samantha Ettus; Clarkson Potter Publishers). She asked 100 experts to describe how to do the simplest things, but do them right. Here are a few excerpts that Dads might enjoy on Father's Day. How to:

**Read a Newspaper** (by Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., chairman and publisher of *The New York Times*). Start with the front page stories, then go to the editorial page (for wisdom) and letters to the editor (for fun). Then jump around reading what you like, and letting the other stories go. Recycle every day — if you haven't gotten to a paper today, you're unlikely to get to it tomorrow.

**Change a Diaper** (by Becki and Keith Dilley, parents of sextuplets!) Gather together your supplies before gathering your "changing partner" (your child — I guess you have to think of it this way if you have six infants). Let the child play with a moistened wipe while you work; warm it first in your hands. Never leave the full diaper pail for your spouse to empty...

**Sleep** (by Dr. James Maas, author of *Power Sleep*) You need 1 hour of sleep for every 2 awake (8 hours of sleep per 16 awake). Make up for a late night by taking a nap, not waiting till the weekend. Nice activity for Father's Day...

# Father's Day

Father's Day is the third Sunday in June (this year, June 18). Stores put away the perfume, jewelry, and women's bathrobes that they hoped to sell for Mother's Day. They get out neck ties, garden tools, house gadgets, and other items they think men will like.

Father's Day began in 1910 as a way to honor fathers' hard work and love for their families. Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, started the holiday to honor her father. He raised six children by himself, after his wife died in childbirth. Mrs. Dodd hoped the holiday would be a time for children to thank their fathers and for fathers to remember how important they are to their children.

Do you think there is some special, deeply meaningful way the date for Father's Day was chosen? Not so! Mrs. Dodd got the idea for Father's Day when she was in church, listening to a sermon about Mother's Day (in May). She put together a proposal for Spokane ministers to hold a Father's Day on June 5, her father's birthday. But the ministers needed more time so they celebrated Father's Day on the third Sunday that June. We live with that date today.

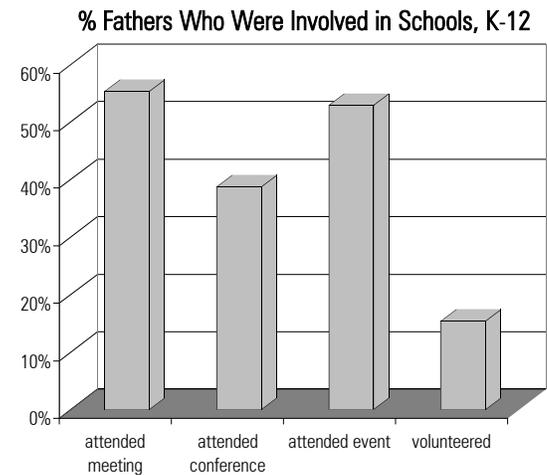
If you have children, this would be a good time to discuss with them the cultural differences you have observed in how men behave as fathers in the US and in your home country.

## Father Involvement and What it Means to Kids

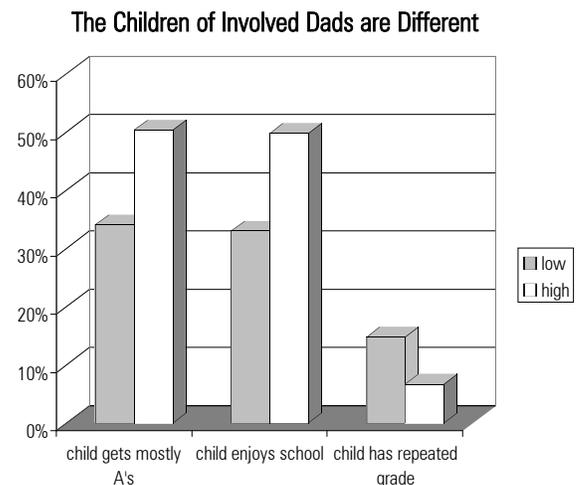
The US Census Bureau collected information about 16,910 fathers' involvement in their children's school (from kindergarten through high school). They asked who had done any of the following activities at their children's school:

- ♦ attended a general school meeting,
- ♦ attended a regularly-scheduled parent-teacher conference,
- ♦ attended a school or class event, or
- ♦ volunteered time at the school.

The results from two-parent families are shown below. In one-parent families, single fathers were just as involved as single mothers.



Then the researchers compared the children of "high-involvement" fathers (those who had participated in at least 3 of these 4 activities) with the children of "low-involvement" fathers, on various academic outcomes. Results are shown below. Even after statistically controlling for parental education level, household income, and mothers' level of involvement, children of highly involved fathers were more likely to get mostly A's on their report cards and to say they enjoy school, and were less likely to have repeated a grade in school. We can't tell "cause" from "effect" here, but clearly fathers and children matter to each other!



# Gift Giving at Times of Change



June is the traditional time to graduate from high school and university. The graduation ceremony is called *commencement*. This word means *beginning*, and refers to the beginning of a new stage of life.

Here are some gift ideas for several life events. There are not many strict rules about giving gifts in the US. But if you are invited to a party to celebrate some life event, you should bring a gift unless the invitation says, "No gifts please." In that case, do not bring one. You do not need to spend a lot of money on these gifts. We say, "It is the thought that counts." A gift or hand-made craft from your home country would always be special.

Life Event	Examples of Gifts	Comments
Graduation	gift certificate from a store that sells compact disks or books (or an iTunes or amazon.com gift certificate), concert tickets, address book, autograph book, photograph album, travel aids (cosmetics or shaving kit, waist pack)	If someone you know is finishing high school, university, or graduate school, you may want to send a card of congratulations. If you know the graduate well, or if you were invited to the graduation ceremony, then a gift would be appropriate.
A New Baby	rattle or baby toy, clothes (size 6, 9, or 12 months), cardboard or plastic book, blanket, bib, spoon and cup, photograph album, offer to baby-sit	New parents often send a birth announcement to their friends. If you get one of these, you should send a card of welcome and/or a gift.
A New House	house plant, food that can be stored till needed, stationery or labels with new address, bookends, plastic glasses and pitcher, offer to help with moving	If you are invited to someone's new house (for a Housewarming Party, or just for a visit), you may want to bring a small gift. Unless you know the family well, these gifts are usually small and practical. You do not need to give a house gift unless you are invited to the new home.
Wedding	picture frame, equipment for couple's favorite activity, picnic basket, plate or bowl for special occasions, wine glasses, one piece (like a spoon or a dinner plate) from a silver or china pattern chosen by the couple	If you go to a wedding (or if you are invited but cannot go), you should give the couple a gift. You can mail the present before or after the wedding. Or bring it to the reception (not the ceremony). Some couples join a bridal registry at a store or online — you pick from among the items they have chosen. You may join with a friend to buy a gift.

## Tipping Tips

Gift giving is one thing. What about tipping? Newcomers are also often confused about who should get a tip and who shouldn't. Here's my advice:

Some people should *not* get a tip. In fact, tipping government employees (including customs officers, police officers, or fire inspectors) may be considered a bribe and is illegal. Do not tip:

- ♦ airline employees (but do tip for curb-side check-in, \$1-2/bag — they're not airline employees)
- ♦ fast food restaurants workers
- ♦ hotel desk clerks
- ♦ teachers
- ♦ bus drivers (except airport van drivers; tip them \$1-2 per bag for baggage handling)
- ♦ gas station attendants
- ♦ store clerks
- ♦ mail delivery to your home
- ♦ receptionists
- ♦ ushers in theaters or sport stadiums

These people will expect a tip:

- ♦ restaurant server (15-20%)
- ♦ bartender (10-15%)
- ♦ coat check staff (\$1-2/coat)
- ♦ luggage handling (\$1-2/bag)
- ♦ hotel bellman for getting taxi for you (\$1)
- ♦ hotel maid (\$1-2/day)
- ♦ hair cut (15% except do not tip owner of shop)
- ♦ person who washes hair (\$2)
- ♦ valet parking attendant (\$2-5)
- ♦ taxi driver (15%)
- ♦ pizza/meal delivery (10-15%)
- ♦ flower delivery (\$2-5)

As always, use common sense here. If the person has climbed 100 stairs through four feet of snow to bring you a pizza, tip more. Or, if his service has been slow or surly, tip less.

# What's So Funny?

Have you heard this joke? *How many psychologists does it take to change a lightbulb? One, but it has to want to change first.*

Is that funny to you? Chances are, not. To find it funny, you must be familiar with four different aspects of US culture:

1) the "lightbulb joke" theme that was popular in the US many years ago. The original lightbulb joke was this: *How many dummies does it take to change a lightbulb? Three — one to hold the lightbulb and two to turn the ladder around and around.* Then came many variations, substituting other groups of people for "dummies" and other silly answers (keep reading for more).

2) the fact that the word *change* has two meanings: *to replace* (as in an old lightbulb for a new one), and *to alter one's way of being*.

3) the common saying about psychologists, that they can help a person change only if the person wants to change.

4) a preference for humor that involves teasing others, in this case, psychologists.

It is not a surprise that international newcomers usually do not laugh at this joke.

Humor is important in most cultures. But people in different cultures vary in what they find funny. Some of the most common types of humor are:

- **Aggressive:** In international comparisons of humor, Americans tend to like aggressive humor more than people from many other countries. Aggressive humor is a way to say

unkind things in a socially acceptable way. It often involves putting down (insulting) a person or some group — a profession (lawyer and psychologist jokes are the most popular), a rival team, or the opposite sex, for example. You may hear jokes about an ethnic or racial group in the US, but these are considered very inappropriate.

Jokes about different regions in the US are generally more acceptable because there is very little real aggression being communicated. For example, in Boston, we hear: *How many Californians does it take to change a lightbulb? Just one, and have a nice day.* (This teases Californians about being superficially nice — Bostonians think this is worth teasing!!) And this one: *How many New Yorkers does it take to change a lightbulb? It's none of your business, and have a nice day.* (Bostonians' stereotype of New Yorkers is that they may try to be nice but they are rude.)

Americans especially tend to like aggressive jokes that put down intellectuals. They are showing their deep value that every person — not just very smart or very rich ones — can succeed in the US.

- **Defensive:** A very different kind of humor is the defensive kind. People find defensive humor funny when they are nervous or anxious about something. You will hear jokes in the US about dentists, death, or taxes, for example. The humor, and its release, serves to lessen anxiety. Some jokes are both aggressive and defensive, as when people joke about groups of people who make them nervous — like psychologists in the light bulb joke. Humor about the opposite sex and about racial and ethnic groups tend to be in this category — they are a put down, but they



"Messages? Oh, there have been lots and lots of messages, but none for you."

This cartoon is **aggressive**. The secretary insults the man by saying that he is less popular, or less in demand, than others in the office.



"There's nothing wrong with the phone, you're trying to call your office with the TV remote."

This cartoon is **defensive**. People who are confused or anxious about new technologies will enjoy laughing at this man — they are laughing at themselves.

also show the speaker's worries.

Jokes about oneself may also be defensive — I'll make a joke about myself before you do it for me!

- **Social Criticism:** Cultures may also use humor to comment on social changes and values. Jokes about computers, health care, and politics are common in the US today. If you follow the news and popular culture carefully, you may understand these jokes. But they often include some historical or cultural reference that you may not understand.

- **Intellectual:** Another very popular kind of humor in the US falls in the "intellectual" category. This does not mean that the humor is very intellectually sophisticated. Rather, this category refers to humor based in word meaning, absurdity, double meanings, or twists in logic. Unless you understand the subtle meanings of the words, these jokes will not be funny. The psychologist joke about changing a light bulb is an example of this. (See the sidebar on this page for some other examples.)

How about this one: *How many computer programmers does it take to change a lightbulb? None, they won't do it; lightbulbs are hardware.* This joke is a put down of computer programmers. But it also is a joke about how rigidly people define their jobs. Intellectual jokes may be especially difficult for international newcomers to understand. They require knowing the details of the language and the culture.

So, if English is new for you, or if you don't know the details and history of US culture, or if you have a different view about what is funny, you may feel confused about the American sense of humor. You may miss your home country's type of humor, and feel

disappointed when you try to share it with an American. When you are with others who seem to be having fun, you may feel left out and sad.

If that happens, it would be a good time to rent a comedy movie in your language, or tell some jokes to people who understand your culture. Humor is a tough cultural gap to cross.



"With all that's happening in Washington lately, deciding who's naughty and who's nice is not as simple as it used to be."

This is a **social criticism** cartoon. It is about politicians and unethical behavior, who often say that what they did was not unethical. To find the cartoon funny, however, you must also know that the man at the desk is Santa Claus. There is a famous children's song about Santa Claus that says: "He's making a list and checking it twice. He's going to find out who is naughty [bad] and nice." Santa Claus brings presents at Christmas only to children who have been nice.

## Word Play

*Here are some lines I got from the internet that supposedly really appeared in church newsletters. (I sort of doubt it...but see what you think). Can you identify the source of the humor in each one?*

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the listeners.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The head of the Sunday School will deliver his farewell retirement message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The high school class will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

## 10 Tips for Teens Going Home

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1. Plan ahead, if possible. Stay in touch with friends in your home country. Writing letters e-mail messages will help keep your friendships alive. Ask friends at home to send you CDs and magazines about clothes and music groups.
2. Find someone to talk to about how you feel about going home — the good parts and the bad. Most people feel both.
3. Be sure to say “Goodbye” to everyone who is important to you before you move home. Don’t just disappear one day.
4. Think of your favorite parts of being in the US. Plan a special day when you do your favorite things with your favorite people. Take pictures. Get your friends’ addresses and e-mail addresses.
5. Make plans to stay in touch with your friends from the US through letters or email. Even if you do not plan to return here to live, it will be fun to hear about school events, parties, and friendships, and to practice English. It will also help you feel less alone in the early days back home.
6. Ask different friends to send you different kinds of information — one could send you football scores, another reports about parties or dances, etc. Sometimes a specific “assignment” helps friends stay in touch.

## Birthday Biography: Roger Ebert

All right, so maybe he’s not a household name, but you might enjoy getting to know Roger Ebert, film critic, born June 18, 1942.. He has reviewed films for the *Chicago Sun Times* for almost 40 years, and got the first Pulitzer Prize for film criticism in 1975. Go here to read Ebert’s written reviews from the *Chicago Sun Times*, going way back: [rogerebert.suntimes.com](http://rogerebert.suntimes.com).

He is best known for his TV show featuring film reviews, first with his long-time partner Gene Siskel, then, after Siskel’s death, with Richard Roeper. They famously discuss current films then each give the film a “thumbs up” (for a positive rating) or “thumbs down.” The phrase “two thumbs up,” meaning general approval, refers to Ebert and his partner’s thumbs (and judgment). Go here to hear Ebert and Roeper’s recent reviews on line and to learn when and on what TV station you can see their show: [tvplex.go.com/buenavista/ebertandroeper/today.html](http://tvplex.go.com/buenavista/ebertandroeper/today.html)

Taste in films is a personal thing, but I always find Ebert sensible and interesting, even when I disagree with him.

Here are some of Ebert’s thoughts:

*“Your intellect may be confused, but your emotions will never lie to you.”*

*“No good movie is too long and no bad movie is short enough.”*

*“We live in a box of space and time. Movies are windows in its walls.”*

*“I can report, however, why I didn’t find ‘The Jerk’ very funny — it was because it was depending on whats rather than whys for its laughs...It seems to me that there are two basic approaches to any kind of comedy...: the Funny Hat and the Funny Logic approaches. The difference is elementary: In the first, we’re supposed to laugh because the comic is wearing the funny hat, and in the second it’s funny because of his reasons for wearing the funny hat.”*

*“A depressing number of people seem to process everything literally. They are to wit as a blind man is to a forest, able to find every tree, but each one coming as a surprise.”*

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*continued from page 1  
GOING “HOME”*

- Children have their own special problems. Teens often worry about being accepted by peers. When they return home from a new country, they bring new haircuts, different clothes, and experiences their friends cannot understand. They may have a lonely time while they learn to re-connect to their home culture. Young children may not remember their home countries at all. In their minds, they are “leaving home,” not “going home.” (See the sidebar for some Tips for Teens.)

If you will be returning to your home country soon, I highly recommend two books:

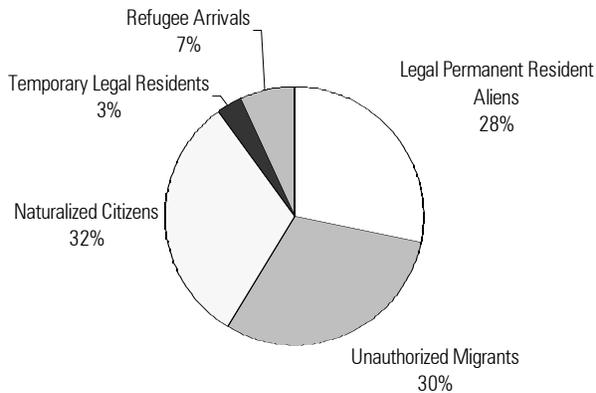
***Homeward Bound: A Spouse’s Guide to Repatriation*** by Robin Pascoe (Expatriate Press, 2000) (1-604-990-4532 or [www.expatriatepress.com](http://www.expatriatepress.com))

***The Art of Coming Home*** by Craig Storti (Intercultural Press, 1997) (1-800-370-2665 or [www.interculturalpress.com](http://www.interculturalpress.com))

# Background to Today's News: Immigrants

As the House of Representatives and Senate continue their debate about an immigration bill and the issue of unauthorized migrants, here is some background information:

## Legal Status of the 37 Million Foreign-Born Residents in the US, 2005



**Legal Permanent Resident Alien:** A non-US citizen who has been given permission to make a permanent home in the US.

**Refugee:** A person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of origin because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.

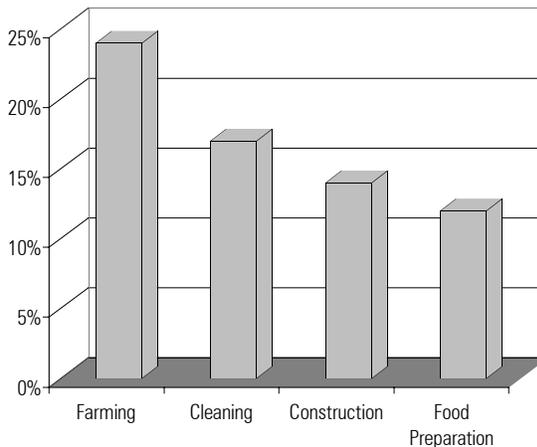
**Naturalized Citizen:** A person who was formerly a legal permanent resident alien and then became a US citizen.

**Temporary Legal Resident:** A non-US citizen living in the US temporarily, like an international student or someone here for several years because of their job.

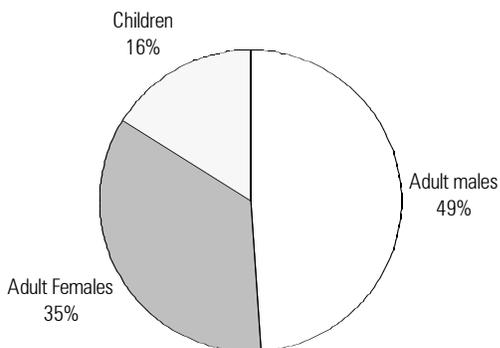
**Unauthorized Migrant:** A person who lives in the US but who is not a US citizen, refugee, or legal permanent or temporary resident.

Unauthorized migrants account for about 5% of the civilian labor force. They are employed in a wide range of jobs, but are particularly represented in the service occupations — 31% of unauthorized migrants work in a service job compared to 16% of native-born workers.

## Percent of US Workers Who Are Unauthorized Migrants, by Selected Professions



## Unauthorized Migrants, by Sex and Age



Source for all statistics on this page: Pew Hispanic Center (a nonpartisan research organization supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts), and the 2005 Current Population Survey.

**7.** If your American school has a newspaper, ask one friend to mail it to you regularly. Leave some stamped and addressed envelopes if you think that would help your friend do it. Or if your newspaper is sent electronically, ask the school if you can stay on the list; change your email address with them as needed.

**8.** Try not to talk too much about your life in the US when you first get home. Listen to your friends, and they'll listen to you. Don't be hurt if they do not seem interested in your American life. It's hard for people who have not visited the US to imagine what you have experienced.

**9.** Don't be surprised if you feel different from your friends at home, even those who were your best friends before. They have changed and so have you. They may think you have "become an American" even if you do not think you have. You may be surprised at — or hurt by — their views of the US. They may just be trying to figure out who you are now, and how to be friends with you.

**10.** At the same time, recognize that the type of person you choose for a friend may be different than before you lived in the US. Many returning teens find it is useful to look for people who have lived in the US. It will be fun to compare reactions with them.

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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: Ha ha ha

These might help you talk about humor:

The boys thought the joke was a real *knee-slapper* but the girls thought it was dumb. (*The boys thought the joke was very funny but the girls thought it was dumb.*)

He is a master of the *one-liner*. (*He is very good at saying funny things in a short, quick way — as opposed to telling jokes.*)

The two of them *had a running gag* going on all evening. (*The two of them made jokes about a single idea off and on, all evening.*)

Aren't you too old for that kind of *bathroom humor*? (*Aren't you too old for that kind of naughty humor that involves bodily functions?*)

After being around sick people all day, there was a lot of *gallows humor* among the visitors. (*After being around sick people all day, the visitors made jokes about unpleasant things like illness and death.*)

He is not *in a good humor* today; you should wait until tomorrow to ask for a raise. (*He is not in a good mood today; you should wait until tomorrow to ask for a raise.*)

## YOU HAD TO BE THERE: UNDERSTANDING HUMOR

## HOMEWORK

Read *What's So Funny* on pages 6 and 7. Below are 4 cartoons: an aggressive one, a defensive one, a social criticism one, and an intellectual one. Which is which? Then there are two that require knowledge of US cultural history. Ask an American to explain them to you.



"You should really talk to Turner. He came up the hard way."

a. \_\_\_\_\_



"Yes, we put on our pants the same way, Hayward, but mine are a lot more expensive."

b. \_\_\_\_\_



"I've memorized the specials, the menu, and the entire wine list. Ready?"

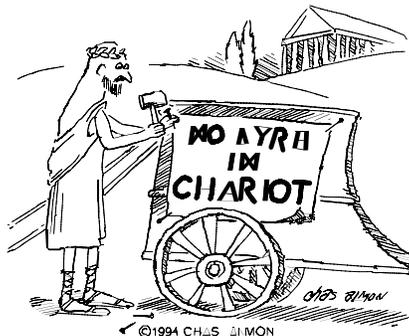
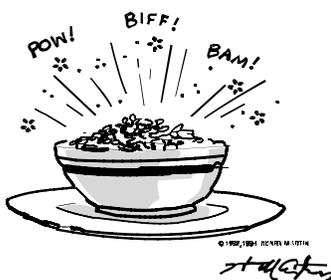
c. \_\_\_\_\_



"I'm from the calorie police, and I'd like a word with you."

d. \_\_\_\_\_

### RICE CRISPIES: THE SECOND GENERATION



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## WITH A PEN, I

1. Read *Gift-Giving at Times of Change* on page 5. Write a list of gifts you might give in your home country when someone finishes school, has a baby, moves to a new home, or gets married. If you would not give a gift then, say so. Write one more list describing what you would give for some other occasion.

2. Read *Going Home* on pages 1 and 7. Write a list of 10-15 words that you think of when you hear the word "home" (like "comfortable" or "sunny.") Put a circle around the words that describe your home in the US. Underline the words that you would never use to describe your home in the US.

3. Read *Going Home* on pages 1 and 7. Write two lists: (a) things you like about living in the US, and (b) things you do not like about living in the US. Which list is longer? Which list was easier to write? If you have children or a spouse, ask them to write their own lists. Are there any surprises?

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ: WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

Read *What's So Funny* on pages 6 and 7. Mark each sentence below as True (T) or False (F). Make corrections to any False sentence, to make it True.

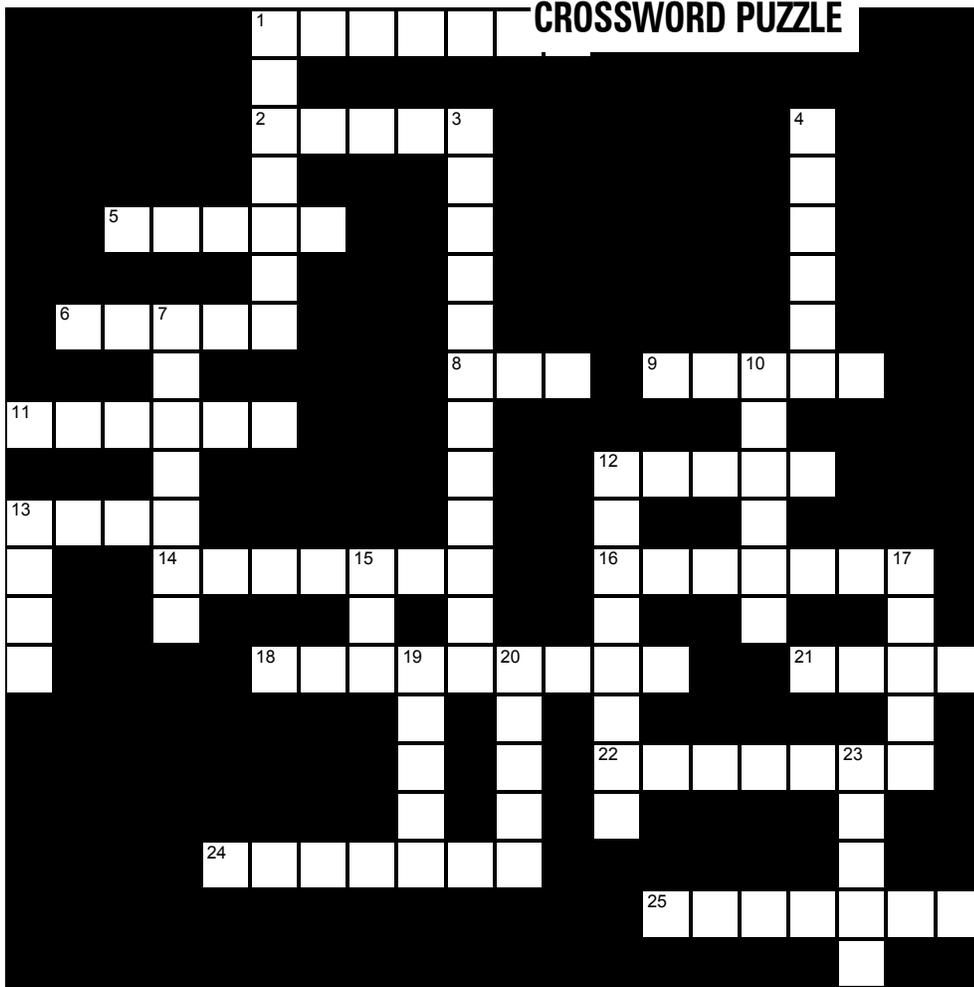
- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Lightbulb jokes usually are about the <del>high price</del> <sup>teasing some group of people.</sup> of electricity.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Americans tend to like aggressive humor.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Aggressive humor usually involves hitting or punching.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Jokes about different regions of the US are usually acceptable in the US because there is not much real resentment across regions. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. US aggressive humor rarely makes fun of intellectuals, who are generally admired.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Defensive humor is supposed to make people feel less anxious.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. To understand intellectual humor, you must have a large vocabulary and a deep understanding of some academic subject.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Jokes that involve a play on words are considered "intellectual" in nature.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## WITH A PEN, II

Read *Word Play* on page 7. Re-write each sentence so it is not ambiguous (and...no longer funny).

1. ...Husbands may enjoy the sale too.
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

1. Be sure to say "\_\_\_" to your friends in the US before returning to your home country.
2. A twist in this is the basis of some intellectual jokes.
5. Children whose fathers are highly involved in their schools tend to \_\_\_ school more than those with uninvolved fathers.
6. These are often given at times of change.
8. If you miss some sleep, take a \_\_\_.
9. Americans like to \_\_\_ intellectuals and academics.
11. Teens who return to their home countries should remember to \_\_\_ to their friends, not just talk about themselves.
12. Take a gift if you are invited to a \_\_\_-warming party.
13. \_\_\_ is supposed to be where you feel completely comfortable.
14. a person allowed into the US because they have been or might be persecuted at home
16. person living in a new country
18. \_\_\_ jokes were very popular for years and there are many variations on the theme.
21. A \_\_\_-slapper is a funny joke.
22. The publisher of The New York Times says it's OK not to read all the \_\_\_ in a paper.

24. \_\_\_ culture shock surprises people because they think going home is going to be easy.
25. A lot of unauthorized migrants have jobs in \_\_\_.

### Down

1. \_\_\_ humor is about unpleasant topics.
3. graduation, or beginning
4. If Ebert likes a film, he gives it a "\_\_\_ up."
7. \_\_\_ Day is a time to honor Dads.
10. If a joke is about something \_\_\_ (ridiculous, impossible), it is of the intellectual type.
12. Realizing that you do not fit in in your home country can make you feel \_\_\_.
13. Give a dollar or two to the person who washes your hair in a salon.
15. joke, as in running \_\_\_
17. \_\_\_ may find that hairstyles and music have changed while they lived in the US.
19. wit, or mood
20. If you offer a tip to a government official, it may be mis-interpreted as a \_\_\_.
23. Teens can stay connected to their friends in another country through \_\_\_.

## OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read *Father's Day* on page 2. Go to a bookstore in your town. They probably have a table with special books for Father's Day. Make a list of 7-10 titles on that table. What do these books suggest about how fathers should be? Should they be good at fixing things around the house? Playful with their children? Fun? Gentle? Good at earning money? Interested in outdoor cooking? Is/was your father like this? Are these the same messages fathers get in your country?

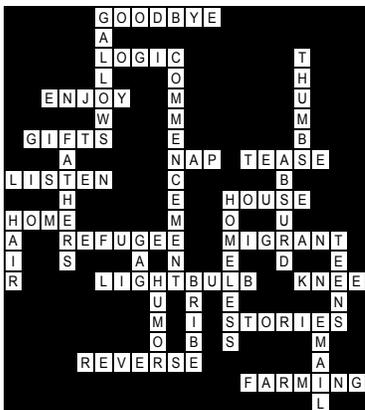
2. Read *Background to Today's News: Immigrants* on page 7. Find at least one newspaper or internet news story about the immigration bill being discussed in Congress. What do you think Congress should pass?

3. Read *What's So Funny?* on pages 6 and 7. Go to a store that sells greeting cards. Often the humorous cards are displayed together, in a group. Read five of them. Do you think they are funny? Why, or why not?

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read *Birthday Biography: Roger Ebert* on page 6. Go to **rogerebert.suntimes.com**. In the top left corner (under Ebert's picture) type in the name of the first American movie you ever saw, or your favorite American movie. Do you agree with his review? Then type in the name of your favorite movie, made anywhere in the world. Did he review the film? Do you agree?

Next, go to **tvplex.com/buenavista/ebertandroeper/today.html** and click on "Mini Reviews" (under Ebert and Roeper's pictures). Pick a recent film that you have seen and listen to their review. Do you agree?



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## WITH A FRIEND

1. Read *Going Home* on pages 1 and 7. With a friend or partner, discuss the ways you, your spouse, or your children have changed since you moved to the US. Include:

- physical changes (new haircuts, new types of clothes)
- changes in daily living (what and when you eat, what you do during the day, how you get around town, how your home space is arranged)
- changes in what you think about
- changes in opinions and attitudes

If you moved back to your home country tomorrow, would any of these be hard for your family and friends there to accept?

2. Read *Father's Day* and *Father Involvement and What it Means to Kids* on page 2. Discuss with a friend or partner how fathers' roles in families in your home country are similar to or different from what you have seen in the U.S. Do fathers spend a similar amount of time with their children? Play with them the same way? Speak to them similarly? Attend school conferences and events?

3. Read *Tips for Teens Going Home* on pages 6 and 7. Pick one of the 10 tips and explain it to a partner in more detail. If you have personal experience with making changes as a teenager, share this with your partner.

4. Read *What's So Funny* on pages 6 and 7. Think of three of your favorite jokes from your home country. Translate them into English. Do they fit into the categories of aggressive, defensive, social criticism, or intellectual? Tell them to a friend who is not from your country. Does your friend think they are funny? If not, explain why it is funny to you. Discuss why it is difficult to translate your jokes.

### Useful Phrases

*In my home country, I used to \_\_\_ but now I \_\_\_.*

*I used to think that \_\_\_ but I have changed my mind; now I think that \_\_\_.*

*My family in my home country tend to believe that \_\_\_. I used to think that too. But now I think that \_\_\_.*

*My friends at home would be so surprised to see \_\_\_.*

## ANSWER CORNER

### YOU HAD TO BE THERE: UNDERSTANDING HUMOR

- a. intellectual (double meaning of "come up" — climbed up the outside of the building vs. be promoted through a series of increasingly better jobs)
- b. aggressive
- c. social criticism (of friendliness of waiters)
- d. defensive (about weight loss)

Other cartoons: Lefthand: A popular cereal of the 1950s (and later) had as its trademark the words, "snap, crackle, pop." Righthand: It used to be common to see a sign saying "No radio in car." to prevent thieves from breaking in.

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

2. T 3. F ... involves insults.
4. T 5. F ...often makes fun of intellectuals
6. T 7. F ... you must understand word meaning or logic. 8. T

### WITH A PEN, II

2. ...because another meeting was planned for the same time.
3. Her lovely singing gave obvious pleasure...
4. ...and don't know about our room layout,
5. ...deterioration of some of the older robes.
6. [I can't think of a fix for this one!]
7. ...The clothing may be seen in the basement...
8. ...invited to attend this find play.