The Cool History of the Air Conditioner
NPR, Weekend Edition, August 6, 2006

Vocabulary
turn their backs - stop paying attention
lure - attract, bring someone to a place
the silver screen - the movies
balmy - mild, warm but not hot
going great guns - being very active
founder - person who starts a company, school, etc.
audience - the people who watch a show
blockbuster - very popular movie
prior to - before
disperse - separate and go in different directions
staple - something basic and commonly used by people
middle class - not rich or poor

1. What kind of building used the first air conditioners in America? __________ 
2. What did they call this first air conditioning? ____________________________ 
3. Where does the woman who is interviewed live? __________________________ 
4. The first theater with AC was probably the ______________ in __________. 
5. The inventor sold his first AC units in the late __________ and early __________. 
6. How did air conditioning change the schedule for movie theaters? __________ 

7. What were the next buildings to have air conditioning? ________________ 
8. When did air conditioners become available to most people? ______________ 
9. Today, what percent of American homes have air conditioners? ______________ 
10. What are the two kinds of air conditioners? ____________________________
    and ____________________________
Capitol Hill Puts the 'French' Back in Its Fries
NPR, All Things Considered, August 2, 2006

Vocabulary

doubtful - unsure (probably not true)
diplomacy - political discussions between countries
Capitol Hill - the area of Washington D.C. where the important government buildings are
counter - flat table between a worker and a customer in a store or restaurant
ally - country which is friendly to another country
switch - change
Continental - European (not including Britain)
ban - prohibit, make illegal
invade - enter a foreign country with an army
symbolic - representing an idea
lobbyist - person whose job is to persuade politicians to pass or not pass a law
spokeswoman - woman whose job is to speak for a political or business group
back on track - working correctly again after some problems

1. The report is about the relations between what two countries?

2. What are the two foods whose names changed?

3. What were the new names?

4. When did the names change at first? Why?

   When did the names change back?

5. Fill in the blanks in the last two sentences of the report.

   Today ____________ associated with the ____________ wanted to ____________ about the names. Meanwhile, the spokeswoman for the ____________ embassy in Washington ____________ a ____________ that U.S. - French ____________ are back on ____________.