

Inside This Issue

Winter on the Web

I am writing to you from Boston where we are in the middle of a snow blizzard. In case cold winters are new to you, here is some help:

Weather Forecasts

www.weather.com — maps, forecasts, and information about weather around the world

www.weather.gov — the US government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather service; in addition to the usual weather conditions, this site includes data on air quality, satellite photos, weather warnings, and more

Travel Conditions

www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp — a map of major airports in the US with information about any traffic delays or airport closings

Your Home

www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/winterize.html — tips for stopping window and door leaks, improving insulation and heating efficiency, and preparing for power outages

homebuying.about.com/od/buyingahome/qt/92607_WinterHom.htm — more tips for your house or apartment

www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/video/0,,1639306,00.html — good tips for protecting shrubs and trees and...

www.gardenersnet.com/lawn/winter.htm — ... your lawn

Your Car or Motorcycle

www.ehow.com/how_7412_winterize-car.html — keep your car and passengers safe and warm

www.pueblo.gsa.gov — the Federal Citizen Information Center's site; search for "winterize car" (or any other question you have) in its Search box.

Fun in the Snow

www.onthesnow.com — links to over 2000 ski resorts in the US and around the world; remember, the cold weather isn't all bad!

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Auld Lang Syne

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day

In the US, New Year is a time for parties and celebration. You may be invited to several different kinds of parties on New Year’s Eve (December 31) or

New Year’s Day (January 1). Here are some tips for enjoying the holiday:

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

- ◆ It is common to serve alcohol at these parties. Be careful while driving those days — even if you have not been drinking, others have been. To be safe, some people take taxis or public transportation, hire a limousine with friends, or stay at the party without drinking until their alcohol level is acceptable. Police will be out, and accident rates will be high.

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

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

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



- ◆ On New Year’s Day, Open House parties are common. The invitation may say something like “2:00 to 5:00.” This

means that you can come any time during that period and stay for as long as you like. You are not expected to stay for the whole time, but you may, if you like. Most people stay at least 45 minutes.

- ◆ A traditional drink for New Year’s Day is egg nog. “Real” egg nog is made of uncooked eggs, milk, sugar, cream, bourbon, and rum. The egg whites and the cream will be whipped, so the drink is usually thick and *frothy* (full of small bubbles). You can also buy ready-made egg nog in the supermarket. It has no alcohol (but may have artificial rum flavoring). It also has no froth and no lightness. The real thing is better.

- ◆ On New Year’s Day, many Americans watch college football on TV. The three best-known games are the Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl, and Sugar Bowl, all played that day. Before the Rose Bowl, watch the Tournament of Roses Parade on TV — all the floats are made with flowers.

- ◆ Besides parties and football, the other tradition of New Year’s Day is to make a list of “New Year’s Resolutions.” A *resolution* is a promise to yourself. Many people *resolve* to do things like finish a long-term project, lose weight, stop smoking, or learn a new language. This is also a good chance to think about the past year. How would you like to be able to finish this sentence on January 1, 2012: “I am happy that in 2011, I _____.”

Drinking and Driving in the US

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

In 1984, the federal government passed a law that required states to raise the minimum legal drinking age to 21 by 1988, or else lose federal money for maintaining and building highways. The raised legal drinking age clearly lowered traffic deaths of younger drivers. In 2000, a similar federal law pushed all states in the US to set a maximum blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, or lower. In most states, just having this BAC while you are driving is illegal, even if you are not driving recklessly. In all states except Mississippi, it is illegal to drink alcohol while driving.

All states have a *zero tolerance* law for

drivers under age 21 — these laws set the maximum BAC at 0 to 0.02 for this age. States have experimented with many kinds of rules and punishments for drinking and driving. For example, in about two thirds of the states, people who have been caught driving with a high BAC may have to install an instrument in their cars that keep them from starting their cars when their BAC is at or above a set point. Some states have laws that make bartenders or even private hosts legally liable if they serve drinks to someone who then drives and causes an accident. At some sports stadiums, no alcohol is served during the end phases of the games to prevent drinking and driving.

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

Alcohol Myths

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

Myth: Drinking coffee will make you sober more quickly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clearly, for these and many other reasons, the best approach is to avoid over-drinking in the first place.

How Can I Judge My BAC?

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

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

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

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

King, in His Own Words

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

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

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

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

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

...[T]he Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not [the openly-racist



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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. (Junior) was born on January 15, 1929. By the time he was killed at the age of 39, he had shaken the conscience of Americans who believed in equality but ignored unfair laws. He was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. On the third Monday of January (this year, on January 17) we honor King and his work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thinking About Your Race and Ethnicity

The US is a multi-race, multi-ethnic country. You may find yourself, living here, being a member of a racial minority for the first time. Or maybe you are living in a more racially diverse community than you had at home. These experiences often start people down an interesting path of exploration.

Researchers in the US are very interested in how people come to understand their own ethnic identities. The issue may be particularly important for you too, as you and your family enter into US culture. Here's some of what researchers now know:

- ♦ Even preschool children are aware of race and racial differences. Of course, some children hold more stereotypes than others. Five- and six-year-olds seem to have the most stereotyped thinking (about race and sex). Then, as children's thinking skills mature, they begin to understand the ways that stereotypes are wrong.
- ♦ If you live in a place where everyone is the same race as you are, you may not think about race very much at all. People usually begin to think about race and ethnicity only when they see that they are different from other people.
- ♦ Children in minority groups seem to have a better understanding of their culture and prejudice than majority children.

Jean Phinney, the leading American psychological researcher in this field, has found that there are three levels of *ethnic identity* (feeling of connection to one's own culture, race, religion, or nationality). She calls her first level *unexamined ethnic identity*. At this level, people may not have thought about their ethnicity very much. Or they may have accepted their parents' values without thinking about it. This is

common in younger adolescents and in people (of all ages) who live only with others of their own cultural group.

Phinney calls the second level *exploration*. People often enter the second level when they have an experience that forces them to become aware, suddenly, of their own ethnicity. Moving to the US may have been such an experience for your family. People at this level become very interested in learning about their own culture. They work to understand how their own culture has affected them. Some reject the values of the majority group.

When people have a deep understanding and appreciation of their own culture, they enter the third level, *achieved ethnic identity*. They have decided how to live with the different values of their own group and the majority group. They have a clear and confident sense of their own culture. They may or may not choose food, clothes, or music from their own culture.

What can you do to explore your own identity? Talk about your cultural values with your family. If you feel conflict between your own values and those in the US, others in your family probably do too. Understand that they may make different choices than you. Help children be thoughtful about their choices. Teach them how stereotypes work and why they are hurtful. This will give them a way to understand what they see around them. Most of all, make your children feel proud of your culture. This gives a strong base for exploration.

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bigot], but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice;...who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; ...who constantly advised the Negro to wait until a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.

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

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

Don't Ask, Don't Tell: A History

You have probably been hearing about Congress' vote to repeal (end) the *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* (DADT) policy in the US military. Here is a bit of history to help you understand the significance of this vote:

Homosexual behavior had been prohibited in the US military since the 18th century. During World War II, the focus shifted to prohibit homosexual people (rather than behavior) from the armed forces. Gay servicemen and women were discharged, imprisoned or committed to military hospitals, although the rule was relaxed from time to time when more military were needed. A 1982 policy re-stated that homosexuality was incompatible with military service.

During his presidential campaign in 1992, Bill Clinton vowed to end this ban. Soon after he was elected, however, Congress voted to make the gay ban a federal law. As a compromise, it then passed the *Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue* bill.

Under this law, military officials were not allowed to ask about a person's sexual orientation, either in the recruitment period or while serving. (This was the *Don't Ask* part). Gay, lesbian and bisexual people, in turn, could serve in the military as long as they did not make their sexual orientation known to

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Birthday Biography: Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. He lived 84 years, years that saw the American colonies become independent from England. He deeply influenced US political, educational, scientific, military and moral systems. In today's age of specialists, his breadth and depth seem especially impressive.

Specifically:

- ♦ As a young man, he experimented with electricity and demonstrated the concept of positive and negative electrical charges. A famous story tells of Franklin flying a kite (with a key attached to the string) during a lightning storm and "discovering" electricity. He may have flown such a kite, but electricity was known (though not well understood) before that storm. He also invented a heating stove (still called a Franklin stove today), bifocals, and an odometer.
- ♦ Before the American Revolution, he was Philadelphia's postmaster. In this role, he set up a unified system of mail delivery (including the first home delivery) from colony to colony. He also arranged for Philadelphia to develop a defense system. In these ways, he helped lay the foundation for a coordinated United States.
- ♦ He became one of the most important founders of the new United States. During and after the Revolution he was an important diplomat, especially to England and France. After signing the peace treaty that ended the Revolution, he wrote, "We are now friends with England and with all mankind...May we never see another war! For in my opinion there never was a good war or a bad peace."

- ♦ As the Constitution was being written, the

states with more people argued with less populated states about how people would be represented. It was Franklin who proposed the compromise that we have today — the House of Representatives based on population, the Senate having equal numbers for each state.

- ♦ For 25 years he published *Poor Richard's Almanack*, a collection of bits of information and advice (and the source of the name for the newsletter you hold in your hands). Whenever there was a bit of space, he would print some advice or proverb, often with a bit of humor. (Thomas Jefferson is supposed to have said that Franklin should have been chosen to write the Declaration of Independence instead of him, but everyone feared Franklin would add too many jokes.) See below for a bit of Franklin wisdom. You may recognize some of these — he borrowed often from the wisdom of other countries, often adding an American twist. Happy Birthday, Mr. Franklin.

From *Poor Richard's Almanack*

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

A true friend is the best possession.

The Royal Crown cures not the headache.

Don't throw stones at your neighbors if your own windows are glass.

The worst wheel of the cart makes the most noise.

A false friend and a shadow attend only while the sun shines.

Fish and visitors stink in three days.

Prepare Today for April 15, 2011 (and 2012)

If you must pay US income taxes, January is a good time to begin to prepare. If you keep good records through the year, it will not be difficult to complete the forms due on April 15 (2011, and especially 2012!). Read the tax rules now or talk with a tax counselor.

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

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

Publication 513 is "Tax Information for Visitors to the US"

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

Publication 519 is "US Tax Guide for Aliens"

Here are some tax points to keep in mind:

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

continued from page 6 sidebar others. (The Don't Tell part).

And there were rules about how much evidence had to exist for an investigation to be started. (*Don't Pursue*). A *Don't Harass* component was added later — disallowing mistreatment of service members for any reason. The military has functioned under this policy since 1992.

Meanwhile, gay advocates have argued in federal court that the ban violates the rights of gay service members to free speech, due process (fair treatment under the law) and open association. Several military leaders (Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Michael Mullen) publicly supported the repeal of the DADT policy. Research by the military has found that a majority of those in the armed services believe the DADT policy could be ended without significant problems.

Public opinion now also supports ending the DADT policy. Only 23-25% of Americans support continuing the policy.

Barack Obama promised to end *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*. In December 2010, Congress voted to repeal the policy. In the first few weeks of 2011, military leaders and President Obama must certify in writing that the law can be safely enacted. Then there will be a 60-day waiting period. And then the DADT policy will formally end.

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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: Start [Where??]

Here at the beginning of a new year is a good time to look at the many ways the word "start" is used in American English:

Let's *start off* by telling each other our names. (*Let's begin [a meeting] by telling each other our names.*)

He *started out* as a shoe salesman but ended his career as a jazz singer. (*He began his career [as a young man] as a shoe salesman but ended his career as a jazz singer.*)

I will *start on* this pile of ironing if you will begin to cook dinner. (*I will begin ironing this pile [although I do not expect to finish it because it is so big] if you will begin to cook dinner.*)

I have made too many mistakes in this piano piece and would like to *start over*. (*I have made too many mistakes and would like to begin again as if it were the first time I had played this piano piece.*)

Please don't *start in on* your sister; everybody makes mistakes. (*Please don't criticize, tease, and hassle your sister; everybody makes mistakes.*)

She had trouble *starting up* her motorcycle. (*She had trouble turning on the engine of her motorcycle.*)

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, I

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

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Martin Luther King, Jr. died at the peak of his popularity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked to end the Vietnam War. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, schools, buses, and restaurants were often segregated by race. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. King believed that sometimes violence was the only way to make an unfair system more fair. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. King developed the philosophy of nonviolence and civil disobedience from his reading of the Bible. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived to be an old man, and senior advisor to many US Presidents. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

IDIOMS

Read *That Crazy English: Start Now!* on page 8. Fill in the blanks below with one of these words: **off out on over in on up**

1. Why don't you start _____ your tax return now rather than leave it till April?
2. Her boss started _____ on her friend by criticizing her work and she got very upset.
3. She started _____ the year by making a list of resolutions.
4. Keep going, you're almost done; don't start _____ !
5. OK, start _____ the electric food mixer and I'll add the milk.
6. I started _____ with only \$100 and now my business is worth \$10,000.

HOMEWORK

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WITH A PEN

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

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

3) Read *Auld Lang Syne* on page 2. Think of a song that is traditionally sung on a holiday in your home country. Write a translation of the words in English. Briefly describe the holiday and the meaning/history of the song, if you know it.

4) Read *Winter on the Web* on page 1. Write a list of 10 weather-related tips someone should know who was moving from the US to your home country (for example, how to cope with rain, heat, or ice.)

VOCABULARY, I

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

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

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, II

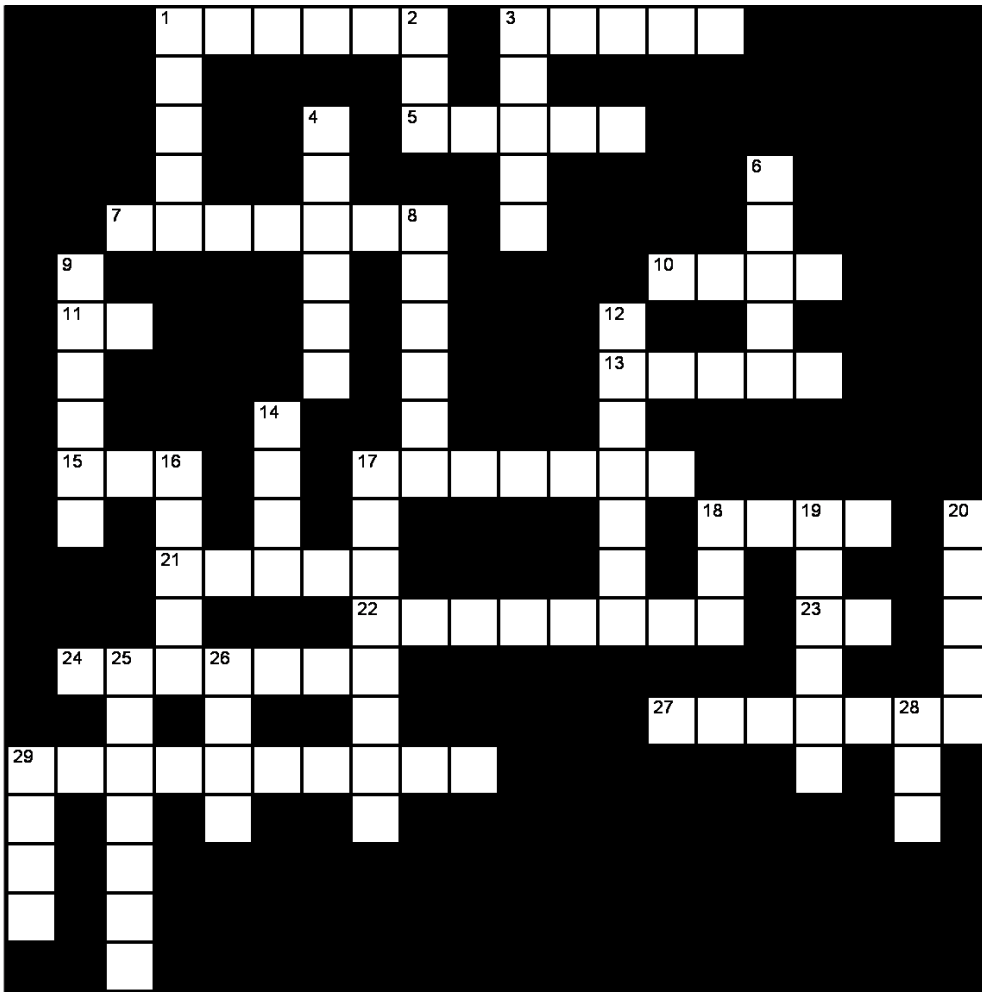
Read *Prepare Today for April 15, 2011 (and 2012)* on page 5. Match each item in the left-hand column below with the tax category on the right.

If you ____:

1. gave \$25 to a shelter for homeless families
2. earned interest from a savings account
3. interest you paid to the bank that lent you money to buy a house
4. paid a moving truck to move your furniture to the US so you could take a job here
5. had a bicycle stolen
6. took a trip for work and did not get paid back
7. paid a babysitter so you and your spouse could work

it would count as ____:

- a. interest on a mortgage
- b. a theft loss
- c. interest & dividends
- d. a job expense
- e. moving expenses
- f. child care expenses
- g. a contribution to a non-profit organization



Across

1. The Federal Citizen Information Center's site is ____gsa.gov.
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of the ____ Rights Movement.
5. A ____ friend and a shadow attend only while the sun shines.
7. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration web site tells you about ____.
10. Do this to eggs and cream to make a New Year's Day drink.
11. to start ____, to begin a big project
13. Try to block any window ____ in your home during the winter months.
15. egg ____, a New Year's drink
17. The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy began during President ____'s term.
18. A bird in the hand is worth two in the ____.
21. Whether you are a resident or nonresident ____ will influence the taxes you owe.
22. Benjamin ____ invented bifocal glasses and a new kind of heating stove.
23. to start up, to turn on
24. promise yourself
27. speech
29. separated by race, as many public places were before the Civil Rights Movement

Down

1. Benjamin Franklin wrote, "...there never was a good war or a bad ____."
2. to start ____, to begin on a long journey
3. King dreamed that his children would not be judged by the ____ of their skin but by the content of their character.
4. Children's ____ identity often changes after moving to a new country.
6. Fish and visitors ____ in three days.
8. Congress recently voted to ____ the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.
9. You may be able to deduct ____ expenses from your tax payment.
12. Many people will drink this on New Year's Eve, so drive carefully.
14. Consider taking a ____ on New Year's Eve.
16. Don't throw stones at your neighbors if your own windows are ____.
17. tiny pieces of paper, for throwing into the air at a party
18. prohibit
19. Go to Times ____ to watch a big ball slide down a pole.
20. Prepare in January to pay ____ in April.
25. Franklin was a diplomat in France and ____.
26. ____ House, a party that you go to for part of the time stated on the invitation
28. ____-in, a kind of protest
29. La La La, Auld Lang ____

OUT AND ABOUT

1) Read *Prepare Today for April 15, 2011 (and 2012)* on page 7. Go to a Post Office or public library and pick up a free tax booklet. Are there any surprises, compared to your home country?

2) Read about *Martin Luther King, Jr.* on page 4. On January 17, or the weekend before, try to see film clips of Dr. King on TV. Or go to www.youtube.com and type in his name. Listen to the power of his speaking voice and to his words.

3) Read *How Can I Judge my BAC?* on page 3. Compute your BAC assuming you drank two 6-ounce glasses of wine.

4) Read *New Year's Eve and New Year's Day* on page 2. As you go through your town and read advertisements, notice how many are for (a) alcohol, (b) football, and (c) formal parties. How does this compare to the new year in your home country?

IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read *Drinking and Driving in the US* on page 3. Go to: www.intox.com/wheel/drinkwheel.asp and compute your Blood Alcohol Concentration online. Put in different amounts and types of drinks, amounts of time, and weights to see what happens to the BAC.

2. Read *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* on page 4. Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbUtL_0vAJk to hear and see King's most famous speech and see some of the protest that day. Or search for his name to find other speeches, too.

3. Read *Winter on the Web* on page 1. Go to the NOAA weather site and look at your current cloud conditions via satellite. Locate the nearest ski resort that currently has good snow. Find out if your local airport is currently open or closed. Learn 2-3 tips for winterizing your home.



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WITH A FRIEND

- Read *New Year's Eve and New Year's Day* on page 2. Discuss answers to each of these questions with a partner.
 - ♦ What was the best thing that happened to you in 2008?
 - ♦ What was something that happened to you in 2008 that you wish had not happened?
 - ♦ What are five things you did in 2008 that you had never done before?
- Read *Drinking and Driving in the US* on page 3. Tell a partner about alcohol use in your home country. Is it allowed? Are restrictions on its use different than in the US? Is it a problem?
- Read *Thinking About Your Race and Ethnicity* on page 5. Describe to a partner, if you can remember, the first time you ever noticed your own or someone else's race. Have you been through the stages described in the article, or have you seen someone else go through them? Are you more or less interested in learning about your home country's history and culture than you were before moving here? How does racial diversity in your home country compare with that in the US? Are you a racial minority at home? in the US?
- Read *Alcohol Myths* on page 3. Did you believe any of these "myths?" Are there other beliefs about alcohol — and how to avoid its negative effects — that are common in your home country?
- Read *Prepare Today for April 15, 2011 (and 2012)* on page 7. Describe to a partner how your home country gets the money it needs. Are there taxes on income? If so, are they higher or lower than in the US? Are there taxes on real estate? things you buy? gasoline? cigarettes? How do you pay these taxes?
- Read *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: A History* on pages 6 and 7. How does the past or new US policy compare to the rules in your home country?
- Read *Birthday Biography: Benjamin Franklin* on page 6. Tell a friend or partner 3-4 proverbs in your home language, and what they mean.

ANSWER CORNER

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, I

1F. When MLK, Jr. died, many people were critical of him.

2T

3T

4F. King believed that violence was never the way to make systems fair.

5F. King developed...from reading Gandhi and Thoreau.

6F. King died at the age of 39, a young man.

VOCABULARY, I

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

IDIOMS

1 on 2 in on 3 out (or off) 4 over 5 up 6 off (out)

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, II

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

