

## Election Politics, Summer 2019 Version

OK, the 2020 Presidential election season has officially begun, yes, a full 16 months before voting day (November 4, 2020).

On the Republican side, President Trump appears to be the most likely candidate, although former Massachusetts governor William Weld has announced his campaign to run against him for the Republican nomination.

On the Democratic side, 24 people have announced that they are running. 20 qualified (by having enough petition signers or donors) to be in the first two debates held by the Democratic National Committee in late June. Unless

something very unusual happens with the Republicans, the political action will all be on the Democratic side as this large group is narrowed down to one through a series of state-wide elections called *primaries* or *caucuses*, which start in February 2020. I'll write more about these as they approach.

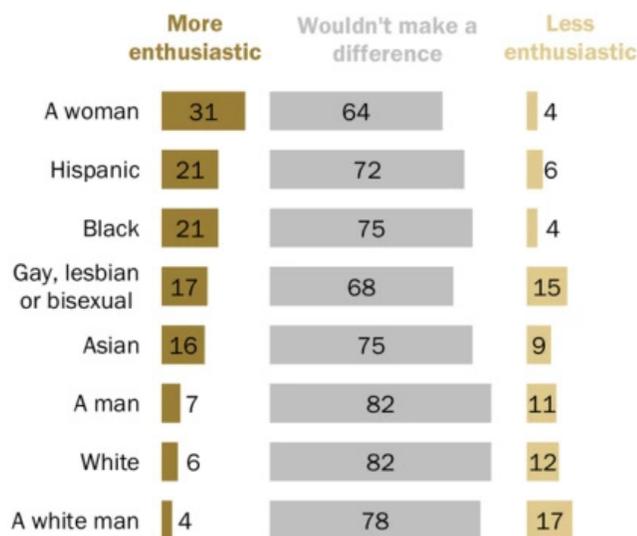
Here is some background information that may help you understand the news as it unfolds.

*Demographics.* Of the many Democratic candidates, there is more variety in age, race, sexual orientation, and gender than ever before. See the chart on this page for how Democrats view some of these factors.

*Party Affiliation.* Voters in the US can register as a member of a party (like Democratic or Republican, or one of several smaller parties) or as an Independent. In some states, Independents can vote in primaries; in other states, they cannot. 31% Americans say they are Democrats, 26% are Republican, and 38% Independents. But of the Independents, 17% "lean" Democrat and 13% lean Republican. In other polling, these leaners do, in fact, tend to answer in line with Party members, though less consistently so. Independents tend to view politics and politicians more negatively. Those Independents who do not "lean" in either direction are the least likely to vote.

### Most Democrats say race, gender of nominee would not impact enthusiasm

% of Democrats and Democratic leaners who say they would feel \_\_\_\_ if the Democratic nominee were ...



Note: No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 29-May 13, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Election Politics, Summer 2019	
Version	1
<a href="#">The Fourth of July</a>	2
<a href="#">The Declaration of Independence Translated</a>	2
<a href="#">US Symbols</a>	2
<a href="#">Air Travel</a>	3
<a href="#">The American Revolution (Briefly)</a>	4
<a href="#">Guns in the US</a>	4
<a href="#">The Bread Problem</a>	5
<a href="#">Birthday Biography: Anita Hill</a>	5
<a href="#">Background to the News: Impeachment</a>	6
<a href="#">Extra ice, please</a>	6
<a href="#">Stay Cool</a>	7
<a href="#">Per Capita Energy Use</a>	7
<a href="#">That Crazy English: Guns and Words</a>	8

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## US Symbols

**Flag.** The 13 red and white stripes on the US flag stand for each of the original 13 colonies. The 50 white stars on the blue field each stand for one state.

**Official Seal.** Notice the seal on a dollar bill. The bald eagle, the official symbol of the US, is holding spears in one claw and an olive branch of peace in the other. There is the unfinished pyramid, standing for our unfinished work. That's God's eye watching over the country. The Latin phrases mean, "From many, one," "God has smiled on our attempt," and "A new order for the ages."



**Donkey and Elephant.** In 1874 a cartoonist represented the Republican Party as an elephant



and the Democrats as a donkey. Is the donkey "tough but long-lived" or "ridiculous?" The



elephant "clever and majestic" or "easy to control until he is frightened?"

Depends on your politics!

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Here are the words to the Pledge of Allegiance that many American children recite every day in school:

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands — one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

[continued on page 3](#)

## The Fourth of July

The most patriotic holiday in the US is Independence Day, or The Fourth of July (celebrated on that date whenever in the week it falls, not as a Monday holiday). Americans remember that day in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence from Britain was adopted. With the passing of time, the US and England have become allies. Today, the holiday is a happy, friendly celebration. (See page 4 for a brief history of the American Revolution.)



Stars and stripes from the US flag are everywhere on this holiday. Food, clothes, balloons, hats, and signs are decorated in red, white, and blue.

Friends and families gather for picnics. Hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, potato chips, and ice cream are the traditional meal. Almost every town — large and small — has a fireworks display after dark. Find where your closest (or largest) fireworks show will be, take a blanket to sit on, and prepare to join the crowd in saying, "oh-h-h-h-h" and "ah-h-h-h-h" after each display -- you'll be speaking the same language as the rest of the crowd!

Gift-giving and cards are not a traditional part of this holiday. Federal, state, and local government offices and many stores and businesses will be closed. Stores that sell hamburger meat, charcoal, and watermelon will stay open!

## The Declaration of Independence (Translated)

Here is the most famous part of the *preamble* (introduction) to the Declaration of Independence, with my own explanations for international readers:

We hold these truths to be *self-evident* <sup>1</sup>: That all men are created equal; *that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights* <sup>2</sup>; that among these are life, liberty, and the *pursuit of* <sup>3</sup> happiness; that, *to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed* <sup>4</sup>; that *whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends* <sup>5</sup>, it is the right of the people to *alter or to abolish it* <sup>6</sup>, and to *institute* <sup>7</sup> new government, *laying its foundation on such principles*,<sup>8</sup> and *organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.* <sup>9</sup>

1: clearly true

2: God has given all people some rights that cannot be taken away

3: freedom to look for

4: to have these rights, the people establish a government and agree about its powers

5: if the government starts to prevent people from having these rights

6: change or get rid of the government

7: start

8: basing the new government on ideas

9: making rules so that safety and happiness are most likely

# Air Travel

All major airlines include flight status information on their websites and on their smartphone apps, for easy flight detail management. But if you want more, or fancier details, see below.

These three sites provide expected arrival and departure times of all flights over the US and Canada, within a 6-hour period; information on delays and schedule changes; plus something else fun:

[www.flightarrivals.com](http://www.flightarrivals.com), - Find lots of information about flights and airports; look up a flight by airport (if you don't know the airline), including small non-commercial airports.

[www.flightview.com](http://www.flightview.com) - Track a flight's whole trip, and learn details about any airport's delays, parking or special circumstances.

[flightaware.com/live](http://flightaware.com/live) - Enter your closest airport and find out the flight number and destination of all the flights overhead right then.

[www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com) or [www.studentuniverse.com](http://www.studentuniverse.com) If you are a student — or in the case of [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com), a teacher — get good deals on air, rail, and hotels or hostels.

[www.tripsavvy.com/air-travel-4138682](http://www.tripsavvy.com/air-travel-4138682) - Find links to short articles about many aspects of flying— which airlines have the most comfortable cabins, food, upgrades, luggage fees, and more.

[www.flightstats.com](http://www.flightstats.com) - Find extensive statistics on on-time arrivals (by airline and airport), airline delays and cancellations all over the world.

[www.seatguru.com](http://www.seatguru.com) - Click on your airline and type of plane to see a map of and comments about every seat on a plane.

[www.airsafe.com](http://www.airsafe.com) - For the nervous flier — or maybe not -- find information on recent plane crashes and other accidents; airport security information; airline complaints...and tips for overcoming a fear of flying).

[www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) - Scan prices from each airline and from various travel search engines (like [expedia](http://www.expedia.com) and [orbitz](http://www.orbitz.com)), then select a variety of criteria in your search (like departure and arrival times, airlines, number of stops, layover times, price). As each of these criteria is selected, the results regroup, making comparisons easy. Choose the flight and vendor you like best and click through to order directly from them. Or, take what you have learned and buy directly from the airline.

[www.farecompare.com/travel-advice/tips-from-air-travel-insiders](http://www.farecompare.com/travel-advice/tips-from-air-travel-insiders) - Find lots of money-saving tips, including which are the cheapest days to fly (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays), the cheapest time to buy a ticket, as prices float with demand (Tuesdays at 3pm) and how far in advance to book to get the cheapest price (1-3 months domestic, 1.5-5.5 months international).

[www.tsa.gov/travel](http://www.tsa.gov/travel) - At the US government's Transportation Security Administration's site; learn where to go if you have any questions about what you can take on the airplane or how you will be searched; click on the "Religious/Cultural" link, for example.

[www.yapta.com](http://www.yapta.com) - Many US airlines change the price on flights, depending on how likely they think they are to sell the seats. Prices can vary even within a single day. Here, you can watch air fare prices as they go up and down, so you can buy at the lowest price.

Do you have almost — but not quite — enough Frequent Flyer miles for a free trip? Check your airline's website for information about how to buy the extras you need, usually for a few cents/mile. Buying them from an outside broker is against the rules and may lead to your account being cancelled.

*continued from page 2*

If your children feel pressure to recite this pledge, talk with them about respectful ways to remain silent.

**Star-Spangled Banner.** The US may have the most un-singable national anthem in the world. You need a huge vocal range to sing it properly. Here are the words (to the first verse — there are three (rarely heard) others!!):

*Oh, say can you see  
By the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed  
At the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and  
bright stars,  
Through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched,  
Were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare,  
The bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night  
That our flag was still there.  
O say, does that Star-spangled  
Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave?*

**Liberty Bell.** This large bell was rung in 1776 in Philadelphia after independence from England was declared.

However, the bell wasn't named the Liberty Bell until 1839 — in reference to freedom

for slaves. The Liberty Bell is often shown with a large crack. The bell has cracked often in its history — try not to think about the symbolism of that (or maybe, think about the fragility of liberty...).



## Guns in the US

You may be surprised at the national conversation about gun ownership in the US. Here is some history:

Because of the role of the militia in the American Revolution, the writers of the US Constitution carefully protected the right of citizens to have guns. The 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution (made in 1791) says:

*A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.*

No law that is inconsistent with the US Constitution is allowed, so neither the US government nor any state may pass a law that makes owning a gun illegal.

But, you might say, the American Revolution seems safely in the past. Why does the US still protect this right to own guns? Some Americans continue to worry that the federal government is, or may become, too strong and they want to have guns to protect themselves from the government. In addition, some people use rifles for hunting and other sports and want to continue doing so..

Others own guns because they are afraid of criminals having them — presumably if criminals did not have guns, this group of people would not want them either.

This is a social issue with a deep history, fueled by conviction, emotions, and a lot of money.

# The American Revolution (Briefly)

You need to know something about the American Revolution to understand America's gun laws, attitudes toward government, and, of course, its Fourth of July celebration. Here are the basics:

- During the Seven Years' War (1754-1763), Britain gained control of the North American colonies, taking power away from France and Spain. Britain now had a huge war debt. It taxed the colonies in North America to help pay for the war.
- These new taxes uncovered a deep philosophical difference between Britain and the colonies about government. The British leaders believed that its Parliament represented all English subjects, even if they lived in North America, and even if they could not vote. (In the mid-1700s, only one man in England out of 30 could vote — it was a privilege of the rich.) People living in North America did not feel represented by Parliament. They believed that people elected to a government should represent those specific voters who had elected them, not simply the country as a whole.
- Under the Stamp Act, Britain required North American colonists to put a tax stamp on all printed materials, including newspapers, wills, loans, and even playing cards. In addition, the Tea Act charged a tax on tea, and included laws that favored the East India Company. (This company was important to Britain's economy and to many British politicians.) Colonists objected to this *taxation without representation* (being forced to pay taxes by a group for whom they could not vote). In Boston in 1773, a group of colonists decided to show their feelings about the Tea Act. They threw 342 chests of tea (worth about £10,000) from a British ship into the Boston harbor rather than pay the tax. Today, we call this the Boston Tea Party — and



this rejection of a centralized government is the basis for the new political group, the Tea Party, you may have been reading about. A major change happened in the thinking of the colonists as a result of these taxes and laws.

Although most colonists still did not favor independence in 1773, the seeds of a new nationalism were planted.

- On April 19, 1775, British soldiers in Massachusetts marched from Boston to Lexington and Concord to take the colonists' guns. William Dawes and Paul Revere rode by horseback to warn the colonists. The legend says they shouted "The British are coming!" but this is probably not true. Dawes, Revere, and all the other colonists still considered themselves British; they more likely shouted "The regulars are coming!" The British *regulars* (professional soldiers) met the colonists' militia, called the *Minutemen* (farmers and merchants who were prepared to fight "in a minute").

- In the picture on this page, notice the Minuteman's gun in one hand and the farm tool by his side. Every child in the US learns the story of these farmers and shop owners, fighting the highly skilled British soldiers. They could not have done so if they did not have their own guns. Our gun laws today are rooted in this history. The memory of the Minuteman as an ordinary citizen fighting a far-away government is also alive today among a small group of Americans who reject the government and resist it.

- In January 1776, Thomas Paine published a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. He rejected the idea that the colonies needed Britain, and strongly supported an independent America. Within three months, 120,000 copies of *Common Sense* were sold. By late spring 1776,

[continued on page 6](#)

# The Bread Problem

Have you solved The Bread Problem? For many newcomers to the US, finding bread they like becomes an obstacle to a smooth adjustment. Here's some background:

Until about 1900, American women mostly made their own bread. In Europe, bread-making was one of the first jobs societies "outsourced" - even in ancient Greece and Rome. But in the US, helped by the invention of convenient yeast packets, most American bread was home-made. In 1900, 95% of the flour sold in the US was sold to individuals. Then, social, industrial, and political forces led more women to work outside the home, and baking bread at home became less common. And then a terrible thing happened.

The forces of industrialization, science, and marketing jointly created WonderBread. This was a bright white, soft-crust, sponge-like "bread." It had small bubbles, all the same size, made from gas shot into the dough, rather than from yeast or natural rising. Using this process, a loaf could be made in minutes, not hours. Scientists found that a thin crust baked faster than a thick one, and the public accepted the change. Americans began demanding being able to squeeze their bread to be sure it was soft. Waxed paper bags allowed them to squeeze all they wanted. If anyone worried that the new bread was not nutritious, bread-makers simply added vitamins.

Today, US supermarket shelves are filled with bread like WonderBread, although some of it is made with whole wheat or multiple grains and may be better for you.

In fairness, you can buy excellent bread in most cities in the US today. There has been a huge growth in the US in the number of small bakeries that specialize in breads. That is how most people solve The Bread Problem - by finding one of these bakeries. But, still, it will be different from what you remember. Here is

a list of some of the ways bread-making differs from place to place:

- whether the rising comes from yeast or natural fermentation of the flour and water (as in sourdough),
- the kind of flour — that is, the kind of plant (wheat or rye, for example), the amount of gluten (a protein that allows the bread to stretch like a balloon), and how it has been ground (which affects its lightness and which part of the grain is included),
- whether anything besides flour, water, and yeast is included (salt slows the speed of rising, sugar and honey make it faster; other recipes include additions for flavor or nutrition, like butter, sugar, olive oil, seeds, berries, egg, or milk),
- the length of time the bread rises and is kneaded before baking,
- the oven — whether it is brick, stone, or metal; how moist it is; how air flows through it; its temperature; how it is heated
- water — the amount; the natural taste of the local water
- the weather in the kitchen and outside (wet and warm weather, for example, make bread rise faster; French bakers tend to keep their dough cooler, at 75°, than Americans, at 80°)
- many other local influences (like whether the bees feed on lavender before they make the honey that is added to make the bread rise faster; or whether the baker adds fresh rosemary to the wood to heat the brick oven).

With all these differences, bread cannot taste the same here as at home, even if the baker uses the identical recipe. Think of bread shopping as a metaphor for living in a new culture — what you find will surely be different; look for a way it can be good and interesting. But don't settle for WonderBread - you can do better than that.

## Birthday Biography: Anita Hill

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Anita Hill was born on July 30, 1956, in Oklahoma. A lawyer, activist and educator, she has played an important role in the American discussion of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Ms. Hill was the youngest of 13 children and the valedictorian (rank #1) in her high school class. She attended Yale Law School, one of just 10 African American students. After working one year in a law firm, she accepted a job working with Clarence Thomas, head of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. Later, she worked with him again when he was chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

When Clarence Thomas was nominated to be a US Supreme Court justice in 1991, Ms. Hill was asked to testify about his behavior as her employer. In a widely-watched TV Congressional hearing, she described his unwanted advances toward her and an atmosphere of crude, sexual joking in the workplace. The Senate committee that conducted the hearing consisted of 14 (white) men, including Joe Biden, chair.

Although Clarence Thomas was confirmed as a Supreme Court justice, Ms. Hill's testimony marked a major landmark in Americans' open discussion about sexual harassment, laying the groundwork for the #MeToo movement of recent years. She is in the news again, as people seek her perspective on presidential candidate Joe Biden's role in the hearings.

Happy Birthday, Ms. Hill.

## Extra ice, please

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Recently in Europe, I heard an American say, "I can hardly wait to get back home to a nice cold Coke with plenty of ice."

My European friend replied, "No! I hate ice in my drink! It dilutes the drink. I get mostly ice and not enough drink. It's too cold on my teeth. And it interferes with the flavor by eliminating the aroma. I even hate ice in my water; it changes - or eliminates - the taste."

It makes one think about:

- ♦ the history of refrigeration in different countries,
- ♦ why Americans have such big refrigerators
- ♦ how refrigerators and freezers affect Americans' shopping practices,
- ♦ the way the automobile and women's rights influenced how daily tasks get done,
- ♦ the aggressive marketing strategies of the soft drink industry,
- ♦ whether ice-cold drinks actually do lose flavor, or if it's just a matter of preference, and
- ♦ Americans' attitudes toward energy usage.

To my European friend: Don't worry, you can always just say to the waiter, "I would like a Coke please, with no ice."



# Background to the News: Impeachment

I have resisted writing about impeachment in this newsletter but now the idea is in the news so often that I think some background information will be helpful to you.

First, some definitions: to *impeach* someone means to accuse them of doing something wrong. In the case of politicians or judges, it means simply to file a formal charge against them. *Before* an impeachment, there would be an *impeachment inquiry*, to hear evidence and decide whether to impeach. *After* a vote to impeach, there would be some kind of hearing or trial to decide whether to *convict*, that is, to decide if the person is guilty and should be removed from office. In the case of a US president, impeachment inquiries and votes to impeach happen in the House of Representatives; whether to convict is decided by the Senate. It is possible to hold an impeachment inquiry and decide to or not to impeach, based on the evidence revealed in the inquiry.

Second, some history: Only two US Presidents have been impeached. Andrew Johnson (1865-69) and Bill Clinton (1993-2001) were both impeached (by the House) but not convicted (by the Senate). In addition, there was an impeachment inquiry into Richard Nixon (1969-74). Just before the House was about to impeach him, he resigned. That is, no President has ever been removed from office as a result of impeachment.

Article 2, Section 4 of the US Constitution lays out the rules for impeachment. A president, vice-president and other civil officers (like members of Congress or federal judges) can be impeached for "Treason, Bribery or other high Crimes or Misdemeanors." A *misdemeanor* generally means a *lesser crime* (like drunk driving if no one is hurt or shop-lifting), as opposed to more serious crimes called *felonies* (like murder or kidnapping). The Constitution leaves the decision to the House of Representatives about whether a politician's behavior falls under any of these categories.

On one side, critics of President Trump say the details in the Mueller report (about Russian interference in the 2016 election and possible involvement of the Trump campaign) suggest that an impeachment inquiry is called for. It would be harder for White House officials to ignore subpoenas that are part of an impeachment inquiry. On the other side, supporters of the President say the matter has been decided (in his favor) by the Mueller report. Both sides are, surely, considering the political angles as well.

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[continued from page 4: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION \(BRIEFLY\)](#)

independence seemed possible and necessary

- In the meantime, many war-related and government decisions were being made in Philadelphia by a group of political leaders from all 13 colonies. On July 4, 1776, this group adopted the Declaration of Independence, written mostly by Thomas Jefferson. The *preamble* (introduction) to this Declaration is one of the most important statements of the US philosophy of government (see page 2).

- France became an ally of the colonists during the Revolutionary War. It sent soldiers, ships, guns, clothes, and blankets. And it fought the British outside the colonies, making the British strength in the colonies weaker. The British Parliament voted to stop fighting in 1781. However, fighting did not completely stop until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783.

# Stay Cool

Many newcomers to the US are not used to the heat and humidity they find here. Here are some tips for staying cool.

*If you have an air conditioner:*

- ◆ Help your wallet and the environment by helping your air conditioner run efficiently. Keep the filter and coils clean. Place window air conditioners in a shady window, if possible. Use the “low cool” rather than “high cool” setting. You will use much less energy and may not feel the difference.

- ◆ Keep your eye on the outside temperature. When it drops below your room temperature, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows.

*If you have a fan:*

- ◆ When the outside temperature in the shade is higher than the temperature in your home, leave the windows (and curtains and shades) closed. Use a fan to move the air around, and to increase the cooling effect of your perspiration evaporating. Try putting a large block of ice (not ice cubes) in a plastic or metal box (like a picnic cooler). Set a fan, at low speed, directly over the box. You will like the cool air.

- ◆ Be especially careful of how much sun comes in your east- and west-facing windows. Keep the shades down on your east-facing windows in the morning and west-facing ones in the afternoon.

- ◆ When the outside temperature drops, open the windows and use the fan to move the cooler air inside. Open two windows on opposite sides of a room or floor. Place a fan in the window further from where you will be sleeping or sitting. If possible, use a fan that fills the open space of the open window. Turn the fan

so it is blowing out. This sounds backwards, but it really works. The fan will pull [cool] air from outside the other window into the room, and across your body.

*Dress and bathe carefully:*

- ◆ The coolest clothing is light-colored, lightweight, loose clothing made of material that allows perspiration to evaporate. It is tempting to wear as little as possible; however, it is actually helpful to cover your body as much as possible when outside, as protection against the sun’s direct heat.

- ◆ Take a quick shower rather than a hot bath, to keep the bathroom cool. Start the shower as cool as you can stand it. Once you are wet, slowly make the water even colder. Cool water over your hair and head will be deeply refreshing.

*And more:*

- ◆ Stay in good physical shape yourself. One research study showed that physically fit people manage heat better — their arteries near the skin surface dilate more easily, they perspire sooner and longer (which is cooling), and their body temperature rises more slowly.

- ◆ Cook as little as possible, or cook at night when it is cooler. Use a microwave oven or toaster oven, as they will keep your kitchen cooler than a regular oven.

- ◆ It is tempting to open the refrigerator or freezer and enjoy the coldness coming out. But the extra energy needed to run the refrigerator for those moments actually heats up the room more. Resist temptation!



## Per Capita Energy Use in Each State

Louisiana	897
Wyoming	860
Alaska	809
North Dakota	776
Iowa	489
Texas	472
Nebraska	455
South Dakota	445
Indiana	422
West Virginia	419
Oklahoma	417
Alabama	398
Mississippi	391
Kentucky	384
Montana	380
Kansas	376
Arkansas	354
South Carolina	333
Tennessee	333
Minnesota	327
New Mexico	320
Ohio	317
Idaho	315
Wisconsin	309
Illinois	304
Pennsylvania	294
Maine	292
Missouri	292
Delaware	287
Washington	283
Michigan	277
Virginia	277
Georgia	275
Colorado	268
Utah	266
District of Columbia	254
North Carolina	251
New Jersey	247
Oregon	239
Nevada	231
Maryland	226
New Hampshire	225
Arizona	213
Massachusetts	209
Vermont	206
Florida	205
Connecticut	202
California	199
Hawaii	198
New York	185
Rhode Island	176

\* million British thermal units  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

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: Guns and Words

As gun ownership and control continue to be a topic of American discussion, you may find it interesting to note how many gun idioms there are in our language. Here are a few:

He *jumped the gun* when he bought his car before getting his first paycheck. (He *acted too soon, without careful thinking*, when he bought his car before getting his first paycheck.)

I am sorry to tell you that your bus is going to be very late. Don't *shoot the messenger!* (...Don't be *angry with the person telling the bad news.*)

I have to *bite the bullet* and begin memorizing my part in the play one line at a time. (I have to *accept that it will be difficult but begin anyway* to memorize my part in the play one line at a time.)

It's a *shot in the dark*, but is today, by any chance, your birthday? (It's a *wild guess*, but is today, by any chance, your birthday?)

I may be *shooting myself in the foot*, but I am going to quit being a member of the club because I am angry at its president. (I may be *hurting myself and causing myself even more problems*, but ...

When you explain what happened, be sure to *stick to your guns*. (When you explain what happened, be sure to *tell the truth and do not compromise what you believe is right.*)

The workers were all *up in arms* about the new rules. (The workers were *very upset* about the new rules.)

## VOCABULARY

Each of these verbs or verb phrases is used in *The American Revolution (Briefly)* on pages 4 and 5. Use them to replace the underlined words in the sentences below (use the correct tense). Some items have more than one good answer.

gain control	object to	reject	require
tax	favor	resist	
represent	march	adopt	
elect	notice	support	

1. Be sure to look at \_\_\_\_\_ the story about us in the newspaper.
2. John got into a winning position \_\_\_\_\_ of the tennis game when he started hitting to her backhand.
3. She was chosen by a vote \_\_\_\_\_ to be president of the club.
4. Are you sure you want to take as your own \_\_\_\_\_ that position?
5. The state government has decided to collect money from \_\_\_\_\_ those who use the highways.
6. The ball players walked in a formal line \_\_\_\_\_ onto the field.
7. I don't feel my interests are considered \_\_\_\_\_ by that senator.
8. The boys did not want to obey \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher's suggestion.
9. The children said "no" to \_\_\_\_\_ the plan for a beach party.
10. That law benefits \_\_\_\_\_ people who live close to the city.
11. Her parents have always encouraged \_\_\_\_\_ her efforts.
12. If you disagree with \_\_\_\_\_ the way I have organized the meeting, then next time you can organize it.
13. The law makes it necessary for \_\_\_\_\_ judges to give a 5-year sentence.

---

## HOMEWORK

## WITH A PEN

1. Read [US Symbols](#) on page 2 and 3. Write a description of your home country's flag and its symbols. Write an English translation of your national anthem. Draw then describe any other political symbols a newcomer to your country might not understand.

2. Read [Declaration of Independence \(Translated\)](#) on page 2. In your own words, write what the preamble means. Is this similar to or different from the basis of government in your country?

3. Read [The American Revolution \(Briefly\)](#) on pages 4 and 5. Pick one important event in your home country's history and write an English description of it, in no more than 100 words.

4. Read [Guns in the US](#) on page 4. Write an imaginary letter to a US Congress member saying how you, as an international newcomer, feel about the current gun laws in this country.

5. Read [The Fourth of July](#) on page 2. Write a list of holidays in your home country that are based on a piece of history. Describe one in detail.

6. Read [Stay Cool](#) on page 7. Write a list of tips for someone new to the climate of your home country.

## GRAMMAR: IMPERATIVES

Read [Stay Cool](#) on page 7. Many of the sentences in this article use the imperative. Imperatives are used to command, request, give directions, warn, offer, or advise. The affirmative imperative of a verb is its simple form (for example, *Use a fan...*). To make a negative, add "Do not" or "Don't" to the simple form (*Do not use a fan...*). Add "Please" at the beginning or end of the sentence to soften it.

1. Write a list of all the imperatives used in this article. (I count 25+!)

*Help your wallet...* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write sentences using the negative form of five of these imperatives.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

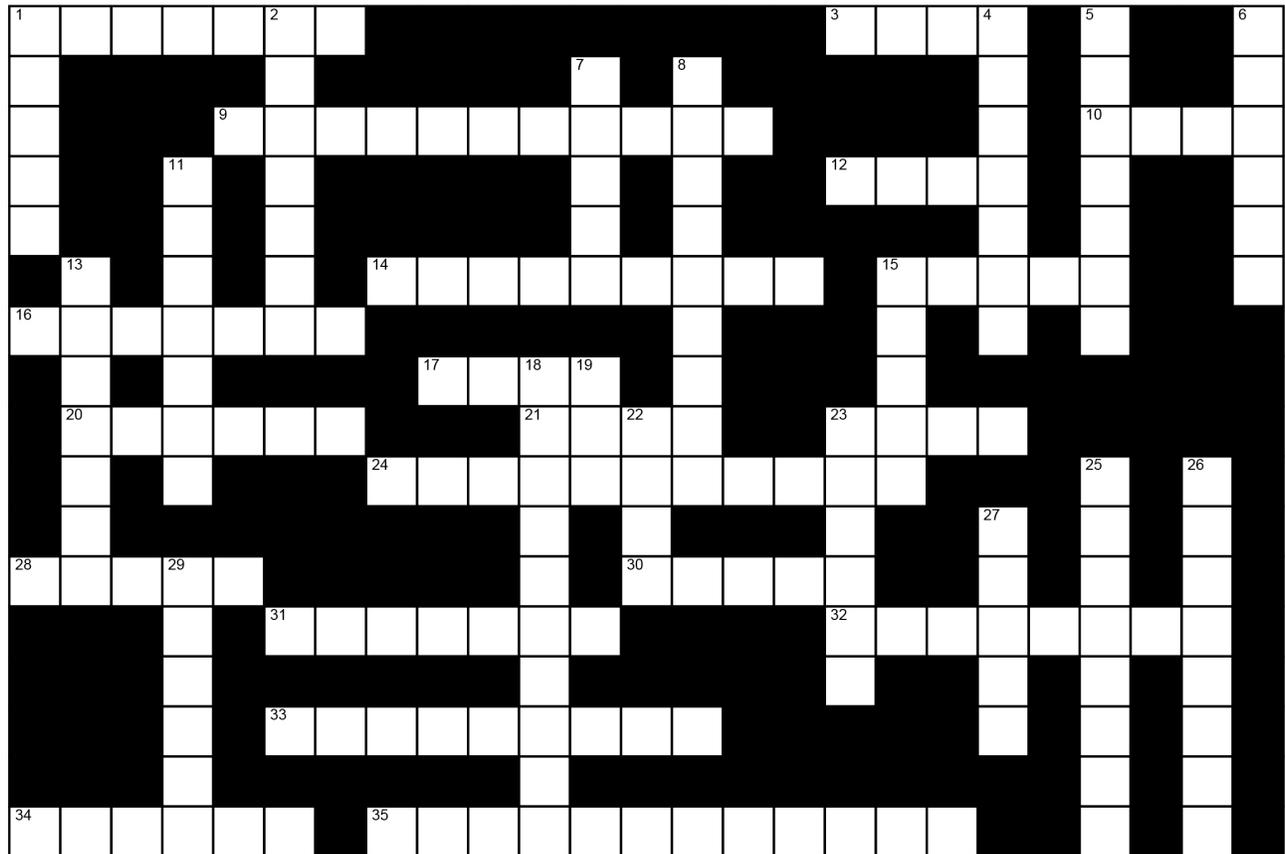
3. Write sentences adding *Please* to three of these imperatives.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## IDIOMS

Read [That Crazy English: Guns and Words](#) on page 8. Match the idiom on the left that could be used for the situation on the right.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. jump the gun               | a. do something you don't really want to do        |
| 2. shoot the messenger        | b. start something before you should               |
| 3. bite the bullet            | c. hurt yourself by your own actions               |
| 4. shot in the dark           | d. very upset                                      |
| 5. shoot yourself in the foot | e. get angry at the person who brings you bad news |
| 6. stick to your guns         | f. don't change your mind or your plans            |
| 7. up in arms                 | g. a wild guess                                    |



### Across

1. 13 red and white \_\_\_ on the US flag stand for the original 13 colonies.
3. \_\_\_ the gun, start too early
9. a lesser crime, not a felony
10. The \_\_\_ used in bread making affects the final product.
12. another word for "guns"
14. Thomas \_\_\_ was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence.
15. The Real \_\_\_ warned of the dangers of too much political power.
16. The \_\_\_ Bell has a crack in it.
17. Research suggests that physically fit people manage the \_\_\_ better.
20. The \_\_\_ Amendment protects the right to own a gun in the US.
21. Most Independents \_\_\_ toward one party or the other.
23. shot in the \_\_\_, a wild guess
24. \_\_\_ of Independence
28. Sourdough bread does not use \_\_\_.
30. \_\_\_ to your guns, don't change your mind
31. In the American Revolution, the colonies declared independence from \_\_\_.
32. symbol of Republican party
33. Don't shoot the \_\_\_.
34. bite the \_\_\_, accept the difficulties
35. \_\_\_ Day, also called Fourth of July

### Down

1. 50 \_\_\_ on the US flag each stand for one state.
2. self-\_\_\_, clearly true
4. \_\_\_ of happiness, freedom to look for happiness
5. get rid of, as in a government or government policy
6. another word for a flag
7. official symbol of the US, as shown on the dollar bill
8. the state with the highest per-person energy use
11. to accuse a politician of doing something wrong
13. Go to www.\_\_\_.com if you are a nervous flier.
15. About one third of Democratic voters would be more enthusiastic if the presidential candidate is a \_\_\_.
18. promise of loyalty
19. Bostonians protested against the \_\_\_ Act by dumping some into the sea.
22. up in \_\_\_, upset
23. symbol of Democratic party
25. introduction, as to an official document
26. Go to www.\_\_\_.com to learn about your chosen airplane seat.
27. Go to www.\_\_\_.com to watch for lower airplane prices.
29. Anita Hill played an important role in the national discussion about \_\_\_ harassment in the workplace.

## OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read [US Symbols](#) on pages 2-3. During the week before the Fourth of July, make a list of all the red, white, and blue things you see for sale in stores. Compare the display of flags and patriotism with that shown in your home country. Look up in a dictionary every word in the Star-Spangled Banner that you don't know. (Hint: "O'er" is short for "Over.")
2. Read [Election Politics, Summer 2019 Version](#) on page 1. Reading the news this summer, watch for which Democratic candidate(s) rise to the top or, perhaps, drop out of the race. Learn what you can about two or three of them.

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read [Guns in the US](#) on page 4. Visit the web sites of the two active groups in the gun debate: the National Rifle Association ([www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)) and Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.bradyunited.org](http://www.bradyunited.org)). What do you think?

2. Read [The American Revolution](#) on pages 4-5. View old drawings and recent re-enactments of the Revolution (with no words) at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wjfrexe61XI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wjfrexe61XI).

3. Read [Birthday Biography: Anita Hill](#) on page 5. Hear her reflect on her 1991 experience and its impact, in a 2017 interview: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGjWTXlafi](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGjWTXlafi).

4. Read [Election Politics: Summer 2019 Version](#) on page 1. To compare your political views with those of Americans, take an online Political Typology Quiz at [www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/](http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/).

## WITH A FRIEND

1. Read [Election Politics: Summer 2019 Version](#) on page 1. Describe to a partner or friend how varied your home country political leadership is, in terms of age, race, gender and sexual orientation. What has surprised you about the American election news?

2. Read [Guns in the US](#) on page 4. Describe to a friend or partner what the laws about gun ownership are in your home country. Are there restrictions on what doctors can discuss with their patients? Are there any restrictions on what doctors can give advice about in your home country? Discuss your view of the laws in the US

3. Read [Background to the News: Impeachment](#) on page 6. Describe to a partner or friend what the process is in your home country to handle political leaders who may have done something wrong. If you know the details, describe a real example of a political leader forced to leave office.

4. Read [US Symbols](#) on pages 2 and 3. Tell a friend or partner about two or three national symbols from your home country. Describe any history you know about how/why they were chosen as symbols. Translate your national anthem into English.

5. Read [Stay Cool](#) on page 7 and [Per Capita Energy Use](#) on page 7. Tell a friend or partner how people in your home country stay cool in very hot weather. Have you seen people in the US trying that method? Are you surprised at your country's place on the energy usage list?

6. Read [The Bread Problem](#) on page 5. Tell a partner or friend about (a) how the bread in your country differs from what you find in the US, (b) a grain food that is more common in your home country than bread (like rice or tortilla), or (c) the best and worst bread you have eaten in the US.

7. Read [The American Revolution \(Briefly\)](#) on pages 4 and 5. Describe one important moment in your home country's history to a partner or friend. How has that moment influenced daily life today?

8. Read [That Crazy English: Guns and Words](#) on page 8. Using as many of the idioms as possible, tell a friend or partner about something that happened to you in the last month.

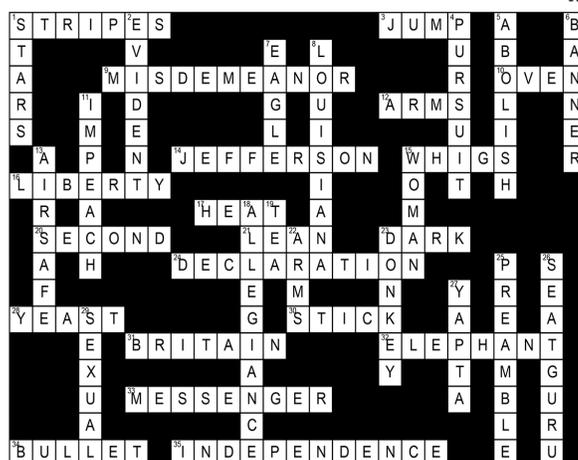
## ANSWER CORNER

### Vocabulary

- notice
- gained control
- elected
- adopt
- tax
- marched
- represented
- resisted (or objected to)
- rejected
- favours
- supported
- object to (or resist)
- requires

### Idioms

- b
- e
- a
- g
- c
- f
- d



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