Is English your new language? This paper is for you! (It's for anyone else, too!)

Easy English

Volume XXV Number 9

NEWS

We need your email address.
Why? See page 11.

May 2020 &

See page 10 for prices and ordering information.

Why should we stay home?

The U.S. government, doctors, nurses, and many others are working hard to stop the **spread*** of **COVID-19***. Everyone in the country has an important job to do. If you aren't an **essential*** worker, you have an important job too: *Stay home*. Anyone can get COVID-19. People without **symptoms*** can carry the **disease*** and pass it on to others. If you must go out to buy food, wear a **mask***. Stay six feet or more away from everyone else.

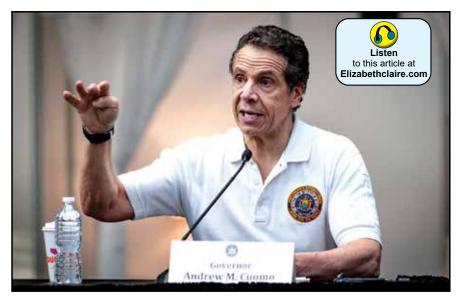
The U.S. needs many things to fight against COVID-19.

Many hospitals are full. They need more beds for people sick with COVID-19. The U.S. Army has set up **field hospitals*** in **tents*** on parking lots, in sports **arenas***, or in large **convention centers*** such as the Javits Center in New York City.

President Trump ordered the U.S. Navy hospital ship *Mercy* to go to Los Angeles. It has 1,000 beds. They can be used for **patients*** with COVID-19 or any other medical problem. The other Navy hospital ship, *Comfort*, arrived in New York City March 30.

More equipment* for doctors and nurses

Doctors and nurses at the hospitals need equipment: masks,



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo gives frequent* updates* about the coronavirus*. His state, and especially New York City, has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country. His advice: STAY HOME. Photo by Gabriele Holtermann-Gorden/Sipa USA (Sipa via AP Images)

protective clothing, and **ventilators***. President Trump ordered some private businesses to make ventilators as fast as they can. Many companies and **volunteers*** are also making masks, **protective gowns***, hand **sanitizer***, and other things.

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Life in the U.S.A. Help for the economy*





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COVID-19 has affected* millions of Americans. Schools closed. Businesses closed. Factories* closed. People are not going to work. They aren't traveling, shopping, or going to restaurants, bars, or movies. Parties, weddings, and funerals* cannot have more than ten people.



A sign tells that the San Francisco Macy's Department store is closed, March 30, 2020 because of the coronavirus* pandemic*. The whole chain* of 775 Macy's stores had to close during the pandemic. Macy's directors laid off* 125,000 employees. The \$2.3 trillion stimulus package passed by Congress last week may come too late to save Macy's. AP Photo/Ben Margot

Millions of workers are unemployed*. How will they pay their rent? How will they buy food and medicines? How will businesses survive*?

Money from the government

The government is trying to help. The U.S. Congress* has passed a bill* to help the economy. The bill will put 2.3 trillion dollars (\$2,300,000,000,000) into the bank accounts of workers and businesses.

This 2.3 trillion dollar **stimulus*** will help some people for a short time. There may be another stimulus bill after this one.

Who will get money?

Businesses will get help to keep their **employees*** working. Workers who lose their jobs can get **unemployment*** **insurance***.

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Events

Asian / Pacific Heritage Month

In May, Asian Americans and Pacific Island Americans celebrate their heritage*. This month includes the anniversary* of the first Japanese immigrants* to the United States (May 7, 1843). It's also the month when the transcontinental* railroad was completed (May 10, 1869). Thousands of Chinese workers helped build the railroad.

About 5.6% of the people in the United States are Asian or Pacific Island American. In May, many schools have special programs to show the art, music, food, languages, and cultures* of their homelands. Many communities* have parades, music, dance, art exhibits, food tasting, and demonstrations* of martial arts*. This year, because of COVID-19, things will be different.

Asian Americans and Pacific Island Americans are active in American business, science, medicine, **literature***, sports, TV, movies, music, news reporting, art, and government.

Asian Americans own many restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores*, and vegetable markets. Asian Americans have started big corporations* such as Yahoo, Inc., Hotmail, and YouTube.

Asian ideas in health and medicine have become popular in the U.S. Americans are now very familiar with yoga*, acupuncture*, and meditation*.

Asian Groups in the U.S.

Indian	4.400,000
Cambodian	276,000
Chinese	5,000,000
Filipino	4.000,000
Hmong	260,000
Japanese	1,500,000
Korean	1,900,000
Laotian	232,000
Pakistani	409,000
Thai	237,283
Vietnamese	2.100,000

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Groups in the U.S......1,400,000

Source: American Community Survey 2017



Karate is an **ancient*** Asian martial art. It is popular for **self-defense*** and exercise. Bigstockphoto.com



The Japanese art of flower arranging is called ikebana. Bigstockphoto.com



Many Americans use meditation and yoga from ancient Indian ideas.
Bigstockphoto.com



Acupuncture is a healing art Americans learned from the Chinese.
Bigstockphoto.com

Cinco de Mayo

The Fifth of May (Cinco de Mayo) is an important holiday for Mexican Americans. On this day in 1862, a small Mexican army defeated* 8,000 well-trained French soldiers.

History

Mexicans had won independence from Spain in 1821. But from 1858 to 1861, the Mexicans had a civil war*. Napoleon III [the third] of France thought it was a good time to invade* Mexico. He wanted to set up an emperor* in Mexico.

The battle of Puebla

The French army invaded Mexico in 1862. The French armies won many victories* in Mexico. But when that army came to the town of Puebla, Mexicans were ready for them. In a one-day battle* on May 5, the Mexicans defeated the French.

The war goes on

The victory at Puebla made Mexicans hopeful. Napoleon sent over more French soldiers. The French army took over the capital, Mexico City. Maximilian of Austria



Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican culture* and heritage. Thirty-one million Americans are of Mexican origin* (2010 Census). That is 10.3 percent of the total population* of the U.S. Bigstockphoto.com

became Emperor of Mexico.

However, Mexicans did not want a foreign ruler. In 1866, Napoleon III withdrew* the French soldiers. Benito Juárez became president again. Mexico was free.

Cinco de Mayo today

The holiday Cinco de
Mayo is more popular in the
United States than in Mexico.
Here in the U.S., Mexican
Americans usually celebrate
the victory with parades,
parties, mariachi* music,
and Mexican folk dancing.
Towns had fiestas* with
traditional Mexican foods. This
year, celebrations have been
canceled or postponed* to help
stop the spread of COVID-19.

Ramadan



The Koran Dreamstime.com

Ramadan is a **holy*** month for **Muslims***. This year, the first day of Ramadan in the U.S. was April 23.

Ramadan ends on May 23. During Ramadan, Muslims over age 12 **fast*** during the daylight hours. Fasting helps Muslims learn **self-discipline***

and **sympathy*** for hungry people. Young children, sick people, pregnant women, and travelers do not have to fast.

Muslims read the **Koran*** each day during Ramadan. Because of the coronavirus, **mosques*** may be closed. They may show evening prayers on the Internet. People will stay home and pray. Families might use **ZOOM*** to join other families for the evening.

Eid al-Fitr

At the end of Ramadan (May 23), Muslims celebrate a special holiday called *Eid al-Fitr* [EED al FITruh]. They decorate their homes. Usually, they get together for a big meal with their families and friends. This year, Muslims may **avoid* crowds*** because of the coronavirus.

Sources: The Figh Council of North America, Aljazeera

in May

May 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 / /31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, is Mother's Day. On this day, children thank their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other women in their lives. They may make handmade cards for their moms.

What would we do without our mothers?

Favorite gifts for moms are books, clothing, flowers, photos, jewelry, or handbags. Most gifts may be bought online this year because many stores are still closed due to COVID-19.

Children might do some of Mom's work on this day. They



A happy mother and child. Bigstockphoto.com

may make breakfast for her or do some of her **chores***. Families might take Mom on a picnic.

Memorial* Day



A Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C. These marchers are dressed in colonial* musicians' uniforms. Most Memorial Day parades have been canceled this year because of COVID-19. Bigstockphoto.com

Memorial Day is the last Monday of May. On this day, Americans remember the men and women who have fought and died in wars for the United States. Cities and towns usually have parades. People visit cemeteries*. They bring flowers and flags to the graves* of fallen* soldiers.

On Memorial Day, there are special services* in Arlington National Cemetery* in Virginia. The President and

other important leaders make speeches. This year, many of these local and national celebrations have been canceled because of COVID-19.

Memorial Day is part of a three-day weekend. There are usually picnics and barbecues*. People will still have to practice social distancing*. There may not be much travel on this weekend. Beaches may not open for the summer.

In Flanders Fields¹ By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies² blow³ Between the crosses4, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks5, still bravely singing, fly Scarce⁶ heard amid⁷ the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn⁸, Saw sunset glow⁹, Loved and were loved, and now we lie¹⁰ In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel¹¹ with the foe¹²: To you from failing hands we throw The torch¹³; be yours to hold it high. If ye14 break faith15 with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.

A World War One cemetery with poppies blooming between the gravestones. Poppies have become a symbol of remembering soldiers who died in wars. Bigstockphoto.com

Word Help

- ¹ Flanders Fields: A war cemetery
- ² poppies: Red flowers
- ³ blow: Bloom
- ⁴ crosses: Grave markers
- ⁵ larks: Birds
- ⁶ scarce: Almost not
- ⁷ amid: In the middle of ⁸ dawn: Morning light
- ⁹ glow: Shine softly
- 10 lie: Are dead and buried
- 11 quarrel: Fight
- 12 foe: Enemy (Germany)
- 13 torch: The fire, the war against the
- 14 ye: You
- 15 break faith: Don't keep a promise to
- fight on until the war is won.

Armed Forces*

Armed Forces Day is May 16, the third Saturday in May. It's a day to think of how the U.S. protects* itself and its allies*.

Today there are more than 1.3 million men and women on active duty* in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. There are also nearly 800,000 members of the National Guard* and Reserves*.

For the last 47 years, the United States has had an allvolunteer* military. There is no draft*. However, all male citizens and non-citizens who live in the United States who are 18 to 25 years old must register* with Selective Service*.

This does not include* foreign college students on student visas. If you need to register, you can do so online at sss. gov/register/.



Admiral Phil Davidson, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces with sailors at the National September 11 Memorial site, New York Bigstockphoto.com

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This is your page

Delicious* dessert*

I was a dishwasher at a diner. It was my first job in America. I met a lot of people from different countries. Many of them were from Mexico. I asked many questions about their culture. They did the same thing with me. It was fun.

They wanted to learn about different foods we eat in the Dominican Republic. I told them about a very popular dessert called sweet beans. It is made with beans, evaporated

milk*, sugar, cinnamon sticks, sweet potatoes, and raisins. It was hard



to convince* them that this dessert is so delicious. They couldn't imagine eating beans with sugar.

This dessert is usually made during Easter Week. This is an important holiday week in our culture. I promised to make this special dessert for them. I changed jobs before I had the chance to do this. I still feel a little sad that I couldn't keep my promise.

> Jose Sepulveda Staten Island, New York (Dominican Republic)

So much help

My wife and I visited San Francisco. We bought two tickets on the Muni* (Municipal Railway). The lady at the window was interested in my eye glasses. They were different. She thought they looked good. I put my glasses on the counter* and took the tickets. Then we got on the



After some time, a female police officer came to us and asked, "Did you forget something?" We were frightened to see a police officer. We couldn't speak at

She smiled and said, "Don't

be afraid. You forgot your glasses at the ticket counter. Please go back to get them." She helped us take another train back to the ticket counter.

When I got my glasses, the lady took our old tickets and gave us new ones. She told us that she wouldn't charge us for the two new tickets.

We got back on the train. We were so surprised by all this. The police officer must have had trouble finding us. Then, she personally helped us get on the return train.

We also talked about the kindness of the ticket agent. She took the time to ask the police officer to bring us back. Then, she didn't charge us for the new tickets.

This memory still brings tears of happiness to our eyes. We are surprised by how much help the American people give to others. It's rare* to get this kind of help in India.

> Shashi Kumar Dhoopar Maple Grove, Minnesota (India)

No funny stories

My daughter is a junior in high school. She is now applying to colleges. I received a letter from one of the colleges. I had to give them some information about my daughter.



The letter told me to write an anecdote* about her challenges* in high school. I was confused. In Russia, the word anecdote means a funny story. I tried to think of a funny story about my daughter. I couldn't think of any. She's a very quiet and serious girl.

Finally, I told my daughter about this problem. She laughed and explained that an anecdote is just a short story about something in your life. Now, I knew what to do!

> Natalia Vukolov Staten Island, New York (Russia)

Not stolen

I went to Costco for the first time. It's a very large store that sells many different things at lower prices. I bought a pair of shoes at a really low price. I paid for them and went to the door.

The man at the door asked for my receipt*. I showed it to him. He checked my receipt and said, **Restaurant bill** "It's a steal." I thought I heard wrong. I asked, "I beg your pardon?" He said again, "It's a steal."



I said, "I didn't steal it. I paid for it!" He laughed out loud. He explained that he meant my shoes were very cheap. The price was very low.

> Austin, Texas (South Korea)

Tornado* togetherness

I experienced a tornado for the first time when my family and I came to Minnesota. My husband's sister told us what to do if there was a tornado.

She said that when we hear a siren*, it means a tornado is near. We should go to a safe place in our home, like a basement or another room without windows.

One day we heard the siren. We went to our basement. The wind was very strong. It knocked down trees. We lost electricity. My children were scared. I was terrified, but I didn't show it. I had to be calm* to show them we were safe.

After that, my 7-year-old daughter took a bag with her every time we went to the basement. I didn't know what was in it. We unpacked the bag

together when the tornado season ended.

Inside



the bag was her favorite stuffed animal, a jar of peanut butter, a packet of rice cakes, and four bottles of water. My little girl thought about her whole family. She brought something for everyone. This made me happy.

> Joanna Tomczyk Brooklyn Park, Minnesota (Poland)

When I first came here, I worked as a server in a restaurant. I served drinks and lunch. When the customers finished eating, I asked them if they wanted coffee or dessert. They said, "No thanks."

My boss asked me if I asked the customers about dessert or coffee. I said, "I asked them, but they didn't want any." Then, he went to the computer and printed out their bill. He told me, "Ok, you can give them the bill."

I was shocked! In Brazil, it's rude* for the server to bring the Yeonsoo Park bill before you ask for it. We would never do that. When I told

> my boss this he said, "Don't worry. It's normal

here. You can say, 'Here is your bill, but take your time."

I did that and it was really okay. Everyone must be used to this. The customers thanked me and left a good tip*.

> Cristiana Nóbrega Cardosa North Arlington, New Jersey (Brazil)

All Photos from Bigstockphoto.com

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Please see our website for Writer's Guidelines. We pay \$20 for each story we publish. Write your name and mailing address so we can send you payment if we print your story. Tell us your home country, too.

Dr. Lynn Corigliano

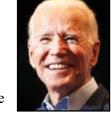
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Who will run against Donald Trump for president?

The choices for president

There is now just one Democratic **candidate*** for president: Joe Biden.

On April 8, Senator Bernie Sanders **dropped out*** of the race. He saw that there



Joe Bidei



Bernie Sanders

was no way to get enough delegates* to win the nomination*. On April 13, he endorsed* Joe Biden for president.

COVID-19 takes over the news

Part of the reason was the COVID-19 pandemic*. It changed the campaign*. There was no way to travel around the country safely by plane. Candidates could not have rallies* with thousands of people. Sanders' volunteers* could not go door to door to talk to voters.

In addition, news about the COVID-19 pandemic became more important than the **primary elections***.

President Donald Trump has already won enough delegates to win the Republican nomination

to be his party's candidate.



Donald Trump

Now the country wonders how people will vote. Most states have "STAY AT HOME" orders. Will states need to

change to voting by mail?

Will the Democratic and Republican **conventions*** take place in August? Will people be able to vote in person in the November presidential election?

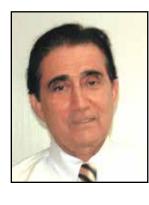
We will find out later.



In this photo, Robert Wilson, wearing a mask, looks over his ballot*, April 7, 2020. He voted in Wisconsin's presidential primary election at the Dunn, Wisconsin's highway garage building. The state of Wisconsin had a stay-at-home order because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there was no way to change the date for the state's primary election. There was not enough time to change to voting by mail. Voters did not want to give up their right to vote. They stood in line in the rain for hours in order to vote. John Hart/Wisconsin State Journal via AP

Your Health: Dr. Ali's Breakfast

by Dr. Majid Ali



One of the most important things to do to stay in good health is to have the right breakfast.

Start the day right with hydration* and good nutrition* for the bowel*, blood, and liver. This will give you energy for the morning's work. It will

help **prevent*** up-and-down changes in your blood sugar levels during the day.

I **suggest*** this breakfast for my patients who are in poor health. It's great for *anyone* who wants to be in **optimum*** health.

Many illnesses, aches, and pains get their start in a **dehydrated*** body. When you are dehydrated, your body cannot **get rid of*** the **waste products*** it produces.

I believe in **overhydrating*** in the morning. That means drinking several glasses of plain water. After that, I suggest a drink made with **organic*** vegetable juice with protein powder. I drink it myself every day. My **patients*** call it Dr. Ali's Breakfast. Here is the recipe:

Protein* powder: 2 Tablespoons

Lecithin*: 1 Tablespoon
Freshly-ground* flax seed:

1-2 Tablespoons.

Water: 15 oz. (ounces)

Vegetable juice: 15 oz.

Choose several of these for the vegetable juice: organic celery, cucumber, sweet red pepper, carrots, parsley, chard, kale, or zucchini.

If you like, sweeten the drink with a little stevia*. You can add a few ounces of club soda*.

At first, patients say, "I can't drink that! I won't like the taste," and "I don't have time to make juice and clean a juicer!" or "I'm not hungry in the morning."

I tell them, "Begin with just a few ounces. You can use *Very Veggie* bottled organic vegetable juice. Get **accustomed*** to it, and soon you will notice the **benefits***.

When our body gets what it needs, the taste of that food changes for us. We begin to like it. Many of my patients now enjoy "Dr. Ali's Breakfast." It has become delicious to them. They tell me that they have good energy all day long. They can think more clearly, feel more optimistic*, and sleep better. Some say that their allergies* have disappeared. Their skin is clearer. They have no constipation* and no arthritis* pain.

Get more information on Dr. Ali's Breakfast at majidalimd.me/2014/05/29/breakfast-and-health/

Be kind to your body so your body can be kind to you.

(Dr. Ali's articles are for information and are not prescriptions for you. Always talk to your own health practitioner if you are ill and need medical advice.)

Dr. Majid Ali is an integrative physician with practices in Manhattan, New York, and Denville, New Jersey. He is the author of many books on healing and causes of disease. You can see his many free videos at

Majidalimd.me

Word Help

accustomed (to) *adjective*. Used to; familiar with.

allergy noun. The body's reaction to a substance in the environment, causing sneezing, rash, illness, headache, etc. arthritis noun. Pain in the joints (hips, knees, elbows, shoulders, back). benefit noun. Something good bowel noun. The small and large intestines. club soda noun phrase. Unflavored, unsweetened carbonated (bubbly) water. constipation noun. Difficulty in moving

enough water.

get rid of verb phrase, idiom. To
remove, dispose of, take out.

ground past participle of grind. To
cut into extremely small pieces with a
grinder.

one's bowels (going to the bathroom).

dehydrated adjective. Dry; not having

hydration *noun*. The amount of water in the body.

lecithin noun. An antioxidant from egg yolks and soybeans; it is rich in B complex vitamins; it helps keep fat from getting spoiled.

nutrition *noun*. The science of the body's need for certain foods and the results of those foods.

optimistic *adjective*. Having a hopeful and positive feeling about the future. **optimum** *adjective*. The best.

organic adjective. Grown without chemical fertilizer or pesticide. **overhydrate** verb. To drink more water

patient noun. A person who goes to a doctor or hospital for treatment. **prevent** verb. To stop something from

than the body needs.

happening.

protein noun. A food element necessary

for growth and repair. Sources: eggs, soy, milk, fish, meat.

stevia *noun*. A natural sweetener. **suggest** *verb*. To give advice.

waste product noun phrase. The part that is left over after the good part is used.

America the Beautiful

Shenandoah National Park



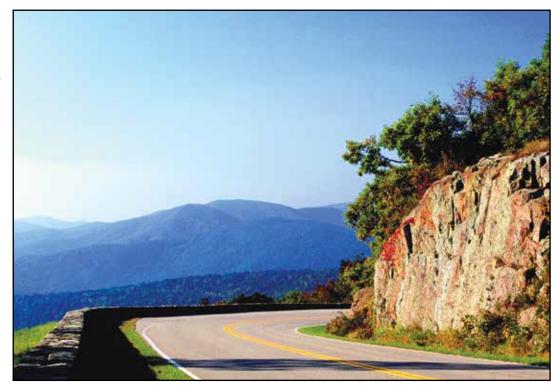
Shenandoah National Park is a wilderness area* in northwestern Virginia. It's just 75 miles away from Washington, D.C. More than a million visitors come to the park each year.

Ninety percent of the park is covered with



a purple thistle flower.

forest*. Thousands of different creatures* make their home in this park. Part of the Blue Ridge* Mountains are in the park. In the 1930s, U.S. President Herbert Hoover had his summer home in the Blue Ridge Mountains. A swallowtail butterfly visits It was cooler there than in Washington.



Skyline Drive is a road that winds around the upper parts of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are many wonderful views.

Hikers* love the beautiful scenes* of quiet woods, waterfalls, and grand views*



Water evaporates* from the leaves of the trees. The water vapor* over the trees makes the tops of the mountains look blue from far away. That's how the Blue Ridge Mountains got their name.



Susan is one of the 850 different kinds of wildflowers in Shenandoah National Park.



Streams and waterfalls make this a peaceful place to enjoy nature.



The Appalachian Trail* goes through Shenandoah National Park.



Visitors may be surprised by deer, bears, raccoons, and other

Hikers must watch out for rattlesnakes* in the park.

planyourvisit/alerts.htm

Check at nps.gov/shen/

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, parts of the park will be closed.



days or weeks.

Rangers* in the park show visitors hidden secrets of animal life.

Many people come to Shenandoah to camp* out in the woods for

Photos are courtesy of the National Park Service

Heroes and History

Living through a pandemic*

A highly **contagious*** illness, COVID-19, has **affected*** millions of people around the world.

The world has had new viruses* before. But the world was not prepared* for a virus that was so contagious or so dangerous. The world was not prepared for the changes in our everyday lives.

Doctors are working night and day to develop **treatments*** and **cures*** for COVID-19. A year or more from now, there may be a **vaccine***. The country will be back at work and at school again. But some things will never be the same.

This is history

This pandemic is one of the most important events in human history. People will be talking about COVID-19 for a long, long time. Years from now, you will be telling your grandchildren about this year's conditions. People will talk about life "before the pandemic" and life "after the pandemic."

How has COVID-19 affected you?

What details* will you remember?

You may want to keep a **journal*** during these historic times. History books will write about it, but your stories will be your family's history for your children and your children's children.

In your journal, tell where you were



Parks and beaches in Los Angeles County, California are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic March 23, 2020. Yellow tape on the park benches tell people not to use the tables. Photo by Ted Soqui/SIPA USA (Sipa via AP Images)



Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing started March 22, 2020, in the parking lot of the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. People age 65 and over are being tested here. Photo: mpi04/MediaPunch/IPX



Shonia Hall, director of Oklahoma City Public Schools Nutrition Service*, hands a bag lunch through a car window at Rockwood Elementary School in Oklahoma City March 24, 2020. The Nutrition Service was able to give free meals to students at 42 locations around the city while schools were closed. AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki



Members of the Arizona National Guard* pack bags of food at a food bank*, March 26, 2020, in Mesa, Arizona. Governor Doug Ducey called the Guard up to help move the supply of food. Packing at the food bank was one of their first jobs. AP Photo/Matt York



Eric Timpson, center, and Thomas Nicolaysen, right, give blood at the American Red Cross **Donation Center*** March 23, 2020, in Murray, Utah. The U.S. **Surgeon General*** asked healthy Americans to **donate*** blood. The supply of blood was getting low during the pandemic. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

during the pandemic. Tell what you, your family, and neighbors had to do. How did you help **prevent*** spreading the virus? What new **habits*** did you learn?

Did you or someone in your family lose their job or their business? Were you able to shop for food and other things you needed?

Was anyone in your family sick with COVID-19? What was that like?

Did your school close? For how long? How did you learn? What school events did you miss?

Did you read books, watch TV, play games with your family? Tell about them.

How did you exercise?

When could you go out to get sunshine and fresh air?

How did it feel to be away from friends?

What were the most difficult things you had to do during the pandemic?

How did others help you or your family?

How did you help others?



A sign on Southeast Cesar Chavez Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, March 23, 2020, tells people to stay at home. Governor Kate Brown gave a statewide order to stay home except for essential* needs and essential workers. Photo by Alex Milan Tracy/Sipa USA (Sipa via AP Images)



It has become a tradition in many cities around the world: People come to their windows or their balconies to sing. make noise, or clap to thank the health care workers and others who are working so hard to save lives. This family in Portland, Oregon came out to clap at 7 PM on April 6, 2020 Photo by John Rudoff/ Sipa USA Sipa via AP **Images**

Idiom Corner

Illustrations by Dave Nicholson

Have you heard people use these idioms?



to hit the ceiling

anger

to show a great deal of

Maurizio hit the ceiling

when he saw that his

money was gone.

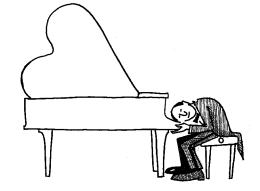


2. dirty words

vulgar* words about sex or bathroom activities

Yusuke learned dirty words in English before learning the polite ones.

It is **rude*** to say *dirty*



to play by ear

to do something without having a plan or practice

Jon never took music lessons. He plays the piano by ear.

I don't know what I'm going to say to the boss; I'll just play it by ear.



to rub elbows

to be in the company of certain people

Stacey moved to Los Angeles. She hoped she could rub elbows with movie stars.

Movie stars often rub elbows with presidential candidates.

Flora hit the ceiling when her boyfriend kissed her words in public. sister.

Crossword Puzzle

10 7 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 20 22 23 24 25 26 27 29 30 32 31 33 34 36 37 38 39

Across

- 1. Marches on Memorial Day
- 5. Do re fa sol la ti do
- 7. Smallest state (abbreviation)
- 8. Many times; frequently
- the mistakes he 11. He makes.
- 15. Small insect; it likes picnics.
- 16. A person who makes water splash all over
- 18. Short name for Ellie
- 19. Without any gun, knife, or other weapon
- 22. Not applicable (abbreviation)
- 23. Department of Defense (abbreviation)
- 24. Certain

- 26. Tennessee (abbreviation)
- 27. One thing
- 29. Bright color
- 30. Make with a needle and thread
- 32. American is an island in the Pacific Ocean.
- 34. Listen and hear with this.
- 37. Same as 7 Across
- 38. Myself
- 39. Second Sunday in May

Down

- 1. Give these to Mom on Mother's Day.
- 2. A way to travel

Funny Stuff

An ESL student heard a voice. He looked down and saw that a frog was talking to him!

The frog said, "If you kiss me, I will turn into a beautiful princess."

The student picked up the frog. He didn't kiss it. The frog spoke again, "Hey, kiss me! I'll be a beautiful princess."

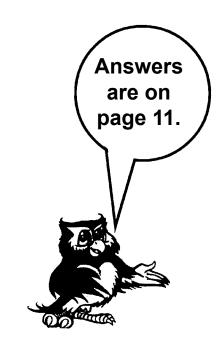
The student didn't say anything. The frog asked, "What's the matter? Why won't you kiss me?"

The ESL student said, "Look, I have to study English all day and all night. I don't have time for a princess. But a talking frog? Wow!"



- 3. *Doesn't* is a contraction for these two words:
- 4. Adverb. It's Saturday, school is closed.
- 5. Past form of *meet*
- 6. Preposition. I live NYC.
- 9. Places for cows, pigs, and chickens
- 10. Same as 26 Across
- 12. Alabama (abbreviation)
- 13. Country: Arabia
- 14. Slang term for sunglasses
- 17. Emergency Room (abbreviation)
- 20. Unit of money in Europe
- 21. Like a dream; vague
- 25. Short name for Edward or Edwin
- 28. A planet near the Earth
- 31. Opposite of dry
- 33. Prefix: in the middle

- 35. Sound of satisfaction
- 36. Regarding; about (abbreviation)



Why should we stay home?

(continued from page 1)

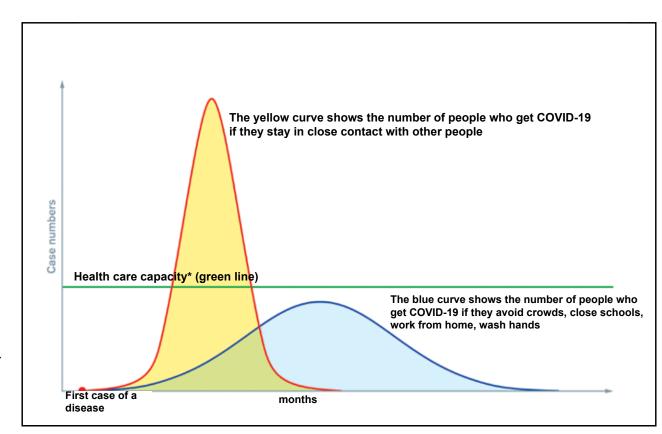
Flatten the curve*

No one has *immunity** to COVID-19. It is very contagious. Many people can get the disease very quickly.

The yellow curve on the chart (on the right) shows that there will be too many people sick at one time. The health care system (the green line) will not be able to handle them all. That means more people will die.

To "flatten the curve," we have to slow the spread of the disease. People have to stay home from work and school. We have to wash our hands often. Now, everyone should wear a mask when shopping for food or when getting close to other people.

This all helps to slow the spread of the disease. Sick people can get medical help. The blue line shows a flatter curve. This can save lives until there is a cure or a vaccine. That's why doctors and the government are saying, "Flatten the curve."





The National
Guard* and
FEMA* built
temporary* hospital
rooms at the Jacob
K. Javits Center
in New York City,
March 27, 2020.
It will have 1,000
hospital beds. Each
borough* of New
York will have a
temporary hospital.
Photo: mpi43/
MediaPunch /IPX



Navy Ship
Mercy arrives
at the port of
Los Angeles
March 27, 2020.
This ship has
1,000 hospital
beds. A similar
ship, Comfort,
has arrived
in New York
City harbor*.
Bigstockphoto.
com

Help for the economy

(continued from page 1)

They must be American citizens or legal permanent residents*.

How much will workers get?

Each single adult with an **income*** last year up to \$75,000 will get a payment of \$1,200. Married **couples*** with income up to \$150,000 get \$2,400. Couples with children get an additional \$500 for each child under 17.

Single adults who earned between \$75,001 and \$99,000 and married couples who earned between \$150,001 and \$198,000 get smaller amounts of money.

Adults who earned more than \$99,000 and married couples who earned more than \$198,000 will not receive this stimulus money.

Will I get money from the government?

The government will send the money directly to your bank account, IF:

- you are over 17,
- you have a Social Security number,

- you filed an income tax return for 2018 or 2019,
- you used your account numbers of your bank to receive your **refund*** last year.

You don't have to do anything. If you didn't use a bank account for an income tax refund, the government will mail the check to you. If you didn't file an income tax return last year because you didn't have to, then file a tax return. When you file, include your bank account number and the bank routing number*.

When will the stimulus money arrive?

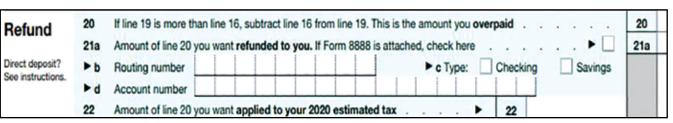
Direct payments to bank accounts started happening April 14. If the government has to mail your check to you, it could take much longer.

What else will help people?

The deadline for filing **federal*** income tax returns for 2019 has been moved from April 15 to July 15.

People can apply for unemployment insurance if they lose their job because of COVID-19. That includes independent contractors (1099 workers). The government is adding an extra \$600 a week.

In some states, landlords cannot evict* people who are not able to pay their rent for the next 120 days. They will still owe* the rent money and will have to pay it later. Many banks will not take away a person's house if the person cannot make the monthly mortgage* payments because of COVID-19. These people will have to pay the mortgage payments they missed later.



When you fill out your tax return, put your bank's routing number and your account number here on your form 1040. If you don't have a bank account, then the government will mail you your refund. IRS.gov

Other terms* in the news

- 1918 flu A deadly pandemic (the Spanish flu) that made 500 million people sick around the world. It killed about 50 million people.
- **asymptomatic** [A SIMP toh MA tik] Adjective to describe a person who has a disease but does not show any symptoms.
- **clinical trial** Using people to test new medicines to see if they work and if they are safe.
- epidemiologist [Eh puh DEE mee AHL ih jist] A scientist who studies diseases and how they spread among people.
- essential workers Workers who must go to work. These include doctors and nurses and people who work in farming, food processing, manufacturing, construction, trash collection, grocery and household goods, hardware stores, home and auto repair, pharmacies and other medical facilities, health care, Post Offices, UPS, and other shippers, newspapers, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics*, pet stores, public transportation, and hotels.
- fatality rate The percentage of people with a disease who die from it. Scientists and public health officials do not know the actual fatality rate from COVID-19 because no one knows how many people have it without showing any symptoms. It could be 1%.
- high-risk In more danger of becoming very sick with COVID-19. Examples include people over 80; people with cancer, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure; or people whose immune* systems are weak
- incubation period The time between when a person is **exposed to*** a virus and when that person begins showing **symptoms*** of that virus. The incubation period of the new coronavirus is two to 14 days.
- mitigate To make something less difficult, less terrible, less painful. outbreak A sudden beginning of a disease.
- social distancing Closing schools, stores, churches, and gatherings. People are told to stay home and to stay 6 feet away from others if they must be out in public. These actions can slow down a fast-spreading infection, so fewer people get sick at the same time.
- **shelter-in-place** Stay at home except for trips to doctors, food stores, or pharmacies.
- state of emergency A declaration by a government during a time of trouble in the country. It gives that government new powers to do things it usually cannot do.
- White House Coronavirus Task Force A group of top doctors and health officials. The task force chairman is U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

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May 2020 Easy English NEWS Page 11

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What's there?

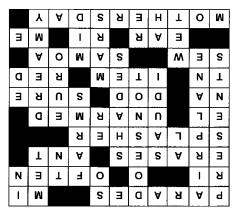
Audio readings!

Cloze* exercises!

Short answer tests!

Critical-thinking* and creative-thinking questions!

Answers to Crossword Puzzle



7. Tell the meaning of these words: *optimum*, *organic*, *stevia*, *allergy*, *arthritis*.

Shenandoah National Park (page 6)

- 1. What is a wilderness area?
- 2. Tell five facts about Shenandoah National Park.
- 3. What are some things visitors can do in this park?
- 4. Why do the ridges of the mountains look blue?
- 5. Tell the meaning of these words: *creature*, *ridge*, *hiker*, *scene*, *view*, *camp*.

Heroes and History: Living through a pandemic (page 7)

- 1. Why will these days of the pandemic be important in history?
- 2. What changes have happened in daily life?
- 3. What will you want to tell your grandchildren about these days?
- 4. Are you keeping a journal of events and feelings? Why or why not?
- 5. Has your school had classes online? Are you able to attend those classes? Tell about it.
- 6. What business and other places in your town have been closed?
- 7. Are you or anyone in your family an essential worker? What do you do?
- 8. How can people thank the doctors, nurses, and other essential workers in our communities?
- 9 Tell the meaning of these words: contagious, cure, treatment, journal, prevent, habit.

Let's talk about it

Why should we stay home? (pages 1 and 9)

- 1. Why is it important for nonessential workers to stay home?
- 2. If you have to go out, how can you avoid spreading the virus?
- 3. What are field hospitals?
- 4. What kind of ships are the USNS Mercy and Comfort? Where are they?
- 5. What equipment do hospitals need?
- 6. What is the purpose of a hand sanitizer?
- 7. What does it mean to "flatten the curve?" How can people do this?
- 8. Tell the meaning of these words: spread, symptoms, essential, sports arena, ventilator, sanitizer, immunity, FEMA.

Help for the economy (pages 1 and 9)

- 1. How has COVID-19 affected the U.S. economy?
- 2. What is the purpose of the \$2.3 trillion dollar stimulus?
- 3. Who will get money from this? How much?
- 4. How else will the government help people?
- 5. Who will get \$1,200 from the government?
- 6. Tell the meaning of these words: affected, unemployed, survive, economy, stimulus, income, bank account, income tax return.

Events in May (pages 2 & 3)

1. Name ten Asian and Pacific Island countries.

- 2. What events happened in May in Asian-American history?
- 3. Tell five ideas that came to the U.S. from Asian countries.
- 4. Will you celebrate Asian and Pacific-Island Heritage month? How?
- 5. What happened May 5, 1862 in Mexico?
- 6. How do Mexican Americans celebrate *Cinco de Mayo?*
- 7. What will you do on Mother's Day this year?
- 8. What is the purpose of Armed Forces Day?
- 9. What is the purpose of Memorial Day?
- 10. What are some activities in the U.S. on Memorial Day? Which of these activities do you think will be canceled this year?
- 11. Is there a Memorial Day in your home country? Tell about it.
- 12. Tell the meaning of these words: martial arts, yoga, acupuncture, defeat, Selective Service, dawn, poppy.

This is your page (page 4)

- 1. Tell about a favorite holiday dessert in your home country.
- 2. Have you ever left something behind? Did you get it back? Tell about it.
- 3. Tell an anecdote about your first day in school.
- 4. Have you ever been to a store like Costco, BJs, or Sam's Club? Tell about it.
- 5. Where would you go if you knew a tornado was coming?
- 6. What are some differences between restaurants in America and restaurants in your home country?

7. Tell the meaning of these words: delicious, convince, counter, rare, challenges, receipt, rude, tip.

Who will run against Donald Trump for president? (page 5)

- 1. What Democratic candidate dropped out of the presidential race? Why? Who will be the Republican candidate?
- 2. How did the COVID-19 pandemic change the campaign?
- 3. What is more important: staying at home to prevent the spread of disease, or voting in an election? What decision did many people in Wisconsin make?
- 4. Will the Democratic and Republican conventions take place in August?
- 5. Will Americans vote for president in person or by mail in November?
- 6. Tell the meaning of these words: candidate, drop out, delegate, nomination, rally, ballot, convention.

Dr. Ali's Breakfast (page 5)

- 1. What are the benefits of good hydration and good nutrition?
- 2. What problems does dehydration cause?
- 3. What is overhydration?
- 4. What vegetables does Dr.
 Ali suggest for his breakfast juice? What else is in Dr.
 Ali's breakfast?
- 5. Tell eight benefits of drinking Dr. Ali's breakfast.
- 6. Will you try some of Dr. Ali's suggestions? Why or why not?

WORD HELP

Some of the words below have many meanings. We give only the meanings you need for this month's newspaper.

active duty noun. Currently working in the armed forces. acupuncture [AK yoo PUNK chuhr] noun. A medical practice using thin needles. affect verb. To cause a change. ally noun. A friend or partner. ancient adjective. From a very long time ago.

anecdote noun. A short, interesting story about a person. anniversary noun. The day something happened in the past. Appalachian [a puhl AY chee uhn] Trail noun phrase. A 2,000 mile hiking trail from Georgia to Maine.

arena noun. A place for sports events.

Arlington National Cemetery noun phrase. A cemetery for American soldiers and war veterans near Washington, D.C. Armed Forces noun phrase, plural. The Air Force, Marines, Army, Navy, and Coast Guard.

avoid verb. To stay away from. ballot noun. A paper on which a person writes their vote. barbecue [BAR buh KYOO] noun. Food cooked on a grill at an outdoor party.

battle noun. A fight between armies.

bill noun. A proposed law that Congress discusses and votes on. borough noun. A city or an area of a city; New York city is divided into 5 boroughs; Manhatten, Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island. calm adjective. Not worried. camp verb. To live in a tent out in the woods.

campaign [kam PAEN] noun. The rallies, speeches, and advertisements to help a candidate get elected.

candidate noun. A person who wants to be elected.

capacity noun. The outer limit of ability to do a job. cemetery [SEHM uh TEHR ee] noun. A place where dead people are buried.

chain noun. A group of stores or restaurants owned by the same company.

challenge noun. A job or task that is hard for someone to do. **chore** noun. A daily or weekly job around the house or office. civil war noun phrase. A war between different parts or groups within a country.

Civil War noun phrase. The war between the North and the South of the United States from 1861 to 1865.

cloze test noun phrase. A test in which a paragraph has blanks for missing words that a student must write in. colonial adjective. Referring to the years before 1776 in America.

community noun. Village, neighborhood, town, city, etc. Congress noun. The body of lawmakers for the U.S. contagious adjective. Easy to spread from one person to another.

convenience store noun phrase. A small store that sells milk, bread, sandwiches, and a little bit of everything.

convention noun. A meeting of a political party or other

convention center noun phrase. A very large building that can be used for meetings of thousands of people. convince verb. To get someone to believe something is true. coronavirus noun. A small bit of protein that causes an upper respiratory illness.

corporation noun. A large business with many owners. counter noun. A hard, flat surface in a store, kitchen, or bathroom.

couple noun. Two people who are married or live together. COVID-19 noun. The name for the coronavirus that started in 2019.

creature noun. An animal. critical thinking noun phrase. Analyzing information, making judgments, solving problems. crowd noun. A large group of people.

culture noun. The language, art, music, and traditional stories of a group of people. cure noun. A medicine that causes a sick person to become

defeat [dih FEET] verb. To conquer or beat in a war. delegate noun. A person who is elected to go to a convention. delicious adjective. Tastes very good.

demonstration noun. A show that tells how to do something. dessert [de ZUHRT] noun. Sweet food usually eaten at the end of a meal.

detail noun. A piece of information.

disease noun. An illness. **donate** verb. To give.

donation center noun phrase. A place where a person can give blood.

draft verb. To require young men to join the Armed Forces. **drop out** verb phrase, idiom. To stop trying to win in a race. economy noun. The sum of all the production, employment, banking systems of a country. emperor noun. A person who rules many countries.

employee noun. A person who works for another person or company.

endorse verb. To publicly support a candidate.

equipment noun. Things that are needed to do a job.

essential adjective. Important; necessary.

evaporate verb. To change from a liquid to a gas (from water to water vapor).

evaporated milk noun phrase. Milk that has had some of the liquid removed by evaporation usually sold in cans.

evict verb. To force a person to move out.

exposed to verb phrase. To have come in contact with the virus (through breathing or touching).

factory noun. A place where people use machines to make things.

fallen adjective. Killed in war. fast verb. To stop eating for a time for religious or health reasons.

federal adjective. National. FEMA noun. Federal **Emergency Management** Agency. The government agency that helps in cases of hurricane, tornado, epidemic, etc.

field hospital noun. A temporary hospital in tents. fiesta [fee EHS tuh] noun. A party with Spanish music, dancing, and food.

flatten the curve verb phrase. To cause a slowdown in the increase of the number of people who catch a disease. food bank noun. A place where people can get free food that has been donated by restaurants, supermarkets, people.

forest noun. A large area with many trees. frequent adjective. Happening

funeral noun. A formal service for a person who has died. grave noun. A place where a

dead body is buried. habit noun. An activity that a person does regularly every day. harbor noun. A place on the coast where ships are safe from rough wind and water. **heritage** *noun*. The history, language, music, art, culture of a group of people.

hiker noun. A person who takes walks out in nature, in the woods, mountains, etc. holy adjective. Important to a religion; sacred.

immigrant noun. A person who moves into a country. immune adjective. Protected against getting a disease. **immunity** noun. The condition of being safe from getting a disease.

include verb. To hold inside; to be comprised of. income noun. The money a person earns.

invade verb. To go into another country with an army. journal noun. A diary of daily events.

Koran noun. The holy book of Muslims. lay off verb. To let workers go

from a job temporarily. literature noun. Well-written stories, novels, and poetry. mariachi [MAR ee AH chee] noun. A group of musicians in traditional Mexican clothing, who play traditional songs. martial [MAR shuhl] arts noun plural. Personal fighting skills such as Karate, Tai Chi, etc. mask noun. A covering for the nose and mouth to help stop the spread of disease. meditation noun. Quieting the mind to reduce stress and achieve a peaceful state. memorial noun. A place, building, activity or event that honors people who have died. mortgage [MOR gij] noun. A loan from a bank to buy a house.

mosque [MAHSK] noun. A house of worship for Muslims. Muni [MYOO nee] (Municipal Railway) noun,

proper. The public train in San Francisco, California.

Muslims noun. Followers of Mohammed, the Prophet of Allah.

National Guard noun phrase. A state army.

nomination *noun*. The naming of a person to an important position.

nutrition service *noun phrase*. An organization that provides food.

origin noun. Where something began; what it was at first. **owe** verb. To have to pay money for a product or service. pandemic noun. A disease that has spread around the world. patient noun. A person who goes to a doctor or hospital for treatment.

permanent resident noun phrase. A person who can stay in the U.S. forever.

population *noun*. The number of people who live in a place. postpone verb. To change an event to a later date.

prepare verb. To get ready for. **prevent** *verb*. To stop something from happening. primary election noun phrase. A political party's election in a state to choose delegates. **protect** *verb*. To keep from being hurt or stolen.

protective gown noun phrase. A special piece of clothing for medical workers to protect themselves from viruses. rally noun. An exciting event where many people come to listen to a candidate make a

campaign speech. ranger [RAEN juhr] noun. A worker in a national park or

rare adjective. Not common. rattlesnake noun. A dangerous, poisonous snake. receipt [rih SEET] noun. A piece of paper that shows that a person paid for something. refund noun. Money that a person gets back if her or she has paid too much. **register** *verb*. To sign one's

name on a list. Reserves noun. A branch of Armed Forces in which people work part time. They are ready in case of an emergency. ridge noun. The top of a row

of mountains. routing number noun. A nine digit number printed on

the bottom of a bank check that identifies which bank the check comes from. rude adjective. Not polite, having bad manners. sanitizer noun. A liquid containing alcohol that kills germs on a person's hands scene noun. A beautiful sight to see...mountains, valleys, etc. Selective Service noun phrase.

The system that collects information from young men in case there is a national emergency.

self-defense noun. Actions to protect oneself.

self-discipline noun. The ability of a person to control appetites, emotions, and temper.

services noun, plural. A set of formal actions in memory of soldiers who died. siren noun. A long, loud sound

that warns of a storm, fire, or other danger.

social distancing noun phrase. Actions that keep people away from each other in order to stop the spread of a virus (closing

schools, churches, stores, etc.). spread verb. To extend over a large area or increase among many people.

stimulus noun. A helpful boost in energy, activity, or money. surgeon general noun phrase. The person who is in charge of medical advice to the nation. **survive** *verb*. To live through a dangerous time.

sympathy noun. The feeling and caring for another person's difficulties.

symptom noun. A sign that a person has an illness (cough, rash, fever, etc.).

temporary adjective. Not long-lasting. For a short time. tent noun. A temporary structure made from canvas or plastic to use outside. term noun. 1. A word or group of words. 2. A period of time. tip noun. Extra money a customer

gives to a service worker. tornado noun. An extremely violent windstorm; winds may be 100 to 300 miles per hour. transcontinental adjective. Across the continent.

treatment noun. Medicine or ways of helping a sick person. unemployed adjective. Without a job.

unemployment noun. A condition of having no work. unemployment insurance noun phrase. Money from the government for a period of time that a person is not

working. **update** verb. To give the newest information. vaccine [vak SEEN] noun. A medicine to prevent a disease. vapor [VAY p'r] noun. The gas that water turns to when it evaporates.

ventilator noun. A device that helps a person's lungs move so the person can breathe. veterinary clinic noun. An animal doctor's office. view noun. Beautiful things to see.

victory noun. A win over an enemy.

virus noun. A microscopic parasite that uses the living cells of a body to reproduce itself. Some viruses cause disease. volunteer 1. noun. A person who does something willingly and without pay. 2. adjective. Without being forced. Doing something willingly. vulgar adjective. Offensive, obscene, indecent, or rude "lower class" words. wildlife noun. Animals such

as bear, deer, elk, squirrels, rabbits, birds, moose, etc. wilderness area noun. A place that is kept "wild." That is, no roads, homes, or businesses are allowed.

withdrew verb, past form of withdraw. To take an army out of a country.

yoga [YOH guh] noun. A system of physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation to promote physical and emotional well-being. ZOOM noun. An Internet

program that allows people to take part in a meeting.