

# CELEBRATIONS

onestopenglish

## Independence Day

Teacher's notes

**Age:** Teenagers/Adults  
**Level:** Intermediate (B1)  
**Time:** 45 minutes



**TEACHING TIP:** If students don't know all of the vocabulary, hand out dictionaries and tell students to look up any unfamiliar words. Reading the definitions will provide them with new vocabulary which they can then teach to their classmates.

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

1. Do a quiz about the US using the alphabet
2. Write their own quiz

**Language focus:** vocabulary connected to the United States

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student; a couple of sheets of blank paper per student

### Procedure

1. Write USA on the board. Ask students to work in pairs and write down all the words they can think of that are associated with the USA. Give them a strict time limit of three minutes.
2. Next, hand out the worksheet. Ask students to look at the pictures at the top of the page and see if they have written down any of the words which the pictures represent. If not, they should add them to their list.
3. When they have finished, discuss what they have written in their lists, offering any help needed with spelling and pronunciation.
4. Ask students to look at Exercise 1. Find out if anyone in the class has visited the USA and whether it was similar to what they expected.
5. Next tell students do Exercise 2, choosing words or expressions from the alphabet bubbles on page 2 of the worksheet.
6. When they have finished, check the answers as a class, nominating students randomly. Once all the answers have been checked, tell students to work with a new partner and write another quiz about the USA using the words and phrases which were not used in the first quiz.

7. Students work in groups and prepare a similar A-Z quiz about their country (without the word list clues if they are from the same country). Then they pass it on to other groups to answer.

Key:

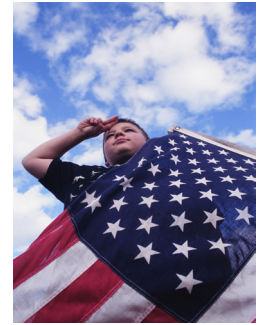
apple pie  
buck  
cheerleader  
Disneyland  
Elvis  
fall  
guys  
Have a nice day!  
ID  
jazz  
KFC  
liberty  
mall  
NBA  
Oprah  
prom  
quarter  
rock 'n' roll  
stars and stripes  
Thanksgiving  
uptown  
vacation  
Wall Street  
X-rated  
yellow cabs  
zee

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Worksheet



### Exercise 1: Talking about the USA

Have you ever been to the USA? What was it like? Where did you visit? Was it what you expected it to be like? If not, where would you like to visit in the USA? What do you think it would be like?

### Exercise 2: Independence Day Quiz

The Fourth of July is an important holiday in the United States. It is Independence Day, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Below is a quiz. The answers are words associated with the United States. On the next page, the alphabet bubbles contain the answers mixed in with other words. Read the clues and write down the correct words.

Try to complete as many as you can without looking at the word bubbles.

**a** The expression goes: 'It's as American as \_\_\_\_\_!' It's something you eat.

**b** You'll need plenty of these if you're planning a visit. (An informal word for a dollar)

**c** She dances at football games to try and animate the crowd.

**d** Come here to see your favourite cartoon characters in the flesh.

**e** The King. Officially, he's dead, but some believe he was abducted by aliens.

**f** It comes after summer. It's also called autumn.

**g** Another word for boys or men, but often used when talking to or about people of either sex.

**h** No goodbye is complete without this expression.

**i** Carry this with you at all times, especially if you look younger than you really are!

**j** Sometimes called the classical music of black America.

**k** 'It's finger-licking good!' At least that's what Colonel Sanders said about his fast food.

**l** It's so important to the American way of life that there's a statue in New York Harbour personifying it.

**m** Some Americans spend all day here, shopping, eating and relaxing under one roof.

**n** All of the best (and tallest) players in the world play in it.

**o** The queen of TV talk show hosts, and one of the best-paid people on US TV.

**p** Another name for a formal high school dance.

**q** A 25-cent coin. Get four and you've got a dollar.

**r** Born in the 1950s, some say this music will never die.

**s** You can see these on the flag. There are 50 of one and 13 of the other.

**t** Celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, this holiday is even bigger than Christmas.

**u** If you want to get away from the noise of downtown, get yourself a place to live here.

**v** The British have a holiday. The Americans take one of these.

**w** So you want to be where the money is? This could be the right place for you to work.

**x** For your eyes only if you're 18 or over.

**y** What New York private detectives jump in when they say, 'Follow that car!'

**z** How Americans say the last letter of the alphabet.

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### Worksheet

apple pie  
automobile

gals  
geek  
graduation  
Greyhound  
bus  
groovy  
guns  
guys

mall  
Marilyn  
McDonald's  
mega  
Mickey Mouse  
mom  
Mormons

Thanksgiving  
therapy  
trucks

Barbie  
baseball  
blues  
bro  
buck

hamburger  
Have a nice  
day!  
Hi!  
high school  
hillbilly  
Hollywood  
hot dog

nah  
Native  
Americans  
NBA  
nerd

uptown  
US  
Utah

Cajun  
California  
Calvin Klein  
cheerleader  
cool  
cops

Oprah  
Oreos

vacation

dad  
dig it  
dime  
diner  
Disneyland  
dork  
dot-com  
drive-in  
duh  
dunno

ID  
interstate

pledge of  
allegiance  
Popeye  
powwow  
prom

Wall Street  
wanna  
weird  
westerns  
White House  
Wizard of Oz  
wow

James Dean  
jazz  
jerk  
John Doe  
John Wayne  
justice

Quakers  
quarter  
Queens

X-rated

Ellis Island  
Elvis  
evangelism

Kennedys  
KFC  
Kojak

religion  
rock 'n' roll  
Rockefeller  
Rockies

yeah  
yearbook  
yellow cabs  
yuppie

fall  
far out  
fast food  
football  
Ford

liberty  
light

sitcom  
skyscraper  
slavery  
Snoopy  
stars and  
stripes  
states

zee  
zip code