READING AND SPEAKING

Living in the USA

1 Close your eyes and think of the United States. Write down the first five things you think of.

The Empire State Building
Cheeseburger and fries

Compare your list with other students.

2 Read the introduction to the magazine article. Then work in three groups.
Group A Read about Roberto.
Group B Read about Endre.
Group C Read about Yuet Tung.

3 Answer the questions.

1 Why and when did he/she come to the US?
2 What does he/she do?
3 What does he/she like about living in the US?
4 What was difficult at the beginning?

4 Find a partner from each of the other two groups. Compare the three people.

5 Answer the questions with your group.

1 What do the people have in common?
2 Are they all happy living in the US?
3 Who has other members of their family living there?
4 Do they all have children?
5 Who married someone from their own country?
6 What do Roberto and Endre like about the US?
7 What do they say about their own country?
8 Do they like the people?
9 What do they say about Americans and their cars?

What do you think?

- What do you like best about living in your country? What would you miss if you lived abroad?
- Do you know any foreigners living in your country? What do they like about it? What do they find different?

LIVING IN

The people of the United States are nearly all immigrants, or descendants of immigrants. It is a young country, and much of the population has relatives who live in other parts of the world.

But how do they find the US when they first arrive? What do they think of the people, the culture, the way of life?

Jamie Peterson spoke to three of them.

N THE USA

Roberto Solano
aged 24, from Mexico

Roberto came from Acapulco to New York ten years ago. At first he missed everything – the sunshine, the food, his girlfriend. But now he has a successful business with his three brothers and his sister. They run a soccer store in New Brunswick. Roberto's girlfriend is now his wife, and they have two children who go to American schools.

When asked why he came to the US, Roberto says without hesitation, 'Because I want to work hard and be successful.' He certainly works hard. He's at the store all day, then works as a driver in the evening. 'That's why I like America,' he says. 'You can be what you want.'

'When I first came here, I didn't speak the language, and it was winter. It was so cold! There was snow! Now nearly all my family are here, not only in New York, but also in California, and in Texas. We meet about once a month and have a huge Mexican meal that takes about five hours! We're all happy here.'

Endre Boros
aged 45, from Hungary

Endre is a mathematician at Rutgers University, New Jersey. He came from Budapest thirteen years ago. 'I had an opportunity to come here for two years.' After a year, his wife came to join him, and since then they've had a daughter, so they decided to stay.

'At first it was very strange. Everything is so big here,' he says. 'I started to feel happy when I bought a car. Now I go everywhere by car. In Hungary, we only use the car at weekends, but here your car is part of your life. Nobody walks anywhere.'

How does he find the people? 'Very friendly. The first question everybody asks you is "Where are you from?" People talk to you here, they start conversations. I like the fact that there are people from all over the world.'

What about the way of life? 'The thing I like best is the independence. Nobody tells me what to do. Here you can do what you want, so you learn to make decisions for yourself. I feel in control.'

Yuet Tung
aged 31, from Hong Kong

Yuet Tung is her Chinese name, but in English she's known as Clara. She came to the US eight years ago and studied fine art. Now she works on Madison Avenue for a publisher. She married a Vietnamese American three years ago, and they live in Long Island. They don't have any children yet.

What does she think of living in New York? 'It's very similar to Hong Kong. It's a busy city, very exciting, and people walk very fast! I like the stores here. They're huge, and it's cheaper than Hong Kong. But you need a car here. In Hong Kong everyone uses public transportation, because it's good and it's cheap. At first I hated driving here, but it's OK now.'

What does she like best? 'The space. Here I live in a house with a yard. In Hong Kong it is so crowded. And the people are friendly. When I go jogging, everyone says "Hi!" And the food is from every country in the world.'

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

You drive me mad (but I love you)!

1 Complete these sentences about the people in your life. Tell a partner.

- My mother/father drives me mad when she/he . . .
- I hate it when my boyfriend/girlfriend . . .
- I don't like people who . . .
- It really annoys me when friends . . .

2 Choose one person in your life. What annoying habits does he/she have?

Does he/she . . . ?
- always arrive late
- talk too loudly
- leave things on the floor

Is he/she . . . ?
- untidy
- always on the phone
- never on time

What annoying habits do *you* have? Discuss with your partner.

3 You are going to listen to a radio programme called *Home Truths*. Two couples, Carol and Mike, and Dave and Alison, talk about their partner's annoying habits. Look at the pictures below. What are their annoying habits?

T 2.5 Listen and write the correct names under each picture below.

4 Are these sentences true (✓) or false (✗)? Correct the false sentences.

1 Carol and Mike never watch television.
2 Mike doesn't listen when his wife speaks to him.
3 Carol makes the decisions in their house.
4 Mike shouts at his wife when she's driving.
5 Dave never does any jobs at home.
6 Dave is bad at his job.
7 Alison tidies up Dave's mess.
8 Alison is very organized.

What do you think?

1 Do men or women typically complain about their partners doing these things?

- watching sport on TV
- driving badly
- taking a long time to get ready
- not tidying things away

2 What do you think men are generally better at? What are women better at?

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Making conversation

1 **T 2.6** Listen to two conversations. Maria and Jean-Paul are foreign students in Britain. Their teachers are trying to be friendly. Which conversation is more successful? Why?

2 Obviously, it is impossible to tell someone how to have a conversation, but here are some things that help.

- Ask questions.
- Show that you're interested.
- Don't just answer *yes* or *no*.
- Try to add a comment of your own.
- Don't let the conversation stop.

Find examples of these in the tapescripts on p119.

3 Match a line in **A** with a reply in **B** and a further comment in **C**.

A	B	C
1 What a lovely day it is today!	I'm enjoying it.	Was it a good game?
2 It's very wet today.	Yes, no problems.	That's very kind of you.
3 How are you today?	I'm very well, thanks.	We had a pub lunch and went for a walk.
4 Did you have a nice weekend?	No, I missed it.	The plane was a bit late, but it didn't matter.
5 How are you finding living in London?	Thank you.	Makes you feel miserable, doesn't it?
6 Did you have a good journey?	Thank you very much.	I got it in Paris last year.
7 Did you watch the football yesterday?	Yes.	How about you?
8 What a lovely coat you're wearing!	Yes, it was lovely.	It was a bit strange at first, but I'm getting used to it.
9 If you have any problems, just ask me for help.	Mm. Horrible.	Beautiful, isn't it?

T 2.7 Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

4 Think of three questions to ask someone about each of these subjects.

- job • home • free time • last holiday

5 Invent a new name and background for yourself.

My name's James Bond. I'm a spy. I have homes in London, Moscow, and Beijing …

Stand up! You're all at a party. Try to make some friends.