

# Tales from America

A film by Daniel Emmerson presented by EnglishClub.com



## Activity 1

How much do you know about America? Test yourself with this 'true or false' quiz!

1. America is the largest country in the world.
2. New York is the capital city of the USA.
3. New York was originally called New Amsterdam.
4. The USA celebrates its independence from Britain on 4<sup>th</sup> July every year.
5. There are 50 states in the USA.

## Activity 2

Now watch the first part of the film about learning English in the USA. As you watch, fill in the table below.

Interviewee	Nationality	Occupation	Why is s/he in the USA?
Lee Nitel		Student	For a university course she will start next month in her own country.
Aneta Kaint	Austrian	Student	
A Rum Yang		Student	To feel closer to native speakers.
Adrian Petrov	Argentinian	Engineer	

## Activity 3

Now watch the rest of the film. The interviewees in the film answer the following questions. Read the questions below and discuss what you think the interviewees might say in response. Then watch the video once to find out if your ideas were right.

1. Why do learners visiting New York think studying English is important?
2. What problems do people have when learning English?
3. How does being in New York help with these problems?
4. What tips do learners visiting New York have for other learners of English?

## Activity 4

Now watch the film again and complete the following exercises:

Watch the interviewees answering the first question and tick the answers you hear on the list below. Be careful: there are two answers on the list below which are not mentioned in the video!

1. English is useful when speaking with tourists.
2. Computer software programs are in English.
3. English is important when travelling around the world.
4. English is useful for communicating with people from international companies.
5. An English exam certificate is necessary to graduate from universities in many different countries.
6. It is important to have certification in English to prove that you know English.

Watch the interviewees answering the second question and find out who makes the following statements.

7. ....says that it can be difficult to find the right expressions when speaking.
8. ....says that English grammar is very different from his/her native tongue.
9. ....says that s/he found listening and speaking a bit hard.
10. ....says that s/he found English grammar difficult at first.

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## Activity 4 (continued)

Watch the interviewees answering the third question and correct the following statements.

11. You can improve your vocabulary and grammar outside class and hear different accents.
12. You can listen to songs in English.
13. You can speak a lot with other students and hear a lot when you go outside, for example, into the street or into a shop.
14. You overcome the fear of not speaking English fluently.
15. You gain confidence and stop worrying about getting a job.



Watch the interviewees answering the third question. Put this advice in the order you hear it on the video.

- A. If you can't travel abroad, take English seriously: practise for at least 2 hours every day or do an intensive course.
- B. Go to a country where English is the native language because you start thinking in that language.
- C. Watch television.
- D. Go to a city where everyone speaks English because you have to speak English to connect with people.
- E. Talk a lot with native speakers, even if you make mistakes.
- F. Practise more: speaking, accents. Get a government grant to travel, if you can.

## Activity 5

Discuss the following questions.

1. Have you ever studied English in an English-speaking country?
2. How long would you need to stay in an English-speaking country to learn to speak English fluently?
3. Do you agree with Adrian when he says that, if you can't study abroad, it is necessary to take English seriously and practise for one or two hours *every day*?
4. Which is more useful for you: American English or British English? Why? Which do you find easier to understand? Why do you think this is?
5. Some of the interviewees recommend watching TV in English – in what ways can this help students to master the English language?
6. What can you do to conquer your fears and gain confidence when speaking English?
7. What other questions do you think the film should have asked?
8. What did you find most interesting or surprising about the video?
9. If you could go abroad to study, would you choose to go to America? Why/not?
10. If you want to learn English, is it better to study in an English-speaking country or simply to get a job there, for example, in a bar or a shop?

## Activity 6

Imagine you are making a film like 'Tales from America'. Interview your partner, using the questions below.

1. Would you consider going abroad to learn English? What are the advantages and disadvantages of learning English in an English-speaking country?
2. Why is learning English important for you?
3. What problems do you have learning English?
4. How would living in an English-speaking country, like America, help with these problems?
5. What tips and advice can you offer to other learners who are thinking of studying English abroad?

The information, statements and answers used in this worksheet are taken from the film in question and interviewees' responses. They are not necessarily true for the whole country, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the filmmaker or of EnglishClub.com.