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A Supplementary Reference Guide for Non-native English Speakers on the Communicative and Cultural Aspects in the ESL Miscellany

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A Supplementary Reference Guide for Non-native
English Speakers on the Communicative and Cultural Aspects
in the ESL Miscellany

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for the Master of Arts in Teaching degree at the School for
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Abstract:

This is a supplementary guide designed especially for non-native ESL users to be used in conjunction with The ESL Miscellany. It covers two parts of the book, the Communicative Aspect and the Cultural Aspect. In the Communicative Aspect this guide includes the definitions of all the idioms under the different categories, such as food, music, colors, and religion which appear in The ESL Miscellany. In the Cultural Aspect, six areas have been explained and defined. These are "Famous Americans", "Heroes", "Historical Sites", "Dates and Holidays", "Famous Quotations", and "Proverbs".

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Introduction

Having been an English major in college and having studied English in the United States for almost two years, I am quite confident of my knowledge of the English language and U.S. culture. However when I started using The ESL Miscellany¹, an excellent and rich resource handbook for ESL teachers, I found myself having a great deal of difficulty in understanding all the information in two sections of the book; the Communicative Aspect and the Cultural Aspect. I could not understand the idioms of the Communicative Aspect and I had very limited information on the six parts of the Cultural Aspect section. These six parts were "Famous Americans", "Heroes", "Historical Sites", "Dates and Holidays", "Famous Quotations", and "Proverbs". I realized that my knowledge of these language and cultural items was too limited for me to meet my future teaching the language confidently. In order to increase my own understanding and to help this book be a more useful tool in my teaching, I decided to research the idioms as well as the six parts

¹ Raymond C. Clark, Patrick R. Moran, A. Burrows, with a photographic study of American gestures by Peg Clement, The ESL Miscellany (Brattleboro: Pro Lingua Associates, 1981). This book has five sections: "The Linguistic Aspect", "The Communicative Aspect", "The Cultural Aspect", "The Meta-linguistic and Miscellaneous Aspect", and "The Para-linguistic Aspect".

of the Cultural Aspect I mentioned. This project is thus meant to be a supplement to The ESL Miscellany to be used by non-native ESL teachers.

When working on the idioms in the Communicative section of the book, I talked with my American friends to determine what the idioms meant to them as native speakers. This was suggested by my teacher, Bonnie Mennell, because she believed this would be of great help to me as a non-native speaker. To understand the idioms further, I also consulted several dictionaries. Thus, the meanings of the idioms I have written are based on the definitions given by native speakers in the United States and the explanations given in dictionaries. I have only supplied brief definitions and these idioms should of course be used in context.

As for the "Cultural Aspect" section of the book, the parts I chose to investigate were the parts I felt would be of most use to me, and I assume to other non-native English speakers. My experience in first using the book was that my knowledge was only superficial in the sections I have listed from the "Cultural Aspect" section of the book. I was completely unaware of the deeper meanings of these cultural items and their significance to native speakers. For instance, I knew the literal meaning of the quotation "Here's looking at you, kid", but I didn't know it also meant "I think of you, I love you." This same thing happened to me repeatedly, so I decided to research these items.

During my work on this supplementary Reference Guide, I was surprised to find myself becoming more alert when listening to others in daily conversation. Idioms, expressions, names, places, and sayings which had meant nothing to me before were now meaningful. I understand now that American shops sell candy eggs at Easter because eggs symbolize life and fertility. "Bunker Hill" is famous because of its historical significance during the American Revolutionary War. When people say that "If you don't like the weather in New England, just wait a few minutes", they are referring to the fact that the weather in New England changes rapidly and radically. Babe Ruth was a folk hero because he was a great baseball home-run hitter. Talking with native speakers and doing the research was interesting and taught me much. Though I sometimes felt a little upset by the different interpretations of the same thing given by people, I definitely understand the language better now and American cultural as well. To my amazement, I became involved in the topics I was working on. Those things now seem to have become a part of my life.

I understand that this supplementary Reference Guide is not complete and might not contain all the necessary information. However, I have learned much by writing it. I hope that it will be of help to non-native English speakers outside the United States.

Please Note

The following Section, pages 1 to 31, focuses on the idioms of the Communicative Aspect of the book. They are arranged according to their order of appearance in The ESL Miscellany. These idioms belong to different parts of speech which have been indicated by the following symbols:

v. (verb) a.(adjective) n.(noun) av.(adverb)

The ones that are not marked are complete sentences.

Food

baker's dozen (n.)--thirteen

baloney (n.)--not true, as in "that's baloney!"

beef about (v.)--to complain

bring home the bacon (n.)--to be the wage earner
(v.)--to earn the wages

corny (a.)--silly

cream of the crop (n.)--the best of the group

cry over spilled milk (v.)--to complain after the damage is
done and nothing can be done

cup of tea (n.)--one's preference; what one likes

egg on (v.)--to urge or incite

fishy (a.)--not quite right, suspicious

have one's cake and eat it (too) (v.)--to have more than one
deserves

not know beans about it (v.)--not know anything about it

proof of the pudding (n.)--confirmation of hypothesis

put one's eggs in one basket (v.)--to concentrate on one area
to the exclusion of other
areas

sour grapes (n.)--an attitude of bitterness and resentment
because a person did not get what he wanted

square meal (n.)--a well-balanced meal

take the cake (v.)--surpass everything, become audacious, impudent

upper crust (n.)--the wealthy, those of high social and economic
status

Cooking

a flash in the pan (n.)--an effort that is quickly over

Clothes

be in someone's shoes (v.)--go through the actual experience
of another person and understand it

burn a hole in one's pocket (v.)--spend a lot of money

buttonhole someone (v.)--talk to someone without stopping

dolled up (a.)--dressed up

handle with kid gloves (v.)--handle something very carefully

hit below the belt (v.)--insult someone badly; do something
unfair to someone

keep one's shirt on (v.)--stop, calm down

look for a needle in the haystack (v.)--look for something
difficult to find or
to do

lose one's shirt (v.)--lose everything, probably to go bank-
rupt

on a shoestring (n.)--on a small budget

on pins and needles (a.)--very nervous about something

shoe on the other foot (a.)--things or situations totally
reversed

spin a yarn (v.)--tell a story

stuffed shirt (n.)--a stiff, pompous person

tied to someone's apron strings (v.)--can't get away from
someone

wear and tear (n.)--damage sustained as result of ordinary
use

Paraphernalia

(cannot) make head or tail (v.)--make no sense

pipe dream (n.)--something that is never going to happen

put that in your pipe and smoke it--stop and think about
that for a while

up to snuff (a.)--it is as good as people say it is

Family

better half (n.)--husband or wife

chip off the old block (n.)--a child resembling its father

favorite son (n.)--person preferred as presidential candidate by delegates from his own state

Human Relationships

have an affair (v.)--have a sexual relationship with someone outside of marriage

blind date (v.)--go out with someone whom one has never met
(n.)--the person is called a blind date

fair sex (n.)--referring to the female gender

fall guy (n.)--victim, a person easily cheated

gang up on (v.)--to harass or attack as a group (gang)

old man(lady)--referring to one's husband or wife

ringleader (n.)--the leader of a gang (negative connotation)

side-kick (n.)--best friend; someone with whom you are often seen

sponge off (someone) (v.)--to live by relying on another's generosity (negative connotation)

sucker (n.)--a foolish person, especially one who pays too much for something

Tom, Dick and Harry--everybody; anybody at all

Time

behind the times (a.)--old-fashioned

call it a day--stop working

take the wind out of someone's sails (v.)--if someone is boasting, and you tell the truth about him/her, so he cannot boast anymore

three sheets to the wind (a.)--drunk

up in the air (a.)--helpless, cannot make a decision

weather the storm (v.)--come through a hard time successfully

windfall (n.)--unexpected receipt of money or something of value

Geography

a stone's throw (av.)--not very far away

babies in the wood (n.)--innocent people

bog down (v.)--to get stuck

dirt-cheap (a.)--very inexpensive, a good deal

down-to-earth (a.)--sensible, simple and straightforward

high and dry (a.)--helpless; destitute

leave no stone unturned (v.)--to look everywhere

once in a blue moon (av.)--very seldom; rarely

out of the woods (a.)--out of danger, in the clear

out of this world (a.)--crazy; great (depend on the context)

out to sea (a.)--out of contact; not in touch; in one's own world

(to) sell down the river (v.)--(to) betray or deceive

spaced out (a.)--someone who is there physically, but their mind is elsewhere

stem the tide (v.)--to change public opinion, to turn the tide

stick in the mud (n.)--someone who is no fun

under the sun (av.)--everywhere or anywhere on earth

win by a landslide (v.)--in an election, to win by a very
large majority

Animals

back the wrong horse (v.)--make a bad choice, to choose a loser

black sheep (n.)--the one who is different or someone who is
actually bad

bull session (n.)--a random, informal group discussion

bum steer (n.)--misinformation

let the cat out of the bag (v.)--reveal a secret

cock-and-bull story (n.)--an untrue story

copy-cat (n.)--a person who copies someone else's actions

crocodile tears (n.)--fake crying

cry wolf (n.)--give a false alarm

dark horse (n.)--one who receives unexpected support as a
candidate for the nomination in a political
convention

fish out of water (n.)--someone out of one's element or
comfortable environment

get one's goat (a.)--ignorant, awkward

gift horse (n.)--"Don't look a gift horse in the mouth" means
when someone does a favor for you, don't
find fault with any part of it.

go to the dogs (v.)--go to ruin; to degenerate

hold one's horses (v.)--slow down; be patient

horse around (v.)--fool around, usually in sense of pushing
and shoving people

horse of another color (n.)--another matter entirely

in the doghouse (av.)--in trouble

make a beeline for (v.)--to go straight towards

make a monkey out of (v.)--make someone looks silly

monkey around with (v.)--fool around

pig-headed (a.)--stubborn

play possum (v.)--pretend to be dead

road hog (n.)--a driver who takes up more than his share of
the road

smell a rat (v.)--suspect that something underhanded or
treacherous is going on

snake in the grass (n.)--unsuspected, unknown enemy hidden
from one's view

straight from the horse's mouth (av.)--direct from the highest
authority concerned

take the bull by the horns (v.)--to attack or encounter a
threatened danger fearlessly

throw the bull (v.)--talk nonsense

white elephant (n.)--a rare and expensive possession that is
financially a burden to keep, an article
no longer wanted by its owner

wolf in sheep's clothing (n.)--person who appears friendly but
is really an enemy

Birds

bird in the hand (n.)--it comes from "A bird in the hand is
worth two in the bush," which means
that' something which one has, though
small, is better than something larger,
which one doesn't have

birds of a feather (n.)--people that are alike

chicken (n.)--a person who is afraid of everything
(a.)--cowardly

cook one's goose (v.)--to make a mistake and have to live with
the consequences

early bird (n.)--someone who gets up early in the morning, or
the first person to take advantage of an
opportunity

eat crow (v.)--retract one's word

feather in one's cap (n.)--something one has achieved or
accomplished and is proud of

kill two birds with one stone (v.)--to accomplish two things
at once

nest egg (n.)--money put aside for future use

swan song (n.)--last performance, appearance (from the belief
that a swan sings sweetly when about to die)

talk turkey (v.)--to talk plainly and frankly; to discuss the
facts

ugly duckling (n.)--someone who is not very good-looking

water off a duck's back (n.)--producing no effect

wild goose chase (n.)--a hopeless pursuit of an unattainable
or imaginary object

Plants and Trees

against the grain (a.)--to take some action or advocate
beliefs, ideas which are contrary to
the popular way of thinking or behaving

beat around the bush (v.)--to not really say what is on one's
mind

bed of roses (n.)--fun, easy life

grapevine (n.)--one person tells another person who tells
another...and so on

hit the hay (n.)--go to bed, go to asleep

in a nutshell (av.)--concisely and simply

the last straw (n.)--one last provocation that just cannot be
ignored

out on a limb (av.)--to be in a risky or uncertain position

rest on one's laurels (v.)--to be content with past successes
or achievements, without trying
to attain anything new

reap what you sow (v.)--your actions largely determine what
happens to you

sow one's wild oats (v.)--used to describe young men (18-25) who are usually sexually promiscuous. (This idiom never used to describe promiscuous women)

turn over a new leaf (v.)--to mend one's way, reform some bad habits

wallflower (n.)--usually a girl/boy at a dance or party too shy to dance, start a conversation or circulate among the party guests

Language

call a spade a spade (v.)--to use direct, straightforward language and avoid euphemisms

call to order (v.)--to ask for quiet, or to announce the beginning of a meeting

far cry (n.)--a long way from what was anticipated

a close call (n.)--a narrow escape

double talk (n.)--long, official sounding words that actually mean nothing

read between the lines (v.)--to understand what may be an implicit, hidden meaning

sign on the dotted line--it is a deal!

swear on a stack of Bibles (v.)--In legal courts, Americans have to take an oath to tell the truth with their left hand on the Bible

neither rhyme nor reason (v.)--doesn't make any sense

(the) talk of the town (n.)--something or somebody everyone is talking about

tall tale(story) (n.)--an exaggerated story stretching the truth to a ridiculous extreme, usually funny

Thinking

know the ropes (v.)--be familiar with the workings of a particular job or situation

level-headed (a.)--to be calm, rational and collected in any situation

(can't) make head or tail (v.)--doesn't make sense

pipe dream (n.)--something that is never going to happen

neither rhyme nor reason (v.)--doesn't make any sense

Numbers and Math

face value (av.)--what something or somebody seems to be from appearance

fifty-fifty (av.)--in half, equally

lump sum (n.)--the total

put two and two together (v.)--make logical deduction from the facts

second-rate (a.)--not excellent quality

seeing double (v.)--to be so surprised by something out of the ordinary that one questions one's own sight

sixes and sevens (a.)--all mixed up (Nobody uses this idiom)

Colors

black and blue (a.)--bruised and battered condition

blue, the blues (a.)--a depressed and saddened frame of mind
(n.)--a kind of music

dyed-in-the-wool (a.)--thorough; out-and-out

greenhorn (n.)--an inexperienced or immature person

green with envy (a.)--jealous

in black and white (a.)--spelled out clearly

in the pink (a.)--in good health

in the red (a.)--in a financial bind

paint the town red (v.)--live it up; eat, drink and be merry

red carpet (a.)--royalty, special treatment

(don't have a) red cent (a.)--no money at all

red herring (n.)--distraction deliberately done to divert
others' attention from something important

red letter day (n.)--memorably happy day

red tape (n.)--impedimental use of official forms and
procedures

silver lining(n.)--there is a good side to everything

yellow(cowardly) (a.)--traitorous

shapes

round peg in a square hole (a.)--something in the wrong place;
someone who does not know
how to do what he is doing

vicious circle (a.)--action and reaction that only intensify
each other

odds and ends (n.)--things, not important, but they should
or need to be done

sharp as a tack (a.)--smart, quick to understand things

straight as an arrow (n.)--honest person or one who always
obeys rules

run circles around someone (v.)--to outsmart someone or to
be quick to understand
something

Substances and Materials

blow off steam (v.)--to speak out, to tell someone what
one is thinking

brass tacks (n.)--basic facts, the real issue

fly in the ointment (n.)--a problem with something; something
that detracts from effectiveness

go up in smoke (v.)--a project being worked on has fallen
apart

lay it on thick (v.)--to try too hard to be funny, liked, etc.

take a powder (v.)--run away; leave, to tell someone to get
out

scratch the surface (v.)--only a surface look at a problem,
not in depth

throw cold water on (v.)--to tell someone that their idea is
not workable

knock on wood (v.)--to hope for good luck

Containers

in the bag (av.)--a sure thing, something definite

have someone over a barrel (v.)--to catch someone in a diffi-
cult position; to have some-
one under one's power

bottleneck (n.)--any hindrance to production or progress

boxed in (v.)--trapped

drop in the bucket (n.)--a very small amount

left holding the bag (av.)--when one person is blamed for
something that others contributed
to

lock, stock, and barrel (av.)--all, completely

(to be on one's) soapbox (n.)--someone is preaching self-
rightously

windbag (n.)--someone talks too much without saying anything
important

Emotions

at wit's end (av.)--don't know what to do

blow one's top (v.)--very angry, to lose control and become
very angry

fit to be tied (a.)--furious; angry; in a great rage

go to pieces (v.)--to fall apart, to lose control

happy as a clam (a.)--very content
 hot and bothered (a.)--to be upset
 in a dither (a.)--in a state of confusion
 make a scene (v.)--to behave inappropriately in a situation
 and cause other people to be upset
 method in one's madness (n.)--one's behavior is not as un-
 reasonable as it seems
 out of sorts (a.)--in a bad mood; irritable
 stand-offish (a.)--aloof; unsociable
 tear jerker (n.)--a pathetic story, drama, or performance
 apt to make one foolishly sentimental, weepy
 trouble the waters (v.)--to cause trouble

The Body and Its Functions

after one's own heart (a.)--meet one's personal preferences
 or desires
 all ears (a.)--acutely attentive
 apple of one's eye (n.)--someone or something dearly loved
 give one's right arm (v.)--to be willing to give everything
 one has for something
 at arm's length (a.)--at a distance; not on friendly terms
 with open arms (av.)--cordially, hospitality
 turn one's back on (v.)--to turn away in contempt or anger;
 to ignore the plight of
 bad blood (a.)--ill feeling
 beat one's brain out (v.)--think very hard
 beat one's head against a stone wall (v.)--frustrate oneself
 by attempting to
 do something im-
 possible

- bend over backwards (v.)--do everything that one can to assist in helping or getting something accomplished
- bite off more than one can chew (v.)--to attempt to do a big job that is beyond one's abilities or that can't be done all at one time
- in cold blood (av.)--without caring, no warmth to an action
- brainstorm (n.)--a sudden clever, whimsical, or foolish idea
- waste one's breath (v.)--to try to tell someone something who won't listen or is stubborn and won't be convinced
- save one's breath (v.)--to refrain from futile entreaties (used in command form)
- take one's breath away (v.)--to surprize or put one in awe
- breathe freely (v.)--to relax (relates to the lack of tightness one feels after pressure is off)
- cold feet (n.)--failure of nerve; to have reservations about a new venture
- cool one's heels (v.)--stop being pushy, be patient
- cut off one's nose to spite one's face (v.)--to do something even though its damaging to oneself, just to prove a point
- eat one's heart out (v.)--to be overly jealous (most of the time used in command form "Eat your heart out!")
- eat one's words (v.)--to take back what was said, reverse one's opinion completely (used in reference to false claims made rashly)
- rub elbows with (v.)--to meet in close company (used in reference to lower status people mixing with higher status people)

- elbow grease (n.)--strenuous physical effort; extra physical power
- keep an eye on (v.)--to watch in the sense of taking care of someone or something
- see eye to eye (v.)--to agree on something
- make eyes at (v.)--to flirt with
- keep a straight face (v.)--to not laugh even though one wanted to
- keep one's fingers crossed (v.)--to hope for things to go well or for good luck
- first-hand (a.)--not vicariously; directly
- foot the bill (v.)--to pay the bill or to pick up the bill
- put one's foot down (v.)--to be firm
- put one's best foot forward (v.)--to do the best one can; to try to appear at one's best
- put one's foot in one's mouth (v.)--to say something embarrassing; to say more than one should
- on all fours (a.)--on one's hands and knees
- funny bone (n.)--a sensitive place on the elbow that tingles when hit
- get on one's nerves (v.)--to exasperate or irritate
- get something off one's chest (v.)--to talk about an annoyance or trouble; an unburdening of a trouble by talking
- guts (n.)--toughness; or too much nerve (implies impoliteness)
- let down one's hair (v.)--to be a little wild or crazy in order to have a good time
- split hairs (v.)--to be too particular about details
- half-hearted (a.)--done with or possessing little interest or enthusiasm; uninspired

hard-headed (a.)--obstinate; not easily excited or deceived

head and shoulders above (a.)--far superior to

in over one's head (a.)--to be involved in a situation with
which one is not prepared to cope

heart-to-heart (av.)--talk openly with someone and share
one's personal feelings

by heart (av.)--by memory

have a heart--be compassionate (always used in this form as
a command)

a heel (n.)--someone who has done something mean or unfair

keep a stiff upper lip (v.)--don't give up or surrender, even
though things are tough

knock one's block off (v.)--hit someone hard

lowbrow (n.)--an uneducated or unintellectual person

make no bones of (a.)--to be very blunt about something

by word of mouth (av.)--orally; by speech

shoot off one's mouth (v.)--to say inappropriate things,
usually vulgar, or rude

narrow-minded (a.)--lacking breadth of view, tolerance;
prejudiced

neck and neck (av.)--means the competitors are very even in
a race

up to one's neck (av.)--very busy; deeply involved or
committed

nosey(nosy) (a.)--to want to know everything about others'
affairs

pay lip service to (v.)--show support by words only not by
actions

pay through the nose (v.)--to pay a lot of money for something,
more than one should

- pick a bone with (v.)--to find something one doesn't agree with in what someone is doing or saying and express it
- pull one's leg (v.)--to joke with someone; say something that is not true and pretend it is in a joking manner
- pull the wool over someone's eyes (v.)--fool someone; deceive someone
- shake a leg (v.)--to hurry; move quickly (command)
- straight from the shoulder (av.)--honestly, frankly, and to the point
- a cold shoulder (n.)--to ignore someone
- a chip on one's shoulder (v.)--to feel bitter or cheated and this is reflected in one's behavior
- by the skin of one's teeth (av.)--to escape, accomplish very narrowly
- get under one's skin (v.)--start to bother someone
- slap in the face (n.)--a shock, a surprise
- slip of the tongue (n.)--saying something one didn't mean to say
- sweet tooth (n.)--one likes to eat sweet things
- take a load off one's feet (v.)--to sit down and relax
- set one's teeth on edge (v.)--to provoke strong feelings of irritation or annoyance
- under one's thumb (av.)--under someone else's control or rule, or having control over something or someone
- all thumbs (av.)--uncoordinated, especially with work with hands (like carpentry, art, etc.)
- toe the mark (v.)--to obey rules consciously; conform
- be on one's toes (v.)--to be alert
- (fight) tooth and nail (av.)--fiercely, with utmost effort
- tongue-in-cheek (av.)--say something seriously that is meant to be humorous

tongue-tied (a.)--to hold something back, as a secret
 on the tip of one's tongue (av.)--something one can almost
 remember

turn the other cheek (v.)--look the other way

turn up one's nose (at) (v.)--to treat with contempt

watch one's step (a.)--be careful

make one's mouth water (v.)--to tempt

wet one's whistle (v.)--to drink whisky

Manipulations

bump into (v.)--to encounter someone or something accidentally

have a crush on (v.)--to like someone romantically without
 knowing the person well

get a move on (v.)--hurry up

make or break (v.)--secure either success or be ruined

go through the motions (v.)--do something (that one is ex-
 pected or required to do) in a
 perfunctory or insincere way

take down a peg (v.)--to make one realize that he is of less
 importance

twist one's arm (v.)--to try to persuade someone

flip one's lid (v.)--to get upset or react very strongly

hang it up (v.)--to stop; slow down

plug into (v.)--to get oneself involved

pull no punches (v.)--being honest and straightforward

wipe-the slate clean (v.)--start afresh

Transportation

back-fire (v.)--have opposite results from what was expected,
 didn't work

get on the bandwagon (v.)--to support or shift support to a party or cause (whose fortunes appears to be rising)

in the same boat (av.)--in the same boat

off the beaten track (a.)--something unusual or unexpected

burn one's bridges behind (v.)--to destroy the possibilities of returning

know the ropes (v.)--be familiar with the workings of a particular job or situation

meet half-way (v.)--give way to some extent in order to satisfy someone; compromise

pave the way for (v.)--preparation for something or someone to come later

water under the bridge/over the dam (n.)--irrevocably past

fall asleep at the wheel (v.)--not to give enough attention to something

take a back seat to (v.)--let another lead, submit to another prevailing opinion

run around in circles (v.)--to go nowhere, trying to do something without success

slow boat to China (n.)--(take) the longest, or slowest way

shipshape (a.)--in the best possible condition

up the creek without a paddle (a.)--to be in a situation that one is not adequately prepared for

Hotels

bag and baggage (av.)--everything, inclusive of all things in some situations

Restaurants

wine and dine (v.)--to fully enjoy, especially in regard to good food and beverages

doggy bag (n.)--a bag to hold food not eaten at a restaurant
so it can be given to a pet

take the check (v.)--pay for something that someone else has
eaten or purchased

foot the bill (v.)--pay for expenses

Banks and Money

bank on something (v.)--depend on something

bottom dollar (n.)--the last of one's money

one's money's worth (a.)--to get what one pays for

pass the buck (v.)--to give responsibility to someone else

pretty penny (a.)--expensive

queer as a three-dollar bill (a.)--someone or something is
strange

rain check (n.)--a postponement of the acceptance of an offer

rubber check (n.)--a bad check (written with no money to
back it up)

flat broke (a.)--no money

in the money (a.)--to have money

cheapskate (n.)--a person who hates to part with his money

corner the market (v.)--to monopolize something being sold

make a buck (v.)--make money

make both ends meet (v.)--earn what it costs to live

I.O.U. (n.)--a promise to pay a debt

a man of means (n.)--a rich man

penny wise and pound foolish (a.)--this is used when someone
buys low quality things
because of their low price;
they are not necessarily
getting a bargain

Recreation

put one's cards on the table (v.)--to get things out in the
open

put your money on the line (v.)--take a risk

put up or shut up (v.)--to do or show someone something of
value or forget about it

no dice (n.)--no luck or success

drawing card (n.)--an attraction

go fly a kite (v.)--get out of here, stop bothering someone

a flop (n.)--a failure

hit the jackpot (v.)--to be lucky

steal the show (v.)--to take over or get all the attention
for something a person had done

ace up one's sleeve (n.)--to have something interesting in
mind to do

do not pass Go (v.)--one does not get what s/he expected

Sports and Games

batting average (n.)--consistently good at what one does

below par (a.)--under one's normal ability

behind the eight ball (a.)--in a difficult situation, position

break the record (v.)--to go beyond the best record set in
past

(to make a) come-back (n.)--to make a return to former pros-
perity or status, a retort

double-header (n.)--from baseball, two games, one following
the other

get on the ball (v.)--get going, get to work; be alert to
something

get to the first base (v.)--take a successful first step
toward achieving something

go to bat for (v.)--stand up for someone or do someone a favor

have a lot on the ball (v.)--be smart, bright, intelligent

(to accept something) hook, line and sinker (av.)--to accept without reservation;

keep the ball rolling (v.)--keep the activity or event moving

make a hit (v.)--be popular

right off the bat (av.)--off the top of one's head, without thinking about it

pinch hit (v.)--do a favor for someone, substitute for them when they are in a tight spot

rain check (n.)--a postponement of the acceptance of an offer

free-for-all (n.)--a confusing mass of people who are all doing as they please; an event lacking organization

hit or miss (av.)--an equal chance to make it or miss it

jump the gun (v.)--get a head start

last lap (n.)--last part of a project

for keeps (av.)--to keep forever; seriously and permanently

long shot (n.)--an attempt to solve a problem with little evidence

know what the score is (v.)--to have all the information about something

second wind (n.)--re-gain energy or enthusiasm

have a score to settle (v.)--hold something against someone

shot in the dark (n.)--a wild or random guess

win hands down (v.)--succeed easily

Music

face the music (v.)--to accept the consequences, especially of one's own actions

fiddle around with (v.)--to work on something as an amateur

play second fiddle (v.)--to be subordinate; take a less important part

soft-pedal (v.)--to make (a statement) less definite or confident; to moderate

song and dance (n.)--an overelaborate effort to explain or justify

for a song (av.)--very cheap, cost very little

music to one's ears (av.)--something that sounds sweet or lovely; that is positive, pleasing news

the blues (n.)--a type of music (originated in USA with southern blacks)

(a.)--a state of being depressed, feeling "blue"

Medicine and Health

on call (av.)--available immediately

office hours (n.)--time when the office is open for doing business, especially making appointments to see someone

say "ah" (v.)--open your mouth and stick out your tongue to say "ah", so the doctor or other medical personnel can examine your mouth and throat

turn your head and cough (v.)--exact literal meaning

black and blue (av.)--literal meaning, where the skin turns black and blue after a hard bump, or blow

born with a silver spoon in one's mouth (v.)--born in a wealthy family

cough up (v.)--to come up with, especially money, similar to the action of physically coughing

chain smoker (n.)--someone who smokes one cigarette after another; a constant smoker

dead as a doornail (av.)--really dead

dead to the world (av.)--completely out of touch; extremely exhausted

over one's dead body (av.)--not to do something; don't you dare to do something (emphatic)

one foot in the grave (av.)--half-dead

croak (v.)--to die

give up the ghost (v.)--to die

hard of hearing (a.)--unable to hear clearly; partially deaf

over the hill (a.)--old, feeble, out-of-date (referring usually to a person)

kick the bucket (v.)--to die

a new lease on life (n.)--a sense of renewal, new energy, fresh direction in one's life

give someone a dose of his own medicine (v.)--to respond in kind; to treat someone in the same way they treat you

take one's medicine (v.)--face the consequences of one's action

nuts, nutty as a fruitcake (a.)--mentally unbalanced

go off the deep end (v.)--to have a nervous breakdown

a bitter pill to swallow (n.)--a difficult situation to accept

in the pink (a.)--healthy, rosy-cheeked, physically fit

safe and sound (a.)--unscathed, safe from harm and healthy in body

have a screw loose (v.)--to be less than perfectly normal mentally

a shiner (n.)--a black eye-i.e. an eye that has been hit and therefore has become dark and swollen

a black eye (n.)--see "a shiner"

a shot in the arm (n.)--a needed burst of energy

a sight for sore eyes (n.)--somebody or something welcome,
pleasant

turn one's stomach (v.)--make one sick, ill; to revolt one

under the weather (av.)--sick

on the wagon (av.)--has stopped drinking

"break a leg" (v.)--theater talk, means "do well, good luck"

an apple a day keeps the doctor away--be sure to have enough
nutrition every day, so
you will not get sick

skin and bones (av.)--skinny

to be sick and tired of something (v.)--to be very tired of
something

Dentistry

give one's eye tooth for (v.)--to really want something

(to) cut one's teeth on (v.)--to find something that allows
one to learn (like a baby)

(to be) like pulling teeth (a.)--it is very difficult to get
someone to talk or to do
something

Office

take a letter (v.)--to write a letter in shorthand which
someone dictates

girl Friday (n.)--a messenger in an office

secretarial/typing pool (n.)--a group of people (usually
women) who sit together in
the same place and type all
day in an office

to be called on the carpet (v.)--to be criticized by one's
 employer for the work one did

right-hand man (n.)--someone you can not work without (in a
 business, one partner to another would
 be each other's right-hand man)

business is business--work is work

Business

in the black (a.)--making enough money to pay the bills and
 possibly make a profit

Bullish (a.)--agressive; straightforward

in the red (av.)--to be in debt; to be in trouble

Bearish (a.)--rough, clumsy

Agriculture

cut and dried (a.)--something is finished and complete; it
 is unquestionable

farm out (v.)--give something to someone else to do

make hay while the sun shines (v.)--seize your opportunities

40 acres and mule (a.)--what one needs to get started earning
 a living

the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence--
 what someone else has or some other place
 always seems better than what you have or
 where you are

you reap what you sow--your actions largely determine what
 happens to you

Shons and Tools

get the axe (v.)--be dismissed from one's job

have an axe to grind (v.)--have private interests to serve

hit the nail on the head (v.)--to understand the exact or
important point of what
someone else is trying to say

many irons in the fire (n.)--have several alternatives

jack of all trades (n.)--someone who has many talents, can
do many things

live wire (n.)--someone lively, fun to be with

nuts and bolts (a.)--the essentials of an issue or situation

handyman (n.)--a person who fixes things around the house

on the level (a.)--to be honest, frank

to measure up (v.)--to meet the standards or requirements

Law

bail out (v.)--to get out of trouble or help someone out of
trouble; to pay money to get someone out of jail

do time (v.)--serve a sentence in prison

(to) get away with murder (v.)--to not be questioned about
what one does because one can
charm people

here come the judge--it's from a black comedy routine on tele-
vision , it means "the judge is coming!"

jailbird (n.)--someone who is or has been in jail

lay down the law (v.)--set down rules

of age (av.)--over the age of 18 or 21, legally an adult

open and snut case (n.)--easily settled; presenting no
difficulties

take the law into one's own hands (v.)--use force to redress
a wrong

take the stand (v.)--to give testimony in a court

third degree (n.)--mental or physical torture to get infor-
mation or a confession from a prisoner

throw the book at (v.)--to arrest someone and charge him with
all possible crimes

under age (a.)--too young

Police/Crime

breaking and entering (n.)--the gaining of unauthorized access,
as by forcing a lock to another's
premises for the purpose of commi-
ting a crime

cops and robbers (n.)--policemen and thieves

deadly weapon (n.)--something capable of causing death

fuzz (n.)--policeman

gumball machine (n.)--machine which sells round chewing gum

by hook or by crook (av.)--by whatever means possible, fair
or unfair

inside job (n.)--theft committed by , or with the help of,
somebody employed in a building

in the name of law (a.)--in behalf of the law; by the authority
of the law

premeditated murder (n.)--a murder planned in advance

Smokey the Bear (n.)--state policeman (Smokey the Bear is a
symbol of national parks in the U.S.)

Religious

act of God (n.)--something which is the result of uncontroll-
able natural forces (e.g. storms, floods,)

Amen--a word used at the end of a prayer or hymn and meaning
"May it be so!"

between the devil and the deep blue sea (a.)--in a dilemma

good heavens--a euphemism for God, used in exclamations

Goodness gracious--used to express surprise or mild emotion

God willing--if circumstances permit

Hallelujah--used to express praise or joy
 heavens to Betsy--a euphemism for "good heavens"
 holy Moses--used to express surprise
 matter of faith (n.)--believe it or not
 month of Sundays (n.)--an indefinitely long period of time
 pass the hat (v.)--to take up a monetary collection

Education

bone up on (v.)--to study or review a specific subject
 intensively during a short period of time
 burn the midnight oil (v.)--to work or study very late at
 night
 play hooky (v.)--stay away from school without good reason
 Sheepskin (n.)--diploma
 teacher's pet (n.)--a person especially indulged by the
 teacher; a favorite
 apple polishing (a.)--flattering the teacher to gain personal
 advantage

Disasters

better safe than sorry--it is better not to be impulsive or
 to 'take a great risk
 calm before the storm (n.)--things become still before a
 disaster; people are calm before
 bursting out

War/Military

bear arms (v.)--to carry arms
 AWOL (a.)--absent without leave
 pull rank (v.)--to use one's superior rank to gain an advantage

stick to one's guns (v.)--to hold fast to an opinion or
appointed course of action

point-blank (a.)--brutal frankness; blunt and uncompromising
rejection or refusal

on the warpath (a.)--a hostile course or mood

yeoman service (n.)--a difficult job, beyond what is required,
which is done exceptionally well

all's fair in love and war--anything is appropriate, no limits
under the gun (a.)--under pressure

Energy

burn the candle at both ends (v.)--to work early and late;
use up too much energy

hold a candle to (v.)--to compare with

carry coals to Newcastle (v.)--take good to a place where they
are already plentiful

where there's smoke there's fire--there is always some reason
for a rumor

deader than a doornail (a.)--very dead

Death

kick the bucket (v.)--to die

give up the ghost (v.)--to die

deader than a doornail (a.)--really dead

R.I.P.--Latin (requiescat in pace) "May s/he rest in peace!"
(requiescant in pace) "May they rest in peace!"

Famous AmericansAlabama

Hugo Black
(1922-)

He is an American politician, and became the Associate justice of U.S. Supreme Court.

George Washington Carver
(1859-1943)

He was a black American whose agricultural research won him great fame. He revolutionized Southern agriculture in the United States.

Nat King Cole
(1919-1965)

He was a singer and pianist. He was famous for his relaxed and intimate singing style and his husky voice.

Helen Keller
(1880-1968)

She was an author and lecturer. She was blind and deaf.

Booker T. Washington
(1856-1915)

He was a great black educational leader who spent his lifetime working to improve the life of Blacks.

Hank Williams
(1923-1953)

He was a singer and composer of western songs. His song "Cold, Cold Heart" won him most fame.

Alaska

Vitus Bering
(1680-1714)

He was a Danish navigator who proved that Asia and America were separated by water.

Joe Juneau

In 1880, he and Richard Harris found gold near the captial of Alaska, Juneau, and thus initiated the Alaska gold rush.

Arizona

CoChise
(?-1874)

He was an Indian leader and chief of the Chiricahua Apaches who led his tribe to fight against the United States for 11 years.

Geronimo
(1829-1907)

He was a famous American Indian warrior of the Chiricahua whose name means "he who yawns".

Barry Goldwater
(1909-)

He is a U.S. Republican senator from Arizona.

Frank Lloyd Wright
(1869-1959)

He was a great architect of world fame who greatly influenced the development of modern architecture.

Arkansas

James W. Fulbright
(1905-)

He was an American legislator. The Fulbright Scholarship program is named after him and provides for an exchange of international scholars.

Douglas MacArthur
(1880-1964)

He was famous for his defeat of the Japanese in World War II as well as for his special outfit: a gold-braided hat, a corncob pipe and sunglasses. He showed his strong determination to back to the Philippines by saying "I shall return!"

California

Luther Burbank
(1849-1926)

He was a horticulturist and plant breeder and developed many new grains, trees, grasses, and fruit.

Wm. Randolph Hearst
(1863-1951)

He was a political leader and editor as well as publisher who established the largest newspaper chain in this country fought for social reform.

John Muir
(1838-1914)

He was a naturalist, conservationist, and an explorer. He fought successfully for the establishment of national parks and the preservation of forests.

Earl Warren
(1891-1974)

He was chief justice of the United States from 1953 to 1969.

Colorado

Lowell Thomas
(1892-)

He was a news commentator and author who was an experienced world traveler. He also invented "Cinerama", the 3-dimensional motion picture.

Connecticut

Samuel Colt
(1814-1862)

He developed the first successful repeating pistol.

Nathan Hale
(1755-1776)

He was the most famous patriot and hero during the American Revolution, and was executed by the British as a spy. Before his execution, he made a speech and ended it by saying that "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

J. Pierpont Morgan
(1837-1913)

He was a financier. He founded the hugest empire of vast finance and industry in American history. His name symbolized Wall Street in his time.

Noah Webster
(1758-1843)

He was best known for editing the Webster's Dictionary. He was an educator and journalist.

Eli Whitney
(1765-1825)

He was an inventor. In 1793, he invented the cotton gin which made the United States the world's largest cotton producer. He also used a machine to make guns and made the U.S. a country which mass produced guns.

Delaware

E.I. Du Pont
(1771-1834)

French-born American industrialist.

Howard Pyle
(1853-1911)

He was a famous painter and he influenced painting tremendously during his time.

Georgia

Martin Luther King, Jr.
(1929-1968)

He was a black Baptist minister and a famous civil-rights leader. He won the Noble Peace Prize in 1964 and he was assassinated in 1968.

Hawaii

King Kamehameha

He was a native ruler of the Hawaiian islands and declared the independence of Hawaii.

Idaho

Chief Joseph
(1840-1904)

He was an Indian chief.

Sacagawea
(1787-1812)

As an Indian, she was the interpreter and major guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Ocean from 1804 to 1805. Her name means "bird woman"

Illinois

Stephen Douglas
(1813-1861)

He was a political leader. In 1859, he defeated Abraham Lincoln for the Senate after the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Adlai Stevenson
(1900-1965)

He was the Democratic nominee for the American Presidency in 1952 and 1956, and both times he was defeated by Dwight D. Eisenhower. From 1961 till his death, he was the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Indiana

Hoagy Carmichael
(1899-)

He was a pianist, composer, and actor.

Eugene V. Debs
(1855-1926)

He was a labor and political leader and was the Socialist candidate for the U.S. President five times.

Cole Porter
(1893-1964)

He was a lyricist and musical comedy composer. He was best known for his lively, harmonious melodies and clever, urbane poetry.

Iowa

Buffalo Bill Cody
(1846-1917)

He was a frontiersman, scout, and showman.

Billy Sunday
(1862-1935)

He was a baseball player and later became a famous evangelist.

Kansas

Thomas Hart Benton
(1889-1975)

He was a printmaker and mural painter, and his dramatic paintings of the American scene won him great fame.

John Brown
(1800-1859)

He was an abolitionist and used force to free slaves directly. He was executed in 1859.

Amelia Earhart
(1898-1937)

She was the first American woman flier who made a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

Kentucky

Daniel Boone
(1734-1820)

He was the most famous pioneer of Colonial times. He was a natural leader who explored the unknown forests and the fertile meadows of Kentucky.

Kit Carson
(1809-1868)

He was a frontiersman and scout, and one of the most skillful and trustworthy guides in the early West.

Jefferson Davis
(1808-1889)

He was the President of the Confederate States of America. He won great respect in the South for his lifelong dedication to the Southern cause during the existence of the Confederate States. (1861-1865)

Louisiana

Louis Armstrong
(1900-1971)

He was a famous jazz singer. In his early times, he was noted as a trumpet player. Later on, many people imitated his style of singing and of improvising jazz.

Huey Long
(1893-1935)

He was a political leader. In his campaigns against vested interests, he won great support from farmers and workers.

Maryland

Francis Scott Key
(1779-1843)

He was a lawyer and author of the American national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner"

H.L. Mencken
(1800-1956)

He was an editor and satirist whose social criticism was focused mainly against the middle class.

Massachusetts

Emily Dickinson
(1830-1886)

She was one of the greatest American poets in the 19th century. Her poems, along with Emerson's and Whitman's, define the distinctive qualities of the American experience.

John Hancock
(1737-1793)

He was the president of the Continental Congress and the first one to sign the Declaration of Independence. Because he signed it with such a flourish, his name became a synonym for the word "signature" later on.

Paul Revere
(1735-1815)

He was a patriot and craftsman. In 1775, he made the famous "midnight ride" to warn the Americans that British soldiers were coming from Lexington and Concord.

Michigan

George Custer
(1839-1876)

He was a famous Indian-fighter in the early West.

Henry Ford
(1863-1947)

He was a car-builder, and creator of a major car company. His low-priced Model T. (car) revolutionized the early industry and helped make cars become popular transportation for the average Americans.

Mississippi

Elvis Presley
(1935-1977)

He was a famous rock-and-roll singer and movie actor. He was noted for his personal singing style of swaying his hips whenever he sang.

Lenotyne Price
(1927-)

She is a soprano of operas and is one of the leading stars of the Metropolitan Opera in New York city.

Eudora Welty
(1909-)

She is a writer who uses the Southern setting (mostly in Mississippi) in her stories.

Missouri

Thomas Dooley
(1927-1961)

He was an author and doctor noted for his humanitarian work in Southeast Asia.

John J. Pershing
(1860-1948)

He was the chief of staff of the U.S. Army. Hw wrote the book My Experience in the World War which won the Pulitzer history prize in 1932.

Joseph Pulitzer
(1847-1911)

He came from Hungary and became a great American newspaper publisher. Pulitzer Prizes, which are given for achievement in music, art, literature, and journalism, were established by him.

Sara Teasdale
(1884-1933)

She was a poet and her poems are noted for their form which is simple and pure.

Nebraska

Wm. Jennings Bryan
(1860-1905)

He was a religious and political leader. He did his best to oppose special privileges for favored groups in the U.S.

Henry Fonda
(1905-)

He is an actor. He plays honest and simple roles most of the time. He won the Oscar as the Best Actor in 1982.

Harold Lloyd
(1893-1971)

He was a comedian of world fame and highest pay. He always wore a pair of horn-rimmed glasses which became his personal feature and won him the title of "glass character".

New Hampshire

Mary Baker Eddy
(1820-1910)

She was a scientist, author, and religious leader who established the Church of Christ, Scientist.

Malcolm X
(1925-1965)

He was a black Muslim and nationalist leader. He encouraged blacks to arm and defend themselves when the whites attacked them unjustly.

Robert Frost
(1874-1963)

He was a "transitional" poet between the 19th and 20th centuries. He won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry four times.

New Jersey

Aaron Burr
(1756-1836)

He was a politician and adventurer and was best known for his duel with Alexander Hamilton who died in the duel.

Thomas Edison
(1847-1931)

He was a great inventor and pioneer industrialist as well. Three of his inventions changed people's lives and leisure all over the world. These inventions were the phonograph, the light and electric system, and the moving picture camera.

Alexander Hamilton
(1755-1804)

He was a political leader who played a major role in ratifying the U.S. constitution and establishing a strong central government.

Paul Robeson
(1898-1976)

He was an actor and singer and he fought for Black civil rights.

Molly Pitcher
(1754-1832)

She was a heroine during the American Revolutionary War. During the Battle of Monmouth, Molly's husband died, so Molly dropped the pitcher she used for carrying water to the men and took over the gunner's place to fight.

New Mexico

Georgia O'Keefe
(1887-)

She is an abstract painter.

North Carolina

Billy Graham
(1918-)

He is an evangelist of international fame. He makes speeches around the world and often appears on television.

Edward R. Murrow
(1908-1965)

He was a television producer and broadcasting reporter whose reporting during the Battle of Britain was considered as the most accurate and dynamic. He always started with the phrase "This.... is London"

North Dakota

Lawrence Welk
(1903-)

He is a musician and orchestra leader who has been on television many years.

Ohio

John Glenn
(1921-)

He was a national hero who was the first American to orbit the earth. He spent less than five hours circling the earth three times successfully. His flight overcame American's fear of falling behind Russia in space programs.

Bob Hope
(1903-)

He is a comedian on radio, television and movies. He is good at fast talking topical humor.

Eddie Rickenbacker
(1890-1973)

He was an aviator. He served in⁴¹
the U.S. Air Corps and won the
Congressional Medal of Honor.

John D. Rockefeller
(1874-1960)

He was a philanthropist. He spent
most of his life devoted to what
he believed as the social duty to
manage over the huge amount of
money which he inherited.

Oklahoma

Woody Guthrie
(1912-1967)

He was a folk singer and composer.
He wrote many songs about American
life, including "This Land is Your
Land".

Oral Roberts
(1918-)

He is a clergyman and author of
many religious tracts. He is an
evangelist of world fame, and he
often appears on television.

Maria Tallchief
(1925-)

She is a famous ballerina. She
is an Indian.

Pennsylvania

Andrew Carnegie
(1835-1919)

He was a manufacturer of steel
and iron. He was also the most
important person in making the
U.S. the leading country in steel
production. He donated much money
for education and research work.

Stephen Foster
(1826-1864)

He was a writer of American popu-
lar songs. He played an important
role as a composer in the American
Pre-Revolutionary War period.

Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)

He was a scientist, philosopher,
inventor, printer, diplomat and
author whose autobiography ill-
ustrated and influenced American
life greatly.

Betsy Ross
(1752-1836)

She made the first American flag
in 1775.

George C. Marshall
(1880-1959)

He was a statesman and army officer.
He won the Nobel Peace Prize in
1953.

Rhode Island

George M. Cohen
(1878-1942)

He was a great actor, theatrical director, song writer, and playwright.

South Dakota

Crazy Horse
(1840-1877)

He was an Indian chief of Ogalala Sioux. Throughout his life he hated the white man and steadfastly fought against the occupation of the Northern plains by the Americans.

Sitting Bull
(1831-1890)

He was an Indian chief of Teton Dakota. In 1876, he failed to go to a reservation which led to a war in which George A. Custer and 400 men under his command were killed.

Tennessee

Davy Crockett
(1786-1836)

He was a hunter, soldier, scout and Congressman. He was also a famous American folk hero and many stories tell about him. He also wrote and told many tall tales about himself.

Sam Houston
(1793-1863)

He was the first president of the Republic of Texas and a frontier hero.

Utah

Brigham Young
(1801-1877)

He led the Mormons from Illinois to Utah and established the Mormon church there.

Vermont

Ethan Allen
(1738-1789)

He was a famous patriot and soldier during the Revolutionary War.

John Dewey
(1859-1952)

He was a famous educator and philosopher. His thinking influenced his time greatly. His philosophy "instrumentalism" and his writings contributed not only to education, but philosophy, psychology, political science and law as well.

Virginia

Patrick Henry
(1736-1799)

He was a patriotic leader during the American Revolutionary War and an orator. He made speeches to encourage the Americans patriots to fight against the British. His speech with the words "Give me liberty, or give me death." made him the most effective speaker in American history.

Robert E. Lee
(1807-1870)

He was the gifted and intelligent commandor of the Confederate armies in the American Civil War. He is considered to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, soldier who ever spoke the English language.

Lewis and Clark

They were assigned by the American government to lead a group of 40 people across the Missouri River, then further down to the west to explore the Pacific Coast. This mission was called the "Lewis and Clark Expedition" which expanded the American territory further to the Northwest and encouraged the settlers to explore the West.

Washington

Bing Crosby
(1904-1977)

He was a popular actor and a famous bass singer.

West Virginia

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson
(1824-1863)

He was an army officer and one of the gifted lieutenants under the commandship of General Robert Lee in the Civil War. In military history, he is considered as one of the most outstanding tacticians.

Wisconsin

Harry Houdini
(1874-1926)

He was a great magician and escape artist who could escape from almost any kind of restraints, even from prison cells.

Joseph McCarthy
(1908-1957)

He was a U.S. senator from Wisconsin. He accused many individuals of subversive (communist) activities during the years 1950-1954. This political practice of accusing people of subversion without evidence became known as "McCarthyism". He was later censured by the Senate.

Spencer Tracy
(1900-1967)

He was a great movie actor. His capacity for acting and handling all kinds of roles won him the fame as "the actor's actor".

Orson Wells
(1915-)

He was an actor and movie director. In 1938, he produced a radio program which broadcasted the fictitious invasion of New Jersey by people from Mars. It was so realistic that thousands of terrified people in the east called the authorities to confirm the news.

Wyoming

James Bridger
(1860-1905)

He was a guide, trapper, and mountain man who discovered Great Salt Lake in 1824. Later on, he found many other wonders of the Yellowstone county.

Texas

James Bowie
(1799-1836)

He invented the Bowie knife. He was a brave hero who led the opposition to the central Mexican government. He was killed at the Alamo.

Howard Hughes
(1905-1976)

He was a manufacturer of oil-well tools, a moviemaker, a financier, and an aerospace builder. He had a huge fortune.

Mary Martin
(1935-)

She is a hospital administrator.

Sam Rayburn
(1882-1961)

He was a lawyer, and was also a member of U.S. House of Representative from 1913-1961. He was the Speaker of the House from 1940 to 1961.

Heroes

A. Folk Heroes and Anti-Heroes

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Horatio Alger | American author, who wrote a series of successful novels for boys on the poor-become rich-theme. |
| Mohammad Ali | American professional boxer, who twice won the world heavyweight championship in boxing. |
| Johnny Appleseed | American pioneer and folk hero. He planted many apple seeds and pruned the growing trees all over the country. There are many legends about him. |
| Sam Bass | American anti-hero, famous for robbing trains in Texas. |
| Billy the Kid | American frontier outlaw. Because of his youth and extraordinary bravado, a romantic legend grew up around him. He became the most famous outlaw of the old Southwest. |
| Bonny & Clyde | Anti-heroes, they were bank-robbers and they killed people. They held up banks during the 1920's in the Southwest. |
| John Brown | See <u>Famous Americans</u> , <u>Kansas</u> , page 36. |
| Daniel Boone | See <u>Famous Americans</u> , <u>Kentucky</u> , page 36. |
| Buffalo Bill | See <u>Famous Americans</u> , <u>Iowa</u> , page 36. |
| Paul Bunyan | A mythical hero who was the work giant of American frontier lumber camps. |
| Al Capone | Anti-hero, a Chicago gangster. He was the symbol of lawlessness, gambling, prostitution, and the illegal sale of liquor in the 1920's and the 1930's in the Midwest. |
| Kit Carson | American frontiersman and scout, who was one of the most skillful and dependable guides in the early West. Carson City was named for him. |
| Davey Crockett | See <u>Famous Americans</u> , <u>Tennessee</u> , page 42. |

- James Dean American actor, who was a symbol of social rebellion for an entire generation in the 1960's.
- Charles Lindbergh American aviator and the first man to fly the Atlantic Ocean by himself.
- Snake Magee American anti-hero.
- Minnehaha American Indian princess in Longfellow's poem "Minnehaha".
- Marilyn Monroe American film star. She was the "sex symbol" of the 1950's.
- Audie Murphy American actor and hero in the Korean War. He was the most decorated U.S. soldier in World War II.
- Pecos Bill American anti-hero, just like Jesse James.
- Pocahontas American Indian princess who played an important role in the early history of Virginia. She has stood as a symbol of hope for union between the whites and the Indians.
- Elvis Presley See Famous Americans, Mississippi, page 38.
- Paul Revere See Famous Americans, Massachusetts, page 37.
- Rip Van Winkle A character in a story in The Sketch Book by Washington Irving. Rip was a Dutch colonist who was afraid of his wife, and fell asleep for 20 years.
- Will Rogers American humorist, noted for his fanciful ideas.
- Babe Ruth American baseball's great home-run hitter, a great athlete whose records still stands today.
- Sacagawea See Famous Americans, Idaho, page 35.
- John Smith An early colonist, English soldier, and explorer, who was also a founder of Virginia.

- Miles Smith English colonist involved in the early settlement of America. He contributed greatly to the success of the Plymouth Colony.
- Alfred B. Stormalong A fictional character.
- Tom Swift A fictional character by Charles Dickenson. Tom is a folk hero for young people.
- John Dillinger Anti-hero, a criminal. He represented the new kind of criminal, bank robber. He held up banks particularly in the Midwest in the 1920's and the 1930's.
- Joe Dimaggio American baseball player and one of the greatest out-fielders in baseball history. He was once married to Marilyn Monroe for a short time.
- Amelia Earhart See Famous Americans, Kansas, page 36.
- Wyatt Earp American gunfighter in Kansas and later in Arizona. He and his two brothers became a part of Western legends.
- Evangeline A mystical character from a poem by Longfellow. She was from Arcadie, Canada.
- Febold Feboldson A fictional character from a story.
- Mike Fink American frontier hero, noted for drinking, and brawling.
- Barbara Fretchie A famous nurse.
- John Henry American Black folk hero in stories and songs.
- Hiawatha American Indian hero who founded the League of the Iroquoies, a confederation of Indian tribes.
- Wild Bill Hickock American scout, frontier marshal, and Indian-fighter.

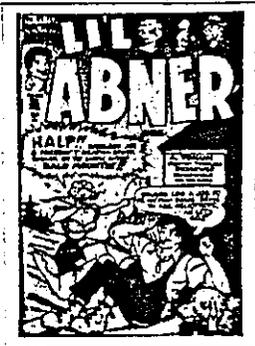
- Howard Hughes See Famous Americans, Texas, page 45.
- Jesse James Famous American outlaw. With his brother Frank, Jesse lived a life beyond the law that is almost inseparable from legend.
- Casey Jones Brave American railroad engineer. He sacrificed his life in order to save the lives of his passengers and crew.
- Kilroy Fictitious character during World War II. Soldiers used the phrase "Kilroy was here." often.
- Jean Lafitte American privateer and smuggler who was born in France. He was famous for his crimes from 1809 to 1821 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- John Wayne American film actor. He appeared mostly in cowboy movies and was the image of America.
- Sergeant York Famous American soldier and courageous hero in World War I.

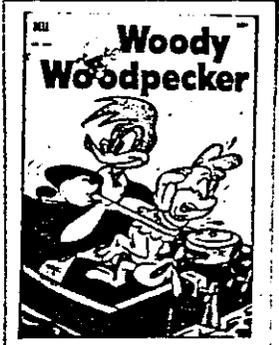
B. Comic Heroes

Alfred E. Newman	Archie and Friends
	
Batman and Robin	Brenda Starr
	
Buck Rogers	Bugs Bunny
No resource	

<p>Captain Marvel</p>	<p>Charlie Brown</p>
	 <p>THAT'S RIGHT... SALLY COMES HOME TODAY FROM BEANBAG CAMP</p>
<p>Dagwood & Blondie</p>	<p>Dick Tracy</p>
	
<p>Donald Duck</p>	<p>Doonesbury</p>
	 <p>DOONESBURY</p> <p>BOY... LOOK AT THOSE BEACHES! CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THIS ISLAND WERE RUN BY THE TEXAS PARKS COMMISSION?</p>

<p>Mutt n' Jeff</p>	<p>Popeye</p>
	
<p>Prince Valiant</p>	<p>Sad Sack</p>
<p>No resource</p>	
<p>Shazam</p>	<p>Snoopy</p>
	

Felix the Cat	Flash Gordon
	
Fred Flintstone	Lil Abner
	
Mary Worth	Mickey Mouse
No Resource	

<p>Spiderman</p>	<p>Steve Roper</p>
	<p>No resource</p>
<p>Superman</p>	<p>Terry and the Pirates</p>
	
<p>Wonder Woman</p>	<p>Woody Woodpecker</p>
	

Historical Sites

- Plymouth Rock It is a granite boulder with the date 1620 carved on it. According to a popular story, the Pilgrims on the Mayflower first set foot in the New world on this rock in 1620. It has become a symbol of freedom.
- Bunker Hill Also known as Breeds Hill, it is noted as the place where a group of poorly equipped Americans, with no flags and no uniforms, defeated the well-armed British Redcoats.
- Old North Church It is located in Boston and also named "Christ Church" but popularly known as "Old North". It is the oldest church building in Boston which achieved fame on the 16th April, 1775, when Paul Revere lit two lanterns in its steeple as a signal that the British were coming by sea toward Concord to seize arms stored there. The signal was "One if by land, and two if by sea."
- Concord Bridge It is the place of the first battle between Britain and America in the Revolutionary War.
- Lexington It was the destination of Paul Revere's famous "midnight ride". (see Famous Americans, page 37.) It is best known as the site of the first skirmish of the American Revolutionary War. Lexington calls itself "the birthplace of American liberty".
- Salem It is famous for its witch trials of the 1690 and for its prominence as a Yankee Clipper ship port of the 1850. There are many historical sites within the area such as The House of Seven Gables, Witch House and so on.
- Ellis Island It is an island in New York harbor and was a principal immigration reception center. Many poor European immigrants were processed there during the early part of this century.

- Hyde Park It was the lifelong home of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It includes the family home and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.
- Liberty Bell It was a large historic iron bell now housed in Philadelphia. It has historical significance because it was used to signal a call to arms in Colonial America. It also symbolizes American independence and liberty.
- Valley Forge It was the site where George Washington and his troops spent a bitter winter in their war with the British during the American Revolutionary War.
- Gettysburg It was the site of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War. Abraham Lincoln delivered his historic Gettysburg Address here.
- Fort McHenry It marks the site of the battle in the war in 1812 that inspired the writing of the national anthem of the United States "The Star-Spangled Banner".
- Harpers Ferry It was named for Robert Harper, who settled here during 1747 and set up a ferry across the Potomac. It was an important place for both Union and Confederate armies because of its strategic situation during the Civil War.
- Courthouse at Appomatox It is famous as a scene of surrender. On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant of the Union Army.
- Mt. Vernon It was George Washington's home and now has been preserved as a national monument. It also provides a glimpse of 18th century plantation life.
- Monticello It was the home of Thomas Jefferson who also designed the house. It is now a national monument and it is the luxurious estate depicted on the nickle.
- Jamestown It was the site of the first permanent English settlement in America.

- Kitty Hawk It was famous as the site of take off of the first plane flight by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright on Dec. 17, 1903.
- Fort Sumter It was a former U.S. military fortification. Major Robert Anderson and his people of the Union Army were in the fort fought with the Confederate Army led by Pierre Beaugard. Later on Civil War began.
- The Hermitage It was the grand home of Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States.
- Shiloh It was a historical site of one of the most bitterly contested battles of the American Civil War, between Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnson.
- Andersonville Prison It was a Confederate stockade for Union prisoners in the American Civil War. It is a national cemetery now.
- Cape Canaveral It is the major launch site for the U.S. space exploration programs.
- St. Augustine It is the oldest city in the United States which was founded in 1505.
- Mayo Clinic It was founded by Drs. William Worrall Mayo and Charles Horace Mayo, who made the surgical revolution fifty years ago and built the first true group practice of medicine in America.
- Wounded Knee It was the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre which symbolized the injustice and degradations inflicted on Indians by the U.S. government. Three hundred half-starved Indians including men, women, children, were killed by the American troops.
- Mount Rushmore It is a huge sculpture in South Dakota honoring four American Presidents : George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Huge likenesses of the four are carved into the granite face of Mt. Rushmore.

- Boys Town It is the site of a home and school for homeless and neglected boys. It was founded by Father Edward Flanagan on December 10, 1917.
- Dodge City It was a famous town of the "Wild West" and also known as the cowboy capital of the world.
- The Alamo It was a mission fortress in San Antonio, Texas. During the Texas Revolution of 1836, a group of brave Texans in the fort fought against an overwhelming Mexican army. Known as the "Cradle of Texas liberty", the Alamo has become a symbol of steadfast courage and sacrifice for honor.
- Little Big Horn It was the site of the battle between George Custer of the U.S. cavalry and Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. Custer and all of some 400 men under his direct command were killed.
- Fort Laramie It was the headquarters for fighting against the Indians in the late 19th centuries. Several treaties were signed here. Now it is a national monument.
- Sutter's Mill It was the place where gold was first found in California and this made people start the development of the West.

Dates and Holidays

- New Year Day This is a happy holiday. Most Americans stay up late on New Year's Eve to celebrate the coming New Year, and friends exchange kisses and bells are rung. Americans make New Year's resolutions. They resolve to do things such as start a diet, stop smoking, spend less money or promise to improve their behavior. It is a holiday to spend and celebrate with friends and to have good times.
- Presidents Day This is a holiday which honors past and current Presidents of the United States.
- Memorial Day This is a patriotic day which used to be named "Decoration Day" to honor people who died in the Civil War. Now it is the day to honor all the soldiers who have died in war. On Memorial Day, there are many parades. Lots of families go on picnics. Memorial Day symbolizes the beginning of summer and in the Northern part of the United States it is the traditional day to begin gardens.
- Independence Day It is a patriotic day for celebrating the birth of the United States. Many places have parades, patriotic speeches, fireworks, and special programs on that day, and flags are flown everywhere. Many public ceremonies use red, white and blue ribbons for decorations. Most Americans use this day to go on picnics or to the beach.
- Labor Day This is a holiday which celebrates and honors the Labor Unions which have done many things for labor in the States such as raising wages and improve working conditions. It is a three-day weekend and most American families use this time to travel to a resort area or visit friends or relatives, or have a barbecue at home.

- Columbus Day It is a holiday celebrating the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492.
- Veterans Day This is a holiday established by President Wilson to honor American servicemen. In 1954 President Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars. On this day, flags are displayed and many veterans march in parades in many places.
- Thanksgiving This is an important holiday of American tradition which began with the Pilgrims. Americans on that day express their thanks for the blessings they have had for the year. Thanksgiving is a family get-together day with a big dinner which includes traditional Thanksgiving food: stuffed roast turkey, squash, corn, and pumpkin pie.
- Christmas This is a holiday which celebrates the birth of Christ. It is also the most important holiday of the whole year in the United States, a day of freshness and great joy. On Christmas Eve, many American families go to church. In the early morning of Christmas Day, families gather around the Christmas tree and open their gifts. The traditional Christmas dinner includes turkey or ham, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, and nuts, and often for dessert there is fruit cake or plum pudding. There are many popular Christmas customs. People decorate their homes with Christmas trees, sing Christmas carols and send Christmas cards to friends. Children hang a stocking near the chimney and receive toys or candy from Santa Claus.
- Groundhog Day According to folklore if the groundhog comes out of his cave on this day and sees his shadow, then there will be another six weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, then spring is coming.

- Lincoln's Birthday This is a holiday honoring the "Great Emancipator", the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, who freed the slaves.
- St. Valentine's Day It is a romantic and affectionate festival. Valentines are the name of the cards especially designed for this day. On these cards you will find red hearts or a picture of Cupid with his bow and arrow, or romantic lyrics. Men send their wives or girl friends Valentines, flowers, or red heart-shaped boxes of candy.
- Washington's Birthday This is a holiday honoring George Washington, the first President of the United States, who united the Thirteen Colonies to become an independent and sovereign country, the United States.
- St. Patrick's Day This is an Irish holiday honoring the Irish patron Saint Patrick. There are many legends about St. Patrick and one of them is that he used the shamrock to symbolize the Trinity (the union of God the father, Jesus Christ the son, and the Holy Ghost). It is important to wear green on this day. Many homes, schools, churches and entertainment places celebrate St. Patrick's Day. People eat cabbage, potatoes, and corn beef with cloves. Flowers, shamrocks, and greeting cards are sold in many stores.
- April Fool's Day This is a special day which came from France. It is also named All Fool's Day. On this day, people play harmless and silly jokes on friends or families. The victim of such jokes is called an April Fool.

- Arbor Day
It is a day for planting trees. Many programs are designed by schools for students to plant trees and shrubs in the U.S. and Canada.
- Good Friday
It is a religious day in memory of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ during Holy Week. People go to churches, and many Catholics eat fish that day.
- Easter Sunday
It is a family holiday, and the time for rejoicing and for celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Candy bunnies, Easter's cards, and small baskets with candy eggs are sold in most stores. The baskets are supposedly the container for the Easter bunny to bring eggs. Ham is the traditional main course on Easter Sunday. Children enjoy egg-hunting and eating candy bunnies. Easter symbols such as eggs, colored eggs, rabbits, and lambs are of pagan origin. The eggs symbolize life and creation. Colored eggs symbolize the return of Spring. The rabbit is the symbol of new life. The lamb stands for fertility and the crucified and risen Christ, the "Lamb of God".
- May Day
This is a holiday celebrated as a spring festival in the United States and many European countries. It is also a day for socialist and labor demonstrations.
- Mother's Day
This is a holiday to honor all mothers. Children help with many household chores and give Mother's Day cards to their mothers that day.
- Flag Day
This is the birthday of the American flag. Many people fly the flag outdoors that day.

Father's Day

This is a holiday to honor all fathers. Children send Father's Day cards to their fathers. The official Father's Day flower in the United States is the red or white rose.

Halloween

This is a holiday which came from Scottish-Irish tradition. It is one of American children's favorite holidays. Children put on Halloween costumes and go "trick-or-treating" from door to door asking for candy, cookies or fruit, and sometimes collecting money for charitable organizations. If they don't get a treat, they may play tricks.

All Saint's Day

This is a holy holiday in Roman Catholic churches and a holiday in many Roman Catholic countries. It honors all the saints blessed in heaven, whether known or unknown.

Sadie Hawkins Day

This is a holiday in observance of a tradition which originated in England. Boys and girls reverse courting roles—the girls chase the boys on that day.

Famous Quotations

In the following section, I will list the origin of the quotation (A) and the interpretation of the quotation (B).

1. Give me liberty or give me death.
 - A. Patrick Henry said this in his speech in Virginia Convention, Richmond on March 23, 1775.
 - B. Freedom is very important. If I cannot be free, then give me death.

2. I have just begun to fight.
 - A. John Paul Jones said this when he was engaged in a fight with the British frigate Serapis off Flambourough Head, England.
 - B. Literal meaning.

3. Don't one of you fire until you see the whites of their eyes.
 - A. William Prescott said this during The Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.
 - B. Don't fight until you know who your enemy is. When one tries to win support for a position on a controversial issue or in any undertaking, one should be careful and conservative in one's action.

4. (1) I never met a man I didn't like.
(2) All I know is what I see in the papers.
 - A. (1) Will Rogers said this in Boston on June, 1930.
(2) Origin unknown.
 - B. (1) I like every person I meet.
(2) The only information I have heard is from the newspaper. I have not heard anything else.

5. You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.
 - A. Said by P.T. Barnum.
 - B. Literal meaning.

6. Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.
 - A. John F. Kennedy said this in his Inaugural Address on June 20, 1961.
 - B. Literal meaning.
7. Go West, young man.
 - A. The origin is as follows:

"The best business you can go into you will find on your father's farm or in his workshop. If you have no family or friends to aid you, and no prospect opened to you there, turn your face to the Great West, and there build up a fortune." Horace Greeley "Go West, young man." John Babsone Lane Soule, article in the Terre Haute, Indiana, 1851.
 - B. People who were not prosperous in parts of the South or East should migrate to the newly opened territory, a land of opportunity, to improve their living conditions.

People should go to something new or different to make a better living.
8. Make sure you're right, and then go ahead.
 - A. David Crockett's motto in the war of 1812.
 - B. Literal meaning.
9. Win one for the Gipper.
 - A. George Gipper was an outstanding football player at the University of Notre Dame. He died in December, 1920. According to Rockne, the football coach of Notre Dame, Gipper spoke the words to Rockne "Coach, some day when the going get rough, tell the boys to win one for the Gipper." This message became legendary at Notre Dame. On several occasions Rockne used this quotation to encourage Notre Dame's teams.
 - B. Used in sports. It means win the game for Gipper in respect.
10. Why don't you come up and see me some time.
 - A. Mae West's line in the movie "She Done Him Wrong".
 - B. A kidding line between males and females.

11. Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.
- A. Theodore Roosevelt said this in his speech at the Minnesota State Fair on September 2, 1912.
 - B. Don't talk about your power but be sure that you have it. The "big stick" is a symbol for power. The country must be on friendly terms with others but at the same time have the force necessary to see that justice is done.
12. The Buck stops here.
- A. A sign on Truman's desk as President.
 - B. All the problems must be answered by the President because of his position.
13. It's a small step for a man, but a giant step for mankind.
- A. Neil Armstrong, the first American astronaut to land on the moon on Apollo 11, said this on July 20, 1969, when he first stepped on to the surface of the moon.
 - B. His step on the moon symbolized the tremendous step forward by science and technology necessary to allow such an event to take place.
14. (1) Play it again, Sam.
(2) Here's looking at you kid.
- A. From the movie Casablanca.
 - B. (1) Sam is the piano player in the movie. The actress says the line because she wants to see her ex-boyfriend again.
(2) It means "good-luck," "I think of you," "goodbye," or "I love you."
15. Life begins at forty.
- A. Said by Walter B. Pitkin.
 - B. Encourages people that life is a long process.
16. If you don't like the weather in New England, just wait a few minutes.
- A. From "New England Weather", a speech by Samuel Clemens to the New England Society on Dec. 22, 1876.
 - B. The weather in New England can change so radically and rapidly.

17. I only regret that I have but one life to give to my country.
- A. Hale's last words, before being hung by the British as a spy on Sept. 22, 1776.
 - B. I wish that I could have many lives to give to my country.
If I could have many lives, I would do the same things over and over again.
18. That's all there is, there isn't any more.
- A. The curtain line of Thomas Raceward's play Sunday starring Miss Barrymore.
 - B. Literal meaning.
19. Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong.
- A. It was said by Texas Guinan.
 - B. When so many people agree on something, how can it be wrong.
20. The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
- A. It was said by Fanny Fern.
 - B. The best way to make a man happy is good cooking.
21. What the country needs is a good five-cent cigar.
- A. It was a remark made by Marshall to John Crockett, Chief Clerk of the U.S. Senate, during a tiresome debate on the needs of the country.
 - B. Things should not get too expensive, because everything was so bad during the depression.
22. Drive carefully; the life you save may be your own.
- A. Highway sign.
 - B. Literal meaning.
23. Nice guys finish last.
- A. Remark by Durocher who was a famous baseball player and coach.
 - B. It is not good to finish last in sports.
There is so much competition, you have to really be determined to do anything to win.

24. He can run, but he can't hide.
- A. Said by Joe Louis who was a boxer.
 - B. You can delay the punishment, but you can never escape it.
If you do something wrong, you will be caught sooner or later.
25. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
- A. Said by Simon Cameron.
 - B. This is used in everyday life. It means that if you do something for me, I'll do something for you.
26. Politics makes strange bedfellows.
- A. From chapter 15 of My Summer in a Garden by Warner.
 - B. Politics bring very different people together.
27. All dressed up, with nowhere to go.
- A. Roosevelt said this after withdrawing from Presidential competition, of the Progressive party. He decided not to be a candidate.
 - B. Unknown.
28. Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party.
- A. It was a sentence devised to test the practicability of the first typewriter, constructed in Milwaukee by Christopher Latham Sholes in 1867.
 - B. Mostly political usage. When a political party is in trouble, it is time to help.
29. Hew to the line, lets the chips fall where they may.
- A. Speech nominating General Grant for a third term as president.
 - B. When a decision is made, stay with the decision, whether the result is good or bad.
Stick to the decision, whatever happens. (The first part of this quotation is not used today.)
30. Taxation without representation is tyranny.
- A. It was part of James Otis' argument on the illegality of the Writs of Assistance, before the Superior Court of Massachusetts on February 1761.
 - B. It means that everyone who pays taxes should be represented.

31. Too little and too late.
- A. It is from the book Current History by Allan Nevins.
 - B. It is usually said about money or help. When you owe someone a debt and pay him back little, too little, or when you give too little help, too late.
32. Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.
- A. Forgy, who was a chaplain in U.S. Navy, said this when he saw a chain of men handling ammunition.
 - B. Let's hope God will protect us but at the same time let's work to protect ourselves.
33. (1) Hurry up and wait.
(2) Kilroy was here.
(3) That's the way the ball bounces.
- A. Army sayings.
 - B. (1) Something funny to say.
(2) You did something and do not want to admit doing it, so you say that "Kilroy was here." Kilroy is a fictitious person.
(3) If something happens that's not right, that is the way life is, so let it happen.
34. I shall return.
- A. MacArthur said this on leaving Corregidor for Australia on March 11, 1942.
 - B. This quotation shows the strong determination to go back MacArthur had.
35. Nuts.
- A. McAuliffe's reply to a German demand for surrender.
 - B. It means "No way!" or in other words, no!
Now people use it when something goes wrong.
36. Don't give up the ship.
- A. Lawrence said it on board the U.S. frigate Chesapeake. It was his final order as he was carried below fatally wounded before the capture of his ship by the British frigate Shannon.
 - B. Keep fighting, don't surrender.
37. There's a sucker born every minute.
- A. Said by P.T. Barnum who was a showman.
 - B. People are dumb and will believe everything.

38. Never give a sucker an even break.
- A. Said by W.C. Fields.
 - B. If people are stupid, then take advantage of them.
39. I cried all the way to the bank.
- A. Said by Liberace who is a wealthy pianist.
 - B. You were in a bad situation but you made good money.
40. When you call me that, smile!
- A. From the book The Virginian by Owen Wister.
 - B. Don't be that bad, even though you might think that way, smile!
41. I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception.
- A. Said by Groucho Marx.
 - B. I want to forget your face because I don't like you.

Proverbs

Food

Half a loaf is better than none.

-- A little is better than nothing, so try to be content with what you have.

Variety is the spice of life.

-- Different things make life colorful.

...bread is buttered on both sides.

(The actual one should be...to know which side the bread is buttered on).

-- to know who your friends are.

Cooking

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

-- Without one central controlling idea or person, you may not get good results.

The pot calls the kettle black.

-- You are criticizing other people when you have the same fault.

Out of the frying pan into the fire.

-- When you try to escape from one evil, you fall into a greater one.

Eating

Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

-- Don't criticize anything nice done for you.

Take with a grain of salt.

-- To feel some doubt whether it is altogether true.

One man's meat is another man's poison.

-- What is good for you is harmful to other people.

You can't eat your cake and have it too.

-- You cannot have it both ways.

First come, first served.

-- Quickness gets its reward.

-- Literal meaning.

Housing/Housekeeping

A woman's work is never done.

-- Housework is never finished.

Home is where the heart is.

-- Home is where the people you love are.

There's no place like home.

-- No matter how poor the home is, your heart is in your home.

People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

-- People with faults shouldn't criticize others.

Walls have ears.

-- There are listeners everywhere, and you had better be careful.

Clothing

He's too big for his breeches.

-- He is really conceited.

If the shoe fits, wear it.

-- If something applies to you, then take it.

A stitch in time saves nine.

-- Doing a little work now may save a lot of work later.

Human Relationships

Every man for himself.

-- You have to depend on yourself especially when in difficulties.

Like father, like son.

-- As the one is, so the other will be.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

-- Only when in difficulty can you know your real friends.

Familiarity breeds contempt.

-- When you know someone or something really well, you tend to lose respect or you tend to fear him (it).

One good turn deserves another.

-- When you get a benefit, you should give another one in return.

Live and let live.

-- Mind your own business.

Dead men tell no tales.

-- It is impossible not to tell secrets.

-- If people know your secrets, then get rid of them.

Time

Time heals all wounds.

-- Literal meaning.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

-- Finish what you should do, and do not wait till tomorrow.

Rome was not built in a day.

-- Slow down, do not rush.

-- It takes time and patience to do a great thing or work.

Tomorrow never comes.

-- You should not postpone till tomorrow what you should do today.

Better late than never.

-- It is never too late to do something.

Here today, gone tomorrow.

-- Take advantage of it while it is here.

Last but not least.

-- Even if you are the last, you are as good as anyone else.

Weather

Save it for a rainy day.

-- Save something for bad times.

Make hay while the sun shines.

-- Grasp your opportunities.

Geography

Don't make a mountain out of a mole-hill.

-- Don't over react to minor things which upset you.

-- Don't make easy things difficult.

Animals

You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

-- You can't make something good of something bad by nature.

Don't throw pearls before swine.

-- Don't give or present something to unappreciative people.

It takes one to know one.

-- If you are criticizing me for a certain characteristic you probably have the same characteristic.

Two is company, three is a crowd.

-- Literal meaning, much used by lovers.

Children should be seen, not heard.

-- Children should be disciplined and well-behaved.

Spare the rod and spoil the child.

-- Discipline the children, otherwise they will be spoiled.

Human Qualities & Stages

He who hesitates is lost.

-- You should always grasp your opportunity immediately.

Honesty is the best policy.

-- It pays to be honest.

Haste makes waste.

-- When you do things hurriedly, you often have to do them over again because they were done poorly.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

-- Once determined, you can achieve anything.

Beauty is only skin-deep.

-- Don't pay too much attention to pretty looks.

-- Beauty is no proof of virtues.

Beggars can't be choosers.

-- When you have nothing, you have to take whatever is given to you.

A sucker is born every minute.

-- People are dumb and will believe everything.

Don't throw out the baby with the bath water.

-- When you get rid of bad things, you have to be careful because you might lose something valuable at the same time.

Boys will be boys.

-- You can not change certain ways boys act; you have to accept it.

As the boy is, so is the man.

-- One's nature cannot be changed.

Never say die.

-- Don't give up.

His bark is worse than his bite.
 -- He is bad-tempered, but not dangerous.

Let sleeping dogs lie.
 -- If everything is fine, then leave things as they are and don't disturb or try to change them.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
 -- It is difficult to make elderly people accept new ways because they are not adaptable.

Curiosity killed the cat.
 -- If you are too curious about something, you might get into trouble.

...let the cat out of the bag.
 -- To reveal a secret.

There are many ways to skin a cat.
 -- There are many proper ways to do things, not just one.

When the cat's away the mice will play.
 -- When the person in authority is away, advantage will be taken.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.
 -- You can lead a person in a certain direction, but you can't force him to do what he doesn't want to do.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
 -- Don't find fault with the things you get.

Birds

The early bird catches the worm.
 -- When you act quickly or soon, you will gain your objective.

Kill two birds with one stone.
 -- To achieve two things with one effort.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
 -- What you have is better than what you expect.

Birds of a feather flock together.
 -- People of similar interests, tastes or characters tend to get together.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
 -- Don't say or act as if something belongs to you before it really is yours.

Plants & Trees

...can't see the forest for the trees.
 -- To neglect the whole by concentrating on the details.

Language

Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil.
 -- Reject all bad things.

A word to the wise is sufficient.
 -- When the person is wise, little advice is needed.

Easier said than done.
 -- To say things is easier than to do them.

No sooner said than done.
 -- Do things immediately.

Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies.
 -- Don't ask me any questions because I will not tell you
 the truth.

Actions speak louder than words.
 -- Doing is more important than talking.

Put up or shut up.
 -- To do or show someone something of value or forget about
 it.

Thinking

Seeing is believing.
 -- The best proof of anything is your direct knowledge of it.

Out of sight, out of mind.
 -- When you don't see someone or something, you forget them.

Necessity is the mother of invention.
 -- You will always find ways to do things when necessary.

Let your conscience be your guide.
 -- Do things according to your conscience.

Two heads are better than one.
 -- Two people's opinions are better than one person's.

Numbers

Six of one and half-a-dozen of another.
 -- Either one is as good as the other.

Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.
 -- If you show someone a little kindness, then he is going to take advantage of you.

When angry, count to ten.
 -- Be more patient when you are angry.

Substances and Materials

A rolling stone gathers no moss.
 -- You will not become rich or prosperous if you are always moving and do not settle down.
 -- If you keep moving, you will keep growing.

All that glitters is not gold.
 -- Don't be cheated by appearance.

You never miss the water 'till the well runs dry.
 -- You should be more appreciate of what you have now.

Good riddance to bad rubbish.
 -- A happiness relief of something bad.

Every little bit helps.
 -- You should be grateful of the little you get.

Containers

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
 -- Don't take the risk to put what you have in a single venture.

One rotten apple spoils the barrel.
 -- One bad thing or situation will influence the whole.

Emotions

Love makes the world go 'round.
 -- Nothing is as important as love.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
 -- When you are in love with someone and are separated, you will understand how much you mean to each other.

It's no use crying over spilled milk.
 -- It is useless to lament what was happened and cannot be undone.

Better safe than sorry.
 -- It is better not to be impulsive or to take a great risk.

Misery loves company.

-- When you are in a bad situation, you will feel better if others are in the same situation.

Once bitten, twice shy.

-- You will be more careful because of the lessons you have learned from the previous experience.

We have nothing to fear but fear itself.

-- If you are brave, you can do anything.

He who laughs last, laughs best.

-- You should not express your triumph too soon until it is for sure.

The Body & Its Functions

Cold hands, warm heart.

-- People who appear cold might have warm hearts.

The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

-- The way to make a man happy is by cooking.

In one ear and out the other.

-- As soon as you hear things, you forget them.

Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.

-- Don't behave out of resentment in such a way as to bring harm to yourself.

Blood is thicker than water.

-- It is better to ask help from a relative than from a stranger.

Look before you leap.

-- Think before you act.

Transportation

Don't put the cart before the horse.

-- Don't change the right or natural order of things.

It's like carrying coals to Newcastle.

-- To take something where it is already plentiful.

Money

Money doesn't grow on trees.

-- You have to work hard to get money.

Money talks.

-- Money can do anything.

Money is the root of all evil.

-- People do bad things to get money.

Money burns a hole in the pocket.

-- To spend a lot of money.

Don't throw good money after bad.

-- Don't make a poor investment after another.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

-- When you save money, you make money.

The best things in life are free.

-- All natural wonders are free.

Easy come, easy go.

-- When things or money is gotten without hardwork, you will not take it seriously and will spend the money quickly.

Recreation

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

-- Pleasure has its place in work.

The more the merrier.

-- There is always room for one more person.

-- The more the people, the happier it becomes.

Sports and Games

Slow and steady wins the race.

-- By being patient and careful, you will achieve your goals.

Turn about is fair play.

-- Anything you do to me, I can do to you. (negative)

The bigger they come, the harder they fall.

-- The more famous people become, the more trouble they will have when in despair.

Sink or swim.

-- We'll either succeed or fail.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

-- If you can't win, just give up and be like everyone.

Practice makes perfect.
-- Literal meaning.

Medicine and Health

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
-- A little preventative health care will keep you from becoming ill.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
-- Prevention is more important than cure.

Business

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
-- You have to take risk to gain.

Never give a sucker an even break.
-- If people are stupid, then take advantage of them.

Every man has his price.
-- Everybody is corruptable.

Business before pleasure.
-- You should finish your work before you play.

The customer is always right.
-- A store person should never criticize his customers.

Shops and Tools

Jack of all trades, master of none.
-- If you try everything, you will not become an expert at anything.

A bad workman blames his tools.
-- When you have done something wrong, you blame everything but yourself.

...hit the nail on the head.
-- to arrive at the right conclusion.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link.
-- No matter how strong something is, if one part is weak, the whole is weak.

Don't saw off the branch you're sitting on.
-- Don't say anything bad to the thing or situation you are depending on.

Law

Truth will out. (This proverb should be "Truth wins out.")
 -- Truth will always be revealed even after a long time.

Two wrongs don't make a right.
 -- You can't correct a bad situation by doing another bad thing.

The end justifies the means.
 -- The result is most important, not the process.

Government & Politics

United we stand, divided we fall.
 -- We should unite together, otherwise we will be defeated.

Media

Bad news travels fast.
 -- If you have done something bad or wrong, it will soon be spread.

No news is good news.
 -- If you don't hear anything, then everything is fine.

The pen is mightier than the sword.
 -- Ideas are stronger than force.

Don't judge a book by its cover.
 -- Don't judge things from their appearances.

Education

Practice what you preach.
 -- Do what you say.

Do as I say, not as I do.
 -- If a person tells you to do something, do it, even if this person's actions are contrary to what he is saying.

War

Don't give up the ship.
 -- Keep fighting, don't surrender.

All is fair in love and war.
 -- There are no limits in love and war.

Energy

Where there's smoke, there's fire.

-- There is always some reason for a rumor.

...burn the candle at both ends.

-- To work early and late.

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