

## Medication for Spring Colds

Last week I had a cough and a stuffy nose. I went to the drug store. The Cold Medications aisle had 319 different products for me to choose from — then I really felt sick! Do we need this?

Here is what you need to know to make it through the Cold Medications aisle:

1) Always talk with a pharmacist or doctor before you take any of these drugs for the first time, especially if you have other diseases or are taking other medications.

2) If the medication is for a child, always use one that is designed for children — read the label for the right dose.

3) Most of the products you will find are multi-symptom medications. This means they are supposed to help with several symptoms (problems) at once — a runny nose and a fever, for example. Or a cough, sneezing, and a stuffy nose. But even if you find a multi-symptom drug that is exactly right for you this time, it may not be right the next time you get sick. If you look carefully, you can buy medications for just one symptom. Buy just the ones you need and take the recommended amount of each. For example, last week I bought two bottles — a cough suppressant and a nasal decongestant.

4) There are basically four groups of symptoms these drugs will help:

a) **fever and headache** — these include some non-aspirin pain reliever which also lowers fever

b) **cough** — these are either *suppressants* (to quiet the cough) or *expectorants* (to loosen it; but the value of expectorants is unclear — try drinking a lot of water instead)

c) **runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes** — these are often cold or allergy symptoms treated by some kind of antihistamine; as a side effect, these make many people sleepy

d) **stuffy** (full, clogged) **nose** — nasal decongestants are used to clear the nose and allow you to breathe more comfortably; as a side effect, some of these make some people feel very awake

Because of the side effects of antihistamines and decongestants, many multi-symptom drugs use a combination of the two; you can make your own mixture, too.

5) The labels on these medications will always list the exact drug included and the amount of each, in tiny tiny print under “Active Ingredients.” In bigger letters on the front, they will list either the symptom (like For Cough and Stuffy Nose) or the general type of drug (like Cough Suppressant and Nasal Decongestant). If you do not care which particular drug is included, just read the front labels.

6) If you shop at a *chain drug store* (one with many different stores throughout your city), you may find *generic* drugs that are chemically identical to the *brand name* drugs (ones made by large drug companies). These will be less expensive. They will probably be on the shelf right next to the brand name product, in a box with similar letters and colors.

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## May 1: The Un-Holiday

In other places and in other times, May 1 is or was an important holiday. In Northern Europe, from Roman times through the Middle Ages, May Day (May 1) was a popular spring festival. People brought flowers into their homes. They built fires in honor of fertility goddesses and danced around a Maypole.

The Protestant English settlers who moved to North America in the 1600s did not allow this kind of dancing or goddess worship. They made May Day celebrations illegal and the tradition never grew very popular in the US.

The US also does not share May 1 as a celebration of organized labor, as is done in much of the world. European socialists chose May 1 to be an international Labor Day because of a labor strike on May 1, 1886, in Chicago. This strike led to the Haymarket Riot, during which 11 people were killed and over 100 were hurt. It was an important event in the history of the labor movement. But in the years that followed, the socialist and communist movements became more popular outside the US than inside it.

In fact, if you are from a country that has had a strong Communist party influence, the strength of American anti-Communist attitudes may surprise you. In one survey of Americans' opinions, more than half said Communism was the "worst kind of government." Today, for most people in the US, May 1 is an "un-holiday."

## Memorial Day

On the last Monday of May (this year, May 27), most states observe Memorial Day. This holiday began in the 1860s, to mark the end of the US Civil War (between the northern and southern states).

Even before the war ended, groups of women in the South visited the graves of soldiers who had died during the war. They put flowers on the graves of both Southern and Northern soldiers. News of this peace-loving act traveled quickly. Decorating the graves of soldiers (with flags and flowers) is now an important part of Memorial Day. Soldiers from all wars are honored in this way.

Many towns have parades in which schools and community organizations march together. The point of the parades is to remember those who died in a war. The parades are often friendly, musical, and fun, but have a serious undertone of appreciation for veterans.

The holiday has come to have a broader meaning in recent years, too. People often visit the graves of their family members, even if they were not soldiers who died in a war. As the holiday comes in early summer, they may plant flowers and pull weeds. Many have silent conversations with the family member who has died.

Even more broadly, Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer in some

unofficial ways. My mother always taught me not to wear white shoes or clothes till after Memorial Day, because "white is a summer color."

In the North, public outdoor swimming pools traditionally open on Memorial Day, and close on Labor Day (the first Monday in September). Parks and museums may begin longer summer opening hours on this day. Although public schools may not end for a few more weeks, Memorial Day feels like the beginning of summer.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday and a legal holiday in most states. US government agencies (like the post office) and state agencies (like schools) will be closed. Businesses may or may not close. Gift giving, parties, songs, special characters and decorations (except, perhaps, the display of American flags) are not part of this holiday.



# When Someone Dies

We all want to do the “right thing” when someone we know dies. You may not know what to expect in the US if a neighbor or co-worker dies. The actual services will be very different for Christian, Jewish, Muslim and non-religious families. But many customs are the same.

Some general rules:

## Christian Families

- ♦ You will see a death notice or *obituary* (story about the person who has died) in your local newspaper a day or two after the person’s death. This will tell you the time and place for visiting hours and the funeral.
- ♦ Some families have *visiting hours* (sometimes called a *wake*), usually at a funeral home, usually one or two days after the death. If visiting hours are printed in the newspaper, it means that anyone is welcome. You will have a chance to speak to the family. The actual words you say are not very important — what the family will remember is that you took the time to visit.
- ♦ Funeral services are usually held a day or two later, in a church or a funeral home. Again, if the time of the funeral has been made public, anyone may attend; do not expect an invitation. Arrive on time. Dress conservatively (black is traditional but not necessary). There may be an usher to tell you where to sit — the first few rows are usually for the person’s family. The person’s body may be available for you to see (an “open casket”); you do not need to do this, however. There may be music, prayers, readings, and a eulogy (speech about the person’s life).
- ♦ Often, the *interment* (burial of the body) happens right after the funeral. The family will probably announce whether guests are invited to the interment. If you go, turn your car headlights on to signal that you are part of a



funeral. The group of cars may be allowed to go (cautiously) through a red light in order to stay together.

- ♦ The family may hold a reception after the interment. It will be clear if you are invited.
- ♦ Sometimes there is a *memorial service* after (or instead of) a funeral. This may be several weeks or even months after the death, and may be in a different city.
- ♦ Whether or not you go to the funeral, it is thoughtful to write a letter to the person’s family. Express your sadness, say something good about the person, and offer to help in the future.

## Jewish Families

Much of what is above is also true for Jewish families. However:

- ♦ Jewish funerals and burials are usually within one or two days of the death. Men may be asked to wear a *yarmulke* (small hat); these will be provided for you. There will not be an “open casket.”
- ♦ Family visiting is held in the family’s home. Jewish families may *sit shiva* for seven days: they stay at home while friends and neighbors visit, bringing food and not leaving the family alone. The family may leave the door unlocked — do not ring the bell but just enter respectfully. Stay about 30 minutes.

## Muslim Families

Much of what is above is also true for Muslim families. However:

- ♦ Women, not men, should enter a funeral with their heads covered (with a scarf).
- ♦ There will not be an “open casket.”
- ♦ Family visiting will be in the home.

## Gift Giving When Someone Dies

I think the nicest thing you can do when someone dies is to write a letter to the family expressing your sorrow. But many people give a gift, too. Here are some ideas:

For people in Christian or Muslim families, send flowers (to the church or funeral home, or, especially for Muslims, directly to the family). There are no “right” or “wrong” flowers to send, but tell the florist the flowers are for a funeral. She will make an appropriate arrangement. Do not send or bring cut flowers to Jewish families.

Or, send a check to a charity that was important to the person who died. Sometimes the family will suggest the charity they prefer. Include a note that says “In memory of [John Smith].” The charity will tell the family about your gift, though usually it will not tell them the amount.

For Catholics, you might donate a mass card. You make a contribution (usually \$10-\$50) and a priest will dedicate a *mass* (church service) in the person’s honor.

Gifts of money to the family are usually not appropriate.

Or you could make food for the family so they do not have to cook. Food that can be frozen and that is not in dishes you want back is nice. If the family is Jewish, it is safest to send kosher food.

## Mother Metaphors

A culture's values are hidden in the colorful corners of its language. What does the English language say about mothers?

- ♦ We say, *Necessity is the mother of invention*. (It is when we really need something that we are most creative.) Here, mothers are makers of new, separate life.
  - ♦ A related focus is on mothers as the first and most basic source, as in *Mother Earth*, *mother tongue* (first language), and *mother lode* (rich and important source).
  - ♦ In modern technology, mothers are parents to whom we stay connected: a *mother ship* (a base ship for smaller ships) and a *motherboard* (that holds the main parts of a computer).
- But we also hear that we must not stay too close to mothers:
- ♦ To say someone is *tied to his mother's apron strings*, or is a *Mama's boy* is an insult. It means that he is too close to his mother, and should grow up and be independent.
  - ♦ A *mother hen* takes care of others but with too much attention. The language is telling us to separate from our mothers and their influence.
  - ♦ A *motherhood and apple pie issue* is one that is sure to be popular because it is not controversial. How ironic that some of our most controversial social issues today are about motherhood.

## Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a day for children of all ages to honor their mothers. Of course, a special day to honor mothers is not an American invention. The ancient Greeks and Romans had spring festivals to honor goddesses. And in the Middle Ages, Christians held ceremonies each year to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. By the 1600s, the English had Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday of Lent (before Easter).

Mother's Day in the US is the second Sunday of May (May 12 this year) — but do not assume there is an ancient root to this date. The holiday became popular in the US in 1907 through the work of a woman whose mother had worked for peace during the Civil War. The mother died on the second Sunday of May so we still use that date today.

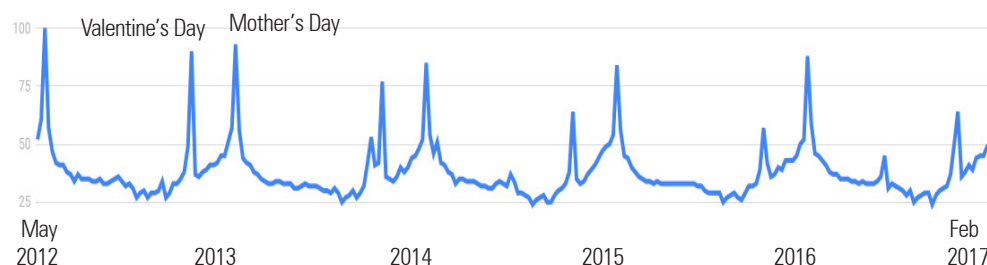


US telephone companies and flower and card shops will have one of their busiest days of the year on Mother's Day. Young children may bring breakfast to their mothers in bed, along with a hand-made card or gift.

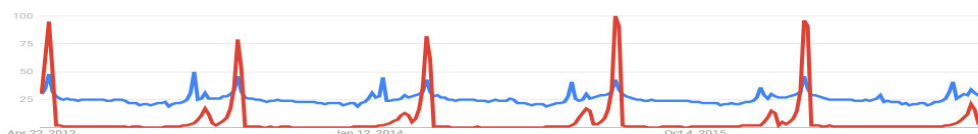
Adults may visit their mothers with flowers and words of appreciation, or to take them to lunch in a restaurant. If the mothers are too far away, they may call on the telephone, send a card, or have flowers delivered. In recent years, sales of perfume, lingerie, and jewelry have also

increased in the days before Mother's Day. Some people wear a red *carnation* (flower) to honor a mother who is living, or a white carnation for one who has died. Mother's Day is not a legal or business holiday.

## Google Trends: A Tool for Studying Culture



Yikes, it's Mother's Day. Quick, where do I buy flowers?? Google it. That's apparently what Americans do. This chart, generated with Google Trends, shows two annual spikes for google searches for the word 'flowers' - Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. You can try this yourself at [trends.google.com](https://trends.google.com). In the 'Explore topics' search box at the top, type in a search word or phrase. Choose 'Worldwide,' 'United States' or your country from the pull-down menu. You can also compare several words and phrases by clicking on the Compare box. For example, here's a search for 'flowers' (blue) and 'Mother's Day' (red) worldwide. What else might you google?

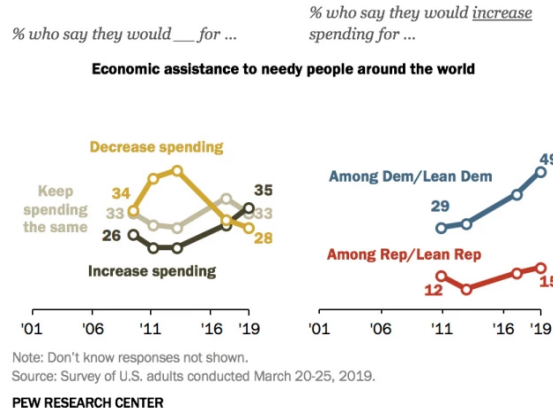




# Alternate Universes

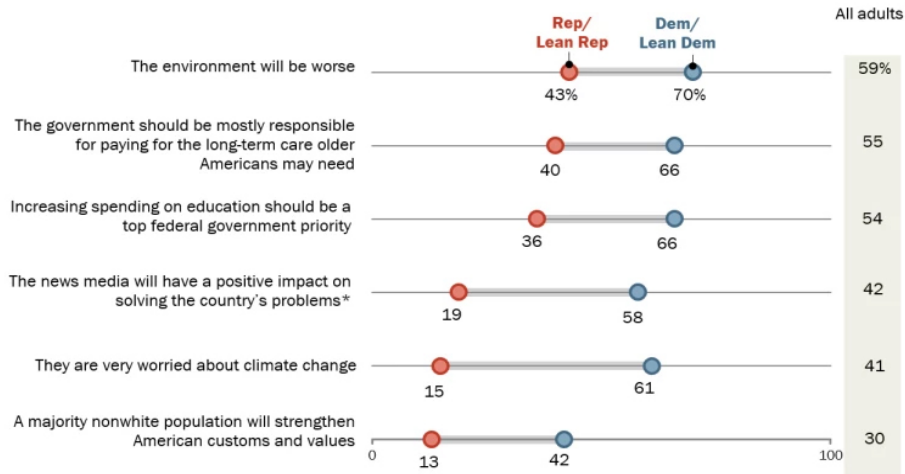
Reading the news after the release of the Mueller report made me wonder if Americans are living in alternative universes - such different reactions to the same event! Here are some other examples of the political divide at this time. To understand US culture, be sure you are getting your news from a variety of sources!

## Democratic support for increasing economic aid for needy people around the world continues to rise



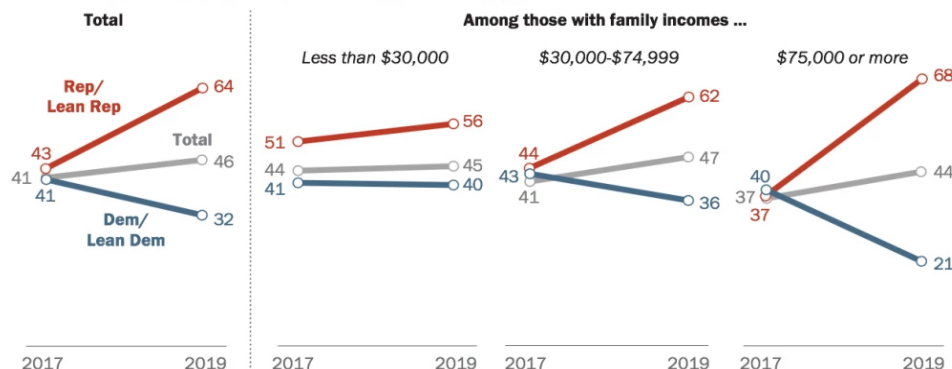
## Parties are deeply divided on future worries and priorities

% saying \_\_\_ in the future



## Republicans and Democrats with incomes of at least \$75,000 sharply diverge in views of fairness of the federal tax system

% who say the present federal tax system is very or moderately fair



## 7 Tips for a Green Lawn

If you live in an American home with a grass lawn, you may have a responsibility that is new for you. Grass plants make their own food in their leaf blades. They get the water and nutrients they need from their roots. Simply put, your job is to keep the right balance between root length and leaf blade length. What you should do depends a lot on where you live, but here are seven tips to get you started:

- 1 - Cut the grass when it is dry. The blades will stand up straighter.
- 2 - Cut shaded lawns higher than those in full sun. The shaded plant needs more blade to make the same food.
- 3 - Grass that has turned brown is not necessarily dead. Food may be stored in its roots. With water, it may turn green again. Don't give up on it.
- 4 - As a rule, do not cut off more than 1/3 of the blade.
- 5 - If your grass has gotten very tall, do not cut it to the right length all at once. This is too much shock to its system. Cut an inch or two off, wait a few days, then repeat.
- 6 - Grass clippings make good fertilizer, if they are short enough to wiggle down to the ground through the grass.
- 7 - Fertilizers are not food; they are nutrients. Most lawns need fertilizer. Ask a local nursery for help with what to use.

## Birthday Biography: William Lyman

This month we salute the inventor of the lowly can opener, William Lyman. It might seem like a modest Claim to Fame, but consider this: For 50 years after people started preserving food in metal cans, they had no easy way to open the cans. That's right - in 1813, Peter Durand, for the British Navy, invented a safe way to store food in cans made of solid iron. The instructions read, "Cut round the top near the outer edge with a chisel and hammer."

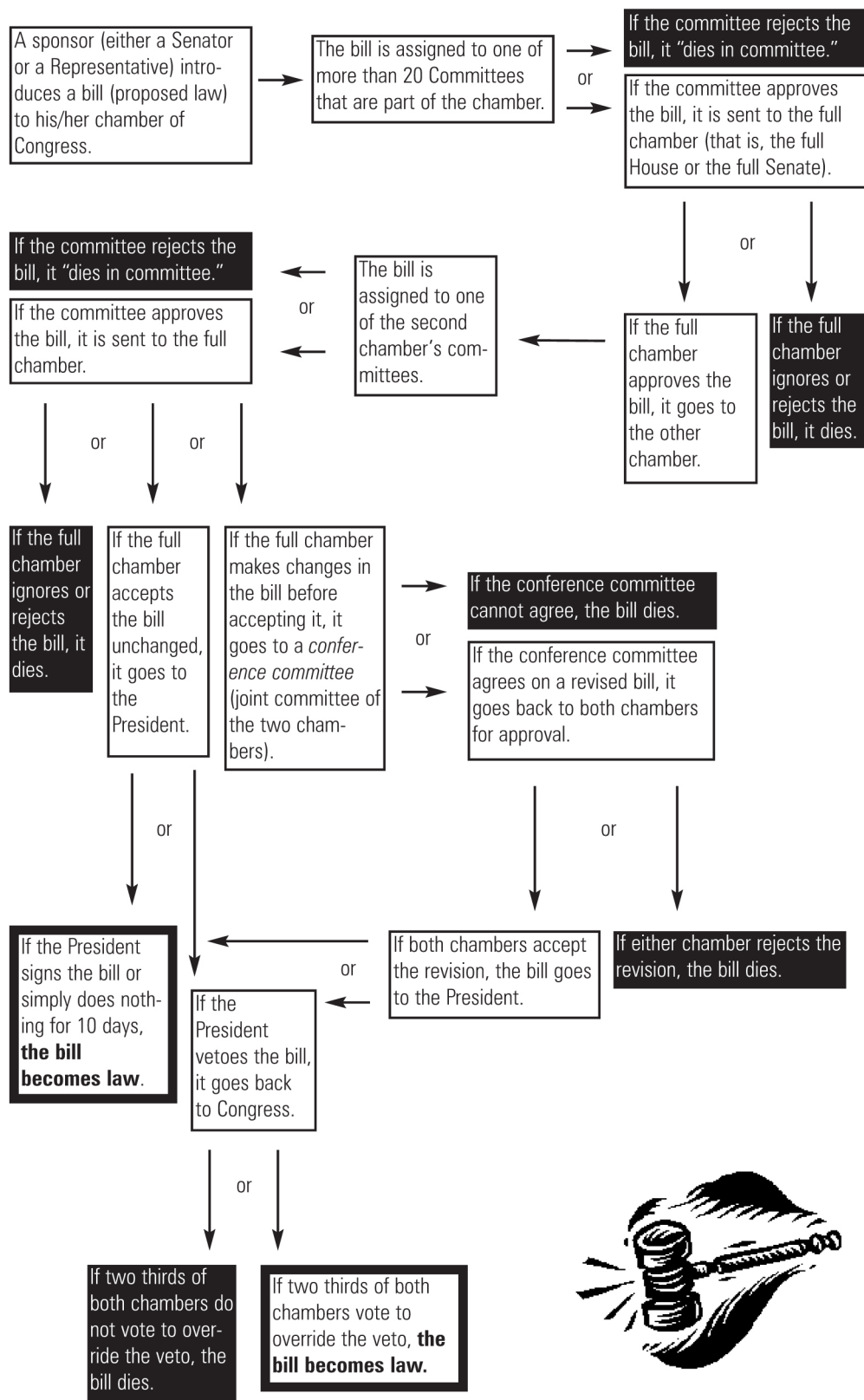
In the 1860s, a lighter steel can became more popular and can opener technology could finally evolve. First was a bayonet-type device, invented by Ezra Warner, that a grocer used to force open cans before the customer left the store.

Only in 1870 did our hero, William Lyman, invent the can opener that we know today, with a cutting wheel that goes around the can's rim. His original tool was improved by making the wheel serrated in 1925, but basically Lyman's same general approach is in use today, even with electric can openers. (Perhaps the biggest change in can opening technology since Lyman's invention was the pull-open can, by Ermal Fraze in 1966, but most cans still require Mr. Lyman's tool.)

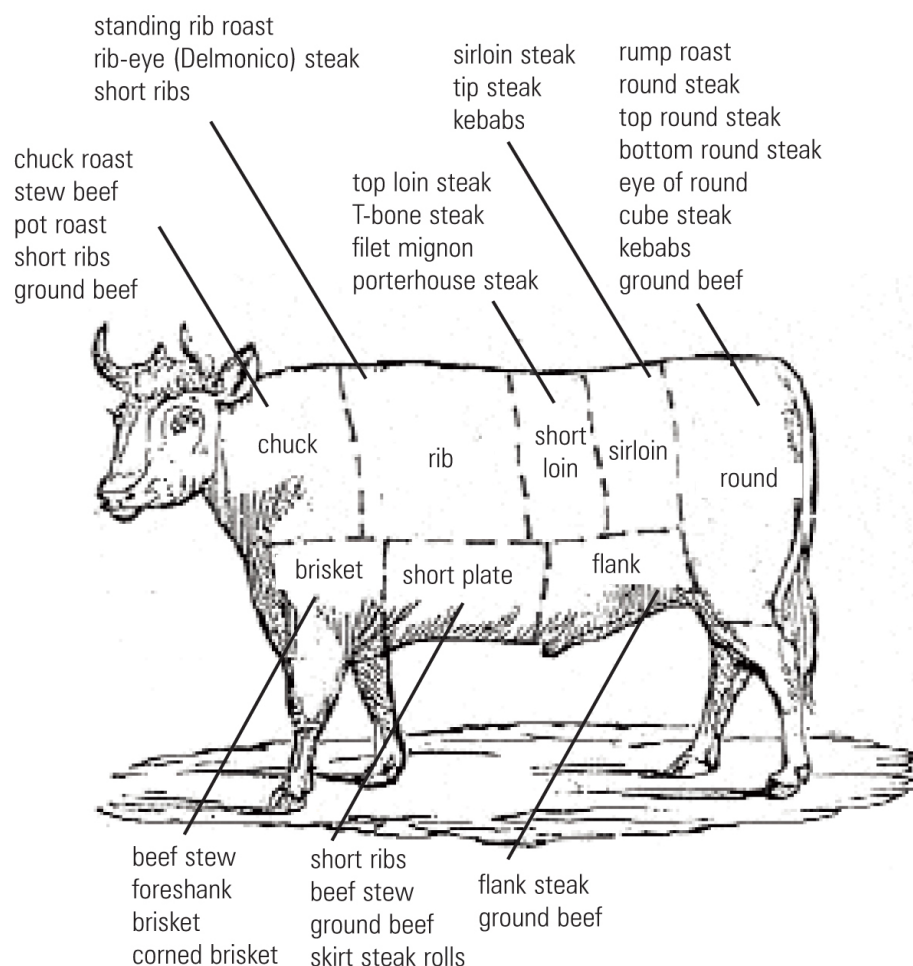
Mr. Lyman was handy in the kitchen - he also invented a way to seal hot fruit in a jar, a pitcher that kept ice from pouring out the spout, and a butter dish whose function I have not been able to figure out.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Lyman!

## How Laws Are Made



# American Cuts of Beef



## Menu Vocabulary for Meat or Fish

**broiled:** under direct, intense heat from the top

**grilled:** over direct, intense heat from the bottom; may show grill marks

**char-broiled:** over open flame on a grill; will show grill marks

**roasted:** in a hot oven, usually for a long, slow period of cooking; with some fat

**baked:** in an oven, with little or no fat

**steamed:** on stove, over steam

**fried:** on stove, in a little fat or oil

**sautéed/stir-fried:** on stove, in a little fat or oil, for a short time

**deep fried:** on stove or special large pot, in several inches of fat or oil

**poached:** on stove, in liquid that is not quite 100° C

**blackened:** dipped in butter and a spice mix, then cooked in a very hot cast iron skillet

**rare, medium rare, medium, well done:** refers to how long the meat or fish is cooked; *rare* will be warm but barely cooked in the middle; *well done* will be thoroughly cooked throughout

**filet:** either a fleshy, boneless, tender piece of meat or fish (noun) or to remove bones from a piece of fish (verb)

## The Steak, the Menu and You

Confused about ordering beef from a restaurant or butcher? Here's a quick guide:

Look for these boneless pieces of the beef fillet or tenderloin (the undercut of the sirloin) on the menu — they tend to be the most tender (and the most expensive):

*filet mignon* — from the end of the beef fillet

*Chateaubriand* — from the middle of the beef fillet

*tournedos* — small slices of fillet

These steaks are not quite as special, but are also very good:

*sirloin*

*porterhouse* — from the short loin; includes a fairly large piece of tenderloin on one side of the bone

*T-bone* — similar to a porterhouse, but the piece of tenderloin is smaller

*New York strip* — a porterhouse steak from the short loin without the bone and tenderloin

*Delmonico, club, minute, or rib-eye* — a boneless steak from the rib section

These cuts of beef are good if they have been marinated and/or cooked slowly:

*flank steak* (sometimes called *London broil*)

*round steak*  
*brisket*

And don't be fooled by the name *Salisbury steak* — it is minced *round* or *chuck*. In other words... *hamburger*.

Newcomer's Almanac is published monthly by The Interchange Institute, for people who have recently moved to the United States. Its goal is to promote international understanding by providing information about the American holidays, customs, values, social issues, and language that often confuse and surprise newcomers. It is written by Anne P. Copeland, PhD, who is a clinical psychologist and the Director of The Interchange Institute. She is an American and has lived and worked overseas with her family.

The Interchange Institute is a not-for-profit organization that studies the impact of intercultural transitions on individuals, their families, and the organizations for which they work. From the results of this research, the Institute offers seminars and workshops, produces publications, and provides consultative services to the international newcomers, their organizations, and to host communities, recognizing that change and insight on both sides facilitates smooth transition.

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## That Crazy English: Flowery Idioms

Plant some May flowers in your speech and watch the smiles grow:

She becomes a *shrinking violet* when she is at school. (She becomes a *very shy person* when she is at school.)

Your dog looks *like a rose between two thorns* sitting next to those two ugly, dirty dogs. (Your dog looks *beautiful* sitting next to those two others.) (Usually used as a joke.)

I am going to *nip that in the bud*. (I am going to *stop that before it gets started, while it is easy to stop*.)

You have said enough nice things about him; do not *gild the lily*. (You have said enough nice things about him; do not *say so much that people will stop believing you*.)

His boss was fired after the scandal but Mary came out *smelling like a rose*. (His boss was fired but Mary was *seen by others as honest and good*.)

Do not be so *lily-livered*; you know you are right. (Do not be *afraid and cowardly*; you know you are right.)

His mother *sees the world through rose-colored glasses*. (His mother is *very optimistic, and always sees the positive side of things, ignoring a more realistic view*.)



## IDIOMS

Read [\*That Crazy English: Flowery Idioms\*](#) on page 8. Write a sentence, using one of the idioms, about each of the following situations:

1. You want to impress your sister with how fabulous your new city is. You list many many positive things about it, even exaggerating a few. Your friend thinks you made it sound more positive than it really is.

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2. You know your friend is a wonderful person. She tends to be very shy in new crowds, so people often miss her positive traits. You try to urge her to be less shy.

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3. Your boss has been talking about offering you some new responsibilities for more pay, but you do not want to do these tasks. You try to discourage him from even considering you for this new role.

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4. That job takes courage and strength. You think the person who has the job is neither brave nor strong. You are trying to describe him to your spouse.

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5. Everyone on the team was found to have cheated except one woman. She behaved in a very ethical way and is now a leader.

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6. You would like your sister, who is dressed very elegantly, to sit between your two brothers in their jeans and T-shirts.

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7. You wish your son was more realistic about his chances of winning the contest, but he insists on thinking he will probably win.

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## HOMEWORK

## WITH A PEN

1. Read [Mother Metaphors](#) on page 4. Write a list of any metaphors or idioms in your home language that use the word or concept of “mother.” Translate the phrase into English, first word for word, then describe its meaning.

2. Read [Memorial Day](#) on page 2. Write a description of a holiday in your home country when the focus is on people who have died. What happens on the holiday? Is it a patriotic or a religious holiday?

3. Read [Gift-Giving When Someone Dies](#) on page 3. Write a description of any gifts people give families in your home country when someone has died. Are there any gifts that would be rude or inappropriate to give?

4. Read [How Laws Are Made](#) on page 6. Write a chart that shows how laws are made in your home country.

5. Read [Menu Vocabulary for Meat or Fish](#) and [The Steak, the Menu and You](#) on page 7. Write a list of any menu items and/or meat and fish vocabulary that confused you in the US. Are there any ways of cooking meat or fish in your country that you would add to the Vocabulary list?

## GRAMMAR: WILL FUTURE

Read [When Someone Dies](#) on page 3. The article includes many uses of the word “will” to talk about the future: “...the actual services will be very different...,” “You will see...” etc. This form is called “will future” and can be used for several purposes:

- ♦ to express a promise (“I will feed your cat while you are gone.”)
- ♦ to make a quick choice, often in the contraction form (“I’ll have a hamburger.”)
- ♦ to make a prediction (“I will be home by 8:00.”)

In the article, which of these purposes is the most commonly used? \_\_\_\_\_

Write a different sentence using the “will future” form, about each of these topics:

a. (finish my dinner — to express a promise) \_\_\_\_\_

b. (finish my dinner — to make a prediction) \_\_\_\_\_

c. (finish my dinner — to make a quick choice) \_\_\_\_\_

d. (take the early train — to express a promise) \_\_\_\_\_

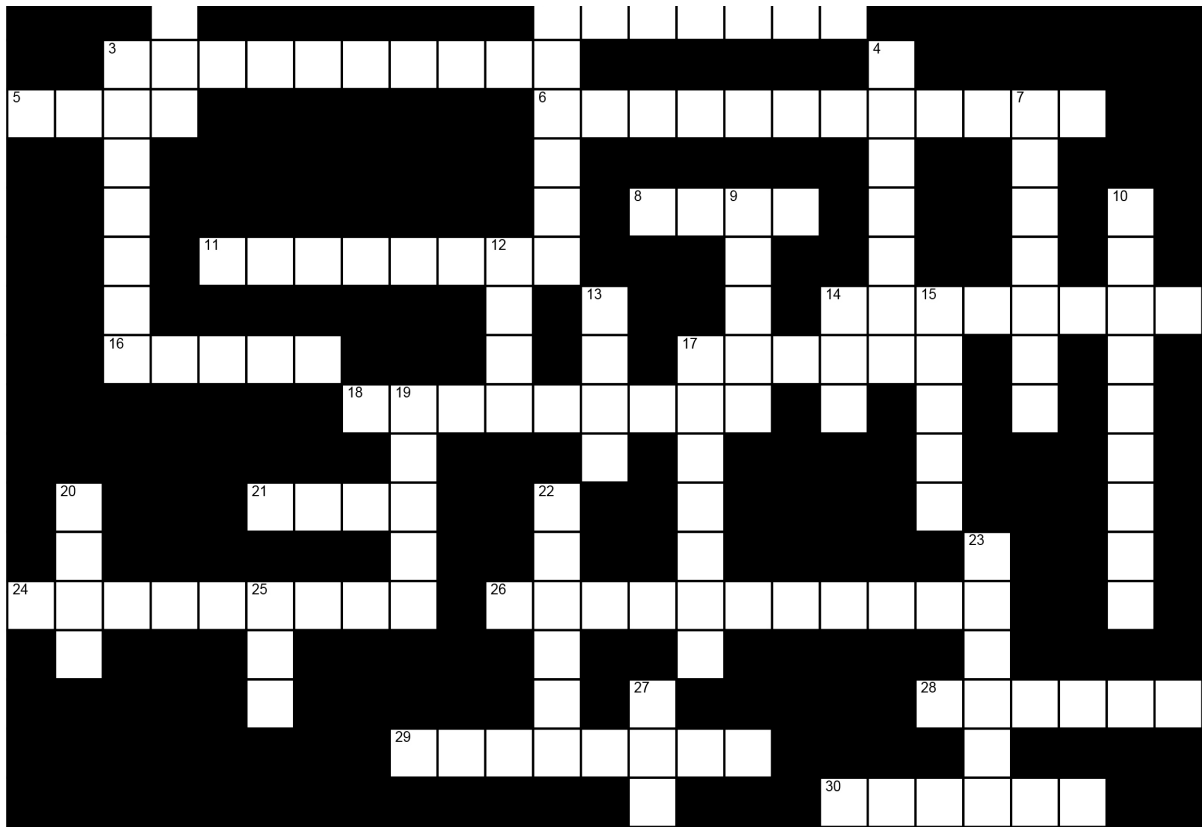
e. (take the early train — to make a prediction) \_\_\_\_\_

f. (take the early train — to make a quick choice) \_\_\_\_\_

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read [Medication for Spring Colds](#) on page 1. Mark each sentence below as True (T) or False (F). Make corrections to make any False statements True.

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A multisymptom medication is a kind of brand name drug.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Drug labels only list the ingredient(s) with medicinal value.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Generic drugs are usually cheaper than brand name drugs.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Some drugs help both reduce fever and decrease pain.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The safest thing, when treating a child, is to give a half dose of a drug designed for adults. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Cold medications typically have no side effects.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



#### Across

2. see the world through rose-colored \_\_\_\_
3. Most lawns need \_\_\_\_.
5. do not \_\_\_\_ the lily
6. Being tied to your mother's \_\_\_\_ (two words) is not good in the US.
8. \_\_\_\_, or proposed law
11. The US Congress has two \_\_\_\_: the Hoiuse of Representatives and the Senate.
14. \_\_\_\_ Day marks the unofficial beginning of summer.
16. Jewish families often receive visitors in their home, "sitting \_\_\_\_," when a family member has died.
17. It is common for communities to have a \_\_\_\_ on Memorial Day.
18. Necessity is the mother of \_\_\_\_.
21. Christian families may have visiting hours, or a \_\_\_\_, after a family member has died.
24. Some restaurants call ground beef \_\_\_\_ steak.
26. a steak from the short loin
28. a full, clogged nose
29. newspaper story about a person who has died
30. a rose between two \_\_\_\_

#### Down

1. On Mother's Day, wear a \_\_\_\_ carnation to honor their mother who is living.
2. It is common for people to visit family members' \_\_\_\_ on Memorial Day.
3. It is appropriate to send \_\_\_\_ to Christian or Muslim families when someone has died.
4. cooked under intense heat from the top
7. a drug with the same ingredients as a brand name drug, usually less expensive
9. William \_\_\_\_ invented the can opener.
10. dipped in butter and spices then cooked on a hot skillet
12. smelling like a \_\_\_\_
13. A US President can \_\_\_\_ a bill to try to prevent it from becoming a law.
14. While \_\_\_\_ 1 is an important holiday in many countries, it is not widely observed in the US.
15. Republicans and Democrats disagree about whether then \_\_\_\_ will have a positive impact on solving problems in the future.
17. cooked on a stove in liquid that is not quite 100 degrees
19. More Americans in both parties think there should be increased spending for \_\_\_\_ people around the world, compared to 2011.
20. Brown grass is not necessarily \_\_\_\_.
22. a shrinking \_\_\_\_
23. It is always appropriate to write a \_\_\_\_ to the family of someone who has died.
25. nip that in the \_\_\_\_
27. Democrats and Republicans now sharply disagree about whether the federal \_\_\_\_ system is fair.

## OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read about [Mother's Day](#) on page 4. In the week before Mother's Day, write a list of all the products you see being advertised for mothers. You will certainly see flowers, telephone calls, and candy. What else do you see? What image of "mothers" do these products suggest. For example, are they for "the practical mom?" "The physically attractive woman?" "The one who takes care of others?" Do any of these products surprise you because they are not how you think of "mothers?"

2. Read about [Memorial Day](#) on page 2. Watch for three things on Memorial Day: a parade in your town, flags in cemeteries, and changing hours of parks or museums.

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read [Google Trends: A Tool for Studying Culture](#) on page 4. Go to [trends.google.com](https://trends.google.com), choose your country, and try to track a word or phrase you think will show a seasonal or holiday annual pattern. Try comparing two or more words or phrases that might show different patterns.

3. Read *7 Tips for a Green Lawn* on page 5. Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=74IWGCJ9fM8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74IWGCJ9fM8) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui2qnOUj6Ec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui2qnOUj6Ec) to see more tips for a green lawn.

4. Read *Birthday Biography: William Lyman* on page 6. Go to [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for 'can opener.' Learn how to open a can without an opener. Find a new style of opener you have not seen before.

## WITH A FRIEND

1. Read [Mother's Day](#) on page 4. Discuss with a partner or friend any differences you have seen between how mothers are treated in the US and in your home country. Consider (a) mothers of young infants, (b) mothers of school-age children, (c) mothers of teenagers, (d) mothers in the workplace, (e) elderly mothers. Other differences?

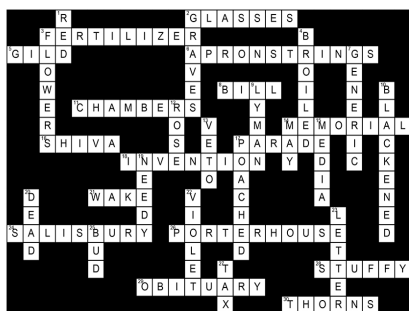
2. Read [When Someone Dies](#) on page 3. Explain to a friend or partner what happens when someone dies in your country, and/or within your religion and culture. Discuss the purpose or symbolism of the customs, if you know them.

3. Read [Mother Metaphors](#) on page 4. Tell a friend or partner 3-5 phrases or idioms in your home language that use the word or concept of mother. What is the meaning of each, and what does this say about mothers in your culture? Try to think of phrases or idioms that use the word or concept of father. Which "parent" was easier to think of?

4. Read [How US Laws are Made](#) on page 6. Describe to a friend or partner how laws are made in your home country. Is/how is power balanced?

5. Read [When Someone Dies](#) and [Gift Giving When Someone Dies](#) on page 3. Describe to a partner or friend the customs in your country, religion, culture, and/or family. What would a newcomer to your community need to know about how to behave when someone dies? Are there any mistakes they might make, and how could you help them avoid those mistakes?

6. Read [Alternate Universes](#) on page 5. Consider all the questions in the three charts on that page. How would you answer each one? How do you think the typical person in your home country would answer? What groups might disagree with you? Describe these answers to a friend or partner.



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## ANSWER CORNER

**GRAMMAR** (some suggestions):  
most common: prediction

- Don't worry; I will finish my dinner in time to drive you there.
- I will finish my dinner by the time you get here.
- I'll finish my dinner then take you there.
- I will take the early train so I won't be late.
- I will be able to take the early train if I leave home by 6am.
- You take the car; I'll take the early train.

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1F ...is a drug that treats several symptoms.  
2F ...list both active and inactive ingredients.  
3T  
4T  
5F ...is to give a drug designed for children.  
6F ...often have side effects.

**IDIOMS:** (sample responses)

- Don't gild the lily!
- Don't be such a shrinking violet!
- Please nip that idea in the bud.
- He is lily-livered.
- She's smelling like a rose.
- Let's have a rose between two thorns.
- He insists on seeing the world through rose-colored glasses.