

How I Feel about Americans

Discussion Warm Up

1. What are some common generalizations about Americans?
2. What is the difference between a generalization and a stereotype?
3. Do you generalize when speaking about other nationalities?



Vocabulary Check



flat mate, arrange, enormous, relief
portions, massive, refill, doggy bag
out of shape, spit, tip, generalization
on the other hand

Listening Comprehension

Watch the following YouTube video and answer the questions.

Copy and paste the following link to watch the video:

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/qcrual9HhwE>

1. How does Natasha like her job?
2. How does she feel about her co-workers?
3. What negative things does she say about the food and drinks?
4. What positive thing does she say about the food?
5. What is her opinion about American football?
6. What is her opinion about baseball?
7. How does she feel about tipping?
8. What does she say about the spelling of some words?
9. What does she say about guns?
10. What is her overall opinion?



Matching

Match the words on the left with words or expressions on the right that are closest in meaning.

1. flatmate

2. arrange

3. enormous

4. relief

5. portion

6. on the other hand

7. refill

8. doggy bag

9. out of shape

10. spit

11. tip

12. generalization

A. Not physically healthy enough to do challenging tasks.

B. Someone that you share an apartment or house with.

C. Saying something is true in all cases when in fact it's only true some of the time.

D. To eject saliva from your mouth.

E. Something used to take leftovers home usually from a restaurant.

F. To prepare something.

G. To give a server extra money for the service that you received.

H. The act of putting something in a container so that there is more of it again after it's all gone.

I. Very big.

J. Used to present two opposing ideas.

K. A feeling of happiness that something is taken care of.

L. The quantity of something.

More Discussion Questions

1. Do you think tipping is a good idea?
Explain your point of view.
2. Do you like big portions at a restaurant?
3. How do you feel about sports in other countries?
4. What do you think would be the most difficult things to get used to in another country?

Did you know?

It's estimated that one out of every eight people in America has been employed by McDonalds at some point.

Words in Context - Fill-in-the-blanks

Use the words from the vocabulary box to complete the following sentences. You may need to modify the tense or word form.

1. We gave her a big _____ because she was very polite, funny and professional. She also made great food recommendations.
2. The _____ at the new American restaurant are gigantic. You can order one dish for four people!
3. **Cindy:** Every car salesman lies to make more money.
Frank: That is a _____ Cindy. I bought a nice car for a great price.
4. My _____ is really kind. She often makes dinner for me.
5. That line is _____. It will take us hours to get inside.
6. Can you _____ the hotel and flight for next week. I'm really busy today.
7. That is disgusting. You shouldn't _____ on the sidewalk like that!
8. Can I please have a _____? This was way to much to eat.
9. I think he's a hard worker. _____ he complains a lot.
10. It's such a _____ you are here right now. I was so scared when you didn't answer your phone.
11. Excuse me! Can I please have a _____ of coffee?
12. You look great Tony! Last time we met you looked really _____.



Listening Scripts

Natasha's Feelings about Americans

What do I think about my new job?

I quite like it. My co-workers are very nice. Everyone is helpful and friendly.

How do I like the US and Americans so far?

Everything is perfect so far.

My flat mate is really friendly and helpful. The company arranged everything, which was an enormous relief.

The food.

Well the food not so much. The portions are massive.

Nobody, and I mean nobody needs a pint of coke to be refilled three times during a meal.

On the other hand, I quite like the portions.

I always ask for a doggy bag so I get two meals for the price of one!

It's great for lunch the next day!

American football is confusing.

It looks like rugby except everyone is wearing padding!

Baseball. Not interesting AT ALL!

They look overweight and out of shape.

They always spit and the games are SO long.

Other things... well I can't stand tipping. Why should I tip someone for doing his or her job?

They spell things differently, which really confuses me!

Guns kind of scare me.

I haven't seen any yet, but I am a little frightened at the thought of them.

I mean if you want to hunt or go to a target range, that's fine.

It just makes me uncomfortable to think they are everywhere.

Maybe that is just a generalization though.

But overall, I think Americans are friendly, outgoing and helpful.



Answer Key

Listening Comprehension Answers

1. She really likes it.
2. She thinks they are very nice, helpful and friendly.
3. Natasha thinks the portions are massive and that they go overboard with drink refills.
4. She thinks the portions are handy because she gets two meals for the price of one and she has enough for lunch the next day.
5. She thinks it's confusing and that it resembles rugby except that everyone is wearing padding.
6. She doesn't have any interest in it. She thinks everyone looks overweight, out of shape, they spit too much and the games are too long.
7. She doesn't think that people should have to tip someone for doing their job.
8. The spelling of some words confuses her.
9. She's very scared at just the thought of guns. She thinks they are okay to hunt or go to a target range, but she doesn't like the idea that everyone can have or does have one. (She does acknowledge that this may be a generalization)
10. Overall, she thinks that Americans are friendly, outgoing and helpful.

Matching

1. B flatmate - Someone that you share an apartment or house with. 2. F arrange - To prepare something. 3. I enormous - Very big. 4. K relief - A feeling of happiness that something is taken care of. 5. L portion - The quantity of something. 6. J on the other hand - Used to present two opposing ideas. 7. H refill - The act of putting something in a container so that there is more of it again after it's all gone. 8. E doggy bag - Something used to take leftovers home usually from a restaurant. 9. A out of shape - Not physically healthy enough to do something. 10. D spit - To eject saliva from your mouth. 11. G tip - To give a server extra money for the service that you received. 12. C generalization - Saying something is true in all cases when in fact it's only true some of the time.

Words in Context - Fill-in-the-Blanks

1. tip 2. portions 3. generalization 4. flatmate 5. enormous 6. arrange 7. spit 8. doggy bag
9. on the other hand 10. relief 11. refill 12. out of shape