



Read the text.

For people visiting the USA, adjusting to American culture can be difficult and at times frustrating. American customs and values might be very different from those of your home country, and you might find them confusing. You will probably want to familiarize yourself with American culture before your departure, in order to make the transition as easy as possible.



Match the following definitions with a word taken from the text. Two definitions are given extra.

- to make known, well acquainted
- a sudden or violent mental or emotional disturbance
- conforming to the conditions
- a setting out, an act of leaving
- a journey especially to a distant or unfamiliar place
- the principles that help you to decide what is right and wrong, and how to act in various situations
- making indistinct, throwing off
- a shift from one state, subject, place, etc. to another

based on https://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/way-of-life/american-culture/

Read the following passages. Give each passage a title. Fill the gaps with one word. Some letters of the missing words have already been given.

American Values

E

Americans strongly believe in the concept of individualism. They consider themselves to be separate individuals who are in control of their own lives, rather than members of a close-knit family, religious group, tribe, nation, or other group.

A

The American Declaration of Independence states that "all [people] are created" alike, and this belief is deeply embedded in their cultural values. Americans believe that all people are of same standing, and are therefore uncomfortable with overt displays of respect such as being bowed to.

F

This belief in equality causes Americans to be rather unceremonious in their behavior towards other people. Don't be surprised if store clerks and waiters introduce themselves by their first names. Many people visiting the US are surprised by the straightforwardness of American speech, dress, and posture. Don't mistake this for rudeness or irreverence; it's just a part of their culture!

S

Americans tend to value, frankness and openness in their dealings with other people. They believe that conflicts and disagreements are best solved by means of out-front discussion among the people involved. Americans believe that if someone has a problem with someone else, they should tell the person clearly and directly in order to come up with a solution to the problem.

Complete the table.

1 January		Welcome the new year with parties starting the night before.
3rd Monday in January		Commemorate the birthday of the African-American civil rights leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
	St. Valentine's Day	Celebrate love and romance by exchanging tokens of love (usually cards, candy or gifts).
3rd Monday of February		Honor past American heads of state like George Washington (the nation's first leader) and Abraham Lincoln.
17 March		Celebrate the patron saint of Ireland with parades and parties decorated in Irish green.
1 April		Play a clever (but harmless) trick or tell a joke to someone with a good sense of humor.
	Memorial Day	Remember the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
	Independence Day	View public displays of fireworks to mark the date when thirteen U.S. states declared their independence from England in 1776.
1st Monday in September		Honor the contributions and efforts of hard workers throughout the country.
2nd Monday in October		Pay tribute to the man, who is traditionally thought of as the discoverer of the Americas in 1492.
	Thanksgiving Day	Feast on a traditional meal in memory of the dinner shared by the Pilgrims (first settlers) and the Native Americans.
	Christmas Day	Celebrate the birth of Christ, leader of the Christian faith, by exchanging gifts with family and friends.