



UNIT 2

LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES

People walk around Times Square, New York City.

CIVICS Learn about the average American; read about community colleges in the United States

ACADEMIC Take a survey; read and understand infographics; represent information in graphs and charts

AT WORK Read about income taxes

On July 4, Americans celebrate their independence with parades, concerts, and fireworks.



A CIVICS Read about the average American. Guess and circle the information.

1. The average American lives in **a house / an apartment / a condo**.
2. The typical American family has **one child / two children / three children**.
3. About a third of people eat breakfast **at home / at work / on the go**.
4. The average person drinks **one / two / three** cup(s) of coffee a day.
5. Most Americans **take a bus / walk / drive** to work.
6. The average American consumes **5 / 50 / over 150** pounds of sugar in one year.
7. The average family has **one / two / three** TV(s).
8. Most Americans check their phones **30 / 50 / 80** times a day.
9. The average American changes jobs every **four / seven / ten** years.
10. The average person moves **five / eight / eleven** times in his or her lifetime.

1. a house 2. two children 3. on the go 4. two 5. drive 6. over 150 7. two 8. 80 9. four 10. eleven

B Circle or complete the statements about your life. Then, read your sentences to a partner.

1. I live in **a house / an apartment / a condo**.
2. My family has **one / two / three / _____** child / children.
3. I eat breakfast **at home / at work / on the go**.
4. I **take a bus / walk / drive / _____** to work.
5. I eat **one / two / three / _____** hamburger(s) a week.
6. My family has **one / two / three / _____** TV(s).
7. I check my phone **30 / 50 / 80 / _____** times a day.

C Listen and complete the chart. Then, compare Charlie to the average American male. 

| Charlie | The Average American Male |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 32 – single | gets married at 27 |
| is _____ tall | is 5'10" tall |
| weighs _____ pounds | weighs 195 pounds |
| likes / doesn't like his job | likes his job |
| works _____ hours a day | works eight hours a day |
| earns \$_____ a year | earns \$43,056 a year |
| lives in a / an _____ | lives in a house |
| _____ to work | drives to work |
| has / doesn't have a pet | has a pet |

The average American male gets married at 27. Charlie is 32, and he is single.

| Affirmative Statements | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| I You We They | work. eat breakfast. |
| He She It | works. eats breakfast. |

| Negative Statements | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| I You We They | don't | work. eat breakfast. |
| He She It | doesn't | work. eat breakfast. |

The simple present describes routines and activities that happen every day, every week, every month, and so on.

A AT WORK Complete with the correct form of the verb. Some of the verbs are negative.

- April 15th (or around that date) is tax day in the United States. People (need) need to file their income taxes by that date.
- Most states also (have) _____ a state income tax, but a few states (have) _____ any state income tax.
- If a person (make) _____ a high income, that person usually (pay) _____ more taxes.
- Some people (owe) _____ a lot in taxes, but some people (owe) _____ anything. For example, if a person's income is under \$10,000, she (pay) _____ anything.
- If a person (overpay) _____ his taxes, the government (send) _____ him a refund. More than 80% of all taxpayers (receive) _____ a refund.

B Interview a classmate. How are your days similar? How are they different?

| | You | Your Partner |
|---|-----|--------------|
| 1. Do you eat breakfast every day? | | |
| 2. Do you work full time? | | |
| 3. Do you take public transportation to school? | | |
| 4. Do you use a computer every day? | | |
| 5. Do you cook for your family? | | |
| 6. Do you have classes every day? | | |
| 7. Do you go to bed before midnight? | | |

Yes, I do.
No, I don't.

C Pronunciation: Final -s Listen and repeat. 

| /s/ | /z/ | /iz/ |
|-------|---------|---------|
| likes | owns | watches |
| wants | drives | uses |
| takes | studies | dances |

D Circle the sound you hear. 

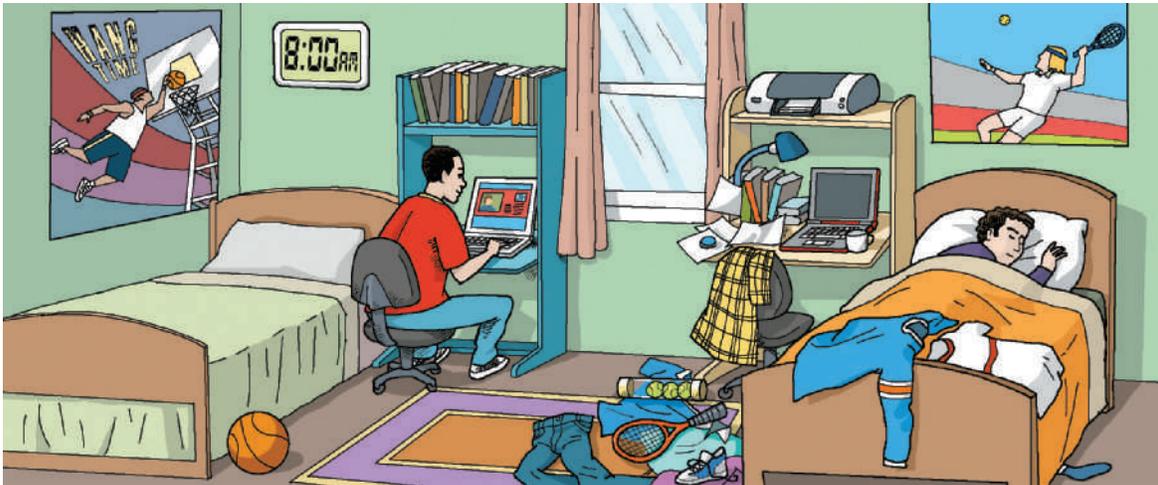
- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. /s/ <u>(z)</u> /iz/ | 4. /s/ /z/ /iz/ | 7. /s/ /z/ /iz/ |
| 2. /s/ /z/ /iz/ | 5. /s/ /z/ /iz/ | 8. /s/ /z/ /iz/ |
| 3. /s/ /z/ /iz/ | 6. /s/ /z/ /iz/ | 9. /s/ /z/ /iz/ |

E STUDENT TO STUDENT

Student 1: Turn to Appendix C. Read the sentences in Set A.

Student 2: Look at the picture. Listen and write the sentences under *Josh* or *Sam*.

Then, change roles. Student 2, turn to Appendix C and read the sentences in Set B. Student 1, write the sentences under *Josh* or *Sam*.



Josh

Sam

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

| Singular Subject | |
|--------------------|--|
| The average person | has a cellphone. drives to work. works full time. |
| The average man | |
| The average woman | |
| The man | |
| The woman | |

| Plural Subject | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Most Americans | have a cellphone. |
| Most people | drive to work. |
| Fifty percent of people | work full time. |

A Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verb.

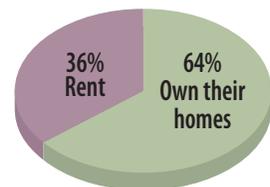
- The average adult (exercise) exercises twenty minutes a day.
- Most full-time workers (receive) _____ a paid vacation.
- The average teenager (take) _____ a summer class.
- Most Americans (drive) _____ to work.
- The average person (sleep) _____ 6.5 hours a night.
- Women (do) _____ 70 percent of the housework in a family.
- The average person (use) _____ a computer every day.

B Listen and write the sentences that you hear. Your teacher will turn to Appendix D.

Do you wear a seat belt?



Do you rent or own your home?

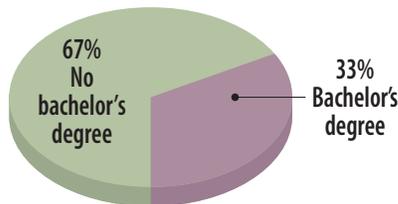
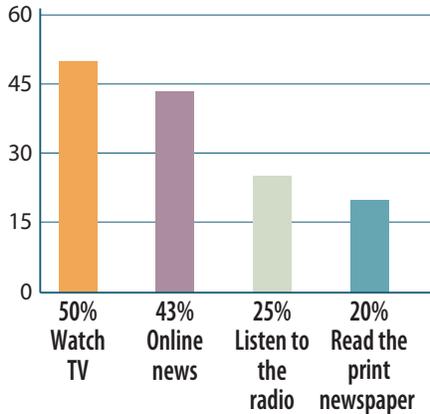
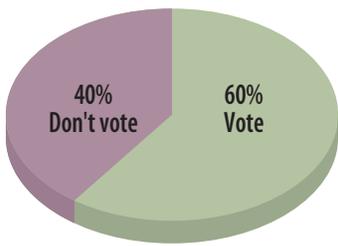


- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

WORD PARTNERSHIPS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 50 percent | of the students of the men of the women |
| half | |
| about half | |
| more than half | |
| fewer than half | |

C ACADEMIC LET'S TALK. Work with a partner. Write sentences about each chart.



1. What percentage of Americans vote in national elections?

a. _____

 b. _____

2. How do most Americans get their news?

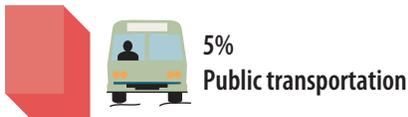
a. _____

 b. _____

3. Do most Americans have a bachelor's degree?

a. _____

 b. _____



4. How do most Americans get to work?

a. _____

 b. _____

 c. _____

 d. _____

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| every morning | once a week | on the weekend | in the summer |
| every day | twice a month | on Sundays | in the winter |
| every night | three times a year | | |

Time expressions are usually placed at the end of a sentence.

A Complete the sentences about yourself. Use time expressions.

1. I study English _____.
2. I go to work _____.
3. I work overtime _____.
4. I go to the dentist _____.
5. I take a vacation _____.
6. I sleep late _____.
7. I buy new clothes _____.
8. I pay my bills _____.
9. I get a haircut _____.
10. I check my phone _____.

B Talk with a partner. How often do you do each activity listed?

I go dancing every weekend.

I go dancing once a year!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. go dancing | 5. do the laundry | 9. text my friends |
| 2. eat out | 6. eat at a fast-food restaurant | 10. check my email |
| 3. call my family abroad | 7. exercise | 11. go to the beach |
| 4. order a pizza | 8. go to a party | 12. watch TV |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| always | <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> 100% <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100px; margin: 0 5px;"></div> 0% </div> |
| usually | |
| often | |
| frequently | |
| sometimes | |
| hardly ever | |
| rarely | |
| never | |

Put adverbs of frequency before most verbs.

I **often** walk in the park.

He **never** takes a taxi.

Put adverbs of frequency after the verb *be*.

I am **never** late for work.

She is **rarely** sick.

A Put the words in the correct order.

- always / homework / do / I / my _____
- tired / in the morning / He / always / is _____
- her / She / rarely / sister / calls _____
- class / is / interesting / usually / This _____
- drives / He / always / too fast _____
- weather / is / Florida / usually / in / The / beautiful _____
- wear / They / their / always / seat belts _____

B Talk about yourself. Use an adverb of frequency in each sentence. Add two sentences of your own.

I always eat breakfast.

I never eat breakfast. I'm not hungry in the morning.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. I eat breakfast. | 6. I am worried. | 11. I am busy. |
| 2. I am polite. | 7. I go to bed early. | 12. I lose my keys. |
| 3. I am homesick. | 8. I do my homework. | 13. _____ |
| 4. I get headaches. | 9. I am late for class. | 14. _____ |
| 5. I think about my future. | 10. I take a taxi. | |

THE BIG PICTURE

An American Family

A Listen. Under the pictures, write the missing information about the Shaw family.  9

1.



Mr. Shaw: Hours: _____ Salary: _____

Mrs. Shaw: Hours: _____ Salary: _____

2.



Mr. Shaw: _____ minutes

Mrs. Shaw: _____ minutes

3.



\$ _____

4.



5.



6.



B Read about the average American family. Then, compare with the Shaw family.

1. Most husbands earn more than their wives.

Mrs. Shaw earns more than Mr. Shaw.

2. Most workers drive to work.
-
-

3. The average family has one pet.
-
-

4. The average household is a mother and father and two children.
-
-

5. The average family takes a vacation twice a year.
-
-

6. Most families have two TVs.
-
-

C Complete with the correct form of the verb. Some of the verbs are negative.

1. Mr. Shaw (drive) *doesn't drive* a minivan.

2. Mr. Shaw (work) _____ close to home.

3. Mrs. Shaw (take) _____ public transportation to work.

4. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw (have) _____ one child.

5. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw (live) _____ in an apartment.

6. Andy's parents (work) _____ part time.

7. Mrs. Shaw (work) _____ at a college.

8. The family (eat) _____ out once a week.

9. Andy (have) _____ a pet bird.

10. The Shaws and the grandparents (live) _____ in the same house.

The word **family** is singular, but people often use **they** to talk about family.

The **family** eats out on Friday night.
They like Chinese or Italian food.

The Average Community College Student

About 40 percent of all college students in the United States attend community colleges. Community colleges are schools that offer two-year associate degrees and certificates and licenses in a large number of careers, such as paralegal, office assistant, and information technician. The 1,103 community colleges in the United States also **train** students for new jobs and offer courses in many subjects, including English as a second language.

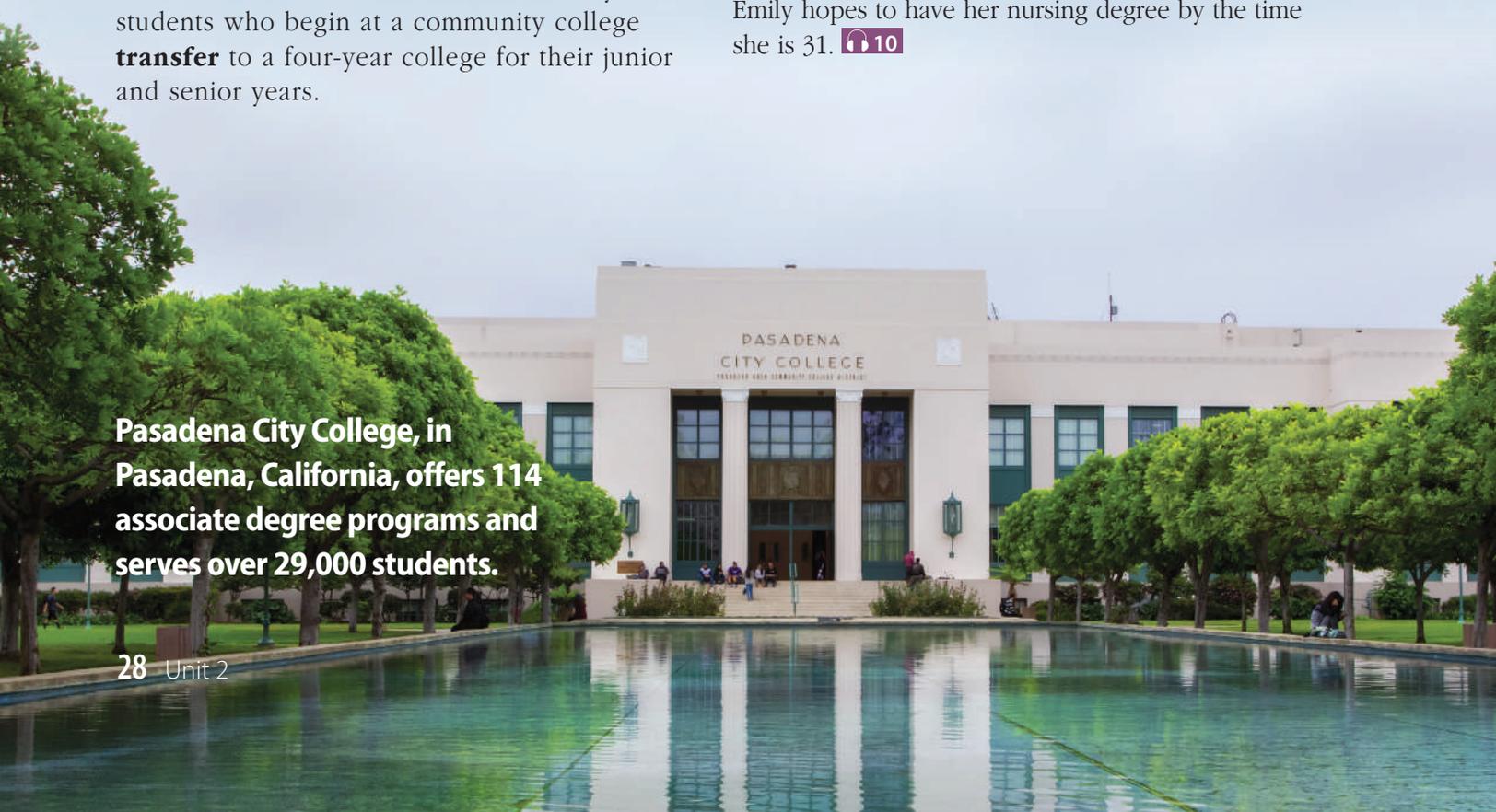
Most community colleges have open admissions; they **accept** almost all students who apply. Thirty-six percent of the students are the first ones in their families to attend college. Most students need one or more **basic skills** courses in reading, writing, or math to prepare them for college-level classes. Sixty-two percent of full-time students work, so full-time schedules are difficult. More than 60 percent of all students attend school part time. The tuition at a community college is more **affordable** than at a four-year school. The average tuition is \$3,570 a year, and more than half of the students receive some financial aid. Many of the students who begin at a community college **transfer** to a four-year college for their junior and senior years.

Emily is a typical community college student. She attends school part time. As a young woman, she is part of the 56 percent of all community college students who are women. She is 28 years old, the average age of a community college student. Emily's parents and her older brother graduated from high school, but she is the first person in her family to begin college.

Emily works full time in the admissions office in the county hospital. Her **goal** is to become a registered nurse. She is taking pre-nursing courses and has been accepted to the nursing program. Many of the nurses in the United States receive their degrees from community colleges.

Emily is a second-semester student. During her first semester, she needed to take a course in basic math. This semester, she is taking three courses. In the fall, Emily will attend school full time and work on the weekends. She applied for financial aid and is going to receive \$1,500 a semester next year.

Most students take three years or more to **complete** their degrees at a community college. Emily hopes to have her nursing degree by the time she is 31.  10

A photograph of Pasadena City College, a large, light-colored building with a prominent entrance featuring columns. In the foreground, there is a large, rectangular pool of water that reflects the building and the sky. The scene is surrounded by green trees and a clear sky.

Pasadena City College, in Pasadena, California, offers 114 associate degree programs and serves over 29,000 students.

A Discuss these questions.

1. Where do you study—at a community college, an adult school, a high school, or another kind of school?
2. What community college is nearest to your home? What programs does it offer?

B Circle the correct word or phrase.

1. The program will train him to be a police officer / student.
2. The school **accepts** many **students** / **classes** each semester.
3. The student needed a **basic skills** course in **reading** / **financial aid**.
4. The tuition at an **affordable** school is **reasonable** / **expensive**.
5. Some students transfer from a two-year college to a **four-year college** / **job**.
6. Emily's goal is to **become a nurse** / **apply to college**.

READING NOTE

Finding Examples

A reading often gives facts about a topic. Then, it tells a story to give specific examples.

C **CIVICS** Read the facts about community college students. Find examples in the reading to show that Emily is a typical community college student.

1. Community college students are often the first ones in their families to attend college.
Emily's parents and brother didn't go to college.

2. Most students need one or more basic skills courses.

3. Most students work full or part time.

4. More women than men attend community college.

5. More than half of the students receive some financial aid.

C **▶ WATCH** Watch the video about diversity in Queens, New York. How does this compare to diversity in your school?

A Read.



People enjoy a beach day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

1 My family is from Brazil. Brazil is the largest country in South America and one of the largest countries in the world. The people of Brazil speak Portuguese.

2 Brazilians are outgoing, expressive people. When we meet, we kiss each other on both cheeks. Men pat one another on the back or give each other a hug. When we speak with a friend, we often touch or hold hands.

3 Families are the center and heart of our lives. Families usually live in the same city or in the same area of the city. Often, many members of a family live on the same block! We see each other almost every day. On the weekends, the younger cousins go out in groups together. There are few childcare centers because aunts and uncles and grandparents help care for the babies and younger children.

4 The main meal is lunch, in the early afternoon, between 12 and 2 p.m. We eat a lot of rice and beans and we know how to cook them many different ways. Lunch also includes meat

or fish and a vegetable or a salad. On Sundays, the whole family often eats together. There is a lot of talking, laughing, and enjoying each other's company.

5 We enjoy sports, especially volleyball, basketball, and tennis. But the most popular sport is *futebol* (*soccer* in the United States). We think that our teams and players are the best in the world. Brazil has won the World Cup five times.

6 One of our favorite activities is going to the beach. The beaches are free. We put down our blankets, take out our suntan lotion, and turn on our stereos—loud! People walk along the beach selling food, drinks, hats, jewelry, and many other things. As the day continues, we begin to dance and it becomes like a party on the beach. We stay at the beach until late at night. Brazilians enjoy celebrations and parties. When you visit our country and receive your first invitation to a party, remember to come at least an hour late. In Brazil, we are very relaxed about time.

READING NOTE

Adding Details

In a composition, each paragraph has one topic or idea. To make a story more interesting, include many details and examples about the topic.

B Write the topic of each paragraph in the reading.

1. introduction
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

C LET'S TALK. In groups, talk about the lives of average people in your country. Take notes. Some topics you can discuss are:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| greetings | education |
| families | holidays |
| sports | weekend activities |
| food | religion |
| transportation | work |

In my country, most young people like to go to the beach when they are on vacation.

D Write a composition about the lives of average people in the country you are from. Choose three or four topics to write about. Give many details and examples. Use your notes from Exercise C.

E CIVICS Correct the mistake with the underlined verb. If the verb is correct, write *correct*.

1. Most Americans drives to work. drive
2. Many Americans take public transportation. _____
3. Most American women doesn't get married before age 25. _____
4. The average American have a computer. _____
5. The average American doesn't eat a large breakfast. _____
6. Most American families has one or two children. _____
7. Americans eats their main meal in the evening. _____

A **ACADEMIC** Take a class survey. Write the information about your class.

- One student is the leader and will read each question to the entire class.
- Students will raise their hands to show their answers to each question.
- Two students are the counters. They will count each answer, including their own.
- Write the answers in your book.

1. Number of students in our class: _____

2. Seat belts

Who wears a seat belt? _____

Who doesn't wear a seat belt? _____

3. Work

Who works part time? _____

Who works full time? _____

Who doesn't work? _____

4. How many hours do you watch TV?

Who doesn't watch TV? _____

Who watches TV one hour a day? _____

Who watches TV two hours a day? _____

Who watches TV three hours a day? _____

Who watches TV four or more hours a day? _____

5. What country are you from?

| Country | Number of Students |
|---------|--------------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

B **ACADEMIC** In small groups, draw four charts to show the results of your class survey. Use the information from Exercise A.