

## Living in a New News Era

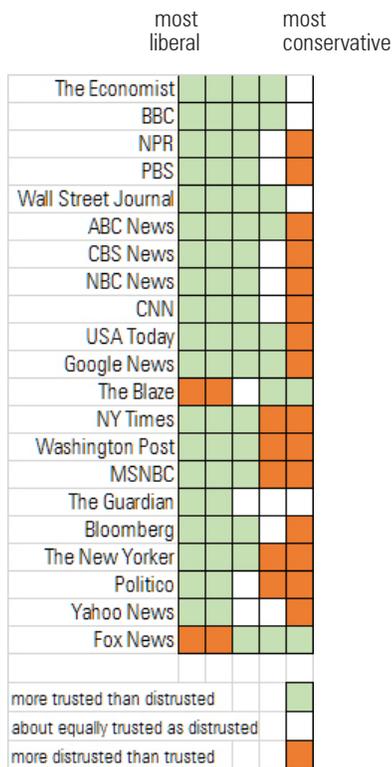
Social media played a big role in the 2016 election and highlighted the changes in how we get our news. There were disturbing examples of *fake news*, and very different interpretations of news events from real, legitimate news sources. Even Americans, who have news sources they have come to trust, faced the problem of deciding what was fake, what was real but distorted, and what to believe. Newcomers like you might be confused.

Below is a chart from the Pew Research Center. They asked people across the political ideology range (from consistently liberal, to

mixed, to consistently conservative) whether they trusted a list of news sources. Those shown in light green were trusted more than distrusted by that ideology group. Those in dark red were distrusted more than trusted. Notice the top two sources (*The Economist* and BBC) are British...

One of the lessons of this election was that it would be a good idea for everyone to hear news from different ideological perspectives. Many of these sources have at least some of their news on line for free. I suggest you pick several, with different perspectives, to learn about the US.

### Trust Levels of News Sources by Ideology



Source: Pew Research Center. Shows level of trust for each news source within each ideology group. Sources are ranked top to bottom according to proportion of trust to distrust.

The Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2016 is *post-truth* – an adjective defined as ‘relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.’ I have to tell you, this made me sad, that these circumstances are so common that they need a word. If you are still interested in facts, as I am, here are a few sources to know:

- [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)
- [www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com)
- [www.factcheck.org/askfactcheck](http://www.factcheck.org/askfactcheck)

All three check out questionable news stories and write about whether they are based in fact. If you a story that makes you suspicious, check one of these sites. For help in telling whether a news source is fake or not, I recommend this article:

- [www.snopes.com/2016/01/14/fake-news-sites/](http://www.snopes.com/2016/01/14/fake-news-sites/)

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### Compliments of



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## Auld Lang Syne

*Auld Lang Syne* is a Scottish song, written by the poet Robert Burns. Or rather, written down by him — he had heard it from an old man and then, perhaps, added a few verses himself.

The phrase *Auld Lang Syne* means “Old Long Ago.” It is pronounced like this: Old Lang Zyne. Here are the words in English, in case you want to study for New Year’s Eve:

*Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind  
Should old acquaintance be forgot and  
Days of auld lang syne  
For auld lang syne my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.*

Don’t worry; most Americans forget the words too. Just sing *La La La* till the last line! Or, go the other way and impress your friends by singing the (little known) second and third verses:

*And there’s a hand my trusty fiere  
[friend],  
And give me a hand of thine  
And we’ll take a right guid-willie  
waught [drink/toast],  
For auld lang syne*

*We two have run about the braes  
[hills]  
And pulled the gowans [daisies] fine,  
But we’ve wandered many a weary  
fit [foot]  
Since auld lang syne.*

To practice, sing along here:

[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=acxnmaVTIZA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acxnmaVTIZA)

## New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day

In the US, New Year is a time for parties and celebration. You may be invited to several different kinds of parties on New Year’s Eve (December 31) or New Year’s Day (January 1). Here are some tips for enjoying the holiday:

- ◆ You do not need to bring a gift to the host of a New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day party.

- ◆ It is common to serve alcohol at these parties. Be careful while driving those days — even if you have not been drinking, others have been. To be safe, some people take taxis or public transportation, hire a limousine with friends, or stay at the party without drinking until their alcohol level is acceptable. Police will be out, and accident rates will be high.

- ◆ People often get very dressed up on New Year’s Eve. Ask if the party will be formal.

- ◆ At a New Year’s Eve party, strange things happen at exactly midnight, so be prepared! It is traditional to throw confetti (tiny pieces of paper) into the air, wear silly hats, blow small horns, kiss the person you came to the party with (and anyone standing nearby too), drink champagne, sing *Auld Lang Syne* (see Sidebar on this page) and shout “Happy New Year!” If you are uncomfortable with any of this, it is fine just to watch.

- ◆ Many people turn on the TV at midnight to watch a huge ball slide down a 77-foot pole in Times Square in New York City. The ball is five feet across and holds 180 light bulbs. The ball touches the bottom of the pole at exactly midnight (broadcast later in other time zones).

- ◆ On New Year’s Day, Open House parties are common. The invitation may say something

like “2:00 to 5:00.” This means that you can come any time during that period and stay for as long as you like. You are not expected to stay for the whole time, but you may, if you like. Most people stay at least 45 minutes.

- ◆ A traditional drink for New Year’s Day is egg nog. “Real” egg nog is made of uncooked eggs, milk, sugar, cream, bourbon, and rum. The egg whites and the cream will be whipped, so the drink is usually thick and *frothy* (full of small bubbles). You can also buy ready-made egg nog in the supermarket. It has no alcohol (but may have artificial rum flavoring). It also has no froth and no lightness. The real thing is better.

- ◆ On New Year’s Day, many Americans watch college football on TV. The three best-known games are the Rose

Bowl, Orange Bowl, and Sugar Bowl, all played that day. Traditionally, a Tournament of Roses Parade (in which all the floats are made with flowers) happens before the Rose Bowl. But since 1893, that tradition includes never having the parade on a Sunday (because the parade might disturb the horses outside churches...really), so this year, the parade will be on January 2.

- ◆ Besides parties and football, the other tradition of New Year’s Day is to make a list of “New Year’s Resolutions.” A *resolution* is a promise to yourself. Many people resolve to do things like finish a long-term project, lose weight, stop smoking, or learn a new language. This is also a good chance to think about the past year. How would you like to be able to finish this sentence on January 1, 2018: “I am happy that in 2017, I \_\_\_\_\_.”



# Drinking and Driving in the US

Many factors have led to a decrease over the last 20 years in the number of people in the US killed in alcohol-related car crashes and in the proportion of traffic deaths from accidents in which a driver was drinking alcohol.

In 1984, the federal government passed a law that required states to raise the minimum legal drinking age to 21 by 1988, or else lose federal money for maintaining and building highways. The raised legal drinking age clearly lowered traffic deaths of younger drivers. In 2000, a similar federal law pushed all states in the US to set a maximum blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, or lower.

States have experimented with many kinds of rules and punishments for drinking and driving. In most states, just having a BAC over .08 while you are driving is illegal, even if you are not driving recklessly, and having an open container of alcohol in a car is not allowed. In all states except Vermont and Mississippi, there are increased penalties for driving with BAC levels over .10 to .20 (differing by state).

## Alcohol Myths

The US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that traffic fatalities are significantly higher on New Year's Eve than on any other non-holiday winter evening. It notes the following myths and facts:

**Myth:** Drinking coffee will make you sober more quickly.

**Fact:** Not so. It takes time for the body to metabolize alcohol and even longer to return to normal. Time is the only cure.

**Myth:** If you take aspirin and a lot of water before you go to bed, you won't have a hangover.

**Fact :** The water helps (by preventing dehydration) but the aspirin can do more harm (to your stomach) than good. Non-aspirin alternatives can be bad for an alcohol-soaked liver.

**Myth:** If you eat before going to bed, the food will soak up the alcohol and prevent nausea.

**Fact :** Better to eat food in the morning, especially complex carbohydrates (like cereals and bread) that replenish blood sugar and make your stomach feel better.

**Myth:** An alcoholic drink in the morning will cure a hangover.

**Fact :** It may feel good for a moment, but the only cure is to get all alcohol out of your system.

In most states, you'll lose your license for a few months after being caught driving drunk the first time. All states have a zero tolerance law for drivers under age 21 — these laws set the maximum BAC at 0 to 0.02 for this age. And now, in all states, in some circumstances, people who have been caught driving with a high BAC must install an instrument in their cars that keeps them from starting their cars when their BAC is at or above a set point. Some states have laws that make bartenders or even private hosts legally liable if they serve drinks to someone who then drives and causes an accident. At some sports stadiums, no alcohol is served during the end phases of the games to prevent drinking and driving.

Perhaps most important, people have simply become more aware of the dangers of driving and drinking. It is now common — and socially acceptable — for groups of friends to have a “designated driver” who agrees not to drink alcohol during an evening.

To learn your state's rules, go to [www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/impaired\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/impaired_laws.html).

## How Can I Judge My BAC?

Every person's body metabolizes alcohol differently. For example:

- ♦ a 100-pound woman who has drunk 1½ beers within an hour will have a blood alcohol level of 0.08, the legal limit in all states.
- ♦ a 160-pound man could drink that same beer in that same time and have a level of .04.

Your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) depends on several factors:

- ♦ how much alcohol you have drunk: US beer contains 2-8% alcohol; wine has 12-14%; and hard liquor (like whisky or rum) has 40-50%. So a 12-ounce beer, a 6-ounce glass of wine, and a cocktail with 1.5 ounces of rum all contain about .6 to .7 ounces of pure alcohol.
- ♦ time: The typical person burns off about 0.02% blood alcohol per hour.
- ♦ food: Drinking on an empty stomach increases the level of driving impairment.

- ♦ your sex and body weight: for males: blood alcohol level = (#fluid ounces of pure alcohol)/(body weight x 0.13); for females: blood alcohol level = (#fluid ounces of pure alcohol)/(body weight x 0.115)

Or, go to [bloodalcoholcalculator.org](http://bloodalcoholcalculator.org) and have the computer figure out your limits. Or, when you're out, use one of the many smartphone apps that are available. *IntelliDrink* gets good reviews.

## King, in His Own Words

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Martin Luther King, Jr. is best known for these words, from a speech in Washington in 1963:

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character...*

King was an inspirational speaker. You cannot really understand his power by reading his words. Go to YouTube to hear parts of his most famous speeches.

Still, here are some more of his words to read (from several different speeches and writings). As with all real wisdom, they are relevant not just to his time and place, but to many situations and problems today:

*I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for the law.*

*...[T]he Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not [the openly-racist bigot], but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice;...who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; ...who constantly advised the Negro to*

*continued on [page 5](#)*

# Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (Junior) was born on January 15, 1929. By the time he was killed at the age of 39, he had shaken the conscience of Americans who believed in equality but ignored unfair laws. He was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. On the third Monday of January (this year, on January 16) we honor King and his work.

King was inspired by many people. His father was a Baptist minister in Georgia and taught his son to believe deeply in Jesus' lesson that we should love our enemies. King was also deeply influenced by the work of Mahatma Gandhi, who showed the power of nonviolent resistance in India. Henry David Thoreau's idea of civil disobedience (refusing to obey an unfair law, even if one went to jail) was another of King's basic tools for change.

King became a minister like his father. In 1954 he took his first job, in a church in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time in Montgomery, as in many places in the US, public facilities were segregated. Blacks and whites had to use different waiting rooms in train stations, different toilets, and different water fountains. There were separate schools for black and white children. The facilities were supposed to be "separate but equal," but they were not — the ones for blacks were usually inferior.

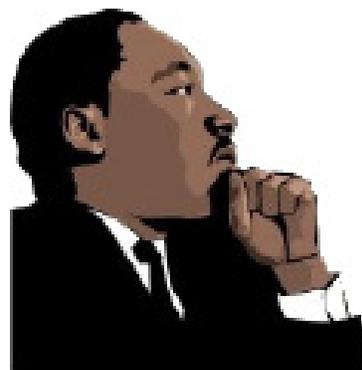
One law in Montgomery required blacks to sit at the back of public buses, and to give their seats to a white person. In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black woman, refused to give up her seat for a white person. The police arrested her. King was one of a group of black ministers who organized a boycott of the bus company to protest her arrest. (In a boycott, people refuse to buy a product or use a service, to

force the owner to make some change.) Many joined the boycott, refusing to ride the city buses. It was an early example of the kind of nonviolent protest King favored. At the end of the one-year boycott, the US Supreme Court decided that states could not have bus segregation laws. Today, Rosa Parks is a hero and a symbol of the Civil Rights movement.

King led two other kinds of nonviolent protests: marches (in which thousands of people would walk quietly and peacefully from one place to another, as a way to show the power of their numbers) and sit-ins (where blacks would simply sit down in a place that was known not to serve blacks). For example, in one sit-in, four college men in North Carolina took seats in a restaurant that would not serve blacks. They sat patiently all day, but were never served. Soon others held sit-ins in the same town. Within days, the restaurants closed down. Other times the protesters, including King, were arrested. King said they should be proud of this kind of civil disobedience.

As a Civil Rights leader, many thought of King as the moral leader of the US. In the last years of his life, King tried to focus attention on the economic problems of poor people of all races, and on ending the Vietnam War. Many people, black and white, were critical of him for this shift. He felt discouraged at the time he was killed.

For his use of nonviolent means for social change and for meeting hatred with love, King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. The Civil Rights movement changed the lives and hopes of blacks in the US. As its leader, King changed the lives of people of all races who value freedom, justice, and equality.



# Prepare Today for April 15, 2017 (and for April 15, 2018, Too)

If you must pay US income taxes, January is a good time to begin to prepare. If you keep good records through the year, it will not be difficult to complete the forms due on April 15 (2017, and especially 2017!). Read the tax rules now or talk with a tax counselor.

First learn if you will be considered a resident alien, nonresident alien, or have dual status (for part of the year you were resident, but nonresident the other part of the year). Resident aliens are taxed like US citizens. Different rules apply for nonresidents.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency that collects federal taxes. It has many free publications that explain the rules. Find them in your Post Office or a public library, by calling 1-800-829-3676 (English or Spanish), or by going to [www.irs.gov/publications](http://www.irs.gov/publications). See:

Publication 515: "Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities."

Publication 519: "US Tax Guide for Aliens"

Publication 521: "Moving Expenses"

Here are some tax points to keep in mind:

salary, bonus, commission	Keep all pay-check stubs, but especially the final December one, which will list the whole year's salary, taxes, and benefits.
other income and benefits	You may have to pay tax on other non-cash benefits from your job, like stocks, retirement income, allowances, use of company car for personal use, tuition payments, etc.
interest and dividends	Keep a record of all income you get, including any earned in another country.
moving expenses	If you moved to a new home because of your job and if your employer did not pay for the move, you may be able to deduct some of the costs.
child care expenses	If you paid someone to care for your child so you could have (or look for) a job, you may be able to deduct some of the costs.
medical expenses	Keep receipts for prescription drugs, doctor and dentist bills, hospital visits, eyeglasses, and insurance payments; they may be deductible.
taxes you paid	You can deduct state and local taxes, real estate and personal property taxes, occupational taxes, and (if you do not claim them as a tax credit) foreign income taxes.
interest on a mortgage	If you have a mortgage, your lending organization should send you a statement at the end of the year that lists the total amount of interest you paid.
contributions you made to non-profit organizations	If you gave money or property (like clothes, toys, appliances) to a non-profit organization (like an arts organization or school), you may be able to deduct this amount. Try to get a receipt for what you give. If you cannot get one (for example, if you left clothes at a donation center), keep a regular written account of these gifts. Gifts to non-US organizations are not deductible but you may be able to deduct gifts to US organizations that transfer funds to a charitable foreign organization.
casualty or theft losses	If something is stolen from you (theft loss) or you lose something through a fire, car accident, or a flood, you can deduct the value if it was not paid for by insurance.
job and other miscellaneous expenses	You may be able to deduct "job and other miscellaneous expenses" like union dues, uniforms, costs of business travel (tolls, meals, hotel, business meals, entertainment and gifts). These job expenses require detailed records. Read the rules now or talk to an accountant or tax advisor now.

continued from [page 4](#)

*wait until a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.*

*When an individual is no longer a true participant, when he no longer feels a sense of responsibility to his society, the content of democracy is emptied. When culture is degraded and vulgarity enthroned...the individual [must] pull away from a soulless society. This process produces alienation — perhaps the most pervasive and insidious development in contemporary society.*

*[Time] can be used either destructively or constructively...[P]eople of ill will have used time much more effectively than the people of good will...We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.*

*I know you are asking today, "How long will it take?" I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth pressed to earth will rise again. How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long, because you still reap what you sow. How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.*

## Birthday Biography: Jackie Robinson

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Jackie Robinson, the first African American baseball player to play in the Major Leagues in the 20th century, was born on January 31, 1919.

Until 1947, only white players could play in the Major Leagues. (Read more about this era in US History on page 4, in the biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.) The Brooklyn Dodgers hired Robinson that year as a second baseman. (This team moved to Los Angeles in 1957).

It was a controversial hire — people insulted him and sent him hate mail and death threats. His courageous endurance was an early example of the use of nonviolence that was so successful during the Civil Rights era. That he was a fabulous ball player (and was especially good at crowd-pleasing home runs and stolen bases) helped move society forward. Watch him steal home during the 1955 World Series at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XY-XshGhMU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XY-XshGhMU)

Robinson was named Rookie of the Year in 1947 (a “rookie” is someone who is new at an activity). He played in six World Series in 10 seasons with the Dodgers, and was named to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. Racial integration of professional football, basketball and tennis followed his success. Americans count him as one of their most beloved heroes.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Robinson.

# Winter on the Web

In case cold winters are new to you, here is some help:

### Weather Forecasts

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) — maps, forecasts, and information about weather around the world

[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) — the US government’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)’s weather service; in addition to the usual weather conditions, this site includes data on air quality, satellite photos, weather warnings, and more

### Travel Conditions

[www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp](http://www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp) — a map of major airports in the US with information about any traffic delays or airport closings

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/) -- a map of weather- and construction-related highway traffic delays; click on your state for more detailed information

### Your Home

[www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/winterize.html](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/winterize.html) — tips for stopping window and door leaks, improving insulation and heating efficiency, and preparing for power outages

[homebuying.about.com/od/buyingahome/qt/92607\\_WinterHom.htm](http://homebuying.about.com/od/buyingahome/qt/92607_WinterHom.htm) — more tips for your house or apartment

[www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/video/0,,1639306,00.html](http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/video/0,,1639306,00.html) — good tips for protecting shrubs and trees and...

[www.gardenersnet.com/lawn/winter.htm](http://www.gardenersnet.com/lawn/winter.htm) — ... your lawn

### Your Car or Motorcycle

[www.ehow.com/how\\_7412\\_winterize-car.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_7412_winterize-car.html) — keep your car and passengers safe and warm

[www.dmv.org/how-to-guides/winterize-car.php](http://www.dmv.org/how-to-guides/winterize-car.php) — explains what happens with your coolant, battery, tires, oil and windshield in winter

[www.bikebandit.com/community/guides/how-to-winterize-your-motorcycle](http://www.bikebandit.com/community/guides/how-to-winterize-your-motorcycle) — you’ll be happy in spring if you do more than just throw a blanket over your motorcycle now

### Fun in the Snow

[www.onthesnow.com](http://www.onthesnow.com) — links to over 2000 ski resorts in the US and around the world; remember, the cold weather isn’t all bad!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=206yVUMtQB8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=206yVUMtQB8)

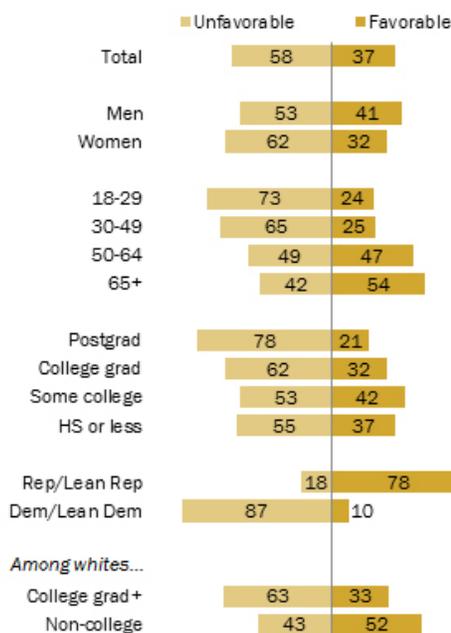
- is snow new for you? Here’s a beginner’s guide to building a snow man. Have fun!



# American Voters After the Election

## Wide age, education differences in post-election views of Trump

% who have a \_\_\_ view of Donald Trump ...

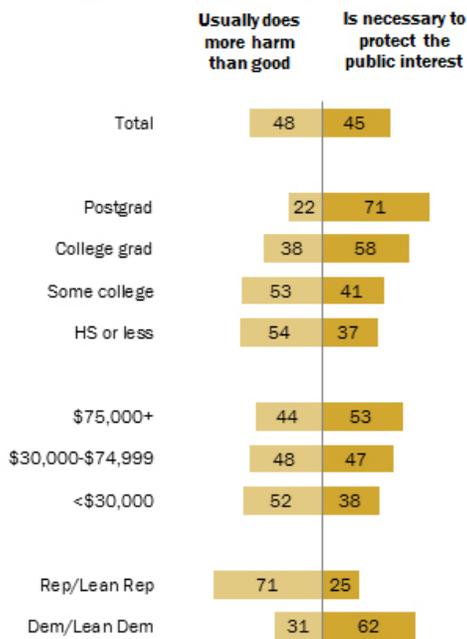


Note: Other/Don't know responses not shown. Q50c.  
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Public remains divided on impact of government regulation of business

% who say government regulation of business ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q86a.  
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Returning Items to a Store

In January you may see lots of Americans trying to return items to a store — gifts that were the wrong size or that, well, they just did not like. You may be surprised at stores' policies about accepting items back. There is no one standard return policy in the US — every store can make its own rules. Be sure to ask:

- ♦ Is this returnable? Some items (like those on sale) are not returnable under any circumstance, but usually you can return an item, unopened and unused, to a store.
- ♦ Will I get money returned or store credit? Some stores will accept returns but not give money back — you will be able to spend that much money in their store for something else.
- ♦ Is there a time limit on returns? Some stores limit returns to 15 or 30 or 60 days after the date you bought it.
- ♦ Do I need my receipt? It is always best to keep your receipt, but some stores may accept a return even without one.
- ♦ What if the item I bought is broken? If it was broken (or damaged in any way) when you opened it, virtually all stores will accept a return. A few stores may accept a return even if you broke it. Ask!

## Presidential Appointments

You may have heard/read about the various government leaders President-Elect Trump has been choosing. Replacing government officials with ones of his choosing will be a big task of the transition period. Over 1200 appointments must be approved by the Senate (as outlined in the US Constitution). This approval process will take months, and mostly happen without much public notice. However, the appointment and approval of some positions will be big news. The President has a "Cabinet," or group of 15 advisors who help govern in the Executive branch. These advisors (Secretaries) are the heads of Executive branch agencies: Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Education, Interior, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Energy, Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development.

Ambassadors to other countries, Directors of regulatory agencies (like the Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Aviation Administration), some non-regulatory jobs (head of National Aeronautics and Space Administration and National Science Foundation), US Attorneys and, when there is a seat open, Justices of the Supreme Court — all these are Presidential appointments that require Senate approval.

The incoming Senate will have 52 Republican, 46 Democrats and 2 Independents who generally vote with Democrats. All appointments require a simple majority vote for approval, except Supreme Court Justices, which require 60%. I will describe more about the approval process as it unfolds in 2017.

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: Money Talks

There are a lot of billionaires in the US news these days. Here are some idioms to help you talk about money:

He is *spending money as if it grows on trees*. (He is spending money as if it were very easy to get more whenever he needed it.)

His life is a *rags to riches story*. (He started his life very poor and then became very rich.)

She was *born with a silver spoon in her mouth*. (She was born into a very wealthy, privileged family.)

We were *living from hand to mouth* when we first arrived, but now we have enough money. (We were very poor and almost did not have enough money to survive when we first arrived but now we have enough money.)

She comes from a *very well-heeled family*. (She comes from a very wealthy family.)

He was *as poor as a church mouse* until he finished school. (He was very poor until he finished school.)

All my other projects failed, but I finally *hit pay dirt*. (All my other projects failed, but I finally found one that was successful.)

One pizza *won't break the bank*; you can order it. (We can afford one pizza; you can order it.)

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, I

Read about [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), on page 4. Mark each of these statements as "True" (T) or "False" (F). Make corrections so false statements are true.

- |                                                                                                                  | T                        | F                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Martin Luther King, Jr. died at the peak of his popularity.                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked to end the Vietnam War.                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, schools, buses, and restaurants were often segregated by race. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. King believed that sometimes violence was the only way to make an unfair system more fair.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. King developed the philosophy of non-violence and civil disobedience from his reading of the Bible.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. King's father was also a minister.                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The "separate but equal" law ensured that children of all races got an equally good education.                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Sit-ins were effective non-violent approaches to social change in the 1950s.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## IDIOMS

Read [That Crazy English: Money Talks](#) on page 8. Which money idiom would you use in each of these situations?

1. a person has very rich parents and grandparents \_\_\_\_\_
2. a person spends money without considering its value \_\_\_\_\_
3. a person finally makes money from a long-time project \_\_\_\_\_
4. a person is very poor \_\_\_\_\_
5. a person was very poor as a child but is now rich \_\_\_\_\_

## HOMEWORK

## WITH A PEN

1) Read [Living in a New News Era](#) on page 1. Write a list of the ways you get news about your home country and about the US (including newspapers or magazines, websites, TV, or other people).

2) Read [King, in His Own Words](#) on page 4-5. Some of the vocabulary in these writings is difficult. Pick one segment and translate every word you do not know. Then write, in your own words, what King was trying to say.

3) Read [Auld Lang Syne](#) on page 2. Think of a song that is traditionally sung at the new year, or for another holiday in your home country. Write a translation of the words in English. Briefly describe the meaning/history of the song, if you know it.

4) Read [Drinking and Driving in the US](#) on page 3. Make a list of any laws that exist in your home country about drinking and driving.

5) Read [New Year's Eve and New Year's Day](#) on page 2. Write a description of your home country's new year celebration. When is it held? Is it a time for families to gather? Are there special foods, music, or ceremonies? Is it a serious holiday? a festive one?

## VOCABULARY

Read [King, in His Own Words](#) on page 4-5. Use the context of the writing to decide the correct meaning of each of these words:

	<b>word</b>	<b>paragraph</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1.	content	"I have..."	happy, satisfied	makeup, substance
2.	submit	"I submit..."	suggest, present	give in to
3.	conscience	"I submit..."	type of science	sense of right
4.	unjust	"I submit..."	not exact	not fair
5.	arouse	"I submit..."	bother	awaken, raise
6.	block	"The Negro's"	building tool	barrier
7.	order	"The Negro's"	well-arranged calm	giving directions
8.	paternalistically	"The Negro's"	like a father	like a son
9.	shallow	"The Negro's"	not sensitive or deep	not honest
10.	inevitability	"Time can..."	with certainly	being invisible
11.	persistent	"Time can..."	difficult	continuous
12.	ally	"Time can..."	friend	enemy
13.	stagnation	"Time can..."	progress	lack of progress
14.	pressed	"I know..."	reduced	ironed
15.	sow	"I know..."	pig	plant

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ, II

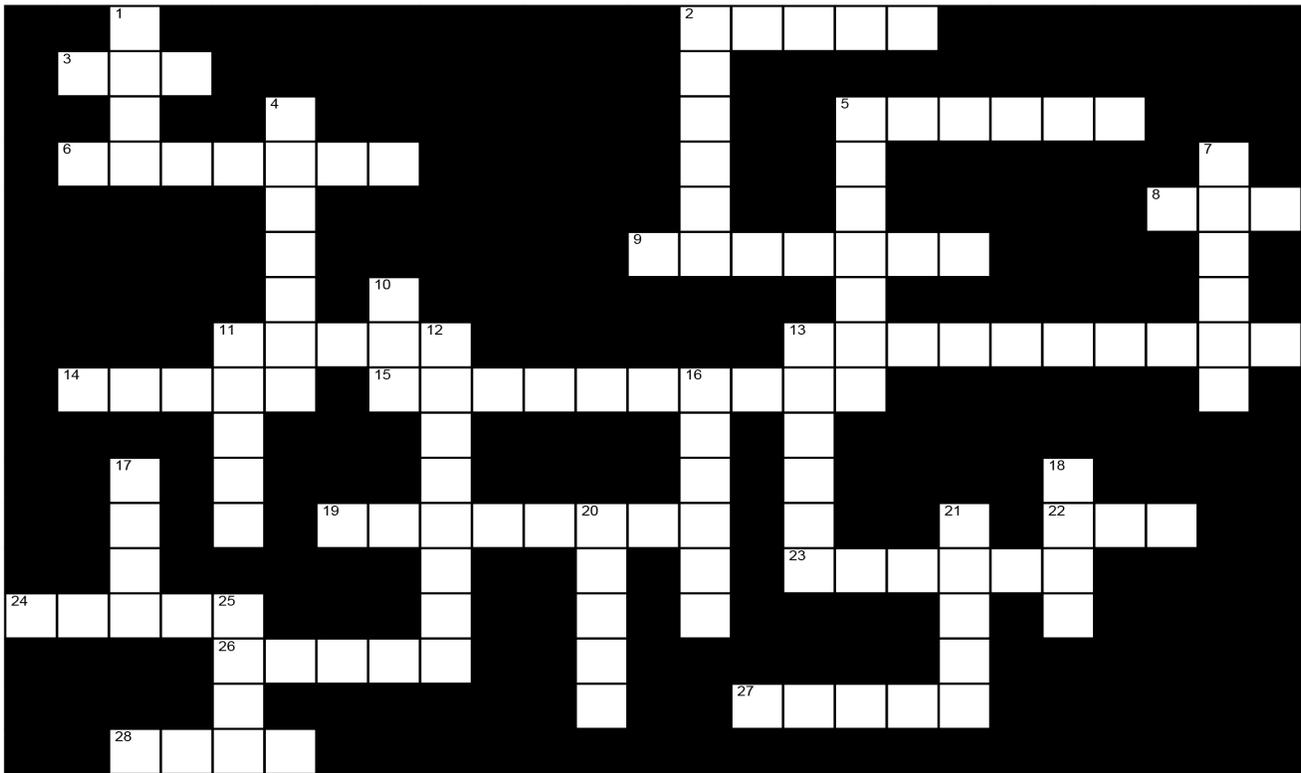
Read [Prepare Today for April 15, 2017 \(and for April 15, 2018, Too\)](#) on page 5. Match each item in the left-hand column below with the tax category on the right.

If you \_\_\_\_:

- gave \$25 to a shelter for homeless families
- earned interest from a savings account
- interest you paid to the bank that lent you money to buy a house
- paid a moving truck to move your furniture to the US so you could take a job here
- had a bicycle stolen
- took a trip for work and did not get paid back
- paid a babysitter so you and your spouse could work it would count as \_\_\_\_:

it would count as \_\_\_\_:

- interest on a mortgage
- a theft loss
- interest & dividends
- a job expense
- moving expenses
- child care expenses
- a contribution to a non-profit organization



**Across**

- 2. silver \_\_\_ in her mouth
- 3. Blood Alcohol Concentration (abbreviation)
- 5. Drinking \_\_\_ does NOT make you sober more quickly.
- 6. promise yourself
- 8. \_\_\_-in, a kind of non-violent protest
- 9. Keep your \_\_\_ when you buy something, especially if you think you might need to return it.
- 11. King dreamed that his children would not be judged by the \_\_\_ of their skin but by the content of their character.
- 13. separated by race, as many public places were before the Civil Rights Movement
- 14. US taxes are due on \_\_\_ 15 every year.
- 15. The US public is divided about \_\_\_ regulation of business.
- 19. tiny pieces of paper, thrown in the air at a party
- 22. hit \_\_\_ dirt, finally find a way to make money
- 23. The President names people to be heads of departments, ambassadors and justices, but the \_\_\_ must approve the choices.
- 24. If someone steals something of yours, that is a \_\_\_ loss, in tax terms.
- 26. Resident or nonresident \_\_\_, different taxes.
- 27. spend money as if it \_\_\_ on trees
- 28. Do this to eggs and cream to make a New Year's Day drink.

**Down**

- 1. \_\_\_ news sites tell stories that are not true.
- 2. Go to Times \_\_\_ to watch a big ball slide down a pole.
- 4. Many people will drink this on New Year's Eve, so drive carefully.
- 5. the President's \_\_\_, 15 advisors who are heads of departments
- 7. rags to \_\_\_
- 10. egg \_\_\_, a New Year's Drink
- 11. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of the \_\_\_ Rights Movement.
- 12. Jackie \_\_\_ was the first black baseball player in the US Major Leagues.
- 13. www.\_\_\_.com, a fact-checking website
- 16. You may be able to deduct \_\_\_ expenses from your tax payment.
- 17. La La La, Auld Lang \_\_\_
- 18. \_\_\_ House, a party that you go to for part of the time stated on the invitation
- 20. post-\_\_\_, when facts are less important than emotional messages in shaping public opinion
- 21. Prepare in January to pay \_\_\_ in April
- 25. Consider taking a \_\_\_ on New Year's Eve.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

- 1) Read [Presidential Appointments](#) on page 7. Listen for news as President-elect Trump announces his choices for various government jobs. Also listen to the reaction you hear among your American friends, and in the news sources you choose. Which ones seem likeliest to be easily approved by the Senate?
- 2) Read about [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) on page 4. On January 16, or the weekend before, try to see film clips of Dr. King on TV. Or go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in his name. Listen to the power of his speaking voice and to his words.
- 3) Read [Returning Items to a Store](#) on page 7. As you go through your daily life, watch for "Return Policies" in stores. Is there a time limit? Is a receipt necessary? Will they return your money or give store credit?

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1) Read [Drinking and Driving in the US](#) on page 3. Go to: [www.intox.com/wheel/drinkwheel.asp](http://www.intox.com/wheel/drinkwheel.asp) and compute your Blood Alcohol Concentration on-line. Put in different amounts and types of drinks, amounts of time, and weights to see what happens to the BAC. Now try comparing the BAC in different countries.

2) Read [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) on page 4. Go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs) to hear and see King's most famous speech and see some of the protest that day.

3) Read [Living in a New News Era](#) on page 1. Many of the news sources in the chart on that page have free websites. Pick two sources that 'very liberal' people trust and two that 'very conservative' people trust. Compare these sources' descriptions of some one news story. Did you learn different things from each source?

Then go to [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and click on What's New at the top to see some of the recent stories they have checked. Any surprises?



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## WITH A FRIEND

1) Read [Living in a New News Era](#) on page 1. With a partner or friend, discuss whether you get news differently from home vs. US. Do you trust one country's source more than the other? How do the news sources differ in these two countries? Is *fake news* more of a problem in one country or the other?

2) Read [New Year's Eve and New Year's Day](#) on page 2. Discuss answers to each of these questions with a partner.

- ♦ What was the best thing that happened to you in 2016?
- ♦ What was something that happened to you in 2016 that you wish had not happened?
- ♦ What are five things you did in 2016 that you had never done before?

3) Read [Drinking and Driving in the US](#) on page 3. Tell a partner about alcohol use in your home country. Is it allowed? Are restrictions on its use different than in the US?

4) Read [Alcohol Myths](#) on page 3. Did you believe any of these "myths?" Are there other beliefs about alcohol — and how to avoid its negative effects — that are common in your home country? Are they true or "myths"?

5) Read [Prepare Today for April 15, 2017 \(and for April 15, 2018, Too\)](#) on page 5. Describe to a partner how your home country gets the money it needs. Are there taxes on income? If so, are they higher or lower than in the US? Are there taxes on real estate? things you buy? gasoline? cigarettes? How do you pay these taxes?

6) Read [Winter on the Web](#) on page 6. Describe to a friend or partner anything an American would have to know about living in your home country's climate. Are there tricks to managing the amount of rain? cold? heat? wind? If the climate is similar to the US's climate, are there any differences in how furnaces, air conditioning, cars or gardens work?

7) Read [That Crazy English](#) on page 8. Take turns with a partner or friend making up sentences using each idiom.

8) Read [Auld Lang Syne](#) on page 2. Sing a New Year's (or other holiday) song for a partner or friend. Translate the words.

## ANSWER CORNER

### Understanding What You Read, I

1F. When MLK, Jr. died, many people were critical of him.  
2T 3T 4F. King believed that violence was never the way to make systems fair. 5F. King developed...from reading Gandhi and Thoreau. 6F. King died at the age of 39, a young man.

### Idioms

1 sliver spoon, or well-heeled 2 grows on trees 3 hit pay dirt 4 hand to mouth, or church mouse 5 rags to riches

### Understanding What You Read, II

1g 2c 3a 4e 5b 6d 7f

### Vocabulary

1b 2a 3b 4a 5b 6b 7b 8a 9a 10a 11b 12a 13b 14a 15b 16a

