

International Students: Obtaining Driving License

by Tammie Key



Massachusetts state law requires all residents to obtain a MA driver's license within 30 days of

their arrival if they plan to live in MA for one year or more. Citizens of certain countries may also utilize their home country's driver's license along with an International Driving Permit. Please see the manual for the Registry of Motor Vehicles regarding the rules and regulations for using your International license which can be found at

www.mass.gov/rmv/index.htm.

If you own or lease a motor vehicle in Massachusetts, you must meet certain obligations to keep your vehicle legally registered

and safe for the road.

Most insurance companies will require you to have a MA driver's license in order to insure a car. Please note that if you move after you obtain a MA license, you must inform the Registry of Motor Vehicles within 30 days of your move. For a small additional fee, an insurance agent may register your car and get the license plate for you at the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). Many driving schools in Massachusetts offer private lessons and will even sponsor a student for his or her driving test.

All applicants are required to have a Social Security number or an official 'Denial Letter' from the Social Security Office

(see our section on Obtaining a Social Security Number). A Denial Letter will be issued on the spot at the Social Security Office; a Social Security number may take two or more weeks to obtain. You will also need the following: Valid passport, Document proving date of birth, proving signature, and Document proving MA residency. A passport provides photo ID, your signature, and proof of your age. Proof of MA residency could be a utility bill showing your name and current address. If you live on campus, ask the International Student Advisor for a letter which states that you live on campus. This letter can be prepared for you in two business days.

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April 2006 Writing Contest Winners

Topic: Write About a Strange or Interesting Experience

1st Place: Marilene Amaral (WR200)

Excerpt: Something happened to me and my friend, and it was so scary. I worked for a cleaning company for three months.

Every morning I went to the office to check in. Then I met my partner, and we got the equipment, the schedule, and the directions to the houses. One day, we went to the first address, and a strange guy answered the door. He said, "Come in. I'm leaving." The place was very hot and old, and there was stuff everywhere. We started dusting and cleaning. Suddenly we heard our vacuum cleaner in the living room! We thought we were alone, but there was a guy in the living room, lying on the sofa. When we were cleaning the living room, the guy was staring at us with a strange look. I saw needles and a bunch of other things on an end table. By accident, I hit the table and everything fell to the floor. The guy jumped and grabbed my legs. I couldn't move! I said, "I'm okay, don't worry." My partner and I were very afraid and we left without finishing the cleaning. That was the most frightening experience I had in my life. If that insane guy tried to do something bad to us, we wouldn't have escaped!



2nd Place: Bushra Anjum (WR200)



3rd Place: Dong Yul Yoo (WR200)

Honorable Mentions:

**Danilo Vivas (WR200),
Ilona Fontana (WR200),
Helen Lokhamanenko (WR300)**

STUDENTS WRITING CORNER



Do you speak Japanese?

by S. Saad (Belgium)



Some people in the school, including Japanese, seemed surprised when they found out that I was based in Japan. Do you speak Japanese? How can one work, study (academic or business) or do a research in Japan? Are Japanese people able to communicate in English? Are there many foreigners in Japan? And so on...

Since many of the Approach's population are students, I will write about Japan's university education – in English language.

As in the USA (MIT, Harvard, Stanford), Japan has very famous universities (Waseda, Kyoto, Keio and Tokyo) which provide some programs in English. The main reason is that Japan is trying to have a global role by attracting highly potential talented students who can work in Japan and contribute to the local economy. The leading university is Waseda University which offers studies in English: undergraduate (which include an intensive Japanese language course during the four years), MBA, bilingual master's in telecommunication and PhD. Additionally, in all mentioned programs, students can spend one year abroad as part of their study: USA, Australia, UK, Honk Kong, South Africa, and so on.

Japanese students are very friendly towards foreigners: they seek friendship and try their best to communicate in English although it is quite difficult for them. Japanese tend to be shy and do not speak English unless they master the language.



A lot of information, posted mainly by foreigners living (or have been living) in Japan can be found by <http://www.crisscross.com/jp/forum/>. Do I speak Japanese? - Yes, I manage to communicate in Japanese. *Tabun, ne!*

What is American English?

by Darya Litvinava (Belarus)



Is there a language called American English? In my opinion no! Why? English is the native language of England and not America.

If you say that everyone in the USA speaks American English, then everyone in India speaks Indian English. Then we'll come up with Chinese English... Each language comes with a long history. English was not invented 200 years ago like the history of America. English history goes back more than 1000 years. The bottom line is: English is the native language of England and should be spoken like the natives of the country. Any other form of English is referred as "English with a different accent or dialect".

Things I learned from my parents.

by Julija Salajeva (Latvia)



When I was in the kindergarten I dreamt of being an adult. I thought it's easier than being a kid. My parents gave me some pieces of advice about life to prevent me from making mistakes. At the age of 15 I never listened to them because I thought that everything they said was wrong and they couldn't understand my life as a teenager. Growing up I learned a lot from them. My mother told me to be honest. One of her rules was "never lie because it'll pay you back". I completely agree with her, but to be honest, all the time is hard. Sometimes we have to lie to get out from an extreme situation or to protect us from something bad. Most of the time it helps. My father is a purposeful person. One of his goals is to get what he wants. If you want to be happy, be ready to do everything even if it's hard. Never give up or

tell people you can't do it. It means you are weak. Now I'm 23 years old and I understand that my parents wanted me to find the best way to be happy in life. Even if they were strict it doesn't mean that they were not right. It means they love me and they want to see me successful in my life.

Media Pays Too Much Attention to the Celebrities?

by Jennifer Lima (Brazil)



It is evidenced that the media pays too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. Actually, people are more interested in their trivial stuff, like what celebrities are doing, than what is really affecting the world and society.

For instance, we've been following the entire pregnancies of Angelina Jolie and Katie Holmes. For now, America is anxiously waiting for information about Jolie's baby, and there are rumors that pictures of the baby would cost some \$5 million. During the Annual Academy Awards, we mostly see a stupid dress competition. Instead of talking about the best picture, the directors' work, and such (which is supposedly the most important), people are more worried about the actresses beautiful dresses and how much they spend on them. We do not talk about 9/11 as much as we talk about the lives of famous people. It is true that we have some cultural channels on television, but the majority of the channels are for entertainment. Who cares about the evolution of life, the science, the history of our ancestors? I assume only 20% does. Do we hear about Nobel prize winners today? Yes, but we are more focused on who's winning the baseball tournament, and such.

Finally, because of society's interest in trivial, personal details, the media seeks more and more information about celebrities lifestyle. That brings them more of a return than some good important information, that would really change the world.



Massachusetts Facts and Trivia

by Brian Smith

Since you're now living in Massachusetts, here is some information about the "Bay State" that you might be interested in. And now that the good weather is finally here, try to get out and explore its wonders.

- Over 500 original documents pertaining to the Salem witch trials of 1692 have been preserved and are still stored by the Peabody Essex Museum.
- Boston built the first subway system in the United States in 1897.
- Although over 30 communities in the colonies eventually renamed themselves to honor Benjamin Franklin. The Massachusetts Town of Franklin was the first and changed its name in 1778.
- Norfolk County is the birthplace of four United States presidents: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John Fitzgerald Kennedy and George Herbert Walker Bush.
- In Holyoke, William G. Morgan, created a new game called "Mintonette" in 1895. After a demonstration given at the YMCA in nearby Springfield, the name "Mintonette" was replaced with the now familiar name "Volleyball."
- There is a house in Rockport built entirely of newspaper.
- Hingham's Derby Academy founded in 1784 is the oldest co-educational school in the United States.
- Hingham's First Parish Old Ship Church is the oldest church structure in the United States in continuous use as a place of worship.
- The Fig Newton cookie was named after Newton, Massachusetts.
- The visible portion of Plymouth Rock is a lumpy fragment of glacial moraine about the size of a coffee table, with the date 1620 cut into its surface. After being broken, dragged about the town of Plymouth by ox teams used to inspire Revolutionaries, and reverently gouged and scraped by 19th-century souvenir hunters, it is now at rest near the head of Plymouth Harbor.
- The Basketball Hall of Fame is located in Springfield.
- James Michael Curley was the first mayor of Boston to have an automobile. The plate number was "576" - the number of letters in "James Michael Curley." The mayor of Boston's official car still uses the same number on its plate.
- The American industrial revolution began in Lowell. Lowell was America's first planned industrial city.
- 1634: Boston Common became the first public park in America.
- 1891: The first basketball game was played in Springfield.
- Massachusetts holds the two largest cities in New England, Boston, the largest, and Worcester.
- The creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore, which was formerly private town and state owned land, marked the first time the federal government purchased land for a park.
- Robert Goddard, inventor of the first liquid fueled rocket, was born and lived much of his life in Worcester and launched the first rocket fueled with liquid fuel from the neighboring town of Auburn.
- Quincy boasts the first Dunkin' Donuts on Hancock Street and the first Howard Johnson's on Newport Ave.
- Glaciers formed the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard during the ice age.
- The first U.S. Postal zip code in Massachusetts is 01001 at Agawam.
- Brewster has become the de facto "Wedding Capital of Cape Cod" because of its many small and larger inns that cater to weddings.
- The birth control pill was invented at Clark University in Worcester.
- The signs along the Massachusetts Turnpike reading "x miles to Boston" refer to the distance from that point to the gold dome of the state house.
- Harvard was the first college established in North America. Harvard was founded in 1636. Because of Harvard's size there is no universal mailing address that will work for every office at the University.
- In 1838 the Boston & West Worcester Railroad was the first railroad to charge commuter fares.
- The Boston University Bridge on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston is the only place in the world where a boat can sail under a train driving under a car driving under an airplane.
- The Mather school was founded in Dorchester in 1639. It is the first public elementary school in America.
- John Adams and John Quincy Adams are buried in the crypt at the United First Parish Church in Quincy.
- The Children's Museum in Boston displays a giant milk bottle on the museum's wharf. If it were real it would hold 50,000 gallons of milk and 8,620 gallons of cream.
- Barnstable County is the only Massachusetts county where resident deaths out numbered births between 1990 and 1997.
- The Pilgrim National Wax Museum in Plymouth is the only wax museum devoted entirely to the Pilgrim's story.
- In 1908, Miss Caroline O. Emmerton purchased The House of the Seven Gables - built in 1668 - restored it to its present state and, in 1910, opened the site to the touring public. The seven-gabled house inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne to write his famous novel of the same name.
- The Boston Tea Party reenactment takes place in Boston Harbor every December 16th.
- Balance Rock in Lanesborough is named in honor of a 25' x 15' x 10 boulder that balances upon a small stone below it.
- Massachusetts first began issuing drivers licenses and registration plates in June of 1903.
- The 3rd Monday in April is a legal holiday in Massachusetts called Patriot's Day.
- The first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated in Plymouth in 1621.
- William Hill Brown published The Power of Sympathy in Worcester in 1789. An imitation of Goethe's Sorrows of Young Werther it is regarded as the first American novel.
- The fourteen counties in Massachusetts are made up of 43 cities and 308 towns.
- Charles Goodyear (Goodyear Tires) in Woburn first vulcanized rubber in 1839.
- Elias Howe of Boston invented the first sewing machine in 1845.
- The first nuclear-powered surface vessel, USS Long Beach CG (N) 9, was launched at Quincy in 1961.
- USS Constitution 'Old Ironsides', the oldest fully commissioned vessel in the US Navy is permanently berthed at Charlestown Navy Yard. Since 1897 the ship has been overhauled several times in Dry Dock 1.
- Revere Beach was the first public beach in the United States and is host to Suffolk Downs horse racing track, Wonderland dog racing track and a 14-screen cinema complex.
- The official state dessert of Massachusetts is Boston cream pie.
- Milford is known the world over for its unique pink granite, discovered in the 1870's and quarried for many years to grace the exteriors of museums, government buildings, monuments and railroad stations..
- Acushnet is the hometown of the Titleist Golf Ball Company.

Source: 50states.com





Jokes

by Nadia

From www.hicards.com

City Boy: Say, Dad, how many types of milk are there?
 Father: Well, there's evaporated milk, buttermilk, malted milk, and --but why do you ask?
 City Boy: Oh, I'm drawing a picture of a cow, and I want to know how many "spigots" to put on her.

With the help of a fertility specialist, a 65 year old woman has a baby. All her relatives come to visit and meet the newest member of their family.
 When they ask to see the baby, the 65 year old mother says "not yet."
 Finally they say, "When can we see the baby?"
 And the mother says, "When the baby cries."
 They all ask, "Why do we have to wait until the baby cries?"
 The new mother says, "because I forgot where I put it."



A boss tells his new employee, "I'll give you 8 bucks an hour starting today, and in three months, I'll raise it to 10 bucks an hour. So when would you like to start?"
 The employee replies, "How about in 3 months?"

A noted psychiatrist was a guest at a National Organization for Women gathering, and his hostess broached the subject in which the doctor was most at ease. "Would you mind telling me, Doctor," she asked, "how you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?"
 "Nothing is easier," he replied. "You ask him a simple question which everyone should answer with no trouble. If he hesitates, that puts you on the track."
 "What sort of question?"
 "Well, you might ask him, 'Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?' The woman thought a moment, then said with a nervous laugh, "You wouldn't happen to have another example, would you? I must confess I don't know much about history."

MEMORIAL DAY

In distant field of sunny France
 Where strangers come and go,
 Amid the farms of Flanders, where
 The fragrant breezes blow,
 Our soldier-dead in quiet sleep
 'Neath crosses row on row.

Here shrapnel shells once shrieked and burst
 And took their toll of death;
 The very wind, itself a foe,
 Bore poison on its breath.

Above their graves the birds now sing
 As round that home of yore,
 When, carefree boys, they romped and played;
 Those childhood days soon o'er,
 The boys to brave and strong men grown,
 They romped and played no more.

They put aside their childish toys,
 A man's work each must do,
 And when their country called for them,
 To her they answered true.

"We must protect our native land:
 She shall not suffer wrong
 For she has reared and nurtured us,
 We're men and we are strong.
 We'll bid good-by to those we love;
 It will not be for long."

With aching hearts and tear-dimmed eyes
 We watched them go away.
 Some have returned but many sleep
 In foreign lands today.

Where English roses bloom and fade,
 In France where lilies grow,
 Among the fields of Flanders, where
 The scarlet poppies blow,
 Our soldier-dead are not forgot
 Though strangers come and go.

~By Eula Gladys Lincoln~

Poem of the Month



May Birthdays

- 1 Aizhan Tuleutayeva
- 1 Dae Hyung Choi
- 3 Alexandrina Coneglian
- 3 Claudia Leite
- 3 Rubens Oliveira
- 4 Saki Fukuda
- 6 Stevens Bertrand
- 7 Kang Hui Mun
- 9 Elias Rita
- 12 Michelle Lima
- 12 Phannee Lee
- 15 Katlin Truman
- 22 Gabriel Fernandes de Britto
- 25 Bushra Anjum
- 25 Maria Pacheco
- 27 Fernanda de Oliveira
- 28 Marlon Barbosa
- 28 Yen-Fen Wu
- 29 Bruno Evaristo
- 29 Joao Batista Romao Fedencio
- 31 Fernando Torres
- 31 Rosen Kotsev

March Activities Scrapbook



Approach students enjoyed a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts with Andrew. Entrance is free every Wednesday after 4:00.



Jaasiel, an accomplished singer and guitarist, shows off his talents during International Lunch.



Golf Champions Tony, Lucas and Dong Yul Yoo show off their hardware during International Lunch.



Bushra shows off her attire from Bangladesh. She also brought some amazing food, chicken tikka masala, to share with us here at Approach.



Fernanda shows off her trophy as ping pong champion. The trophies just get better and better every month!



Ilona and Andrew take a moment to pose together. What beautiful smiles!



Even though Kasha is eating food, she is still able to smile for the camera!



Hiroyuki, normally camera shy, gives the peace sign.

May is also a great time to have fun. Look at the Activities Calendar for more things to do. At Approach, students learn while enjoying every minute of



by Debbie Billmers



The history of Mother's Day is quite complicated. There are many theories about how Mother's Day began, starting back in the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans, later involving the church, and even as a day of peace.

The ancient Greeks celebrated a holiday in honor of Rhea, the mother of the gods. Ancient Romans also celebrated in honor of Cybele, the mother goddess in their mythology. In the ancient cultures of Celtic Europe and the British Isles, the goddess Brigid (later known as St. Brigid) was honored.

Later, in England in the 1600s, servants celebrated "Mothering Sunday." At this time much of the population was poor and therefore worked as servants to the rich, often far away from their families. On this day, always the fourth Sunday of Lent, servants were encouraged to visit their mothers and bring a special "mothering cake." This tradition died out in the 19th century.

In America, Mother's Day was not conceived of until 1872, when Julia Ward Howe (known during the Civil War for writing the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic") proposed this day as one of peace. Horrified by the carnage of the Civil and the Franco-Prussian Wars, she pushed a peace manifesto at international peace conferences in Europe. She introduced the idea of a day honoring peace, motherhood, and womanhood, called a "Mother's Day for Peace." This day was first held in Boston, and in 1873 it was celebrated in 18 other cities in America.



The first official Mother's Day was instigated by Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor the work and life of her mother. Her goal was to establish a day to honor mothers, and she succeeded after hard work. She appealed to her mother's church in West Virginia, and on May 10th, 1908, it responded to her request for a Sunday service honoring mothers. She continued to campaign in Philadelphia, writing to ministers, businessmen, and politicians until a

bill was proposed to the Senate. In 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in nearly every state, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made the official announcement that Mother's Day would be a national holiday to be held on the second Sunday of every May.

Regardless of the origin of the holiday, remember that your mother is the origin of you! In America we send cards and flowers to our mothers and thank them for loving us unconditionally. Don't forget to call your mother!



Memorial Day

by Andrew Haynes

MEMORIAL DAY



Nobody knows the exact origins of Memorial Day and historians disagree as to its exact origins. Americans, each in their own way, have been recognizing veterans of wars since the inception of this country. There are over twenty four cities and towns in the US who lay claim as the birthplace of the holiday. Most likely, Memorial Day was started by many different people in different places, and each honored those who had fallen in wars in their own unique way. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo N.Y. as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. However, honoring the dead is a basic human need whose genesis can be traced back thousands of years. In the end, it's not terribly important to define the precise

beginnings of the holiday; what is important is that the holiday was established to remember those who have perished for a cause greater than themselves.

Factually, on May 5, 1868 General John Logan officially proclaimed Memorial Day to honor those who had died during the American Civil War. Various people and groups put flowers on the graves of soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery for those who had perished in the Civil War. Originally, until the First World War, the South refused to celebrate the holiday on the same day as the North. After World War I, the holiday was changed to honor any soldier who died in battle, and the South then recognized Memorial day on the same date as the North. Today, Memorial Day is celebrated by all fifty states on the same date.



Chat Sessions in the Study Room

An old friend of mine once said that "life is that boring time between meals". Believe me; he's not fat at all. He is just one of these persons who really enjoy his lunchtime, and so should do everyone else.

Lunchtime is one of those few opportunities to do something necessary and fun at the same time. Thinking about this, the school started to promote a Lunchtime Chat Session on an everyday basis. No, it's not at all related to any internet chat. This is just one way students can eat, have some fun and have the attendance count at the same time. Great isn't it?

If all you want is to just sit down and study however, the study room is there, open and waiting for you. Remember that you should turn your cell phone to silence mode and keep your voices down. Have you ever tried to study in a night club? No? I wonder why. One more thing: please don't eat there. But bring your food or drinks to the chat session if you want, and have a great time. And don't forget to silence your cell phones so that you and others can have a nice, quite study time.

Tips of the Month from Our Teachers

Reading Recommendation

by Alison MacAdams



The Best Short Stories of O. Henry, by O. Henry

Have you ever heard the term “the O. Henry Twist?” I assure you it is not a dance move or a refreshing beverage: it’s a literary expression derived from the brilliant work of one of the greatest American short story writers. This collection of stories is a wonderful opportunity to explore O. Henry’s work. His stories are about all types of different people from all walks of life. He writes stories that have humor, feeling, and plenty of irony. And that “Twist?” It’s because his stories often take an unexpected turn; just when you think you know how the story is going to end, O. Henry will surprise and amaze you. If you are studying English, this collection is worth having. The stories are beautifully written and aren’t terribly long.

by Luciana Sarra



A noun can be either countable or uncountable. There are some general rules to help you figure out which category a noun falls into, but many times you will simply have to memorize which nouns are countable and which are uncountable. Non count nouns are always accompanied by a singular verb “is,” “need” and singular determiners “this” or generic terms like “some” or “a lot of.”

Here are some examples: *This information is not appropriate for school.*

Some information is out of place. A lot of information is incorrect. You cannot say: Few information, many information, or these information.

For more information and exercises on this topic, talk to one of our tutors in the study room.

Retrieved from wps.ablongman.com

Idioms

by Debbie Billmers



In American English the word “mother” appears in many idioms and expressions. For example, we refer to nature as a woman who controls all things natural, so we call her “Mother Nature, or sometimes “Mother Earth.” Another idiom refers to the “mother lode” as a huge collection of something. An extreme example of something is called the “mother of all...” For example, a humongous pizza might be called “the mother of all pizzas!”



by Brian Smith



What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (1962)

Starring: Bette Davis, Joan Crawford

Jane Hudson, an aging, former child star from the silent movie era must care for her paraplegic sister Blanche in their isolated, run-down Hollywood mansion. As an adult, Blanche became a successful movie star in her own right but is now confined to a wheelchair after a mysterious car accident. On a daily basis she endures psychological and physical torture inflicted on her by her twisted and jealous sister Jane who has resented Blanche throughout her entire adult life. As a child, “Baby Jane” was the star of the family and got everyone’s the attention, but after her youthful cuteness faded away, so did her career. Brilliant performances by both Oscar-winning actresses.

Activity Tips

by Andrew Haynes



1) The Walk for Hunger

This year’s Walk for Hunger will take place on Sunday, May 7. Arrive between 7:00 and 9:00 A.M. Walk all 20 miles, or just walk around the Boston Common; there really is no requirement to finish the race. (Of course, let your sponsors know your plans!) The route starts and ends on Boston Common. In between, you’ll walk through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Watertown, and Cambridge!

2) Mayfair in Harvard Square

The Harvard Square business association will again host its May Fair. Enjoy live music, dance, street performers, activities for children, food, SALES, and more.

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3) Big Apple Circus

On City Hall Plaza this year, the Big Apple Circus runs through May 7, 2006. If you’re looking for a deal on tickets check these special promotions. The one-ring circus was founded by Paul Binder and Michael Christensen in 1977. Shows are Wednesday - Sunday. Enjoy the Show!

4) Legends of the Ball

Good Sports will host its annual Legends of the Ball event recognizing several New England athletes, sports personalities and businesses.

The Roxy – 279 Tremont Street, Boston

Retrieved May 1, 2006 from <http://boston.about.com/od/artentertainment/tp/2006May.htm>

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