

Melissa

Hello. My name is Melissa and I'm going to be one of the teachers in this course. Hopefully by the end of the course you will have learned new things about America.

So many times people see America as they watch in Hollywood movies. They think of Coca-Cola. They think of hot dogs. They think of big homes. Some of these common things that are portrayed on tv or in the movies is what they think of America. Well, there is a very practical side to getting around in America and it has nothing to do with those things.

We hope to show you some new things about America, common things in everyday life that will be practical for you. So when you are travelling there or someday you'll be there, you won't be shocked by too many new things and you can enjoy what you are doing in America.

Whether you are studying, or you are just visiting family, or you are being a tourist... maybe you're having a new job in America; whatever it is that you're going there for, if you take this course with us, it will help prepare you for the practical things so that you can enjoy your time better doing what you want to be there doing.

We chose the topics which we felt would be most helpful for you to start out in America. Whether you're just visiting for a short time or you're planning on moving there for a longer time. We went with subjects that would be very practical, such as, *Travel Arrangements*: How to get around in America. We also will be teaching about *Buying a Cell Phone*, because everybody needs to use a cell phone. We'll also be teaching about *Driving in America*: all the signs that you are going to see as you get around. We're going to talk about *Health Care in America*: When you need to go to the doctor, what are some of the things that will be said? What will your doctor ask you and how will you respond? These are just some of the subjects throughout our course that we'll be going over.

We want you, at the end of this course, to be able to learn practical things in America and how to say them in English.

Throughout this course you will not be seeing my face. This is the only time that you'll actually see me. You'll just be hearing my voice as I teach you and show you different things on the screen. My husband, Jim, is the one you'll be seeing throughout the course and he will be teaching you face-to-face.

Jim

Hello everyone. My name is Jim and I will be one of your instructors for this course. In this course we are going to talk about practical English and I'm hoping that that's what you are interested in because when I lived in a foreign country I had some language lessons and in these lessons my teachers were very, very good at teaching me grammar. Yet when I went out into the city and I needed to do some practical things, I had so much difficulty. My teacher never taught me things like how to purchase a cell phone. Or even different cultural things of what type of contracts do they have for cell phones? Me, being an American, I was used to *contact* vs. *no contract* and I was just thinking in this certain American mindset. As a foreigner I just wasn't sure what to do.

In this course we are going to teach you English, but also some cultural concepts. Some things in America, maybe "Why do Americans do this?" And hopefully we will help you understand these points. Because we all know language is essentially relational. We use language to communicate with one another. We need to follow the rules of grammar, yet essentially we want to make sure that we can relate to people and relate to the culture we're in.

My hope is that during this course, you will be able to engage in American culture through using the English language.

Melissa

Remember that almost every lecture has an attached PDF file. This PDF file has your vocabulary words. That's going to help you to learn what we think will be new words for you. So make sure you take a look at each of those throughout the time that you're taking the course.

We hope you enjoy this process and we're glad to be on this journey with you.