

Nhan Ngoc Thach (T)  
American Cultural Level 3  
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Dear Vy,

Glad to hear that you are well! I am so excited to hear that you are planning to come to the U.S. It has been a while since I came to the U.S. so I would like to share with you about the culture and lifestyle here.

First, it is quite cold here in Boston, especially when it snows in the winter. So, prepare warm clothes and good boots. You may need to wear two to three layers of clothes because it can get below zero.

Second, prepare some cash, especially \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, because these are the most denominations that the machines accept. I was quite surprised when I arrived in the U.S. and almost all the machines did not accept \$2 bills. When I first arrived at the airport, I only had \$2 and \$100 bills, so I had trouble getting the luggage cart. If you have a Visa card, that's great.

Third, think about the tipping culture in the U.S. If you go to a restaurant and pay, you should tip them because their income depends on the tip. Usually, each restaurant has a tip option (10% 15% 20% ...).

Fourth, you should know about transportation in the U.S. Here you can use public transportation, such as trains and buses. At first, it can be quite complicated, but if you use it a few times, you can go anywhere you want. If you have any difficulties, you can ask the people working on the train, they will be happy to help you. I am using some public transportation the red line, commuter rail and buses. There are very popular here.

I know it will be difficult to adapt at first. If you have any problems that need my help, don't hesitate to ask me. Share with me about your journey.

Best regards,

Thach