

Monday

Breaking News English: Grow a Garden game breaks record for concurrent users

Article & T/F

Tuesday



Dining Etiquette: Why It Feels Wrong to Eat First

June 28, 2025

Exercise 1: Vocabulary

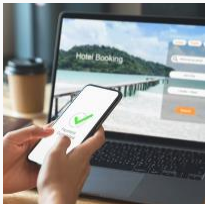
go ahead

Phrasal Verb

ɡoʊ əˈhɛd

to proceed with something

I'm going to **go ahead** and book the hotel now that our flights are sorted.



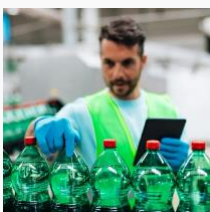
standard

Noun

ˈstændərd

a level of quality or achievement; a required or agreed level of quality or achievement

We have strict quality control **standards** to make sure all our products are safe for our customers.



awkwardness

Noun

'ɔ:kwərdnəs

the quality of being embarrassing

There was a bit of **awkwardness** at first, but once we started chatting it disappeared.



grasp

Verb

græsp

to understand fully

Once you **grasp** how to stop and turn, snowboarding becomes a lot easier.



discomfort

Noun

dɪs'kʌmfərt

a feeling of worry, unease, or embarrassment

I could sense her **discomfort** when I asked about her previous employer.



reverse

Verb

rɪ'vɜ:rs

to swap the position or function of two people or things

Just think about how you would feel if the roles were **reversed**.



Exercise 2: Article

Dining Etiquette: Why It Feels Wrong to Eat First

In most cultures around the world, it's seen as polite to wait until everyone has received their food before you start eating. But we often have one rule for ourselves, and another for other people. For example, if we're at a restaurant and our friend's food comes first, we'll often say, "Go ahead, eat!" But if our own food arrives early, we'll probably feel we should wait.

A new study explains why we hold ourselves to stricter standards than others.

Researchers from the UK and the Netherlands did six experiments with almost 2,000 people, mostly in the US. In each test, people imagined a meal with a friend. Sometimes they got their food first, other times their friend did.

When they had to imagine themselves getting food first, most people said they should wait before eating. But when they imagined their friend getting food first, they said it was OK for the friend to eat right away. The researchers said this happens because of something called a "self-other difference." We feel our own emotions, such as guilt or awkwardness, very strongly, but we can't fully grasp what others are feeling.

When we are the ones eating first, we feel guilt or worry, and we think we might look rude or selfish. But when someone else is in the same situation, we assume they are

fine, even if they are not. Even when people were asked to think about how their friend might feel, the results didn't change much. Nor did they change when people were told they had permission to eat first.

This shows the problem isn't just about rules or social expectations — it comes from the way the human mind works. We see our own discomfort clearly, but we don't fully notice it in others. So when you tell a friend, "Go ahead, eat!" just remember — you might not feel as comfortable if the roles are reversed!

Exercise 3: Discussion

1. What are your thoughts on the study's findings?
2. Is it considered rude in your country to eat before everyone is served?
3. How would you feel if someone started eating before your food arrived?
4. What are some of the most important table rules in your country?
5. Have you noticed any big cultural differences in table manners when traveling?

Exercise 4: Further Discussion

1. How often do you eat out? What are your favorite restaurants?
2. Which of your friends or family do you dine out with the most?
3. Do you ever host dinner parties? Do you enjoy it?

4. What types of social gatherings do you most enjoy?

5. *If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him.* — Cesar Chavez. What do you make of this quote?

Wednesday

Breaking News English: Grow a Garden game breaks record for concurrent users

Synonym match, example sentences, & discussion

Thursday



Millionaire Builds Tiny Homes for Homeless

June 28, 2025

Exercise 1: Vocabulary

affordable

Adjective

ə'fɔːrdəbl

having a low or reasonable price

It's very hard to find **affordable** housing in the city center.



grant

Noun

grænt

an amount of money given by a government or organization for a specific purpose

I received a **grant** from the government to buy an electric car.



subsidized
Adjective

'sʌbsɪdaɪzd

having part of the cost of something covered to make it cheaper

There are a number of **subsidized** short courses at the community college.



solar panel
Noun

'səʊlə 'pænl

a piece of equipment that produces electricity from sunlight

Thanks to our **solar panels**, our electricity bill in summer is almost zero.



temporary
Adjective

'tempə,rəri:

not permanent, or for a limited period of time

I found a **temporary** job as a waitress in a local cafe.



unit
Noun

'ju:nɪt

a self-contained apartment, house or section of accommodation that is part of a larger building or group of buildings

The newly built housing complex has over 200 **units**.



access

Noun

'æksɛs

the ability or opportunity to do, use, have, etc. something

I am looking for a hotel with easy **access** to the airport.



Exercise 2: Article

Millionaire Builds Tiny Homes for Homeless

A Canadian businessman who sold his company for around \$350 million is using his money to build tiny homes for the homeless. After selling his company, Marcel LeBrun knew he wanted to help people. So he traveled around Canada and the US to see how different organizations were trying to help the homeless. He decided that building communities of tiny homes was the best way to help, since they can be built quickly while providing a safe and affordable place to live.

LeBrun began by building a community of 96 houses in the city of Fredericton, New Brunswick. He put his own money into the project and also received government grants. The "12 Neighbours Community" now provides subsidized housing for people who were previously homeless. Each tiny home has a kitchen, a bathroom, a living room that is also used as a bedroom, and solar panels on the roof.

A home in the 12 Neighbours Community costs nearly \$60,000 to build, while the average price of affordable housing in Canada is about \$255,000. The community also

has gardens, shops, a cafe, and workshops where residents can learn new skills. LeBrun sees giving residents the opportunity to work as an important part of helping them become independent. And LeBrun isn't finished.

His next project, called "Neighbourly Homes," aims to provide housing that can be built more quickly, as it's needed. This would only be temporary housing, but these units could be built in a day at a cost of only around \$5,500 each. These units would each have a bed, a desk, a tablet and access to shared bathrooms. In May, the city of Saint John, New Brunswick, already announced that it is planning to build two communities with 27 Neighbourly Homes in each.



Exercise 3: Questions

1. How many tiny homes did Marcel LeBrun first build in Fredericton?
2. How much does a home in the 12 Neighbours Community cost?
3. How quickly can a tiny home in Neighbourly Homes be built?

Exercise 4: Discussion

1. Are tiny homes popular in your country? Could you see yourself living in one?
2. How affordable is housing where you live? Has this changed over the years?
3. Do you know of any programs in your country that help homeless people?
4. If you suddenly won \$350 million, what's the first thing you'd do?

Exercise 5: Further Discussion

1. How long have you lived in your current home?
2. What would you say are the most important things to consider when buying a house or apartment?
3. How many different houses have you lived in?
4. What are some of the most expensive places to live in your country?
5. If you could buy a house anywhere in the world, where would you choose?

Friday



Demand Grows in US for New Zealand's 'Golden Visa'

June 27, 2025

Exercise 1: Vocabulary

downturn

Noun

'daʊn, tɜːn

a decline in business or economic activity

Sales figures for the last two quarters have been respectable despite the **downturn** in the economy.



residency

Noun

'rezɪdənsi

official permission to live in a country one is not a citizen of

I have permanent **residency** in Australia, and can apply for citizenship next year.



stable

Adjective

'steɪbəl

not changing nor likely to change or fail

According to the UN, a country's fertility rate must be 2.1 for its population to remain **stable**.



beset

Verb

br'set

to constantly threaten or cause problems

Japan was **beset** with economic problems after the asset price bubble burst in 1991.



turmoil

Noun

'tərmɔɪl

a state of great disruption, uncertainty, or confusion

Most historians agree that World War II was a direct result of the **turmoil** brought about by the First World War.



tax haven

Noun

'tæks heɪvn

a place where people or businesses keep their money to avoid paying tax in their own countries

Luxembourg is used as a **tax haven** by many European companies.



Exercise 2: Article

Demand Grows in US for New Zealand's 'Golden Visa'

New Zealand recently made it easier for foreign investors to get one of the country's so-called "golden visas" and it has already had almost 200 applications — many from

the US. The rules for people wishing to apply for the visas — properly called Active Investor Plus visas — were changed at the start of April. The idea is to boost the country's economy, which is suffering one of its worst downturns in more than two decades.

In order to obtain residency, people no longer need to have a certain level of proficiency in English, and the amount they are required to invest has been reduced to \$3 million from around \$9 million. People now only need to spend 21 days in the country to get residency, down from three years. The application process is faster too, the immigration department said — it might take just a few days.

Before the end of June, New Zealand said it had already received almost 200 visa applications. Prior to the change of the rules, only 116 applications were made over a two-and-a-half year period. The country said that almost half of the initial applications had come from the US. Immigration consultant Stuart Nash told *The Guardian*: "Nearly everyone who is applying is applying because of the changes they're seeing under the Trump administration."

Some people in the US have complained that certain aspects of life have gotten harder since Donald Trump became president, although it's not possible to be certain of everyone's motivations for applying for the New Zealand visa. But Nash added that New Zealand is also an attractive and stable place to escape to at a time when the

world is beset by turmoil. He said: "We are seeing more people looking for a safe haven than a tax haven." There have also been a number of visa applicants from China, Hong Kong and Germany, the immigration department said.

Exercise 3: Discussion

1. What are your thoughts on the increasing demand for NZ's golden visa?
2. Do you find it surprising that so many Americans are applying for the visa?
3. Could you see yourself living in New Zealand?
4. Do you know anyone who has moved or lived abroad?
5. How difficult is it for foreigners to get residency or citizenship in your country?

Exercise 4: Further Discussion

1. Which of the countries you've been to could you see yourself living in?
2. What would you miss most about your country if you moved abroad?
3. Do you know anyone who has come to live and work in your country?
4. What do you imagine makes people want to move to your country?
5. Have you ever had to apply for a visa when traveling? Was it easy?