

## The Arrival

Enjoy your flight. Try to learn more about other nations from the co-passengers, there can be international stops on your way to the U.S.

**International Stops:** Generally passengers are required to get down at an international stop, which might be for Security checkup or cleaning of the airplane. You will be given a 'transit card' or say 'transit visa'. Normally the halt is for a couple of hours. Listen to the announcement which is always made before the international halt. You will hear information about departure time, gate number etc. After getting down at Intl. Airport, you can move around in the airport. But be at the gate within 45 minutes of your flight's departure for the onward journey, 'cause they may require to check your tickets etc. Once you get in, you are all set to take off for the final destination.

**Immigration:** The first thing you need to go through at the port-of-entry U.S. airport (international airport where you first land in the U.S.), after landing is the immigration and customs clearance. After which you may board a domestic flight to reach your final destination. Before getting down at your port-of-entry final international halt, inside the plane, you will be given a form to fill up called I-94. SPECIFY DCI's CONTACT NUMBER, ADDRESS AND OTHER OFFICIAL INFORMATION AS YOUR CONTACT NUMBER, ADDRESS WHERE YOU WILL STAY etc.

On alighting from the plane you may ask people or signs will guide you to the immigration. Keep your passport, H1-paper ( Blue form ) and the form you filled inside the plane, handy. At the counter you might be asked some questions. TALK ABSOLUTELY TO THE POINT. DON'T TRY TO LIE. MAKE SURE THAT WHATEVER YOU SAY IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER. You will be given the counter foil of I-94 form. Keep that very carefully. And say to yourself "WELCOME TO USA".

**3.3 Baggage Claim:** Try to acquire some 25 cent coins (called "quarters"), which you may need for getting a trolley cart for your baggage and also for making telephone calls etc. Thereafter move toward the baggage claim carousel assigned to your flight, simply follow the signs directing you to the place. Collect your luggage and look for signs directing you to customs clearance. At the customs clearance they may ask you to open your bags for a security check/verification.

**3.4 Domestic Flight:** Since the Port-of-entry may not be your final destination in the U.S. and you have to proceed onwards, locate the counter for the domestic airline you will be taking to your final destination. Above all don't hesitate or feel shy to ask for help from airport support staff (at information desks) or police officers, if you need anything.

Follow signs directing you to your domestic flight because you will need a boarding pass.

If it is far away, take the Airport shuttle (bus) service which is free. If you don't know where to get down, tell the driver in advance and he will drop you off at the proper place.

At the counter (podium) check-in your baggage and get your boarding pass issued and ready. On arrival at the final destination, collect your baggage once again and look around for that someone who may be there to receive you. If you don't find anyone or you already have specific instructions, follow those, otherwise call up (telephone) the DCI area coordinator whose tel. number you should be carrying.

Therefore remember to keep phone numbers handy. Get information from the DCI area-coordinator on the stay arrangements made for you. Finally, if no one comes to pick you up, try to locate the information counter from where you will get all the information regarding how to call for. Also the Public Transport section of this guide will help you in understanding the travel facilities available in the U.S.

## **PublicTransport**

All major cities have some sort of public transportation not necessarily very good or frequent or well connected. Therefore most people prefer to travel by their own cars. It is better that you own a car in the U.S. so that you are independent. But till you get to buy a car you can use the public transportation system or depend on your friends/colleagues for a ride.

5.1 Trains and Buses: In most cities, you may purchase Daily Tickets from the conductor or the driver on the train and buses each day. For more information on routes, schedules and fares, see the publications and maps published by the city's local authority. You can locate them in your telephone book.

5.2 Taxi Companies: In some areas you must telephone for a taxi and make an appointment. You will not find them waiting in the street corners but you do find them waiting in a queue at the airport. Taxis are listed in the yellow pages under the name "Taxi" or "Taxicabs".

When you call, tell the "dispatch" operator where you are and where you want to go. The dispatch operator will tell you how long it will take for the taxi to arrive at your starting point. He or she will ask for the telephone number, so they can call you if the taxi driver cannot locate you. You should ask for the estimated cost of the ride.

When you enter the taxi, the meter will read flat rate. This is the minimum charge. You will be charged the flat rate for each mile you travel.

## **FOOD, I'm hungry**

Of course you must be hungry, when you arrive. God knows what you ate on the plane.

You don't remember the neither item's name nor its contents. It may be one of the weirdest things you ever had for dinner or lunch. So you must be apprehensive about what you will get for lunch or dinner. The best thing you can try is PIZZA, which is pronounced as "PiTza".

You get both Veg. and NonVeg Pizzas. But to be on the safer side order a Veg. Pizza that way you won't be left hungry atleast. Order a small pizza if you are alone or a medium size is enough for two or three (well it depends on your appetite actually). You can order pizza by phone and it will be delivered at your doorstep in a few minutes. Refer to the yellow pages or consult the motel receptionist you are staying in, for information.

For breakfast, have 'Continental breakfast' which is cheap and the best. To be sure about Veg. items, always ask for items with "NO MEAT" rather than "WITHOUT MEAT".

Be sure to say "NO ICE" if you prefer to have your drink without ice. And remember that a CHEESEBURGER is a misnomer. It contains meat besides cheese, so be careful! Here is a guide for Vegetarian Dishes:

Mexican: Bean Burrito, Enchiladas, Bean Taco, Cheese Taco, Bean Tostadas, Mexican Pizza.

Italian or Greek: Eggplant (brinjal) sandwich, Sphagetti with tomato sauce, Lasagna (pronounced Laza-nya), Italian Pitza, Italian Pasta with tomato sauce, Falafal, Veg. Gyro (pronounced Yero).

Denny's: Vegetable omelette (with eggs)Vegetable lunch/dinner (salad, potato smash, garlic sauce) Broccoli soup.

American Restaurants (Sizzler, Olive Garden) : Best bet is salad bar & French fries.

McDonald's: Mac cheese sandwich, Milk shakes, ice-cream sundaes.

Pizza Hut: Veggie Lover's delight, Veggie pizza with a choice of toppings such as Jalapenos (pronounced Hala-pin-yose and are green chilies), pineapple, tomato, onions etc.

Burger King: Veggie cheese whooper, Garden burger.

## Office and the Work

### Environment

Before you start your first day, get a hang of how the work environment is at the client's place from any PCS person there or read on for some typical environments you may find. - Project Leaders are very understanding and friendly. And do not unduly pressurize you to perform. They will definitely give you some time to come up to speed on their work environment.

- There is a lot of individualistic approach. Every person's inputs are given a lot of importance. Independent views are respected. Before discarding any of your ideas, they will give you a good enough reason for doing so.

- For the smallest of decisions they will sometimes hold a meeting and get the entire team's inputs/comments/suggestions before proceeding. One feels important when this is done. But sometimes it can get boring.

- Nobody double-checks what you are saying, they take you for your word.

- There are no suspicious feelings and managers don't fear subordinates.

- Managers will openly discuss about their meetings with "their" bosses, with the team.

There is no hide and seek as far as information/feedback is concerned. - People admit if they don't know or have information about certain things. They don't pretend to be all knowing.

- People are dedicated to their area of work and develop expertise in it. But they do not talk about work related topics, which are not in their area of expertise, they immediately refer you to the right person.

- People enjoy their work and leisure. They plan their weekends well in advance. Very few people stay back late in the office or come and work during weekends. Such things are not related to performance. As long as you do your work well and within time, nobody cares what else you do.

- Most companies allow you to compensate by working during the weekend if you take an 'off' from work on a regular weekday.

- The work hours in most companies are flexible. Come anytime and go anytime but you do need to put in a minimum of 8 hrs/day or 40 hrs/week as contractors.
- Regular time sheets "may" have to be filled, in some companies.

### Americans and their Behavior

Its helpful to know how Americans typically will be. Otherwise you will start feeling "These people are great dramatists... ". Here are some tips:-

- Americans are very friendly and helpful.
- They don't make you feel like a foreigner. (Though you feel!).
- It is very easy to adjust with them. But they don't like people getting very inquisitive or trying to get too personal in the initial phase of the acquaintance.
- They dress casually and nobody bothers which dress you wear etc.
- They are fun loving creatures and enjoy their free time. Most of them like to keep themselves physically fit by regular outings, hiking, exercise, biking, jogging etc. They love the outdoors and natural surroundings. They look forward to weekends and plan their weekend activities in advance. This usually consists of some outdoor activity.
- They are frank about their opinions.
- They respect individual views and allow everyone to voice their own ideas on a subject.
- They have a lot of patience. Especially when standing in queues or while driving, nobody will try to jump before you in the queue. Most of them are very disciplined drivers. However this differs from State to State.
- If they happen to come in your way or you happen to come in their way, you will promptly hear an "Excuse me" or "Excuse us".
- They need a lot of feedback while talking. You have to acknowledge/nod continuously.

Otherwise they feel you are not interested in listening or are confused.

- They gesture a lot and shoot some funny (at least so it seems initially) phrases at you. It is a matter of "getting used to it".
- They are "very" proud of their country. To them, the Universe is the United States. So never ever make fun of or speak lightly about them or tell them that they do not have any social/cultural background. You will make more American friends that way.
- Most Americans think of India as a poor country of beggars, snake charmers and swamis etc. This is due to the insufficient and improper media coverage given to India.

Their T.V. only shows the poor Indian villages and cows on the streets.

Hope you will be able to prove that India is a country of INTELLIGENT people like you and not just ELEPHANTS and SNAKE CHARMERS.

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### BankAccounts/ChequeWriting

- They are basically of two types - Savings a/c (with interest)

- Checking a/c (with NO interest)

- Generally most people open a Checking a/c at first.

- To open an account you need a social security number, however since it takes a week or more to get the social security number one can request the bank to verify the passport and open the a/c. Later do remember to inform the bank once you receive your SS number.

- Then there are concepts like

- Minimum balance - which is either NO or YES (It is better to open an a/c with

NO MINIMUM BALANCE otherwise you have to maintain the specified minimum amount always in the account).

- Overdraft facility - Again NO or YES (This allows you some amount of overdraft.

This might be beneficial in some cases, such as when the monthly salary is not received on time and the house rent, phone bills etc. has to be paid.).

- There are various kinds of check/cheque books available that one can choose from, such as the kind of colored paper and printed background design on paper etc. Usually a set of 200 checks bound together in books of 20 each is sufficient for 6 months. But it depends on how many checks are issued by you and at what frequency. The first check book is given by the bank immediately on opening an account, the other 200 checks are mailed to you at the given address.

- The next thing is to ask for an ATM card. This allows you to withdraw money 24 hrs. from any ATM machine of the bank or related ones.

- Some banks charge money to issue an ATM card and the first set of check/cheque books. Something like \$10.00 for the ATM card and another \$10.00 for the first 200 checks (10 books of 20 pages each). But most banks do not charge anything.

- The whole procedure of opening an account takes about 10-15 min.

- A few shops/gas stations etc. ask for a valid photo-id when payment is made by check. This is just for verification. (A photo-id could be a U.S. driver's license or an actual ID-card which is issued by the local Dept. of Motor Vehicles office.- Small payments such as \$1.25 etc. too can be made by check and it is not absurd to do so. People carry very little or no cash on person. Most of them make their payment by Credit card or check. But it is advisable to carry about \$20.00 in cash at all times to cover emergency needs. Of course you will have to always carry your checkbook around.

- The following style is used to write the amount in words on the check. Say for e.g. the amount to be paid is \$35.47 then you would write:

Amount in words \$: THIRTY-FIVE & 47/100

## Cards

- It is a fashion to collect cards of all types and store them in ones purse. The cards here refer to the plastic type e.g. credit cards.

- So there are cards such as:

Credit card,

Debit card,

Bank ATM card,

Shopping Store cards (e.g. Sears card; "SEARS" is the name of a chain of stores in the U.S.)

Medical benefit card, Telephone calling card, Public library membership cards.

- Most purses have transparent packets to keep these cards in order.

- Credit/Debit Cards: A credit card allows you to pay for your expenses without bothering about availability of money at the time of payment. The Credit Card Company pays for you and later sends you a statement every month elaborating the payments made. You can then, pay the credit card Company by check. There are certain limits imposed on Credit cards with regard to the amount of credit available to you, which vary.

VISA and MASTERCARD are the most widely accepted credit cards. The other being American Express card. (Called Am-Ex for short).

A Debit card is almost like a check, since it allows you to spend from your available resources only (no credit business). The banks where you have an account, after you apply for it generally issue this.

It is not so easy to get a credit card for the first timer in U.S. The application is scrutinized by the Credit Organization/Bank and the credit history checked up (They call up the banks where you have an account, to find out your balance and credit status etc.). Actually it seems the credit history is traced from your Social Security No. Usually the period of stay is also an important criteria e.g. at least 6-month stay is essential to be considered eligible for a Credit card. To build up a good credit history, many people take loans from the bank. E.g. to buy a car and repay it in time. This increases the chances of getting a Credit Card sooner.

The most easiest to get is the American Express Card. They ask for a letter from the employer regarding salary status etc. once the initial application is verified.

- The Gold Card is the next thing to aim for, once you have at least a card. The Credit limit is higher on the Gold Card apart from other benefits.

- The most difficult to get is the DISCOVER credit card.

- Most Credit cards offer other benefits too, such as mileage accumulation for some airline enabling you to travel free on that airline anywhere in the U.S. once about 20,000 miles have been accumulated, at the rate of 1 mile per dollar. Some others offer Rental Car Insurance coverage and so on.

- Most organizations (health clubs etc.) issue membership cards with neat plastic lamination too.

## **Renting an apartment**

Now that you have started your work you would like to move into your apartment rather than stay in the motel. Here is what you should know about renting an apartment. You can get information on how to rent an apartment from the "Apartments" section of the Yellow Pages, newspaper or "Rental Guides" which are available at the stores. To lease (rent) an apartment you should consider following points:

17.1 Lease period and deposits: Usually there are two types of lease depending on the period of lease: 6 months lease & 12 months lease. (In some places they allow 3-month lease too, but the rent increases in that case). Most of the cases you get 1 months rent free in case you select 12 months lease and you get half months rent free if you select 6 months lease. You have to pay 1 months rent as security deposit and



some amount around 10\$ to 15\$ as key deposit. Rent for the apartment in basements is less than other apartments. Very few people prefer to stay in basements because of security reasons. So when you ask about availability of apartments it is possible that the Manager will say only basement apartment is available. Hence insist for apartment on first or second floor if you don't want a basement apartment. Otherwise after renting a basement apartment you will realize that apartments other than in basements were also available.

17.2 Utilities : Check whether your rent includes utilities such as hot water, Cable etc. Otherwise you end up spending around 100\$ to 150\$ for electricity bill if you have to pay for hot water.

17.3 Lease Terms : Understand the lease terms properly because most of the times you need to break the lease in case your project terminates suddenly. if you want to break the lease a. You have to give 30 days notice. b. You lose your security deposit c. In some cases they (the apartment management) try to find somebody who wants to rent your apartment. If they don't get anybody within 30 days period You have to pay 1 month's rent extra. In this situation you lose your security deposit plus one months rent. Get these terms clarified before signing the lease papers.

17.4 Lease Breaking : If you are sharing an apartment with somebody. Suppose 3 people are sharing an apartment and all three have their names on lease papers. In case one of the three wants to leave before the lease period is over, you need to take a letter from him saying that all further paper work can be done by the other two people. This letter is required when your lease period is over or even if you want to break the lease before that period is over. If you don't have such a letter you won't be able to break the lease unless all three have signed the lease break paper. In such cases you also end up losing your deposit. This is true even for normal termination of lease period. Be careful and understand these terms and conditions fully.

17.5 Damages : After renting an apartment carefully observe if there are any types of damages in the apartment. If you see any, ask your Property Manager to make a note of it. Otherwise they will deduct some amount from your security deposit when your lease period is over.

17.6 Downgrading and Upgrading : If you want to move to 2 bedroom apartment from 1 bedroom apartment you have to pay some 100\$ to 200\$. Many cases downgrading i.e. moving to 1 bedroom apartment from 2 bedroom apartment is not allowed. Get clarification on all such points while signing lease papers.

17.7 Electricity and Telephone connection : After you rent the apartment you need to inform your local Electric Supply company that you will be staying in that apartment from so and so date and that they may bill you from that date. Ask your local telephone company for a telephone connection by calling them up. Most of the business takes place on the phone. Surprisingly all work gets done and promptly too.

17.8 Maintaining an apartment : In most of the apartments you have cooking range, oven, dish washer, refrigerator etc. Use aluminum foil to cover part of the cooking range (other than coils) so that it remains clean and in the end you don't need to spend time in cleaning it. Dish washer soap is available in liquid or in powder form. Dish washer inner surface starts becoming blackish after some days. The cleaning liquid can be used to clean it.

This can be done once in a month. Clean your oven once in a month using oven cleaning liquid. Use plastic garbage bags in trash cans so that you can just take the bag and dispose it in the central trash, usually provided in the apartment complex.

17.9 Laundry : If the apartment itself does not have a washer/dryer, there will usually be a common laundry room in the complex where you can do your weekly washing/drying.

Such common machines usually are coin operated machines so you'll need a few quarters and also your own favorite detergent powder. Decorating, Furnishing YOUR house : Of course this is not an advice for interior designing but to make your APARTMENT look like a HOME. Home is not a place with four walls, but where you have furniture also . The greatest place to get the things you need for your house is Garage Sales. You can get things like Sofa sets to Wall paintings very cheap from this source. Everyone will be amazed if you have a full-furnished house in a few months.

Garage sale is a second-hand, used thing sale, which includes household items such as furniture like couch etc., appliances such as T.V., stereo, clothes/jackets, other used items.

This is held in people's garages or backyards generally on weekends. They are a nice place to buy furniture from, which is usually in good shape. Anybody, who wants to sell old used things, can hold a garage sale and put up a sign near the house announcing such a sale. The prices are negotiable. Generally people advertise through local newspaper ad columns.

The early morning time on Sat. and Sun. between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. is the best to hunt around for used things in garage sales.

### Income Tax In US

Income Tax return filing is very simple in US as compared to India. Here Tax forms are very simple and easy to fill up. One need not know all about Taxation laws, but still can very easily file tax return. Here in US there are two types of taxes. One is the FEDERAL Tax, which is something like our Income tax, and the other is the STATE Tax. Last day of filing the income tax return is 15th of April. Accounting year is considered from 1st of January till 31st of December. US has a Tax treaty with India. Under this Tax treaty one can file his tax return either in India or in US as per the convenience. But you need to show your income earned in either of the country.

Suppose you come to US in the middle of the year. You must be definitely having some income in India before you came to US in that particular financial year. Also some part of salary is paid to you even when you are in US. This income is taxable and hence you pay tax on that income. Generally you pay tax on this income in India as in most of the cases income tax is deducted at source. So one pays tax on the income in India. So now you are liable only for the tax on the income that you earn in US.

Here there are different types of forms for different category of people. For those who are US residents and who have status of Resident Aliens, they have to file what is called 1040EZ form (form 1040 easy). Any person who is in the US for more than 183 days continuously, gains status of Resident Alien. Any person who is in US for less than 183 days in that financial year is considered as Non Resident Alien.

Non Resident Alien will not have some Tax benefits which any US citizen or Resident Alien will have. Here in particular, Non resident Alien will not get Standard deduction on their income. Also they have to pay Tax as per the Flat rate. So basically when you file your Tax return as NR you end up paying more taxes. But you have to file 1040NR when you are having status as Non resident Alien.

For filing Tax return form one can get help from the government body which is known as IRS (Internal Revenue Services). This is same as Income Tax department in India. Also one has to pay tax to the state government. Each state has a different tax law for the State Tax. Booklet of information on this is available on request. Tax forms are available freely at the public places like Post office, Public library where one can get the form that he/she requires. Also, government gives special services for the people who need the guidance.

One can get this information even on phone by calling them. One can even go in person to understand the form. Apart from these facilities provided by the government one can even go to private Tax consultants. They charge somewhere between \$30 to \$60. They take care of every detail and one need not bother about anything. Along with the Tax you are supposed to send one form called "W2" form. The employer provides this form to all the employees. The form contains all the information based on the salary of the person. Also all the taxes paid by the employer to the State government as well as Federal government. Details about the social security taxes and the medical taxes paid by the employer are also included in this form.

There are three copies of this form. One copy is to be sent with the State Tax form, one with the Federal Tax form and one is for the employee's personal record. Before sending the W2 form one should check the validity of the information in it. Most important is the correct social security number. If there is any change in any of the information one should inform the employer asap. Employer is supposed to send the corrected information to IRS and also a corrected copy to the employee, which is called W2C form.

## Renting a Car

Car is a necessity in most of the places here in U.S. Either you buy a car or you can rent a car. You can pay either a monthly rate or daily rent. Though it's expensive to rent a car for a month or so, it might be required if you are going to stay at that place for a small period of time. Here is some information you will need OR should know when you want to rent a car.

- The driver/co-drivers need to be at least 25 years old.
- Credit Card is required to rent a car. Else a deposit of about \$300 etc...Most companies do not allow you to rent a car if you do not have a credit card.
- You need a valid driver's license to drive a rental car.
- Well-known car renting companies are - Hertz, Avis, Alamo, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise etc.
- Car Insurance has to be bought for the Rental car. It is a separate charge or is included in the total per day renting cost. Some credit card companies pay for the insurance if you use their card to book a car e.g. American Express Credit Card, in such a case you need not buy insurance from the car rental company.

- You have to register the other drivers too as co-drivers of the rental car while booking the car. They should have valid driver's licenses too. Nobody else should be allowed to drive the car other than those registered!
- Unlimited mileage or fixed mileage is also a criteria, which decides the hiring charges of a rental car.
- You can make the booking over the phone. But you have to go personally to pick-up the car from the renting agency.
- Generally the gas (fuel) tank is full and you are supposed to return it with a full tank.
- Some rental agencies do not allow you to rent their car for travel outside the state.
- There are various types of cars that can be booked. Generally depending on the seating capacity, such as small, medium, compact, large, full-size, premium, mini-van, van etc.

One may even choose the make of the car if available. The rental agencies maintain the cars in good shape and generally have new cars.

- The renting charges vary depending on the season, weekend/weekday, for how many days you want the car, how much in advance you are booking, availability, type of car etc.

### Doctors in U.S.

God forbid, but if something happens to you, here is what you should know:

- The Medical Benefit Card which is sent by the Medical Insurance Company is an important card and should be acquired at the earliest. Fill up the Medical forms sent by DCI and return those immediately to DCI to ensure that you are registered with the Insurance Company after you land in the U.S.
- This card entitles you to coverage under certain medical categories only.
- There is a \$100 deductible. Which means if you land into medical problems, you have to pay the first 100 dollars from your pocket. Thereafter the Insurance company takes over the payment depending on the coverage plan etc.
- There are two acceptable ways of payment for the Doctor's services which depends on the Doctor. The Doctor's receptionist is the best person to ask payment-related questions.

Some Doctors ask you to pay them (by cash, check, credit card etc.) immediately after the service. The receptionist will then give you a formal bill, which you must send (by postal mail) to the Medical Insurance Company along with the claim form supplied by DCI (which comes in with the initial package soon after you land in the U.S.) The Medical Ins. Co. will then send you a check after verifying your claim. Other Doctors will note down the details of your Medical Insurance Company from your card. They will then send the bill to the Insurance Company and receive the payment directly. You need not pay the Doctor. But in both the above modes, remember that there are certain charges which the Insurance Company will not pay and which they don't cover, such as the first \$100. So find out the details from the Insurance Co. about your respective coverage/medical problem etc.

## AAAMembership

We wanted to mention this specially 'cause its very helpful for a person who is new to U.S. AAA read as 'triple A' stands for "American Automobile Association" is an auto club, which provides you with all kinds of tour, and travel information. It provides you with all the maps and travel guides, which you will need. It also has services like towing, opening your car door lock in case you get locked out, emergency help and so on. Being a member of this club also gets you concession for motel booking and rental cars.

There is a yearly fee for all these services, which they provide, and if you believe us, "It's more than worth it".

So we think its a good idea to be a member of this club. It will help you in traveling, which ofcourse you will do once you get here.

## Towards a more American Conversation

U don't open conversation (on telephone) with a "Hello" but with a "Hi"

The telephone is never "engaged", it's always "busy". U don't "disconnect" a phone, U simply "hang-up".

U never "mess-up" things, U only "screw them up".

U never have a "residence" tel. no., U have a "home" no.

U don't stop at the "signals", but halt at the "lights".

U don't "accelerate", U "step on the gas".

Your tire never "punctures", U may have a "flat".

The trains have "coaches" or "bogies" no more but "carriages" or "boxes".

There R no "petrol bunks or pumps", but "gas stations".

"I don't know nothing", 2 negatives don't make a positive here.

U no longer meet a "wonderful" person, U meet a "cool" guy

U don't pull the "switch down" to light a bulb, rather "flick it up".

U don't "turn on the heat", U "turn on the juice".

There's no "Business Area" only "business districts", and no "districts" but "counties".

No one stays "a stone's throw away", might "a few blocks away".

There's no "Town Side", it's "Down Town".

In hotel U no longer ask for "bill" and pay by "cheque", rather ask for "check" and pay with (Dollar) "bills".

There R no "soft drinks", only "sodas".

Life's no longer "miserable" it "stinks".

U don't have a "great" time, U have a "ball".

U don't "sweat it out", U "work U'r butt off".

Never "post" a letter, always "mail" it and "glue" the stamps, don't "stick" them.

U no longer live in "flats" or "blocks", find an "apartment".

U don't stand in a "queue", you are in a "line".

U no longer "like" something, U "appreciate" it.

"#" is not "hash", it's "pound".

U R not "deaf", U have "impaired hearing".

U R not "lunatic", U are just "mentally challenged".

U R not "disgusting" U R "sick".

U can't get "surprised" U get "zapped".

U don't "schedule" a meeting, U "skejule" it.

U never "joke", U just "kid".

U never "increase" the pressure, U always "crank" it up.

U never ask for a pencil "rubber" U ask for an "eraser". A "rubber" is a "condom"

U don't try to find a "lift", U find an "elevator". U no more ask for a "route" but for a "RAUT"

U don't ask somebody "How r u ?", U say "What's up dude?"

U never go to see a "game or a match", U go to watch a "game".

U never go to a "theatre" (theatre is a place for dramatic presentations), U go to the "movies".

If U see "World" champions (or Series), read "USA" champions (or Series).

There's no "zero" but "o", no "Z" but "zee".

There's no "FULL STOP" after a statement, there's a "PERIOD".

If someone gets "angry" at U, U get "flamed".

You don't say "How do you do", you say "How you doin"

U don't call UR boss "sir", U call him by his "first name".

In short, U don't speak "English", U speak "American".

Well u don't say life is boring u say "LIFE SUCKS!!!"

### Last Word

Stress is a part of professional life and more so when you are living in an alien country. The sooner you understand and accept it the more easily you will adapt to your new environment. Depression and

homesickness are symptoms that you should look out for. With this we all feel you will be confident and may be able to come out with your own User Manual. But before we leave, we would like to tell you about "The Culture Shock" that you might feel. Try to position yourself on this graph. The graph shows typical phases in the culture shock. It just makes you feel good, if you know that others are in the same boat!!!