



## All About

### Top 5 Pop Culture Things/Icons You Need to Know About in the USA

10

Grammar Points

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## Grammar Points

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### Top 5 Things to Know about Pop Culture in the United States

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As popular culture changes quickly and drastically, this lesson is focused on the most recent pop culture. Please keep in mind that this lesson was written in 2010.

#### Popular Music

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Radio stations across the United States play pop music every day, and people quickly download it off the Internet into the music players of consumers everywhere. American pop artists are also well known all over the world. Some recent famous names include Lady Gaga, the Black Eyed Peas, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Beyonce, Taylor Swift...and the list goes on. Other more iconic and historical artists include Madonna, Jimi Hendrix, the Beach Boys, the late Michael Jackson, and many others.

Music has a big influence on society, especially among younger groups, because an identity is associated with the type of music they listen too-something that is probably true for all music lovers around the world. Music and the artist who produces it also influence fashion. This makes consumers buy music and listen to an artist not only for the tune, but also for the image. An underlying theme to much of this music and fashion is the idea of being cool and hip, which people find both fun and superficial.

Along with popular music comes censorship. In the corner of some CD covers, there is a little square with the words "Parental Advisory, Explicit Content." This means that the RIAA or [Recording Industry Association of America](#) has decided that the lyrics of the music are profane. Parents who still have control of what their children buy can immediately see this. Nevertheless, music lyrics continue

to introduce some buzzwords into common speech.

## Popular Movies

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Movies are a part of a casual, relaxing evening in the United States for many people, whether they choose to go to a movie theater or they sit at home with their own entertainment system. Movies and actors and actresses get much attention from the media in the United States, often becoming symbols of beauty and luxury.

The film industry generates billions of dollars every year, with people always talking about the latest and the best movies to watch. Hundreds of movies are produced every year, and many box office hits go overseas and are translated into the respective languages of various countries. Award shows like the Oscars are held to celebrate the best movies and the best actors and actresses who star in them.

Rental shops are also changing the way they do business by allowing people to rent movies online so they receive a movie in the mail.

Though the audience is smaller, foreign films also receive much attention. A movie in a different language allows a glimpse into a world that is miles away, and movies make this possible.

## Popular Television

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Television also fuels the life of pop culture in the United States. With home entertainment systems advancing, TV is very different today compared to twenty years ago. TV programs range from game shows to talk shows to dramas. Some popular titles include "Desperate Housewives," "Lost," "Family Guy," "Grey's Anatomy," and so forth. TV is also changing in that many shows can now be watched online whenever the viewer wants. TiVo is also popular, and it is a digital video recorder that allows people to watch their favorite shows any time they want. TV no longer needs to be watched at a certain time or in a certain place anymore. Foreign shows are also making it onto American TV, such as soap operas in Spanish and Japanese anime.

## Popular Sports

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Believe it or not, baseball is the national sport of America. Many people think it's American football or maybe even basketball, but it is definitely baseball. It's one of the oldest sports in the United States, dating back from the mid-1800s when it evolved from old bat and ball games. Major League Baseball, also known by its acronym MLB, is divided into two groups, the National League and the American League, each of which has different teams within them. Each team in the MLB represents a city, which in general is where the supporters are from. People go to games wearing team colors, uniform shirts, crazy hats, and even face paint, all so that they can root for their team. They can enjoy the games with food and drinks.

## Popular Technology

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Keeping up with the times means keeping up with technology. Over the years, technology has influenced lives all over the world and has become accessible to many people. The United States is one of the leaders in technology, and it is fueled by quick adaptation by businesses and the young. One piece of technology has changed is the way music is carried around: portable music players are smaller than ever, and new ones are always being developed with more memory. Music is bought in mp3 files as opposed to on physical CDs. Another gadget is the cellular phone. Young children are now carrying around cell phones that have more and more features, including access to the Internet. Games are also a popular and changing arena, ranging from games on the computer to video games that people can play with multiple players from different areas of the world. Whatever the piece of technology, the development of new mechanisms and the improvement of existing ones is constantly modifying our lives.