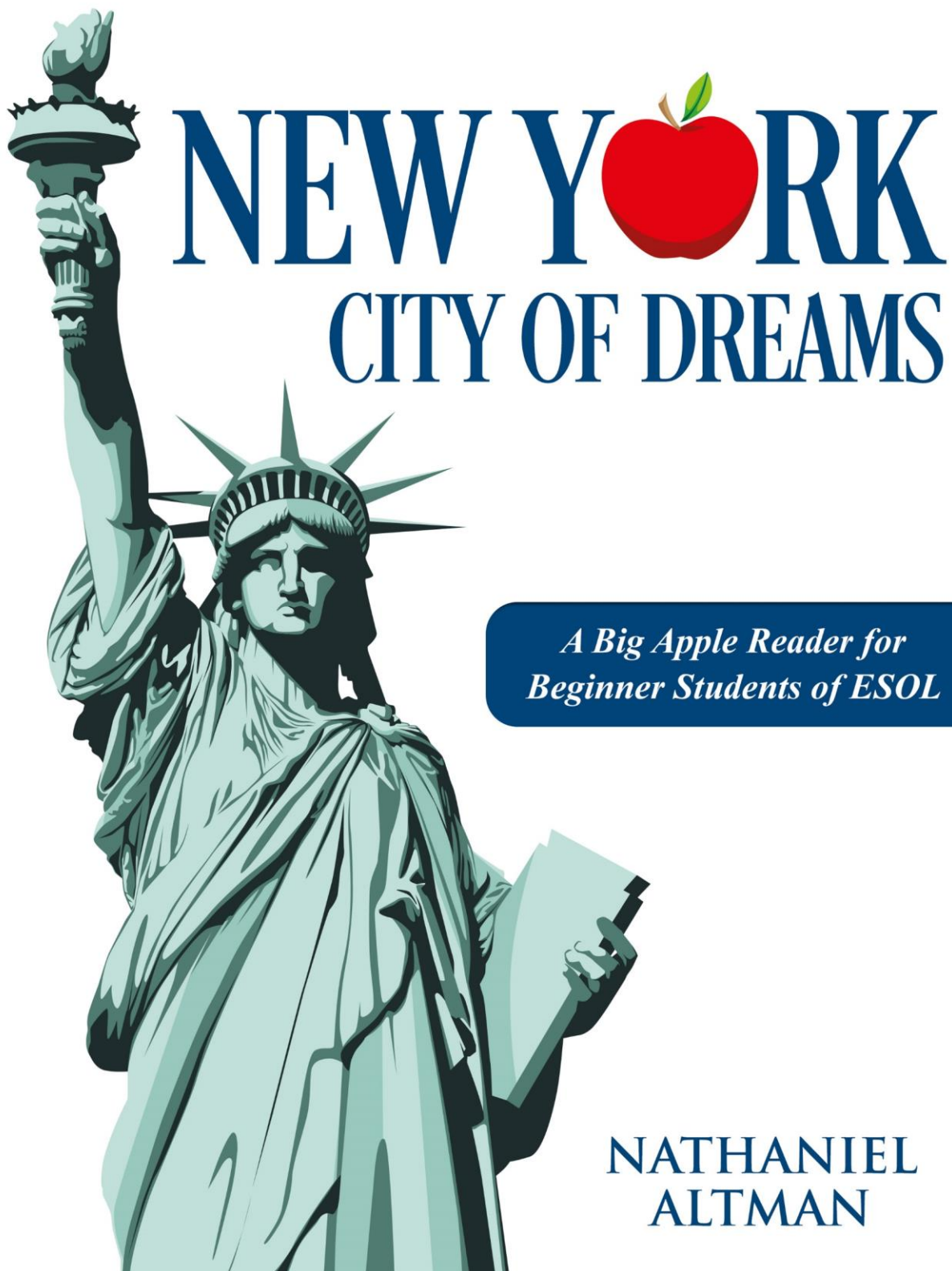




NEW YORK

CITY OF DREAMS

*A Big Apple Reader for
Beginner Students of ESOL*

NATHANIEL
ALTMAN

New York: City of Dreams

A Big Apple Reader for Beginner Students of ESOL



Nathaniel Altman



Gaupo Publishing ESOL
Brooklyn, New York
www.gaupo.net



"The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

GAUPO PUBLISHING
New York: City of Dreams
Nathaniel Altman

Fourth Edition

Copyright © 2026 by Nathaniel Altman.

All Rights Reserved. This book was published by the author under Gaupo Publishing. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any means without the express permission of the author. This includes reprints, excerpts, photocopying, recording or any future means of reproduction.

If you would like to do any of the above, please seek permission first by contacting the author through <http://www.gaupo.net>.

Published in the United States of America by Gaupo Publishing.

ISBN-13: 978-1726195614
ISBN-10: 1726195619

Contents

Preface vi

Part I. The City 1-34

- 1. Welcome to New York City! 2
- 2. New York City's First People 6
- 3. Old New York: 1524-1898 10
- 4. Manhattan 14
- 5. Brooklyn 18
- 6. Queens 22
- 7. The Bronx 26
- 8. Staten Island 30

Part II. Getting Around 34-46

- 9. The New York City Subway 35
- 10. Riding the Subway 39
- 11. Riding the Bus 43

Part III. Things about NYC 47-76

- 12. New York City Says "Hi" to You! 48
- 13. Stay Safe 52
- 14. Emergency 911 and Non-Emergency 311 56
- 15. Finding a Good Restaurant 60
- 16. Tipping 64
- 17. Public Libraries in New York City 68
- 18. Theater, Music and Dance! 72

Part IV. Where to Go, What to Do 76 - 116

- 19. Times Square 77
- 20. Central Park 81
- 21. The High Line 85
- 22. The Metropolitan Museum of Art 89
- 23. The National Museum of the American Indian 93
- 24. Three Quiet Places in Manhattan 97
- 25. A Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge 101
- 26. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden 105
- 27. The Staten Island Ferry 109
- 28. Study English in NYC 113

Talk Together (classroom conversations) 117

NYC Links 124

Answer Key to Exercises 126

Acknowledgements 133

About the Author 134

Preface

The *Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary* defines a *dream* as “something that you have wanted very much to do, be, or have for a long time.” *Dream* can also be a verb.

Many of us have dreams. We have dreams about a happy life, or we dream of having religious or political freedom. We may dream of good health, or dream about a new or better relationship. We have dreams about a new job or more money. Some of us dream of a new life for ourselves and our families.

New York City has welcomed people with dreams for hundreds of years. Many come here for a visit: New York City welcomes more than 56 million visitors every year. Others just want to learn more about “The Big Apple” and why New York City is so special.

More immigrants come to New York City than any other city in the world. Almost 4 out of 10 New Yorkers were born in another country, and thousands of new immigrants arrive every year. Many find jobs or continue their education. Others stay at home and take care of their families. Many immigrants stay in New York City, while some move to other parts of the U.S.A.

I was born in Manhattan and have lived in New York City for most of my life. As a teacher of ESOL at the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst in Brooklyn, I saw that many of my students did not know very much about New York City. But they wanted to learn more about it. I started to give lessons about local history and customs, plus places to go and things to do. Some of these lessons are part of this book.

New York: City of Dreams is for people who study English as their second (or third) language at a mid-beginner level and higher. It is part cultural guide, part tourist guide, and part English language reader. This book is for immigrants who already live here, and for tourists who want to visit. It is also useful for students in other parts of the world who want to improve their English and learn more about New York City: the Big Apple, the World City, the City of Dreams.

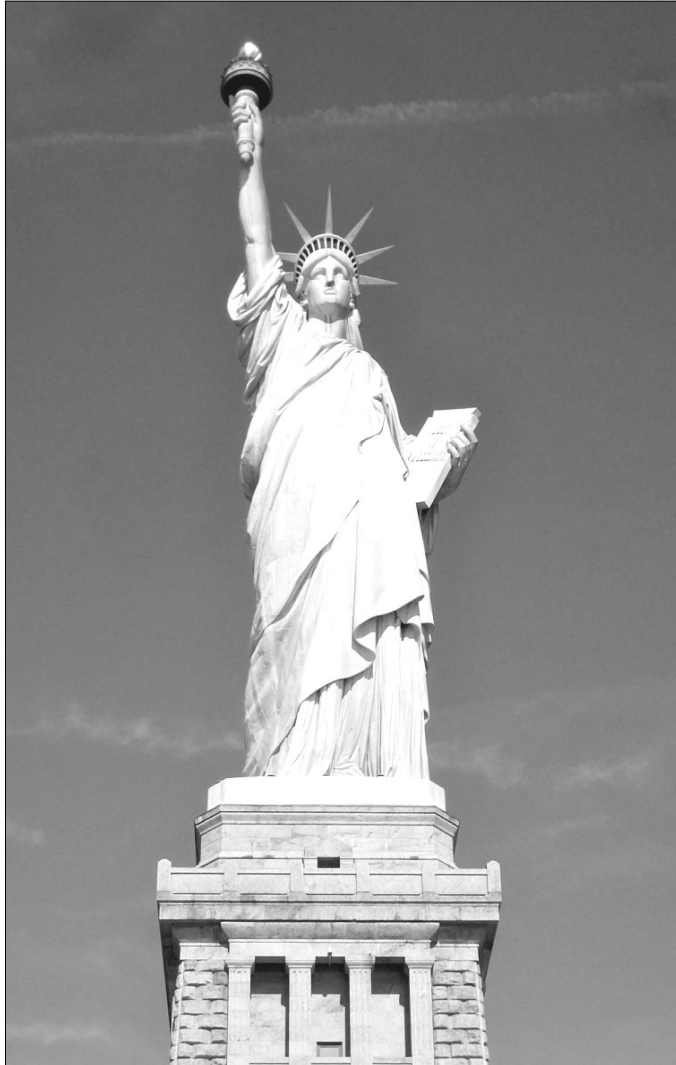
Nathaniel Altman
Brooklyn, New York.

Part I.

The City

1. Welcome to New York City!

New York City (NYC) is the largest city in the United States. More than eight million people live here.



New York City has five districts (parts of a city) or *boroughs*: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Manhattan is the most important business, financial and cultural center of both New York City and the United States.

New York City is home to more than three million immigrants. They come from more than 200 countries, speak over 800 different languages, and practice hundreds of religions.

More than 56 million people visit New York City every year. Many want to study, work and live here.

New York City has a large natural harbor, and it is an important cargo port and business center. New York City's subway (metro) system is one of the largest in the world. More than 2.4 million people ride

the subway a day. Subway trains operate (or *run*) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

New York is a place of high energy. It is busy day and night. There is always something to see and do. This is why people call New York "The City that Never Sleeps."

Welcome to New York City!

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A person who comes to a new country to live there.
a. a visitor b. an immigrant c. a resident
- ___ 2. A place where ships go to put in (load) and take out (unload) cargo.
a. a port b. a beach c. a lake
- ___ 3. A word to describe music, books and art.
a. business b. financial c. cultural
- ___ 4. When a machine, system or factory works for a period of time.
a. sings b. runs c. visits
- ___ 5. It is a place with many stores and other businesses.
a. a business center b. a cultural center c. a sports center
- ___ 6. A word to describe something that is the *biggest*.
a. the smallest b. the fattest c. the largest
- ___ 7. When things or people are not the same.
a. different b. unhappy c. cool
- ___ 8. A part of a city where there are many banks.
a. a park b. a financial district c. a shopping mall
- ___ 9. A place where boats can go when the weather is bad.
a. a beach b. an ocean c. a harbor

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

largest boroughs financial different
immigrant cultural port operates

1. A person who moves to New York City from another country is an _____.
2. The NYC subway system _____ 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
3. People from over 150 different countries live here. They come from many _____ cultures, languages and religions.
4. New York City has five different districts called _____.
5. New York City is a big _____ where ships load and unload cargo.
6. Many theaters, libraries and museums make NYC an important _____ center.
7. New York is the _____ city in the United States.
8. You can find many large banks in New York City's _____ district.



New York Harbor: a safe place for boats when the weather is bad.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. New York City is the 2nd largest city in the United States.
- ___ 2. New York City is home to more than 3 million immigrants.
- ___ 3. Everyone in New York City speaks English.
- ___ 4. More than 81 million people visit New York City every year.
- ___ 5. New York City has a large natural harbor and many ships visit every year.
- ___ 6. New York City is not very busy at night.
- ___ 7. The New York City subway system is one of the smallest in the world.
- ___ 8. Subway trains operate every day of the year, from 5 AM to midnight.



A cargo ship in New York Harbor.

2. New York's City's First People

The Lenape (*lə 'na:pi*) were Native Americans (American Indians). They were the first people to live in what is now New York City.

They came here from the north one thousand years ago. The Lenape lived in *Manahatta* (“hilly island” in the Lenape language), and what are today the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

New York was very natural and beautiful, with many forests, hills, small rivers and lakes.

Deer, mountain lions, black bear, turkeys, wolves and other animals lived in the forest. There were also many birds in the sky and fish in the ocean, rivers and lakes.

The Lenape hunted and fished. They also grew corn, beans and tobacco.

Most Lenape lived in circular houses made of curved trees covered with tree bark, grass and animal skins. More than 20,000

people lived in 94 small villages.

Most villages were near the water.



A model of a Lenape home.

The Dutch arrived in 1624. Many Lenape got sick and died. Others married the Dutch. Some moved away. Today there are no Lenape in New York.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

___ 1. A natural place that is home to animals, trees and other plants.

- a. a beach b. a forest c. a river

___ 2. Another name for American Indians, or the first people to live in the Americas.

- a. New Yorkers b. Europeans c. Native Americans

___ 3. When you get to a place after a trip.

- a. you arrive b. you live c. you look at

___ 4. A small city.

- a. a metropolis b. a neighborhood c. a village

___ 5. It is the “skin” of a tree.

- a. the bark b. the leaves c. the branches

___ 6. People from Holland (the Netherlands).

- a. Germans b. Dutch c. French

___ 7. A small mountain.

- a. a beach b. a valley c. a hill

___ 8. A bird that many Americans eat for Thanksgiving.

- a. a duck b. a chicken c. a turkey

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

forest Indian turkey hills tobacco

arrive Dutch bark villages

1. The _____ of a tree protects it from insects and bad weather.
2. Many Americans eat _____ at Thanksgiving.
3. Most Lenape lived in small _____ near the water.
4. The _____ were the first Europeans to live here.
5. An old term for *Native American* is American _____.
6. Manhattan had many small mountains or _____.
7. When you get to a place, you _____ there.
8. You can find many animals, trees and other plants in a _____.
9. Many Native Americans smoke _____ at their religious events.



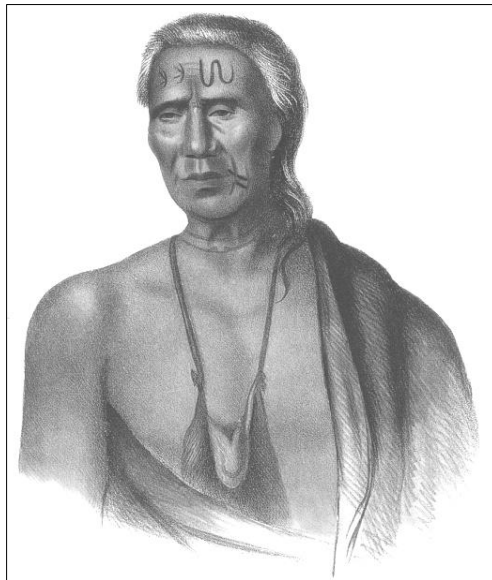
A Lenape village.

C. Singular and plural: place the words in the correct column.

Hint: some words are the same in singular (one) and plural (two or more).

deer fish mountain lions fish wolves person
turkeys turkey wolf people mountain lion deer

Singular	Plural
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Lapowinsa, Chief of the Lenape.

Painted by Gustavus Hesselius (1735)

3. Old New York (1524-1898)

The first European to visit what is now New York City was Giovanni da Verrazzano. He was an Italian explorer. He arrived in 1524. The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge was named after him. It connects Brooklyn and Staten Island.

The English explorer Henry Hudson visited in 1609. He worked for a large trading company called the Dutch East India Company. Hudson was looking for a shortcut from Europe to China. The Hudson River was named after him.

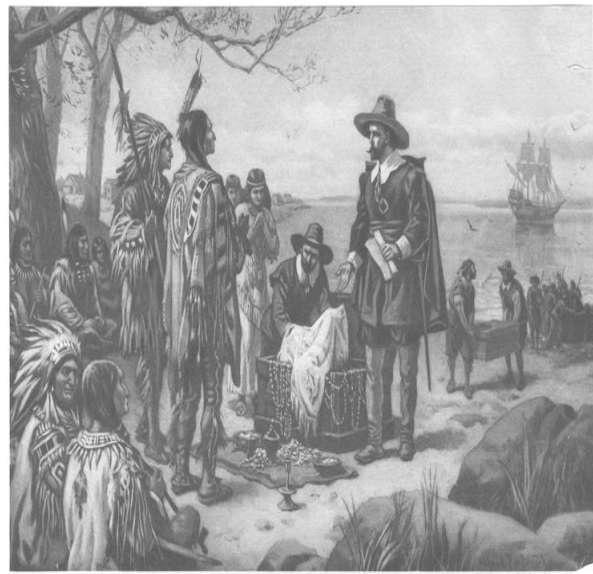
Peter Minuit came here in 1626. He worked for the Dutch West India Company. He "bought" Manhattan from the Lenape with a big box of things that cost \$26.

The Dutch called Manhattan New Amsterdam (*Nieuwe Amsterdam*). It was part of the colony of New Netherland (*Nieuwe Nederland*). The English also had colonies in America. They wanted the Dutch to give them New Netherland and go back to Holland. The Dutch said "no."

In 1664 the English took New Amsterdam from the Dutch and renamed it New York. The English stayed until the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783. New York City (it was then only Manhattan)

became the first capital of the new United States. George Washington became President there.

New York City (Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island) was created in 1898. Before that time, these places were separate cities and towns. Each had its own government.



Peter Minuit "buying" Manhattan from the Lenape.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. The first person to visit a place.
a. a visitor b. an immigrant c. an explorer
- ___ 2. A business that buys and sells different products.
a. a trading company b. a bank c. a book company
- ___ 3. A shorter, easier way to get to a place.
a. an expressway b. a shortcut c. a corner
- ___ 4. Land that belongs to a far-away country.
a. a city b. a state c. a colony
- ___ 5. When you make something new or bring something into being.
a. to create b. to sell c. to buy
- ___ 6. When something is not connected or combined.
a. complete b. together c. separate
- ___ 7. The center of government offices in a state or country.
a. a town b. the capital c. a big city
- ___ 8. When you join two or more things together.
a. to connect b. to start c. to finish

B. Choose the correct word(s) to complete each sentence.

colony explorer shortcut trading company

create connects separate capital

1. A place under the political control of far-away country is a _____.
2. Henry Hudson was looking for a _____ to China from Europe.
3. A person who visits a place for the first time is an _____.
4. When you make something new or bring something into being, you _____ it.
5. A business that buys and sells different products is a _____.
6. New York City was the first _____ of the United States.
7. The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge _____ Brooklyn and Staten Island.
8. Before 1898, many parts of New York had _____ governments.



A View of Broadway in Manhattan, 1840.

From a painting by Hippolite Sebron.

C. Write in the correct word.

1. He was the first European explorer to visit New York. _____
2. Who is the Hudson River named after? _____
3. How much did the Dutch “pay” for Manhattan Island? _____
4. What was the name of the Dutch colony that is now New York City?

5. When did the English take the colony from the Dutch? _____
6. In what year did New York become one big city? _____

D. When Did It Happen?

Write numbers to put the events in the order that they happened.

- a. ____ New Amsterdam becomes New York.
- b. ____ Peter Minuet “buys” Manhattan Island from the Lenape.
- c. ____ Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island become
New York City.
- d. 1 Giovanni da Verrazzano visits what is now New York City.
- e. ____ New York becomes the first capital of the United States.
- f. ____ The British leave New York after they lose the Revolutionary War.
- g. ____ Henry Hudson visits what is now New York City.

4. Manhattan

Manhattan is the cultural, financial, media and entertainment capital of the world. Many radio, television and telecommunications companies have their headquarters there, as well as magazine and book companies.

Manhattan is home to three of the world's most famous tourist attractions: Times Square, Central Park, and Grand Central Terminal. It is also where you can find Fifth Avenue, the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, Lincoln Center and the United Nations.

Manhattan has many famous districts, including Chinatown, the Theater District, Herald Square, Greenwich Village and SoHo. It is home to more than 30 great museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the Guggenheim Museum, the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

You can find big department stores like Macy's and Bloomingdale's in Manhattan. Wall Street is the world's center of finance, and Times Square is the world's most famous entertainment district. Manhattan is also home to almost one hundred colleges and universities, including Columbia University, New York University (NYU), the City University of New York (CUNY) and the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).

More than 1.65 million people live in Manhattan. But week-day commuters—who come to Manhattan from other places for work—increase this number to over 3.9 million.



The Empire State Building.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A word that describes radio, television, magazines and books.
a. food b. media c. cyberspace
- ___ 2. Fun or pleasure when you listen to music, or watch a movie or TV show.
a. entertainment b. a sports event c. walking
- ___ 3. It is the most important (main) office of a company or organization.
a. the branch office b. the back office c. the headquarters
- ___ 4. When many people know something (or someone). He/she/ they/ it is/are:
a. famous b. friendly c. happy
- ___ 5. A big store that sells many different things.
a. a deli b. a shopping mall c. a department store
- ___ 6. A building or other structure that is easy to recognize: ("I know that place!")
a. a bank b. a landmark c. a headquarters
- ___ 7. Something interesting or enjoyable that people want to visit, see or do.
a. an attraction b. a doctor's office c. a landmark
- ___ 8. A person who travels by train, bus or car to go to work.
a. a tourist b. a visitor c. a commuter
- ___ 9. When something becomes larger or greater in size, amount or number.
a. constant b. increase c. decrease

B. Choose the correct word(s) to complete each sentence.

increase entertainment commuter headquarters landmarks
department store attraction famous media

1. A person who takes a train to another city to go to work is a _____.
2. A _____ sells clothing, shoes, jewelry and things for the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.
3. Manhattan's Theater District is the _____ capital of the world.
4. Many large banks have their world _____ in Manhattan's Financial District.
5. Many _____ actors and actresses live in Manhattan.
6. A big _____ for visitors is to go to the top of the Empire State Building.
7. Television, radio, magazines and books are all types of _____.
8. A building or other place that everyone can recognize is called a _____.
9. If something that cost \$1 yesterday costs \$2 today, we can say that there is an _____ in price.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. media | something interesting to see and do |
| 2. education | movies / theater / dance |
| 3. headquarters | radio / television / newspapers |
| 4. entertainment | school and universities |
| 5. attraction | most important office |

D. What is it? Write the correct answer(s) from the essay.

1. What are the names of two big Manhattan department stores?

a. _____ b. _____.

2. What are the names of two famous Manhattan museums?

a. _____ b. _____.

3. What are the names of two universities in Manhattan?

a. _____ b. _____.

4. How many people live in Manhattan? _____.

5. What is the name of Manhattan's most famous park? _____.

6. It is Manhattan's most important financial street. _____ Street.

7. They are Manhattan's three most famous tourist attractions.

a. _____ b. _____.

c. _____.



The Wall Street Bull.

5. Brooklyn



The Brooklyn Skyline. From a color photo by Nick Amoscato.

Brooklyn is close to Manhattan. Three bridges (the Brooklyn Bridge, the Manhattan Bridge and the Williamsburg Bridge) and many tunnels connect it to Manhattan. The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge connects Brooklyn to Staten Island. Brooklyn is very interesting. It has old, historic neighborhoods like Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Fort Greene and Park Slope; multicultural neighborhoods like Bensonhurst, Bay Ridge and Sunset Park; and neighborhoods near the ocean like Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach and Coney Island. Coney Island has a popular beach and several amusement parks. Brooklyn is also home to the Brooklyn Nets basketball team.

The Lenape people lived there before the Europeans arrived. In 1636, Dutch farmers “bought” land near Gowanus Bay. In 1646 the Dutch started a small village that is now downtown Brooklyn. They named it *Breuckelen*, after a town in Holland.

During the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), American and British soldiers fought The Battle of Brooklyn (August 27, 1776). The British stayed until 1783. Brooklyn had many farms and small villages. The name *Breukelen* was changed to *Brooklyn*. It became a city in 1834. In 1860, what is now Brooklyn was the 3rd largest city in the United States.

After the Brooklyn Bridge opened in 1883, many people and businesses moved to Brooklyn. It soon became an important center of industry, business, sports and culture. Brooklyn became part of New York City in 1898. In 2026, more than 2,650,000 people (called *Brooklynites*) lived in Brooklyn, and 47% of them speak a language other than English at home. Many say that Brooklyn is the most interesting borough in New York City!

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A word that describes a place where people from different countries, religions and cultures live.
a. historic b. popular c. multicultural
- ___ 2. A part of a city or town where people live.
a. a village b. a neighborhood c. a resort
- ___ 3. It is something (or someone) that many people like or enjoy.
a. popular b. major c. funny
- ___ 4. It is a place that has many games and rides (such as roller coasters and merry-go-rounds) for fun.
a. a resort b. a shopping mall c. an amusement park
- ___ 5. A small city, usually in the country.
a. a village b. a neighborhood c. a park
- ___ 6. When soldiers use guns and other weapons to hurt or kill other soldiers.
a. to fight b. to love c. to disagree
- ___ 7. When you *begin to be* or *come to be* someone (or something) different.
a. you arrive b. you become c. you behave
- ___ 8. A word to describe a place that has a history of important events.
a. old b. interesting c. historic

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

multicultural popular amusement park villages

neighborhood Brooklynite fought historic

1. Because people who live in Brooklyn come from many nations, religions and cultures, we say that Brooklyn is a _____ place.
2. A _____ is a small part or district of a city or town. People who live there often see each other in the street. Many know each other.
3. If a district of a city or town has a history of important events, it is called a _____ district.
4. Coney Island's beach and boardwalk are very _____ during the summer.
5. Brooklyn had many farms and small _____ many years ago.
6. An _____ often has rides like merry-go-rounds and roller coasters.
7. A person who lives in Brooklyn is called a _____.
8. Soldiers from the United States and Great Britain _____ each other in the Battle of Brooklyn.



A street festival in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

C. Brooklyn Quiz

Circle the letter with the correct answer.

1. Who lived in Brooklyn before the Europeans arrived?
a. The Lenape b. The Navajo c. The Lakota d. The Maya
2. When did the Dutch start to live in Brooklyn?
a. 1530 b. 1550 c. 1636 d. 1782
3. Which is a *historic* Brooklyn neighborhood?
a. Brighton Beach b. Midwood c. Cobble Hill d. Coney Island
4. When did the Brooklyn Bridge open?
a. 1776 b. 1804 c. 1883 d. 1921
5. When did Brooklyn become part of New York City?
a. 1856 b. 1950 c. 2010 d. 1898
6. How many people lived in Brooklyn in 2026?
a. 2,650,000 b. 26,500,000 c. 265,000 d. 26, 500



The Coney Island Boardwalk.

6. Queens

Like Brooklyn, Queens is part of Long Island. It became a borough of New York City in 1898. The first people to live there were the Lenape. They lived in small villages near the water. The first Europeans (from England and Holland) arrived in Maspeth in 1635 and Vlissingen (now Flushing) in the 1640s.

Before 1900, Queens was mostly farms and forests. But after the Queensboro Bridge opened in 1909, many people moved to Queens. It is New York City's largest borough in land area and has a population of more than 2.35 million. Queens is the most *diverse* place in the world, and people from over 200 countries live there.

Queens has two big airports: LaGuardia (LGA) in the north and John F. Kennedy International (JFK) in the south. Most international flights arrive at JFK.

There are many things to do in Queens. Flushing Meadows — Corona Park is the home of the Queens Museum of Art and the U.S. Open Tennis Championships.



The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, the Queensboro Dance Festival, and other national and cultural celebrations take place there too. Rockaway Beach is one of New York City's largest and best beaches. It also has a new boardwalk. It is easy to get to Rockaway Beach by car, bus, subway or ferry.

Queens has many great restaurants, with types of food (cuisines) from all over the world. And there's excellent shopping in Elmhurst, Rego Park, Flushing, Astoria and Jamaica. Citi Field is home to the New York Mets baseball team and the New York Jets football team.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. When we go to another place to live.
a. we visit b. we tour c. we move
- ___ 2. It is a walkway made of wood that goes along a beach.
a. a sidewalk b. a boardwalk c. a street
- ___ 3. A neighborhood that is made up of people who are different from each other.
a. diverse b. famous c. popular
- ___ 4. It is a big boat that you can take from one place to another; usually short trips.
a. a speedboat b. a sailboat c. a ferry
- ___ 5. A trip on an airplane.
a. a voyage b. a flight c. a cruise
- ___ 6. It is a French word meaning a “type of cooking.”
a. cuisine b. à la mode c. soupe du jour
- ___ 7. It is an important (and fun) social activity, like a big party.
a. a doctor visit b. a business meeting c. a celebration
- ___ 8. A word to describe something that is “better than very good.”
a. excellent /great b. okay c. so-so

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

moved ferry diverse cuisine
excellent celebration flights boardwalk

1. An important (and fun) social activity is a big party or _____.
2. The _____ at Rockaway Beach is popular with people who like to walk and run.
3. When a neighborhood has people from different racial groups, cultures and religions, we say that it is very _____.
4. You can get there by subway, or you can take a _____ boat.
5. Most international airline _____ arrive at Kennedy Airport (JFK).
6. Many restaurants serve Indian _____ in Jackson Heights.
7. There are many Chinese restaurants in Flushing. Some of them are better than good. They are _____!

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. diverse | go from one place to another to live |
| 2. celebration | trip by airplane |
| 3. flight | type / style of food |
| 4. move | different |
| 5. cuisine | party |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. Queens is the most diverse place in the world.
- ___ 2. Before 1900, Queens was mostly beaches and parks.
- ___ 3. Many people moved to Brooklyn after the Queensboro Bridge opened in 1909.
- ___ 4. There are many good restaurants in Queens.
- ___ 5. You can visit the Queens Museum in Flushing Meadows — Corona Park.
- ___ 6. You can get to Flushing Meadows — Corona Park by ferry.
- ___ 7. Rockaway Beach has a boardwalk.
- ___ 8. Most international flights to New York City arrive at LaGuardia Airport.



The Queensboro Bridge from Manhattan, 1910.

7. The Bronx

The Bronx is the most northern borough of New York City. It is the only borough that is not an island or part of an island. It is the home of the New York Yankees baseball team, the Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanical Garden. The Bronx is also the birthplace of hip-hop music. The Bronx is home to several universities, plus Orchard Beach, City Island and Wave Hill, a park and cultural center with great views of the Hudson River.

As in other boroughs of New York City, the first people to live in the Bronx were the Lenape. They called it *Rananchqua*. The Bronx was mostly forests, rocky places and beaches. Many wild animals lived there, including birds, deer, rabbits, wolves and mountain lions.

Jonas Bronck was the first European to live there. In 1639 he started a farm near the Harlem River. People called it “The Bronck’s Farm.” Over the years, the name was changed to “The Bronx.” Many of the forests became farms and villages.

After the subways arrived in the 1920s, many people moved to the Bronx from Manhattan. They were mostly Irish Americans, Italian Americans, and Jewish Americans. During the 1950s and 1960s, many of them moved to the suburbs. African Americans and Hispanics - mostly from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic – became residents of the Bronx. The population of the Bronx was 1,406,332 in January, 2026.



The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, New York Botanical Garden.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

___ 1. It is a town or other place where people live near a larger city.

- a. the country b. a resort c. a suburb

___ 2. It is the place where you were born.

- a. a school b. a birthplace c. a home town

___ 3. Something you can see from a particular place.

- a. a view b. a photo c. a screen

___ 4. They are a wild relative of a dog, only bigger and stronger.

- a. puppies b. wolves c. mountain lions

___ 5. They are a wild relative of a cat, only bigger and stronger.

- a. mountain lions b. wolves c. kittens

___ 6. A person who lives in a city or town.

- a. a visitor b. a citizen c. a resident

___ 7. A group of people who play a sport together.

- a. a gang b. a team c. a party

___ 8. It is a small animal with long ears and a short tail.

- a. a rabbit b. a mountain lion c. a deer

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

residents northern baseball views

suburbs mountain lion hip-hop several

1. The Bronx is the most _____ borough of New York City.
2. The Bronx is the birthplace of _____ music.
3. A _____ is a relative of a cat, but it is bigger and stronger.
4. The New York Yankees is a famous _____ team.
5. Wave Hill is a park and cultural center that has great _____ of the Hudson River.
6. Many Bronx residents moved to the _____ in the 1950s and 1960s.
7. African Americans and Hispanics became _____ of the Bronx.
8. The Bronx is home to _____ universities.



A City Island marina.

C. The Bronx Quiz

Circle the letter with the correct answer.

1. Who lived in the Bronx before the Europeans arrived?
a. The Lenape b. The Taino c. The Navajo
2. When the Lenape lived there, the Bronx was mostly forests, rocky places and _____.
a. beaches b. lakes c. rivers
3. When did Jonas Bronck start his farm?
a. 1550 b. 1639 c. 1782
4. The Bronx is the only borough in NYC that is not one (or part of one) of these.
a. an island b. a city c. a state
5. Wave Hill is a park and cultural center with beautiful views of _____.
a. Orchard Beach b. City Island c. the Hudson River
6. When did many Irish Americans, Italian Americans, and Jewish Americans leave the Bronx and move to the suburbs?
a. the 1950s and 1960s b. the 1920s and 1930s c. the 1910s and 1920s
7. It is a place in the Bronx where you can see many animals.
a. City Island b. Yankee Stadium c. the Bronx Zoo
8. The Bronx is the birthplace of _____.
a. hip-hop music b. classical music c. rock music
9. How many people lived in the Bronx in January 2026?
a. 2,629,150 b. 262,196 c. 1,406, 332

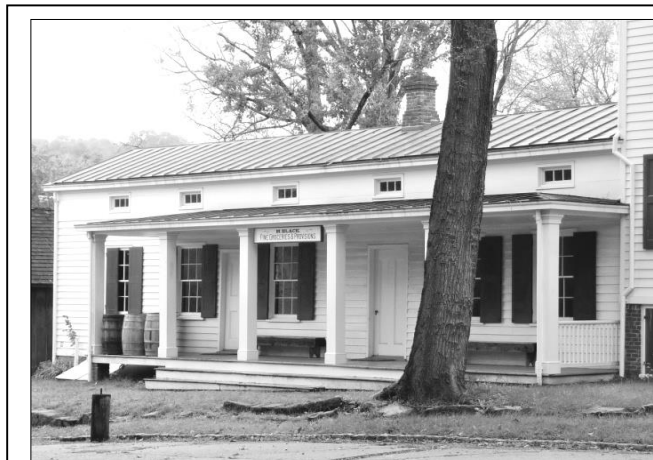
8. Staten Island

Staten Island is the most southern (and the most suburban) of New York City's five boroughs. It is home to approximately 503,000 people. The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge connects Staten Island to Brooklyn. You can also go there on the Staten Island Ferry. It offers some of the best views of New York City. A trip on the ferry is free (see Chapter 27).

Staten Island is not a popular tourist destination, but there is a lot to see and do there. Staten Island has four public beaches and more than 170 parks. It is home to several museums, a zoo, public gardens, historic places, a baseball stadium and the big Staten Island Mall.

The Snug Harbor Cultural Center is a large collection of interesting 19th-century buildings in an 83-acre (33.5 hectare) park. It has flower gardens, many old trees, a museum, historic architecture and art galleries. The beautiful Chinese Scholar's Garden opened in 1998. It has eight buildings, a small lake, trees, waterfalls, a bamboo path and large rock formations. It's a very special place!

If you are interested in American history, visit *Historic Richmond Town*. It is a large



An 18th century store, Historic Richmond Town

outdoor museum with more than 30 historic buildings from the late 17th to the early 20th centuries. It includes old commercial, religious and government buildings, as well as farm buildings and private homes. Some of the buildings were moved from other parts of Staten Island.

The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art is a museum and garden on a hill in a quiet Staten Island neighborhood. It is a group of buildings that look like a Tibetan monastery. The museum is about the art and culture of Tibet and the Himalayas.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

___ 1. It describes a town or other place where people live near a larger city.

- a. country b. urban c. suburban

___ 2. A word that means “more or less.”

- a. approximately b. exactly c. truly

___ 3. A place (such as a garden, beach or park) that anyone can visit.

- a. private b. reserved c. public

___ 4. A person who studies at a school or with a private teacher.

- a. an intern b. a scholar c. a professor

___ 5. A group of interesting things to show or study.

- a. junk b. a collection c. stuff

___ 6. It is a place where Buddhist monks live, study and work.

- a. a church b. a school c. a monastery

___ 7. A room where people look at art.

- a. an office b. an art gallery c. a store

___ 8. A place where a person is going.

- a. a goal b. an attraction c. a destination

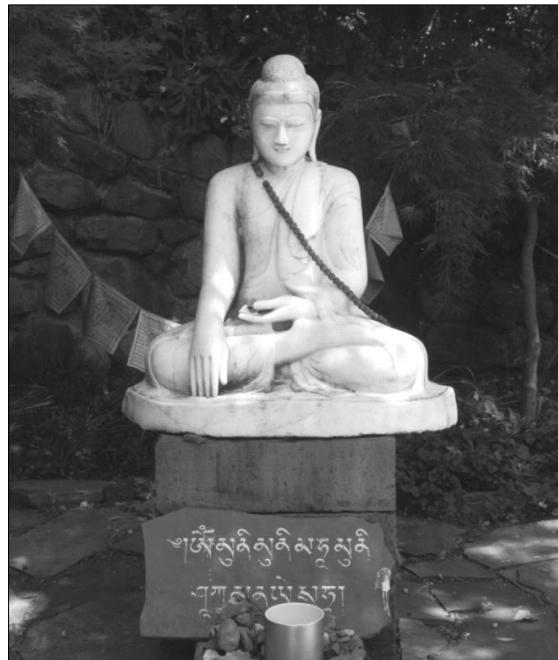
___ 9. A building that shows paintings or scientific or historical objects.

- a. a museum b. a gallery c. a store

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

suburban connects Museum interested
gallery monastery approximately destination

1. In many Buddhist countries, monks live and study in a _____.
2. Many people feel that _____ life is quieter than life in the city.
3. The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge _____ Staten Island to Brooklyn.
4. A place that people make a special trip to visit is a _____.
5. The Jacques Marchais _____ has a big collection of art from Tibet.
6. _____ 496,000 people live in Staten Island.
7. An art _____ is a room that shows paintings and other art objects. It can also
be a place where you can buy art.
8. If you want to learn more about something, you are _____ in it.



The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. Staten Island is not a popular tourist destination.
- ___ 2. Staten Island has no beaches and only one or two parks.
- ___ 3. The Snug Harbor Cultural Center has many new, modern buildings.
- ___ 4. The Chinese Scholar's Garden is part of Snug Harbor.
- ___ 5. The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art is a Tibetan monastery.
- ___ 6. You can get to Staten Island from Manhattan on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge.
- ___ 7. Historic Richmond Town is a large outdoor museum.
- ___ 8. Many historic buildings have interesting stories.
- ___ 9. All of the buildings at Historic Richmond Town were moved there.
- ___ 10. Staten Island has a big shopping mall.



A view of the Chinese Scholar's Garden at Snug Harbor.

Part II.

Getting Around

9. The New York City Subway

The subway is part of the most important public transportation system in New York City. It is also one of the oldest and largest subways in the world. With more than 470 stations and 800 miles (1287.45 km) of track, 4.65 million passengers ride the subway every weekday. The subway is very important for city residents, workers and visitors. It is run by the *Metropolitan Transportation Authority* (MTA).



The “F” Train at the Smith - Ninth Street Station, Brooklyn, 2005.

The first subway line opened in Manhattan in 1904. It soon grew to become three separate systems: the *Interborough Rapid Transit* (IRT), which includes the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 lines; the *Brooklyn Manhattan Transit* (BMT), including the J/Z, L, M, N, Q, R and W lines; and the *Independent Subway System* (IND) which includes the A, B, C, D, E, F and G lines. The three systems became one big system in 1940. The fare was 5 cents until 1948. Today, you can pay your fare with OMNY, a “no contact” system that uses a credit or debit card, a smart phone, or an OMNY card from the MTA.

Most subway trains travel underground in Manhattan, but many run on elevated tracks in the other boroughs. The subway system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It never closes, except during a very big snowstorm or hurricane. The subway system operates in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx. It never leaves New York City.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is the money you pay when you use the subway.
a. a bill b. a check c. a fare
- ___ 2. A pair of metal bars that trains ride on.
a. railroad cars b. railroad tracks c. railroad stations
- ___ 3. When a train runs below the street.
a. underground b. along c. elevated
- ___ 4. When a train runs above the street.
a. underground b. along c. elevated
- ___ 5. A person who lives in a city or town.
a. a visitor b. an immigrant c. a resident
- ___ 6. A person who rides the subway.
a. a passenger b. a resident c. a pedestrian
- ___ 7. A very big storm with a lot of rain and strong winds.
a. an earthquake b. a hurricane c. a heat wave
- ___ 8. A group of subway trains, stations and train lines that work together.
a. a subway terminal b. a subway system c. a train collection
- ___ 9. Not connected or joined.
a. separate b. different c. outdoor

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

tracks underground run fare hurricane
passenger elevated system separate (*adj.*)

1. A person who rides the subway is called a rider or a _____.
2. An _____ train travels above the street.
3. When a train runs below the street, it travels _____.
4. The early subways in NYC were operated by three _____ companies.
5. A very big storm with a lot of rain and strong winds is called a _____.
6. In NYC, the subway trains operate or _____ 24-hours a day.
7. You must pay your _____ after you enter the subway station.
8. The NYC subway _____ is one of the largest in the world.
9. It is very dangerous to walk on the subway _____.

C. Circle the word (or abbreviation) that does not belong.

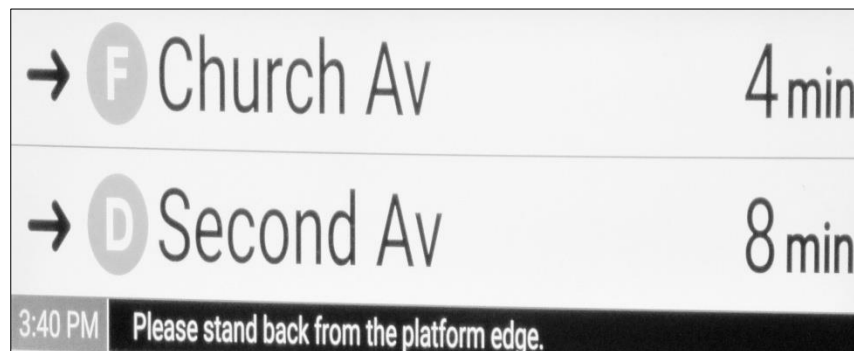
A	B	C
1. rainstorm	hurricane	sunny
2. road	store	sidewalk
3. bus	subway	airplane
4. BMT	LGA	IND
5. runner	rider	passenger
6. Brooklyn	Newark	The Bronx

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. The NYC subway system is the largest in the world.
- ___ 2. There are 47 stations in the NYC subway system.
- ___ 3. The subway carries 4.65 million passengers every weekday.
- ___ 4. The subway system is run by three separate companies today.
- ___ 5. The subway system never closes except during a very big storm.
- ___ 6. Most subway trains in Manhattan run on elevated tracks.
- ___ 7. The subway fare is 5 cents.
- ___ 8. The subway closes at midnight.
- ___ 9. The subway never leaves New York City.
- ___ 10. You can pay your fare with OMNY.



Train Arrival Sign. Broadway - Lafayette Station, Manhattan.

10. Riding the Subway

People who ride the subway are called *passengers* or *riders*. As a rider, you pay one fare to enter the subway system. You can transfer between trains for free until you exit or leave the system. You enter the subway system through a *turnstile*, where you tap your OMNY card, a credit card or a smartphone. You can use OMNY for individual trips on subways and buses. With OMNY, you can pay for 12 rides using the same card or phone in a 7-day period, and all additional rides within the week are free. The subway fare includes one free transfer to or from a bus.

The train *operator* drives the train, and the *conductor* opens and closes the doors and makes announcements. *Local trains* stop at every station. *Express trains* stop only at the biggest or most important stations. Express trains are faster than local trains.

New Yorkers use the boroughs when we talk about train direction of travel. Trains that go to Manhattan are *Manhattan-bound* trains, and trains that go to Queens are *Queens-bound* trains.

The words *uptown* and *downtown* can mean your direction of travel. If you are at Times Square (Broadway and West 42nd Street) in Manhattan and are going north or towards the Bronx or Queens, you are going "uptown." If you travel south or towards Brooklyn, you are going "downtown."

The New York City Subway system is old. Parts of it are not in good condition. Some stations are dirty and trains are sometimes late. The Metropolitan Transportation System (MTA) is making repairs on the system all the time: weekdays and weekends, days and nights. The MTA does most of the work late at night and on weekends, so subway

routes can change during those times. The MTA posts an announcement of route changes in every station (see photo above) and online. The MTA website (www.mta.info) has maps, schedules and other information in more than 70 different languages. You can also download an *app* ("MYmta") on your phone or tablet.



Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is the person who drives a train.
a. the train operator b. the conductor c. the agent
- ___ 2. It is a train that stops at every station.
a. an express train b. a local train c. a limited train
- ___ 3. You do this when you fix something that is broken.
a. do a return b. make a replacement c. make a repair
- ___ 4. A statement that gives people information they need.
a. an announcement b. an attraction c. a destination
- ___ 5. The person who opens train doors and makes announcements.
a. the train operator b. the conductor c. the agent
- ___ 6. When you pay for 12 rides using the same OMNI card or phone in a 7-day period, all other rides within the week are:
a. \$3.00 b. \$1.00 c. free
- ___ 7. When you change from a subway train to a bus during a trip.
a. transfer b. move c. send
- ___ 8. A train that is going north from Times Square.
a. a Brooklyn-bound train b. an uptown train c. a downtown train

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

local tap announcement turnstile
conductor repairs passenger express route

1. A person who rides the subway is a _____.
2. You enter the subway system through a _____.
3. You _____ your OMNI Card when you touch an electronic reader at a turnstile.
4. The fastest subway trains are _____ trains.
5. Trains that stop at every station are _____ trains.
6. The MTA is making _____ on the “F” line this weekend.
7. Listen! The _____ is making an _____.
8. The way or direction that a subway train regularly travels along is a _____.

C. Circle the word that does not belong.

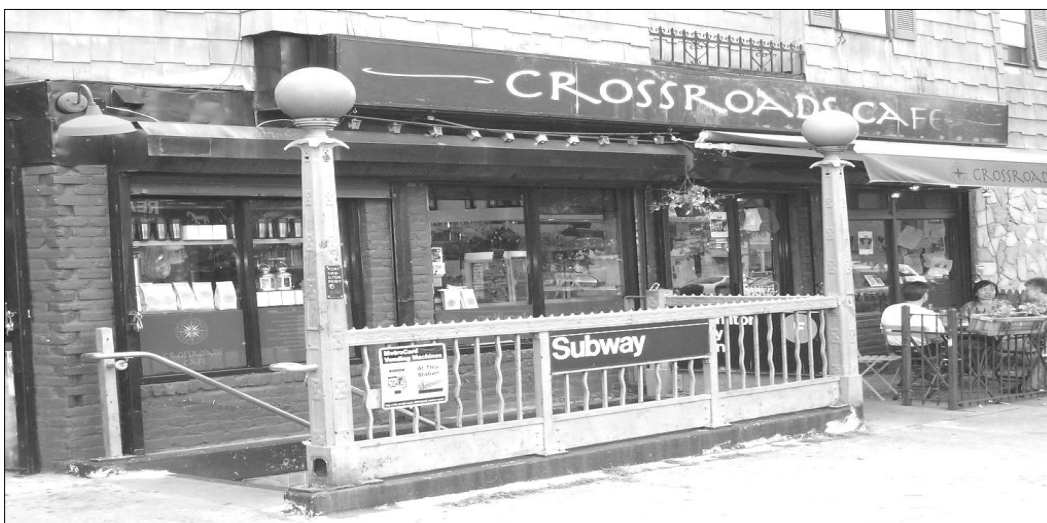
	A	B	C
1.	passenger	conductor	rider
2.	local	underground	express
3.	driver	conductor	rider
4.	swipe	study	pay
5.	one trip	one transfer	unlimited

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. The longer your subway ride is, the more money you pay.
- ___ 2. You can only use OMNY on buses and subways.
- ___ 3. Trains that travel to Manhattan from the Bronx are *Bronx-bound* trains.
- ___ 4. You can download a “MYmta” app to get subway and bus information on your phone or tablet.
- ___ 5. The conductor is the person who drives the train.
- ___ 6. You enter the subway system through a station booth.
- ___ 7. You can use OMNY for individual (single) trips.
- ___ 8. You can transfer from the subway to a bus (or from a bus to the subway) for free.
- ___ 9. Subway routes can change during the night and on weekends.
- ___ 10. The MTA posts route changes in every station and online.



Entrance to the Fort Hamilton Parkway “F” and “G” Subway Station, Brooklyn.

11. Riding the Bus

You can't go everywhere by subway, but you can transfer one time from a subway train to a bus (or from a bus to a subway train) for free. There are more than 5700 buses in the NYC transit system that travel on 325 different routes. Many bus routes operate 24 hours a day.

New York City bus routes have a letter that shows the borough where the bus travels (**B** for Brooklyn, **BX** for the Bronx, **M** for Manhattan, **Q** for Queens, and **S** for Staten Island) plus the route number: the *B68* bus travels between Prospect Park and Coney Island in Brooklyn; the *Q70* bus travels between Jackson Heights and LaGuardia Airport in Queens.

A *local* bus stops at every bus stop. *Limited* buses are express buses that stop at fewer places. You enter most buses in the front and pay the fare with OMNY. You should exit the bus in the back. *SBS* (Select Bus Service) has express buses. You can get on (enter) and get off (exit) an SBS bus at any door.



An M23 Crosstown SBS bus.

In Manhattan, most buses travel uptown and downtown (north - south) and crosstown (east - west). Many Manhattan crosstown bus routes are easy to understand. The M23 runs from one end of 23rd Street to the other end; the M86 does the same on 86th Street. Crosstown buses are usually convenient because most subway lines only go uptown and downtown. But in Midtown (14th Street to 59th Street), crosstown buses can be very slow because there is usually a lot of traffic on the big midtown streets.

You can download New York City bus maps from the MTA website (www.mta.info) or view bus routes on the MYmta app.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A bus or train system that goes to every place in the city.
a. somewhere b. nowhere c. everywhere
- ___ 2. When you enter / exit a bus.
a. get up / get down b. get on / get off c. go right / go left
- ___ 3. When you change from one train or bus to another while you travel.
a. transfer b. exchange c. take
- ___ 4. A way or direction that a bus regularly travels along.
a. a path b. a street c. a route
- ___ 5. A bus schedule or bus route that lets you travel easily or without trouble.
a. fun b. unhappy c. convenient
- ___ 6. The forward part of the bus, where the driver sits.
a. the front b. the side c. the back
- ___ 7. Cars, buses and trucks that travel on a certain road or in a certain area.
a. system b. traffic c. network
- ___ 8. A smaller number of something (countable).
a. fewer b. more c. equal
- ___ 9. "Most of the time."
a. sometimes b. always c. usually

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

front everywhere operate uptown exit

limited usually enter downtown

1. When you get on a bus, you _____.
2. When you get off a bus, you _____.
3. A bus goes faster when it makes fewer or _____ stops.
4. A crosstown bus in Midtown is _____ slow because of traffic.
5. If you want to travel north in Manhattan, you want to go _____.
6. If you want to travel south in Manhattan, you want to go _____.
7. People who visit New York City come from _____.
8. Many buses in New York City _____ for 24 hours.
9. In New York City, you get on the bus in the _____ and get off in the back.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Limited | rear |
| 2. route | get in or on |
| 3. front | direction / way |
| 4. enter | forward |
| 5. back | get out or off |
| 6. exit (v.) | Express |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. All NYC bus routes operate on a 24-hour schedule.
- ___ 2. Using both a bus and the subway can be a good way to travel.
- ___ 3. In midtown Manhattan, a crosstown bus can be very slow.
- ___ 4. Bus routes in Brooklyn begin with the letters **BK**.
- ___ 5. The Q70 bus travels between LaGuardia Airport and Jackson Heights.
- ___ 6. You enter most NYC buses through the front door.
- ___ 7. When a bus has many passengers, it is polite to stand in the front of the bus.
- ___ 8. You can download NYC bus maps on your smart phone or computer.
- ___ 9. When you exit the bus, it is polite to get off through the front door.
- ___ 10. There are over 5700 buses in the system and they go almost everywhere.



Buses on Sutphin Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens.

Part III.

Things

About NYC

12. New York Says “Hi” to You!

Many people think that New Yorkers are not friendly. Most New Yorkers *are* friendly, but we are often very *busy*. We may not have time for a long conversation, but we like visitors and try to help them when we can.

Greeting people: New Yorkers usually don’t say “hello” to people they do not know when they are on the street, in the subway or on a bus.

But when you see someone you know, it is polite to say “hello” to them. “Hi” is more informal. Many New Yorkers ask, “How are you?” They don’t really want to know about your health. They are just being nice. The best answer is, “I’m fine, thanks. And you?”

We say “good morning” (as a form of hello) before noon; “good afternoon” (as a form of hello) between noon and 5 or 6 PM; “good evening” as a form of hello (and sometimes goodbye) after 5 or 6 PM; and “good night” only as a form of goodbye after 5 or 6 PM.



Most people shake hands firmly and smile when they meet for the first time. A man named Carlos Rodríguez might shake hands and say, “Hello, my name is Carlos,” or more formally, “Hello, my name is Carlos Rodríguez.” And, “It is nice to meet you.”

Please / Thank you: These are two “magic” words that are always good to use when you ask for something and after a person gives you something.

Excuse me: We say “excuse me” when we want to speak or we want a person to repeat something. We also say “excuse me” when we bump into someone by accident, or a person is in our way and we want to pass. You can also say “pardon me.”

Many New Yorkers speak very fast. You can say “English is not my first language. Please speak more slowly” or “Can you repeat that please?”

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

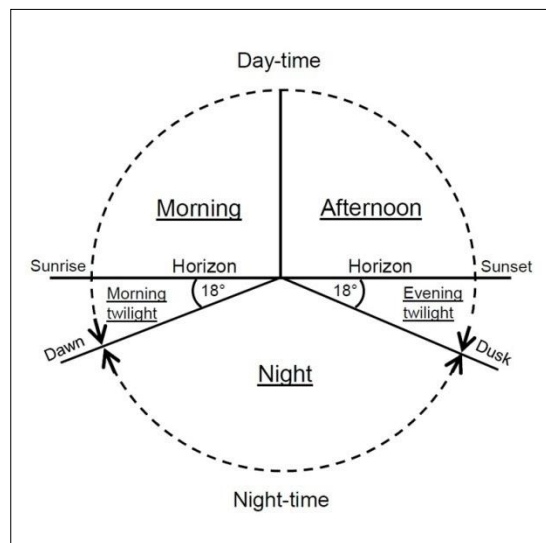
- ___ 1. When you are like a friend; kind and helpful.
a. happy b. careful c. friendly
- ___ 2. Another person (who you may know or not).
a. someone / somebody b. a friend c. a stranger
- ___ 3. When we show good manners or respect.
a. rude b. polite c. impolite
- ___ 4. Not soft, but not too hard.
a. powerful b. heavy c. firm
- ___ 5. When part of your body hits against (someone or something) in a sudden and strong way.
a. to bump b. to touch c. to feel
- ___ 6. When you say something again.
a. restore b. repeat c. realize
- ___ 7. A word to describe serious and correct manners.
a. formal b. informal c. bilingual
- ___ 8. Manners that are friendly and relaxed.
a. formal b. informal c. bilingual
- ___ 9. A sudden event that is not planned.
a. an accident b. a plan c. a chance

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

friendly polite informal repeat someone

firmly bump formal accident

1. It is _____ to give your seat to an old person on the subway or bus.
2. If you are polite and _____ to others, they will like you.
3. If you want someone to say something again, you ask: "Can you _____ that please?"
4. People sometimes _____ into each other in a busy subway car.
5. Saying "hello" is a _____ way of saying "hi."
6. Saying "hi" is an _____ way of saying "hello."
7. She had an _____ on her way to work.
8. In the USA, people shake hands _____.
9. I saw _____ on the street who looks like you.



Parts of a 24-hour day, including dawn and dusk.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. Friendly people smile and say “hello” to other people.
- ___ 2. When you meet someone for the first time, it is polite to say “It is nice to meet you” or “I am happy to meet you.”
- ___ 3. If you don’t understand something, you can ask the person to repeat it slowly.
- ___ 4. We say “good night” as a form of hello after 5 or 6 PM.
- ___ 5. New Yorkers usually say “hello” to people they do not know when they are on the street or a subway train.
- ___ 6. It is polite to say “excuse me” if you bump against someone by accident.
- ___ 7. Do not shake hands with people when you meet them for the first time.
- ___ 8. When you meet someone for the first time, it is more formal to say your first name *and* your family name.
- ___ 9. When you ask for something, it is polite to say “please.”
- ___ 10. Saying “thank you” is not necessary when people give you things.



13. Stay Safe

New York City is one of the safest big cities in the world. More than 66 million people visit here each year. Crimes against tourists are rare: they don't happen often. Here are some tips or suggestions that can help you have a safe visit in the Big Apple:

1. Most neighborhoods in Manhattan are safe day and night. But it is best to walk around during the day and early evening. It is not a good idea for women to walk alone at night. It is better to be part of a group.

2. If you plan to be out late at night, it is good to know how to get where you are going. You should also know how to get home. If you have to walk a long distance to or from the subway, take a taxi or call a car service.

3. Many New Yorkers don't obey traffic rules. They cross the street where they want, and don't pay attention to the "walk/don't walk" signs. Cross at the corner when the sign says "walk." And always look both ways before you cross the street.



4. Don't text, read messages or play video games when you cross the street.

5. Watch out for bicyclists and people on electric motorbikes and motor scooters. Many do not obey traffic rules.

6. Keep your wallet in a safe place. Don't carry a lot of cash.

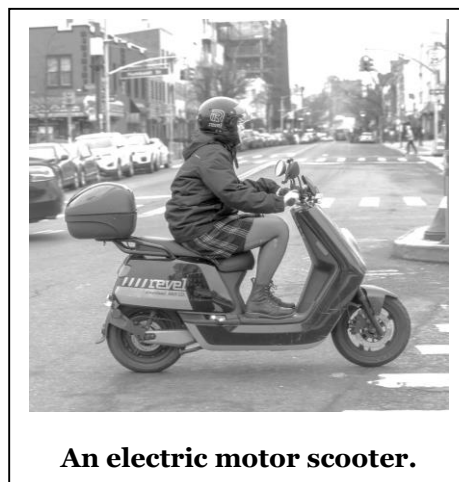
7. Only use ATMs at banks. Some ATMs at small stores or in the street are not secure.

8. Never open your wallet or show things of value (jewelry, camera) in the street or on the subway.

9. Make a photocopy of the picture page of your passport and carry it with you.

Leave your passport in a safe place at home or at your hotel.

10. In an *emergency*, call 911 (see next chapter).



An electric motor scooter.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A serious, usually dangerous situation. You need immediate action.
a. a problem b. an inconvenience c. an emergency
- ___ 2. A piece of advice or good information.
a. a tip / a suggestion b. a lesson c. an education
- ___ 3. A place where there is no danger.
a. a crazy place b. a safe place c. a dark place
- ___ 4. To do what someone tells you to do, or do what a law says what you must do.
a. to obey b. to agree c. to think
- ___ 5. To go from one side of the street to the other side of the street.
a. to move b. to cross c. to climb
- ___ 6. When you have something with you or on your body (like a wallet).
a. you carry b. you show c. you obey
- ___ 7. A safe place that gives protection from danger or harm.
a. a happy place b. a crazy place c. a secure place
- ___ 8. A word to describe “having a good time.”
a. sleepy b. enjoyable c. unhappy
- ___ 9. Another term for “be careful!”
a. watch out! b. look in! c. follow the leader!

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

rare tips keep emergency secure carry

alone safe enjoyable text cross

1. When something is _____, it does not happen often.
2. Here are some _____ that can help you.
3. It is not a good idea for women to walk _____ at night.
4. Don't _____ or play video games when you _____ the street.
5. _____ your wallet in a _____ place.
6. Don't _____ a lot of cash with you.
7. Call 911 if you see a fire, accident or other _____.
8. An ATM at a small store may not be very _____.
9. We had an _____ time in Central Park.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. tips | doesn't happen often |
| 2. follow (the rules) | advice/suggestions |
| 3. rare | secure / no danger |
| 4. watch out | obey / respect |
| 5. carry | be careful |
| 6. safe (<i>adj.</i>) | transport / bring / take |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. New York City is one of the safest big cities in the world.
- ___ 2. Most Manhattan neighborhoods are safe both day and night.
- ___ 3. Many people call New York City “The Big Apple.”
- ___ 4. People on bicycles and electric motorbikes always obey traffic rules.
- ___ 5. It is okay to text or read messages on your phone when you cross the street.
- ___ 6. It's not a good idea to open your wallet when you are riding the subway.
- ___ 7. ATMs in bodegas, delis and other small stores are very secure.
- ___ 8. It's a good idea to leave your passport in a safe place at home or at your hotel.
- ___ 9. Cross the street where and when you want.
- ___ 10. If you see a serious crime, accident or other emergency, call 911.



Do not text when you cross the street!

14. Emergency 911 and Non-Emergency 311

New York City has two special telephone numbers: 911 and 311.

911: We use 911 to report an emergency. An emergency is a dangerous situation and we need fast action. It is when a person can die. We use 911 for:

- a serious illness and we need help *now* (heart attack, stroke)
- an accident
- a drug overdose or poisoning
- an injury
- fire
- a fight
- a robbery
- a person who is lost or missing for a long time
- a terrorist attack or when we see a suspicious person or package
- when we see someone who looks dangerous

The person who answers our call at 911 speaks English. We can also ask to talk to someone who speaks our language.

311: We use 311 for non-emergencies. We also call 311 to get information about New York City government services. We can get help in 175 different languages. We can also go to 311 online: <http://www1.nyc.gov/311/>, or download the “NYC311” app on our phone or tablet. We use 311:

- when there are noise problems
- when there are garbage problems
- when we see a cat in a tree
- to report street problems (parking, holes in the street)
- when there are heat and water problems in our building
- for questions about health services, school, transportation, jobs or other NYC government services



Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. When you give news, or when you tell people about something.
a. to report b. to remember c. to recover
- ___ 2. It is a dangerous situation and we need fast action, like help from the police, fire department or a doctor.
a. a question b. a report c. an emergency
- ___ 3. When a person takes too much of a drug or medicine and it is bad for health.
a. an overdose b. a correct dose c. a multi-dose
- ___ 4. When a person gets sick because of bad food, bacteria or chemicals.
a. poisoning b. sickening c. overdosing
- ___ 5. When someone gets hurt.
a. a perjury b. an injury c. a parody
- ___ 6. It is the crime of taking money or property that does not belong to you.
a. a present b. a donation c. a robbery
- ___ 7. You don't know where a person is and you worry about them.
a. a forgotten person b. a missing person c. an independent person
- ___ 8. When a person, action or thing makes you feel that something is wrong.
a. suspicious b. interested c. unhappy

B. Choose the correct word(s) to complete each sentence.

report emergency serious overdose dangerous

robbery missing suspicious poisoning fight

1. There was a _____ at the bank yesterday. The thief took \$250,000.
2. A famous actor died of a drug _____.
3. She ate bad food and got food _____.
4. If your grandmother went to the store 3 hours ago and you can't find her,
you can call 911 to report her as a _____ person.
5. He found a _____ package under the seat in a subway train.
6. Two men had a big _____ in the street and one man went to the hospital
with _____ injuries.
7. Call 911 to _____ a crime or an accident.
8. When you call 911, a person will ask you "Where is the _____?"
9. A person or thing that can hurt you or kill you is _____.



911 Emergency.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. An emergency is something you don't need to worry about.
- ___ 2. You call 911 when your neighbors have a noisy party.
- ___ 3. You call 311 when you need information about English classes.
- ___ 4. A drug overdose can kill you.
- ___ 5. If your 15-year old daughter is 20 minutes late coming home from school, she is a missing person and you should call 911.
- ___ 6. If you see a suspicious package, it is good to report it to the police.
- ___ 7. A small fire in your home is not an emergency.
- ___ 8. You can get food poisoning from eating bad food.
- ___ 9. When you call 911 or 311 in New York City, you can ask to talk with a person who speaks your language.



Going to a fire in a snowstorm, Brooklyn.

15. Finding a Good Restaurant

There are more than 35,000 restaurants in New York City. This is good news if you want to eat out, but it is not always easy to find a place you like.

Guidebooks like *Lonely Planet* and *Zagat* and websites like *TripAdvisor* and *Yelp!* can help you find a good place to eat. Your friends and classmates can give you the name of a good restaurant too.

The New York City Department of Health inspects restaurants and other places that sell prepared food, like coffee shops, bars and delis. The inspectors visit once a year or more. They want to know: Is the kitchen clean? Is the food fresh? How do they prepare the food? Are there problems with rodents (mice and rats) and insects?

After the inspection, the Department of Health gives a sign with a *letter grade* to the restaurant. The restaurant must post the sign in a window (*see below*) where people can see it from the sidewalk. The letter is not about the taste of the food or if the service is good or bad: it only answers the question, “Is it safe to eat here?”



A is the best. It means that the restaurant is clean and it is safe to eat there. A **B** grade means the restaurant is so-so. A **C** means that the restaurant is not a safe place to eat and the Department of Health may close the restaurant soon. Many New Yorkers will not eat at a **B** or a **C** restaurant. **Grade Pending** means that the restaurant got a B or a C and asked for another inspection. It must post a “Grade Pending” sign in the front window until the inspector visits again, usually in one month or less. If a place has a “Grade Pending” sign, you may *not* want to eat there.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

___ 1. It is a book that gives you tips on what to see, where to go and what to eat when you travel.

- a. an encyclopedia b. a guidebook c. a phone book

___ 2. Food that is not old or spoiled.

- a. fresh b. expensive c. smelly

___ 3. When you look at something very, very carefully to learn more about it.

- a. to inspect b. to scan c. to review

___ 4. When you make food so that it is ready to eat.

- a. put together b. build c. prepare

___ 5. A letter that shows how clean a restaurant is.

- a. a mark b. a number c. a grade

___ 6. A piece of paper with words, letters or pictures on it that gives information.

- a. a screen b. a sign c. a painting

___ 7. To put up a sign so that people can see it.

- a. to make b. to write c. to post

___ 8. It is between the street and buildings. People walk on it.

- a. the road b. the sidewalk c. the stairs

___ 9. Rats and mice.

- a. rodents b. insects b. birds

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

prepare insects post sign eat out
inspection sidewalk grade guidebook safe

1. A _____ is a book that gives you suggestions of what to see, where to stay and what to eat when you travel.
2. Flies, mosquitoes and bugs are _____.
3. A letter that shows the safety of a restaurant is a _____.
4. When you make a meal that is ready to eat, you _____ it.
5. In a city, people walk on the _____ when they want to go somewhere.
6. Restaurants in NYC must have a yearly _____ by the Health Department.
7. After the inspection, the restaurant must _____ a _____ in the front window with the letter grade.
8. When you have a meal in a restaurant and not at home, you _____.
9. If food is _____, you can eat it and you will not get sick.

C. Which Words Go Together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. insects | mice / rats |
| 2. rodents | free from harm or danger |
| 3. safe (<i>adj.</i>) | flies / bugs |
| 4. inspection | a piece of paper with pictures and/or words |
| 5. sign | looking at something very closely |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. When you *eat out*, you eat at a restaurant; not at home.
- ___ 2. The NYC Department of Health does not inspect coffee shops.
- ___ 3. A “C” grade means that the restaurant serves “Chinese” food.
- ___ 4. Food inspectors visit a restaurant one or more times a year.
- ___ 5. The restaurant must post the sign with the letter grade in the front window
where people can see it from the sidewalk.
- ___ 6. A “Grade Pending” sign means that the restaurant asked the inspector to visit
again.



Lunch at B&H Dairy, the East Village, Manhattan.

16. Tipping

A *tip* (gratuity) is money that a client or customer usually gives to a service worker, in addition to the basic price. Service workers are *servers* (also *waiters* and *waitresses*) in bars and restaurants, taxi and limo drivers, hotel workers and hair stylists. Tips are voluntary. They are not required. But many service workers do not make a lot of money and they need tips to help pay for rent, food, clothing and transportation.

Tipping is normal in New York City and the rest of the United States. In restaurants with table service, customers usually leave 15-20% (percent) of the amount of the check (or *bill*) when service is good or okay. In a buffet-style restaurant, 10% is normal. A \$1 tip per drink at a bar is good, but customers leave \$2 or more at expensive New York bars.

New Yorkers sometimes give a higher tip for excellent service, and a lower tip for so-so service. If service is very rude or bad, they don't leave a tip at all.

A normal tip is 15-20% for taxi drivers and other drivers. At hotels, guests usually give a bellhop (also known as a *bellman* or *porter*) \$1-2 per bag. You should also leave \$2 a day to the person who cleans your room. You can tip the hotel doorman \$1-\$2 if he gets you a taxi. You should also tip your hotel *concierge*. A concierge is a person who can find you tickets to a popular Broadway show or reserve a table for you at a busy restaurant: the size of the tip depends on the difficulty of getting what you need.

New Yorkers give tips at spas, barber shops and beauty salons. We do not give tips to doctors, dentists, teachers and *never* to the police. We do not leave a tip when we eat at fast food restaurants like McDonald's or Pizza Hut. But you will often find a paper cup near the cash register at coffee shops; many customers put tips in the cup for the workers.



Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A person who brings you food or drinks at a restaurant or bar.
a. a concierge b. a server c. a doorman
- ___ 2. It is something that you can do only if you want to; it is not necessary to do it.
a. required b. voluntary c. obligatory
- ___ 3. It is something you must do; it is necessary to do it.
a. required b. voluntary c. possibly
- ___ 4. It is a piece of paper that tells you how much you need to pay for something.
a. a check b. a tip c. a price
- ___ 5. A word to describe something ordinary or usual; not strange or special.
a. abnormal b. exceptional c. normal
- ___ 6. When someone is nasty or not polite to others.
a. friendly b. kind c. rude
- ___ 7. A hotel employee who brings your bags to your room.
a. a concierge b. a bellhop c. a doorman
- ___ 8. A hotel employee whose job is to give information and help, such as finding tickets to a Broadway show or making reservations at a busy restaurant.
a. a concierge b. a bellhop c. a doorman
- ___ 9. When you ask for something in a polite way.
a. you demand b. you request c. you refuse

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

bill fast food server request normal
concierge cash register voluntary tip excellent

1. At a restaurant with table service, it is normal to give a _____ of 15-20% of the amount of your _____ .
2. Tips are _____; you can leave a tip if you want to.
3. It is _____ to leave a \$2 tip per day for the person who cleans your hotel room.
4. New Yorkers sometimes give a bigger tip for _____ service.
5. Give a tip to the hotel _____ who finds you a good ticket to a Broadway show or makes reservations for you at a busy restaurant.
6. The size of the tip you give to the hotel concierge depends on the difficulty of your _____.
7. New Yorkers do not leave tips at _____ restaurants like McDonalds.
8. Another word for a waiter or waitress at a restaurant is a _____.
9. You will often find a paper cup for tips near the _____ at coffee shops.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. tip (n.) | usual / common |
| 2. client | check |
| 3. normal | nasty / impolite |
| 4. bill | waiter / waitress |
| 5. rude | customer |
| 6. server | gratuity |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. In the United States, tips are voluntary and are not required.
- ___ 2. It is normal to leave a tip at a fast food restaurant.
- ___ 3. In the USA, it is a very good idea to give a gratuity to a police officer.
- ___ 4. Some restaurants add a service charge to the check in place of a tip.
- ___ 5. In NYC, the normal tip for taxi and limo drivers is 5%.
- ___ 6. The hotel concierge can find tickets to a Broadway show for you.
- ___ 7. When your dinner at a buffet restaurant costs \$20, a \$2 tip is okay.
- ___ 8. When you ask for something politely, you make a request.
- ___ 9. Many service workers like waiters, maids and drivers need tips to help pay the bills.

E. Choose the best answer.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. A concierge _____.
a. makes dinner reservations
b. finds Broadway tickets for guests
c. both of these | 3. You don't need to give a tip to _____.
a. your server
b. your barber
c. your doctor |
| 2. A bellhop _____.
a. opens the hotel door
b. helps hotel guests with their bags
c. brings food to hotel guests | 4. A normal tip at bar is _____.
a. 5% of the bill
b. 25 cents per drink
c. \$1 per drink or more |

17. Public Libraries in New York City

There are three public library systems in New York City. They are free and are open to *everyone*. Each library system has a large *central library* and smaller *branch libraries* in many neighborhoods. Many branch libraries have librarians who speak the languages of the people who live in the neighborhood. Libraries have books, CDs, videos and magazines in many languages. All libraries have computers you can use for free. Many libraries have special cultural and educational programs, including free English classes for adults. If you have a library card, you can take books and other materials home.

The **New York Public Library** has four big research libraries and 85 branch libraries in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island. The Humanities and Social Sciences Library on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street (we call it “The 42nd Street Library”) in midtown Manhattan is one of the



The 42nd Street Library, early 1940s.

biggest and best in the world. It has many rare books and manuscripts, photographs and other works of art (artworks).
<https://www.nypl.org/>

The **Queens Public Library** is the biggest library system in the United States. It has a large central library in Jamaica,

and 62 branch libraries around the borough. It also has a Job Information Center and seven Adult Learning Centers. The Queens Library’s ESOL program is the largest in the United States, with more than 100 different free English classes every year. <https://queenslibrary.org/>

The **Brooklyn Public Library** has a big central library, an excellent Business Library and 59 branch libraries. The Central Library also has a Business and Career Center that helps people find jobs. <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/>

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is a library that is open to everyone.
a. a private library b. a public library c. a school library
- ___ 2. In a big city, it is another name for a neighborhood library.
a. a central library b. a digital library c. a branch library
- ___ 3. A person with a university degree in Library Science who works in a library.
a. a writer b. a librarian c. a teacher
- ___ 4. A group of many libraries.
a. a library system b. a library business c. a library club
- ___ 5. It is a special library where we go when we need to write an important paper for school or do other serious study.
a. a children's library b. a branch library c. a research library
- ___ 6. A word to describe "only one or two in the world."
a. rare b. common c. expensive
- ___ 7. It is the first copy of a book or piece of music before it was printed.
a. an essay b. a paper c. a manuscript
- ___ 8. It is a painting, drawing, print or sculpture.
a. a work of art b. a copy c. a manuscript

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

public branch research librarian

system rare manuscript

1. A _____ library is open to everyone.
2. In a big city like New York, many neighborhoods have a local or _____ library.
3. When you are writing a term paper for school, you need to do some _____.
4. The copy of a book or piece of music before it was printed is a _____.
5. A person with a university degree in Library Science who works in a library is a _____.
6. There is only one copy of this old map in New York City. It is very _____.
7. A group of many branch or neighborhood libraries form a library _____ .



**The Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn.
It looks like an open book!**

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. There is one public library system in New York City.
- ___ 2. Almost every branch library has educational and cultural programs for children and adults.
- ___ 3. Public libraries in NYC are only for people who live here.
- ___ 4. A public library has only books.
- ___ 5. There is a place at the Brooklyn's Central Library that can help you find a job.
- ___ 6. The 42nd Street Library is one of the oldest libraries in the world.
- ___ 7. You have to pay to use the libraries in New York City.
- ___ 8. The Queens Library ESOL program is the largest in the U.S.A.
- ___ 9. You can take books home if you have a library card.
- ___ 10. The 42nd Street Library is in Queens.



Queens Library and Adult Learning Center - Long Island City.

18. Theater, Music and Dance!

New York City is the world capital for theater, music and dance. Many actors, musicians and dancers live here. People who write music and songs (*composers*) and plays (*playwrights*) live here too.

Theater: New York City is the theater capital of the world and home to the Broadway show. There are two kinds of theater, *musicals* and *plays*. Musicals have speaking, acting, singing and dancing. When people think of Broadway shows, they think of musicals!



In a play, actors mostly speak and perform. A *serious drama* can make you think. A *comedy* will make you laugh. Musicals and plays are at all kinds of theaters. Broadway theaters have seats for over 500 people, and there are dozens of smaller “Off-Broadway” theaters and “Off—off-Broadway” theaters. You can also see musicals and plays at neighborhood theaters, schools and public parks.

Music and Dance: New York City is the birthplace of disco, hip-hop, freestyle, doo wop, bebop, punk rock, new wave and salsa. New York is also an important center for classical music, opera, jazz, rock, blues and ethnic music. You can hear music on the street and in subway stations. Music is everywhere!

The city’s Club Scene is the biggest in the world with dance and music from funk to techno to pop. The city is home to hundreds of orchestras, bands, dance companies and theater groups, plus concert halls, dance clubs, night clubs, cabarets, jazz clubs and other places for theater, music and dance every day of the year.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. The most important city for something, like art, music, theater.
a. a town b. a capital c. a village
- ___ 2. It is a show that has mostly music, songs and dance.
a. a musical b. a drama c. a comedy
- ___ 3. It is a person who can play a musical instrument very well.
a. an actor b. a dancer c. a musician
- ___ 4. To entertain people with singing, dancing or acting.
a. to perform b. to teach c. to inform
- ___ 5. A play, movie or TV show that makes people laugh.
a. a drama b. a comedy c. a news program
- ___ 6. It is the place where a person was born or where something started.
a. the hospital b. the neighborhood c. the birthplace
- ___ 7. It is a small group of musicians who play together; usually popular music.
a. an orchestra b. a band c. a gang
- ___ 8. It is a large group of musicians who play together, usually classical music.
The musicians are usually led by a *conductor*.
a. an orchestra b. a band c. a big gang

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

comedy capital drama musical birthplace
orchestra musician composer performer concert

1. Broadway is the theater _____ of the world.
2. A show that is mostly music and dance is called a _____.
3. A play that is mostly acting and speaking is a _____.
4. A person who acts, dances or sings in public is a _____.
5. A person who can play a musical instrument very well is a _____.
6. A person who can write music is a _____.
7. When you listen to a rock group at a theater or stadium, you go to a
_____.
8. When you go to a classical music concert, you will usually see and hear
an _____.
9. A _____ is a play or musical that will make you laugh.
10. The city or town where you were born is your _____.



A scene from *Phantom of the Opera*, 2013.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. New York City is home to Broadway shows.
- ___ 2. Most serious dramas have singing and dancing.
- ___ 3. If a play is a *comedy*, it will make you laugh.
- ___ 4. New York City is the birthplace of disco, punk rock, new wave and hip-hop.
- ___ 5. People go to clubs to hear the latest hip-hop and techno music.
- ___ 6. Not many actors, musicians and dancers live in New York City.
- ___ 7. An orchestra usually plays classical music.
- ___ 8. A band usually plays classical music.
- ___ 9. You will never hear music on the street or in a NYC subway station.
- ___ 10. New York City's Club Scene is the smallest in the world.



Dance Parade, Manhattan, 2012.

Part IV.

Where to Go,

What to Do

19. Times Square

Times Square is the most exciting place in New York City. The lights, the sounds, the traffic and especially the thousands of people who visit make it a very high-energy destination day and night.

Before the 1880s, Times Square (it was then called *Longacre Square*) was home to big market where men bought and sold horses. After electricity (and the subway) came to midtown Manhattan, things started to change. In 1905, *The New York Times* newspaper moved there, and the mayor changed its name to Times Square.

By 1914, many theaters moved north to Times Square from downtown. Restaurants, bars, night clubs and big hotels moved there too. Times Square soon became the entertainment center of New York City.

Tourists love Times Square because it is exciting and interesting. It's also a great place to go if you want to have lunch or dinner before you see a Broadway or Off-Broadway show. A million people go to Times Square on New Year's Eve: it's the biggest party ever!



Times Square at night.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

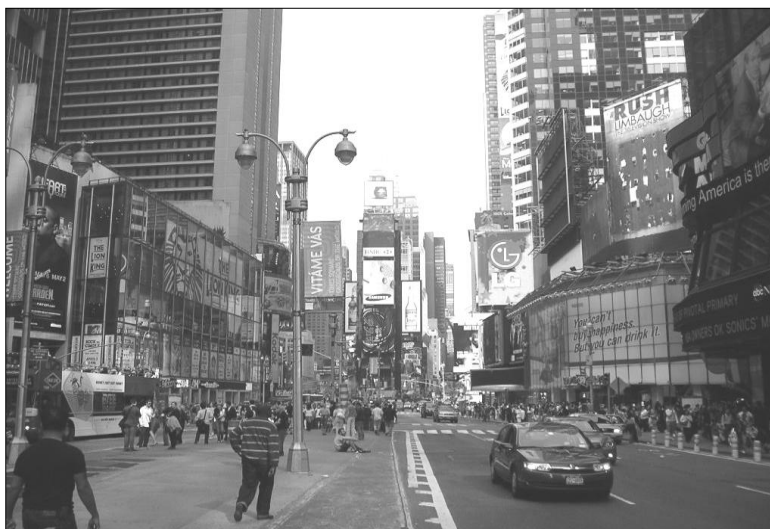
A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. Something that people like that is “high-energy.”
a. special b. exciting c. unusual
- ___ 2. Something that gets your attention and you want to learn more about it.
a. interesting b. boring c. normal
- ___ 3. A part or section of a larger place.
a. a country b. a continent c. an area
- ___ 4. The most important elected official of an American city.
a. the president b. the governor c. the mayor
- ___ 5. An area in the southern part of Manhattan Island.
a. uptown b. downtown c. midtown
- ___ 6. It is something you watch at a theater that usually has singing and dancing.
a. a drama b. a concert c. a show
- ___ 7. Something that is fun and amusing, like a movie or Broadway show.
a. entertainment b. a theater c. a program
- ___ 8. It is a special place where people go.
a. a destination c. an area c. a neighborhood
- ___ 9. It is the meal that you eat in the evening.
a. breakfast b. lunch c. dinner

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

dinner downtown area interesting
destination mayor exciting entertainment

1. Times Square is the most _____ place in New York City.
2. By 1914, Times Square became an exciting and _____ neighborhood.
3. If you travel south from Times Square, you go _____.
4. The _____ of New York City changed the area's name from "Longacre Square" to "Times Square."
5. Some people like to eat _____ before they go to a Broadway show in the evening.
6. Times Square is a favorite _____ for many tourists.
7. Going to the theater is a popular form of _____ for many New Yorkers.
8. The _____ around Times Square has a lot to see and do.



Times Square looking uptown.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. Before the 1880s, you could buy a horse in what is now Times Square.
- ___ 2. They named Times Square after the *London Times* newspaper.
- ___ 3. Many new theaters opened in Times Square by 1814.
- ___ 4. A family-friendly theater has shows that kids enjoy.
- ___ 5. You can get to Times Square by subway.
- ___ 6. There are no restaurants in Times Square.
- ___ 7. The Times Square area has many things to see and do.
- ___ 8. If you want peace and quiet, go to Times Square.
- ___ 9. Times Square's New Year's Eve celebration is the biggest party ever!

D. Choose the best answer.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Longacre Square was _____.
a. an exciting place
b. the home of a horse market
c. elegant | 3. We eat dinner in the _____.
a. morning
b. middle of the day
c. evening |
| 2. Movies and plays are kinds of _____.
a. sports events
b. entertainment
c. study | 4. Times Square has many _____.
a. theaters
b. parks
c. quiet places |

20. Central Park



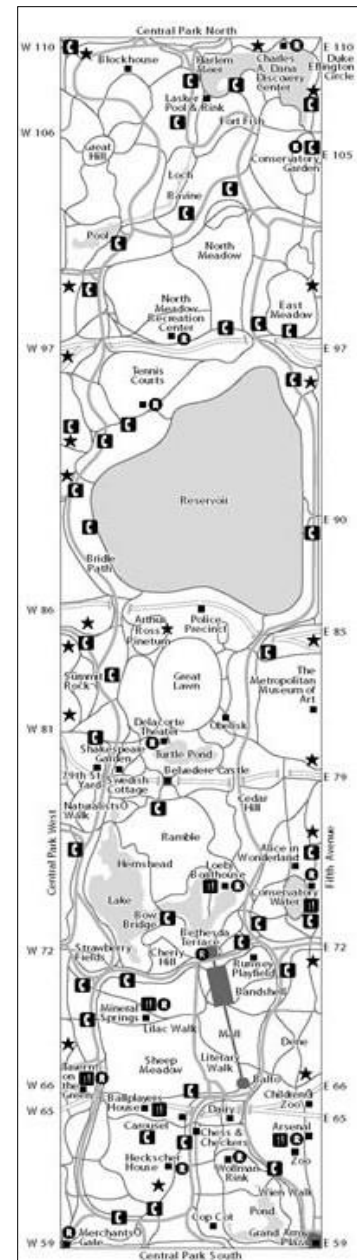
Original color photo by Fritz Geller-Grimm

Central Park is the cool, green heart of Manhattan. It opened in 1858. Central Park is 843 acres (341 hectares) in size, near the center of Manhattan Island. That is why we call it “*Central Park*.” More than 40 million people visit Central Park every year. It is one of the three places in New York City that most visitors want to see.

Between 1820 and 1850 many immigrants (mostly from Ireland and Germany) came to Manhattan. During this time the population of Manhattan grew from approximately 110,000 to more than 500,000. Many parts of Manhattan were crowded, noisy and dirty.

City leaders wanted to have a “country paradise” in the big city. And the architects and workers who made the park did a great job. Central Park has quiet paths, stone bridges and open meadows. There are thousands of trees and shrubs. It is also home to many birds and other animals.

Central Park has something for everyone: running and cycling paths, baseball fields, a zoo, a skating rink, playgrounds, theaters, gardens, lakes, waterfalls, restaurants and snack bars, and hundreds of quiet areas to read and relax. It is a special part of New York City and a great place to visit!



Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is a word that means “more or less.”
a. approximately b. surely c. ability
- ___ 2. It is a place out of the city where there are many trees and animals.
a. the town b. the country c. the village.
- ___ 3. A place of perfect beauty and peace.
a. a resort b. a shopping mall c. a paradise
- ___ 4. A narrow way that people walk on, usually in a garden, park or forest.
a. a highway b. a path c. a sidewalk
- ___ 5. Horses and cows like to eat tall grass there.
a. a meadow b. a restaurant c. a beach
- ___ 6. It is a woody plant like a tree, but it is smaller.
a. a flower b. a vegetable c. a shrub
- ___ 7. When a space is full of people and it can be difficult to move around.
a. busy b. spacious c. crowded
- ___ 8. A special outdoor place where children can play. It usually has equipment like swings and slides (see photo).
a. a gym b. a playground c. a rest area



B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

playgrounds approximately shrub country
meadow paradise crowded path

1. It can get very _____ when there are many people in a small room.
2. In 1821, _____ 110,000 people lived in Manhattan.
3. Central Park has many _____ where children can have fun.
4. A _____ looks like a tree, but it is shorter.
5. A quiet place of perfect beauty is called a _____ .
6. Horses and cows like to eat grass in a _____.
7. A _____ is a narrow way that people walk on, usually in a garden, park or forest.
8. Some people have an apartment in the city and a home in the _____.



Bethesda Fountain – Central Park.

C. Details

One word in each sentence is not correct.

Cross it out and write the correct word above it.

1. Central Park opened in 1958.
2. Central Park was going to be a “country farm” in the city.
3. Over 40 million people visit Central Park every week.
4. Central Park has dozens of trees and shrubs.
5. Prospect Park has many quiet paths for walking.



The Lake - Central Park.

Original color photo by Che Jung Chang.

21. The High Line

The High Line is a special 1.45 mile [2.3 km.] long public park that opened in 2009. It is on an old railroad line above the streets on Manhattan’s West Side.

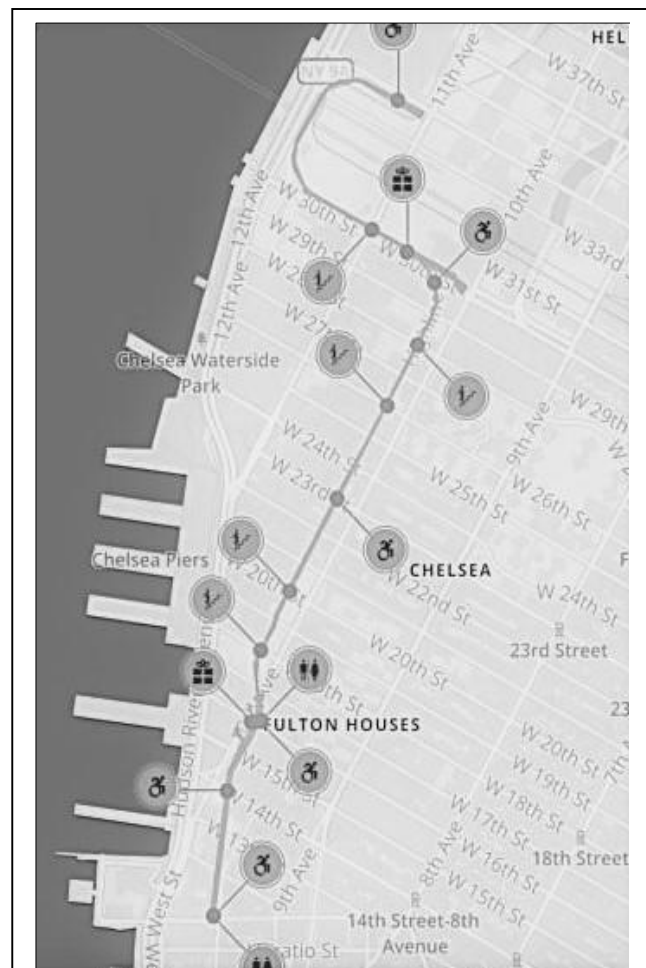
It starts at Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District and ends at West 34th Street (Hudson Yards), between 10th and 12th Avenues, near Hudson Yards. The High Line is a great place to visit in New York City. It is very popular, especially during the summer.

The High Line has something for everyone: you can walk through a small forest, see beautiful gardens (there are over 120 different species of plants), visit an art exhibit, have a picnic, or just sit down and relax.

There are excellent views of the Hudson River, New Jersey and Manhattan from the park. The High Line is also a great place to look at or *observe* other people (we call it “people watching”). The organization *Friends of the High Line* gives free tours.

The High Line is close to the Whitney Museum of American Art (Gansevoort Street) and Chelsea Market (9th Avenue and W. 16th Street). Hudson Yards is home to The Edge—the highest outdoor sky deck in the Americas—and The Shed, a new center for art. The High Line is near many art galleries, shops and restaurants.

You can visit the High Line for free. It is open every day of the year. Go to the High Line’s website for hours (see the *Links* section at the end of this book).



A map of the High Line.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is a word to describe something that is one-of-a-kind (there is only one).
a. special b. normal c. unique
- ___ 2. When you get a lot of pleasure from something (or someone).
a. you enjoy b. you engage c. you embarrass
- ___ 3. A “family” of plants that are similar; they are not different from each other.
a. a garden b. a species c. a bouquet
- ___ 4. It is a meal that people like to eat outdoors, usually in the summer.
a. a picnic b. a banquet c. a bouquet
- ___ 5. In a higher place than something else.
a. below b. beneath c. above
- ___ 6. When you sit down, relax and look at (observe) other people in a public place.
a. spying b. people watching c. scanning
- ___ 7. It is a word that means “liked or enjoyed by many people.”
a. popular b. friendly c. famous
- ___ 8. The things you can see from a place.
a. a painting b. a picture c. a view
- ___ 9. It is a business that sells paintings, drawings and other kinds of art.
a. an art gallery b. an art museum c. a work of art

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

views unique enjoy picnic species
popular close above dozen gallery

1. When something is one-of-a-kind, we say that it is _____ .
2. A business that sells paintings, drawings and sculpture is an art _____.
3. There are great _____ of the Hudson River and New Jersey from the High Line.
4. You can see many _____ of plants on the High Line.
5. When something is a lot of fun, you _____ it.
6. Many supermarkets sell eggs by the _____, not by the pound or kilo.
7. When something is near or _____ it is not far away.
8. An elevated train travels _____ the street.
9. When the weather is warm, many people like to have a _____ in the park.
10. When many people enjoy or like a place a lot, it is very _____.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. species | have fun |
| 2. close | twelve |
| 3. enjoy | many people like |
| 4. a dozen | only one |
| 5. unique | a “family” of plants or animals |
| 6. popular | near |

D. Details.

*One word in each sentence from the story about the High Line is not correct.
Cross it out and write the correct word above it.*

1. They built the High Line on an old underground freight rail line.
2. The High Line is very popular, especially during the winter.
3. The High Line goes from Gansevoort Street in the Railroad District to West
34th Street / Hudson Yards.
4. The High Line isn't close to interesting places to visit.
5. You can visit the High Line for \$5.



The High Line in the spring.

22. The Metropolitan Museum of Art



The Metropolitan Museum of Art ("The Met") is the most important art museum in New York City. It is also one of the five best museums in the world. The Met has more than two million pieces of art: paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, clothing, crafts, costumes and photographs.

The Met is two museums. The biggest and the most important is the *Met Fifth Avenue*, on Fifth Avenue between East 81st and East 84th Streets. The *Met Cloisters* shows art, architecture, and gardens of Europe from the 5th to the 15th centuries. It is in Fort Tryon Park in northern Manhattan, with beautiful views of the Hudson River.

The Met Fifth Avenue opened in 1872. The most important collections include:

- Ancient Near Eastern Art
- Arms and Armor
- Art of Oceania, Africa and the Americas
- Asian Art
- The Costume Institute
- Drawings and Prints
- Greek and Roman Art
- Islamic Art
- Modern Art
- Musical Instruments
- Photographs
- Egyptian Art (in 40 galleries)
- European Paintings

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is open 7 days a week, but it is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is a picture that an artist makes with paint.
a. a photo b. a print c. a painting
- ___ 2. It is a picture that an artist usually makes with a pencil or pen.
a. a photo b. a drawing c. a painting
- ___ 3. It is a drawing or painting made from pressing an inked surface on paper.
(An artist can make it with his/her hands or with a machine).
a. a photo b. a photocopy c. a print
- ___ 4. It is art made by carving or molding clay, stone or metal.
a. a sculpture b. a piece of armor c. a print
- ___ 5. Objects that artists make that are both useful and beautiful.
a. paintings b. sculptures c. crafts
- ___ 6. Special clothes that groups of people wore, usually many years ago.
a. swimsuits b. costumes c. gym shorts
- ___ 7. A group of interesting or beautiful objects that a museum shows to people.
a. a gallery b. a buffet c. a collection
- ___ 8. A word to describe something that is very, very old.
a. contemporary b. modern c. ancient
- ___ 9. A heavy metal suit that soldiers wore many years ago for protection.
a. a jacket b. armor c. a costume

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

armor collection sculpture drawings paintings

ancient gardens costumes print

1. The Met has a very large _____ of American art.
2. The Met has many colorful _____ by Renoir and Matisse.
3. The Cloisters have European-style _____.
4. Many kings and queens in Europe used to wear very beautiful _____.
5. Leonardo da Vinci made hundreds of _____ with pen and pencil.
6. Some of the Greek and Roman statues at the Met are very _____.
7. An artist makes a _____ from clay, stone or metal.
8. An artist can make many copies of a _____.
9. Soldiers often wore heavy suits of _____ from the 15th through 19th centuries for protection.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

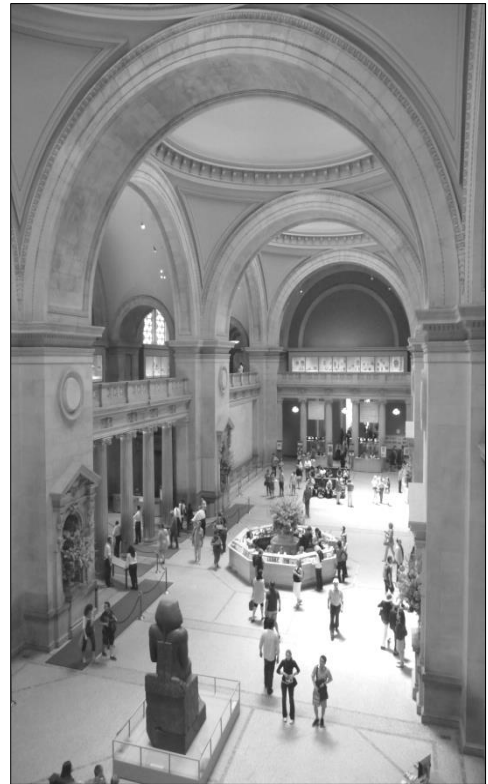
- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. modern | art objects that are both beautiful and useful |
| 2. ancient | new |
| 3. paintings | art made with paint |
| 4. costumes | protection for soldiers |
| 5. armor | fancy clothing |
| 6. crafts | very old |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. The Metropolitan Museum is one of the five best museums in the world.
- ___ 2. The Met is twelve museums.
- ___ 3. The Met opened in 1872.
- ___ 4. The Met only shows ancient art.
- ___ 5. The Met has many different collections.
- ___ 6. The Costume Institute is an important department of the Met Fifth Avenue.
- ___ 7. The collection of Egyptian Art is in 4 different galleries.
- ___ 8. The Met Cloisters shows old European art.
- ___ 9. You can see most of the Met Fifth Avenue's collections in an hour.
- ___ 10. The Met is closed on Christmas Day.

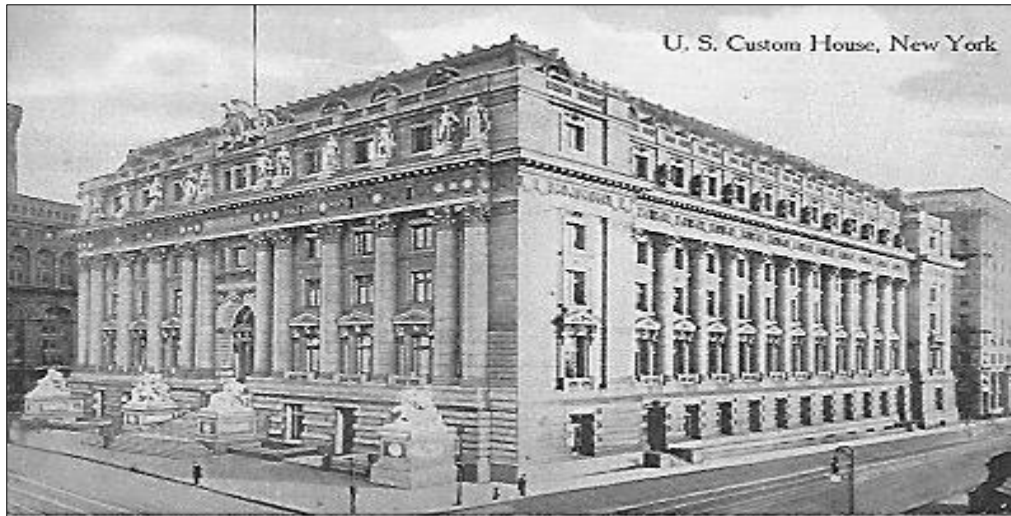


The Great Hall, Met Fifth Avenue.

Picture Credit:

Page 89: Drawing of the Metropolitan Museum by Simon Fieldhouse, from Wikipedia.

23. The National Museum of the American Indian



The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is part of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian Institution is the largest museum complex in the world. The NMAI teaches about the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of the indigenous people of the Americas. The museum has an excellent collection of rare Native American objects, plus many public programs. It is one of the most interesting places to visit in New York City.

George Gustav Heye (1874–1957) was a railroad engineer. He traveled all over North and South America and collected native objects. He put his collection together over 54 years, beginning in 1903. The Heye collection includes more than 800,000 objects, plus 125,000 photos and drawings. Many are rare and unique. It is the biggest and best collection of Native American art in the world.

In 1916, Mr. Heye started his “Museum of the American Indian” in the Bronx. It opened to the public in 1922. The Heye collection became part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1990. You can see some of the best objects at a beautiful old building in downtown Manhattan that was the U.S. Custom House many years ago. You can visit the museum for free.

Vocabulary note.

The words *native* and *indigenous* mean the same thing: “coming naturally from a particular region or country.” We can say that apples grow in many places, but the apple is indigenous (native) to Central Asia. Or we can say that the Mayan people are indigenous to southern Mexico and Guatemala. Today, the word “indigenous” is better to use than “native.”

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. It is a group of museums that are part of a system.
a. a museum complex b. a museum chain c. a museum bunch
- ___ 2. Something (or someone) that is native to a particular region or country.
a. local b. indigenous c. cosmopolitan
- ___ 3. It is something that you can see and touch; it is not alive.
a. an animal b. a plant c. an object
- ___ 4. A person with scientific training who designs and/or builds complicated things like machines, electronic equipment or computers.
a. a draftsman b. an engineer c. a mechanic
- ___ 5. To come to be, or to change to something (or someone) else.
a. to become b. to behave c. to begin
- ___ 6. Poems, plays, and stories that are important.
a. novels b. literature c. blogs

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

engineer indigenous literature became

complex all over objects

1. The museum has many objects made by the _____ people of the Americas.
2. George Gustav Heye was a railroad _____.
3. Heye traveled _____ North and South America.
4. Tolstoy's book *War and Peace* is a good example of Russian _____.
5. The Heye collection _____ part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1990.
6. The Smithsonian Institution is not one museum. It is a _____ , or a group of nineteen museums and one zoo.
7. The museum has more than 800,000 Native American _____.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. object | a group of beautiful things |
| 2. literature | important books, poems or plays |
| 3. indigenous | everywhere |
| 4. all over | a group of buildings |
| 5. complex | thing |
| 6. collection | native |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. The National Museum of the American Indian is the largest museum complex in the world.
- ___ 2. Indigenous people live only in the Americas.
- ___ 3. George Gustav Heye was an electrical engineer.
- ___ 4. Mr. Heye started the Museum of the American Indian in the Bronx.
- ___ 5. His collection includes more than 800,000 objects.
- ___ 6. Mr. Heye's collection became part of the Smithsonian Institution in 2001.
- ___ 7. The National Museum of the American Indian is in downtown Manhattan.
- ___ 8. The museum is in the old U.S. Custom House.
- ___ 9. Tickets to the museum cost \$10 for adults and \$3 for children.



24. Three Quiet Places in Manhattan

Manhattan is one of the most exciting places on Earth. But on an island that has almost everything, peace and quiet are not easy to find. Here are three outdoor places in Manhattan that are peaceful and quiet. You can visit all of them for free.

Carl Schurz Park. Only 14.9 acres (6.0 hectares) in size, this beautiful park is next to the East River. Gracie Mansion (built in 1799), the home of the Mayor, is part of the park. Carl Schurz Park has walking paths, places to sit, a basketball court, a playground, many trees and gardens, and a beautiful promenade with great East River views. The main entrance is on East End Avenue between East 87th and East 88th Streets.

Paley Park is a tiny park on East 53rd Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues. What can you see there? A beautiful waterfall! When you sit in front of the waterfall, you feel like you are in another world. It is a perfect place to relax. Paley Park is open six days a week (it is closed on Sunday) from 8 AM to 7:45 PM.

Many people go there for lunch between noon and 2 PM, so it is better to visit at other times.

St. Luke's Garden is part of The Church of Saint Luke in the Fields in the West Village. This beautiful old garden has quiet paths, lots of grass, thousands of flowers and dozens of old trees. The entrance is at Hudson Street, between Barrow and Grove Streets. Walk under a sign that reads "St. Luke's School." Follow the path west and then south until you see the gate to the garden. It is open from 8 AM to 7 PM on weekdays, and on weekends from 8 AM until 4 PM. You can bring food. But no pets, smoking or alcohol.



The Promenade, Carl Schurz Park.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

___ 1. The place where you enter or go into a building, room or park.

- a. the entrance b. the exit c. the parking lot

___ 2. It is a path you walk on that is next to a river.

- a. a sidewalk b. a road c. a promenade

___ 3. To describe a place in the open air; not inside a building.

- a. outdoor b. indoor c. underground

___ 4. An outdoor place where children can play.

- a. a playground b. a store c. a school

___ 5. When something is very, very small.

- a. big b. huge c. tiny

___ 6. Where running water falls down from a high place.

- a. a river b. a stream c. a waterfall

___ 7. An animal friend that lives with you, like a dog or cat.

- a. a child b. a pet c. a neighbor

___ 8. A peaceful place with no noise.

- a. quiet b. pretty c. noisy

___ 9. When you stop feeling stressed, worried or nervous.

- a. you wake up b. you stress out c. you relax

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

pet entrance tiny promenade
playground outdoors waterfalls relax quiet

1. These three Manhattan parks are all very _____ and peaceful.
2. The _____ to Paley Park is on East 53rd Street.
3. Many people have a dog or a cat as a _____.
4. Another word for outside is _____.
5. Many parks in New York City have a _____ for kids.
6. Niagara, Iguassu and Victoria are names of famous _____.
7. When something is very small we can say that it is _____.
8. When you calm down and take it easy, you _____.
9. Carl Schurz Park has a beautiful _____ next to the East River.



The waterfall at Paley Park.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

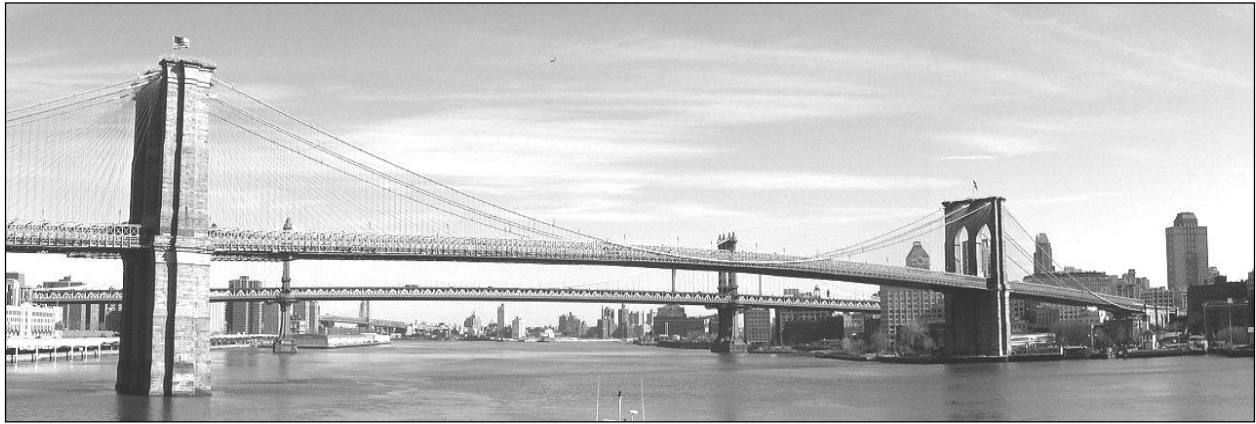
Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. Peace and quiet are easy to find in Manhattan.
- ___ 2. Paley Park has a big playground.
- ___ 3. Many people like to eat lunch in Paley Park.
- ___ 4. A promenade is a public walkway, usually along a river.
- ___ 5. The sound of a waterfall can help us relax.
- ___ 6. Times Square is a very quiet place.
- ___ 7. St. Luke's Garden is part of a church.
- ___ 8. The Governor of New York lives at Gracie Mansion.
- ___ 9. Carl Schurz Park has great views of the Hudson River.



A bird's eye view of St. Luke's Garden.

25. A Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge



The Brooklyn Bridge opened in 1883 to carry traffic (horses and wagons, trolley cars and pedestrians) between Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn over the East River.

The Brooklyn Bridge is a “must see” destination for visitors to New York City. It is part of New York City history. A walk across the bridge will give you a true New York experience. You can also cross the bridge by bicycle.

The best time to go is early in the morning on a sunny day. You can see the sun come up over Brooklyn in the East, and watch the sun light up the downtown Manhattan skyscrapers in the West. It is also beautiful in late afternoon or early evening. It is often very windy on the bridge, so wear warm clothes and hold on to your hat!

The Manhattan entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge is at Park Row and Centre Street, across from City Hall Park, east of City Hall; the closest subway stop is the City Hall “4,” “5” and “6” station.

If you are in Brooklyn, the bridge entrance is at Cadman Plaza East, where Boerum Place meets Tillary Street. If you take the subway, get off at the High Street “A” and “C” station, and walk to the pedestrian entrance of the bridge.

Brooklyn Bridge Trivia.

1. The Brooklyn Bridge took 14 years to build. 600 people (mostly immigrants) worked on it.
2. When it opened in 1883, it was the longest bridge in the world.
4. The Brooklyn Bridge is 5,989 feet (1825 m) long and 276.5 feet (84.3 m) high.
5. When the bridge opened, its name was “The New York and Brooklyn Bridge.”
It has been “The Brooklyn Bridge” since 1915.
6. More than 100,000 cars and trucks, along with 4000 pedestrians and almost 2600 bicycles, cross the Brooklyn Bridge every day.



The Brooklyn Bridge and Downtown Manhattan.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. Cars, trucks, buses, trains, bicycles and people that move along a road or a bridge.
a. a crowd b. traffic c. railroad tracks
- ___ 2. A person who walks along a road or sidewalk.
a. a pedestrian b. a driver c. a cyclist
- ___ 3. Going from one side to the other side or of something.
a. go along b. go under c. go across
- ___ 4. Very tall buildings in a city.
a. shopping malls b. skyscrapers c. apartment houses
- ___ 5. To keep something in your hand because you don't want to lose it.
a. hold on b. hold in c. hold off
- ___ 6. A vehicle that runs along the street on tracks. It's usually run by electricity today, but it was pulled by horses many years ago. Also called a *tram* or a *streetcar*.
a. a bus b. a trolley c. a taxi
- ___ 7. A place where the wind is very strong.
a. a cold place b. a rainy place c. a windy place
- ___ 8. Not far away; near.
a. close b. around c. distant

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

skyscrapers windy pedestrians cross

trolley traffic carries clothing

1. The Brooklyn Bridge _____ cars, trucks, pedestrians and bicycles.
2. You must look both ways before you _____ the street.
3. Another word for *tram* is _____.
4. _____ should not text when they cross the street.
5. It is good to wear warm _____ on a cold, windy day.
6. Lower Manhattan is famous for its very tall _____.
7. The Brooklyn Bridge can be a very _____ place.
8. Too many cars cause big _____ problems in many large cities.

C. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. The Brooklyn Bridge connects Brooklyn and Queens.
- ___ 2. In the late 1800s, people crossed the bridge on horses and wagons.
- ___ 3. Today, you must take a train if you want cross the Brooklyn Bridge.
- ___ 4. You can ride a bicycle on the Brooklyn Bridge.
- ___ 5. The Manhattan entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge is near City Hall Park.
- ___ 6. The Brooklyn Bridge has great views of Manhattan.
- ___ 7. There is no wind on the Brooklyn Bridge.
- ___ 8. Lower Manhattan has many skyscrapers.

26. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) opened in 1910. It is 52 acres (21 hectares) in size, and is one of the most important botanical gardens in the United States. It is close to Manhattan and you can get there by subway. Almost one million people visit the BBG every year, especially in the spring. Many people like to get married there!

The BBG has several special collections and gardens. Its flowering cherry tree (*sakura*) collection is the largest and most diverse outside Japan. The collection includes more than 220 cherry trees of 42 different varieties. Some of the trees are very old. The BBG has a cherry blossom festival (*Sakura Matsuri*) in late April.

The BBG also has the largest miniature *bonsai* tree collection in the United States.

The Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden (see photo) is the first Japanese garden that is part of an American public garden.



Other important gardens are the Cranford Rose Garden, with over 1400 different varieties of roses; the

Shakespeare Garden; the Native Flora Garden with plants that are indigenous (local) to New York; the Steinhart Conservatory with three large indoor plant collections; the Japanese Tree Peony Garden; and the Children's Garden, the oldest garden for children in the world.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a great place to enjoy a quiet day with friends and family. You can bring your camera, but you cannot bring food or pets. There are two gift shops, an art gallery, a restaurant, a café and a new Visitor Center.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. A tree that grows flowers.
a. a Christmas tree b. a flowering tree c. a pine tree
- ___ 2. Something (or someone) that is local or native to a place.
a. indigenous b. popular c. foreign
- ___ 3. Something that is very small or tiny.
a. large b. awesome c. miniature
- ___ 4. A very small tree in a pot that cannot grow to normal size.
a. an orchid b. a vine c. a bonsai
- ___ 5. Something of serious value.
a. important b. easy c. cheap
- ___ 6. It is a type of party or happy celebration.
a. a memorial b. an observance c. a festival
- ___ 7. A special kind of flower, tree or other plant.
a. a variety b. a group c. a subject
- ___ 8. Things that are different from each other.
a. diverse b. same c. inclusive

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

miniature flowering indigenous bonsai

important varieties festival

1. A bonsai is a kind of _____ tree.
2. If something is native or local to a place, it is _____ to that place.
3. There are many different _____ of cherry trees.
4. The BBG's _____ cherry tree collection is the largest outside of Japan.
5. A _____ is a miniature tree (mostly from Japan) that grows in a pot.
6. The BBG's cherry blossom _____ is at the end of April.
7. The BBG is one of the most _____ botanical gardens in the U.S.A.



A miniature Japanese pine.

C.V. Starr Bonsai Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

C. Circle the word that does not belong.

	A	B	C
1.	pine	bonsai	peony
2.	peach tree	cherry tree	pine tree
3.	small	indigenous	miniature
4.	roses	apples	daisies
5.	diverse	large	different
6.	imported	local	indigenous
7.	celebration	party	quiz



Tree peony – Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

27. The Staten Island Ferry

The Staten Island Ferry travels 5.2 miles (8.4 km) between Manhattan and Staten Island. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It makes two to four trips an hour. The Staten Island Ferry is free. You pay nothing!

The Staten Island Ferry travels between Whitehall Terminal in Lower Manhattan and St. George Terminal in St. George, Staten Island. There are connections to trains and buses at each terminal. The trip on the ferry takes about 20-25 minutes.

Staten Island residents like the ferry because there are no other direct transit connections between Staten Island and Manhattan, where many Staten Islanders work and shop.

Visitors to NYC like the ferry because it is a quiet “escape” from high-energy Manhattan. Plus, the ferry has great views of Lower Manhattan and New Jersey, the Brooklyn Bridge, Governors Island, the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge, and especially the Statue of Liberty.

Passengers like to sit outside on the right when they go to Staten Island, or stand at the front (known as the *bow*) or the back (called the *stern*) of the boat for the best views. When the ferry arrives at St. George Terminal (Staten Island), all passengers must leave the ferry before they return to Manhattan.



The trip can be windy and cool, even during the summer. It is good to wear warm clothing, or you can sit inside the boat. You can buy beverages and snacks on the ferry and at the terminals.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. When something (or someone) goes from one place to another.
a. swims b. transports c. travels
- ___ 2. A boat that travels between two places and usually carries people and cars.
a. a ferry b. a shuttle bus c. a tour boat
- ___ 3. When something (like a ferry, subway system or machine) works or runs.
a. operates b. validates c. moves
- ___ 4. A person who travels from one place to another in a bus, train, plane or boat.
a. a driver b. a passenger c. an operator
- ___ 5. When you get on a bus or subway after you ride on the ferry.
a. make a scene b. make a connection c. make a career
- ___ 6. When you get away from something that is not safe or pleasant.
a. an escape b. an appointment c. a job interview
- ___ 7. A building where a boat, train or bus usually stops and where passengers can get on and off. It is usually the first station where you get on, or the last station where you get off.
a. a bus stop b. a shopping mall c. a terminal
- ___ 8. It is something you drink.
a. a snack b. a beverage c. a breakfast cereal

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

connections trip view beverage escape

terminal passengers operates

1. The Staten Island Ferry carries _____ , cars and trucks between
Manhattan and Staten Island.
2. The ferry _____ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
3. There are no other direct transit _____ between Staten Island and Manhattan.
4. Coffee is a very popular _____ in New York City.
5. There are connections to trains and buses at each ferry _____.
6. The _____ between Staten Island and Manhattan takes 20 minutes.
7. A ride on the Staten Island ferry is a pleasant _____ from city noise.
8. You can have a great _____ of the Statue of Liberty from the Staten Island Ferry.



A view of the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges from the Staten Island Ferry.

C. Which words go together? Connect them with a line.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. beverages | first (or final) station |
| 2. ferry | back of a boat |
| 3. passenger | front of a boat |
| 4. bow (n.) | passenger boat |
| 5. stern (n.) | drinks |
| 6. terminal | traveler |

D. True or False?

Some of these following statements are true and some are not true (false).

Write a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- ___ 1. The Staten Island Ferry travels 52 miles (84 km) between Manhattan and Staten Island.
- ___ 2. The Staten Island Ferry is free of charge.
- ___ 3. A person who lives in Staten Island is a tourist.
- ___ 4. A ride on the ferry offers a quiet escape from high-energy Manhattan.
- ___ 5. When you arrive at St. George Terminal, you can stay on the ferry for the return trip to Manhattan.
- ___ 6. There are many places to shop on the Staten Island Ferry.
- ___ 7. The trip on the ferry can be cool and windy, even during the summer.

28. Study English in NYC

If you want to study English, New York City is the place to be. As the largest city in the United States, New York has everything: art, music, theater, parks, beaches, museums, libraries, restaurants, night clubs, coffee shops, interesting neighborhoods and great shopping.



People from all over the world visit and live here, so you can study with students from many different countries. With a 24-hour subway and bus system, and many restaurants and other places that are open all night, you will see why people call New York “the city that never sleeps.”

Where to study? If you have money, there are dozens of good private schools in New York City that offer classes in ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages). Many private colleges and universities have ESOL classes too. You must pay for these classes. They usually cost \$700 to \$1200 or more.

Many public colleges and universities in New York City- such as the City University of New York (CUNY)—have ESOL classes. They are not free, but they cost less than classes at private language schools.

Several government departments, like the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and *We Speak NYC* offer free English classes to people who live here. And New York City’s three public library systems- the New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Library- have free English classes (including conversation classes) at their adult learning centers and at many branch libraries.

There are local organizations in many New York City neighborhoods (they are called *community-based organizations* or *CBOs*) that have free English programs for adults. They are open to all adults and they are free. You can find some of these programs on the last page of this chapter. You can also look for them online.

Vocabulary note.

What's the difference between a *college* and a *university*? In the United States, a college offers a collection of degrees in one area of study, while a university is a group of colleges (or schools). When you go to a university, you will graduate from one of their colleges, such as the business college or the nursing school.

Exercises

Some of the words below have different meanings. We will give only the meanings you need for this chapter.

A. Choose the word that matches each definition.

- ___ 1. People who control and make decisions for a country, state or city.
a. the mafia b. the organization c. the government
- ___ 2. A school that the government does not pay for (or control).
a. a private school b. a public school c. a new school
- ___ 3. A school that gets money from and is controlled by the government.
a. a private school b. a public school c. a new school
- ___ 4. A group of people who live in the same town or neighborhood.
a. a tribe b. a family c. a community
- ___ 5. When you give someone the chance to accept or take something.
a. to sell b. to offer c. to protect
- ___ 6. A company, club or school that people start so that they can do something.
a. an organization b. a product c. a blog

B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

private college university public
offer government organizations community

1. Many libraries in New York City _____ free English classes.
2. You can pay a lot of money to go to a _____ English school.
3. Bensonhurst in Brooklyn is a _____ of people from many countries.
4. _____ schools and libraries get money from the government.
5. Many neighborhood _____ have free English classes for immigrants.
6. A _____ gives degrees and certificates in one or two areas of study.
7. A _____ is a group of schools or colleges.
8. Some _____ departments, like the NYC Department of Education, have free English classes for adults.



A place to learn English: The Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

Study English in New York City: Links

New York State Education Department, Adult Career and Continuing Ed Services

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/>

NYC Department of Education, Adult Education

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/multilingual-learners/english-language-learners>

NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/reading-writing.page>

We Speak NYC

<https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

The City University of New York (CUNY)

<http://www2.cuny.edu/>

The New York Public Library (including Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island)

<https://www.nypl.org/events/classes/english>

Queens Public Library

<https://www.queenslibrary.org/programs-activities/new-americans/learn-english>

Brooklyn Public Library

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/adult-learning>

ESL Directory: List of Places that Offer English Classes

<https://www.esldirectory.com/esl-program-search/usa/new-york/>

SCRIBD: List of free and low cost English classes in Manhattan (with links to classes in other boroughs)

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/30858100/Manhattan-Free-and-Low-Cost-English-Classes-1>

Talk Together

Here are some questions for classroom conversations.

1. Welcome to New York City

1. Do you like big cities? Why or why not?
2. What are some good things about a big city?
3. What are some bad things about a big city?
4. Why do so many people like to visit New York City?
5. Why do we call New York “the city of immigrants?”

2. New York’s First People

1. Who were the first people to live in your home town or city?
2. What kinds of animals live in a forest?
3. Many Lenape lived near the water. Why?
4. When the Lenape lived here, do you think it was a nice place to live?
5. Would you like to live in a Lenape home? Why or why not?

3. Old New York (1524-1898)

1. Why did European explorers visit what is now New York?
2. Who were the first explorers to arrive from Europe?
3. What language did the first Europeans speak?
4. What is a colony?
5. Only one of NYC’s boroughs has a Lenape name. Which one is it?

4. Manhattan

1. What kinds of entertainment do you like?
2. Where do you like to shop for clothes?
3. Do you commute to work or school? How do you get there?
4. What famous places in Manhattan would you like to see?
5. What Manhattan museum would you like to visit?

5. Brooklyn

1. Talk about your neighborhood. What do you like / dislike about it?
2. Would you like to live in a historic neighborhood or a multicultural neighborhood?
Why?
3. What do you like to do when you go to the beach?
4. Why is a multicultural neighborhood interesting?
5. How can a bridge change a city or town?

6. Queens

1. Why did people start to move to Queens in 1909?
2. Why do people call Queens “the most diverse place in the world”?
3. How many airports are in Queens? What are they?
4. What is Queens’ biggest beach? How can you get there?
5. Where in Queens can you watch a professional baseball game?

7. The Bronx

1. What kinds of animals lived in the Bronx before the Europeans arrived?
2. What kinds of animals can you see in a zoo?
3. What can you see at a botanical garden?
4. Which do you like to visit more: a forest or a beach? Why?
5. Hip-hop music is from the Bronx. What is your favorite kind of music?

8. Staten Island

1. What is the fastest way to get to Staten Island from Manhattan?
2. Are there any museums on Staten Island? What are they?
3. Is Staten Island more or less quiet than Manhattan? Why?
4. Do you like to shop at a mall or at small stores? Talk about it.
5. Staten Island has two famous places that are about Asian culture. What are they?

9. The New York City Subway

1. What kind of public transportation system do you have in your city or town?
2. How is the NYC subway the same as or different than the subway (or metro) system in your town or city?
3. How do people pay for a subway ride in NYC? Is this a good way to pay?
4. Why is the subway important to NYC residents?
5. How do you travel to English class?

10. Riding the Subway

1. How many times a week do you use public transportation? Where do you go?
2. If you have a subway or metro in your home city, how do you pay for a ride?
3. What is more important: clean subway cars, clean stations or trains that are not late?
4. What can happen when a subway or metro system is very old?
5. Do you like to travel by subway? Why or why not?

11. Riding the Bus

1. How many times a week do you ride in a bus?
2. Is bus service good where you live?
3. Do you live near a bus route? Where does it go?
4. Do the buses near your home have a convenient schedule?
5. Do you like to travel by bus? Why?

12. New York Says “Hi” to You!

1. Do you think that people in New York are friendly?
2. Are people polite in your country?
3. Do you shake hands with people when you say hello or goodbye to them?
4. When is it good to be informal?
5. How can a person be polite to others?

13. Stay Safe

1. Is your city safe?
2. What are some problems tourists have when they visit a new city?
3. Do people obey traffic rules in your city?
4. Where is it best to use an ATM machine?
5. Is texting in the street safe or dangerous?

14. Emergency 911 and Non-Emergency 311

1. Does your home country or city have a special telephone number for emergencies?
2. What is an emergency?
3. What is a non-emergency?
4. Do you have experience with an emergency?
5. What do you do when a person has big chest pain?

15. Finding a Good Restaurant

1. Did you ever get sick after eating bad food? Where?
2. Should the government inspect restaurants and cafés?
3. Are letter grades in restaurants important to you?
4. How can people get sick when they eat?
5. Would you eat at a “B” restaurant in New York City?

16. Tipping

1. Is tipping normal in your country? How?
2. Do you like the idea of tipping? Talk about it.
3. Who should you give a tip to in New York City?
4. Should tips be a part of the bill, or should they be extra?
5. Should you leave a tip at a coffee shop?

17. Public Libraries in New York City

1. Do you have good public libraries in your city?
2. Do you go to the library? Why or why not?

3. What can you do at a library in New York City?
4. What can you take home with you if you have a library card?
5. What kinds of programs can you find at public libraries in NYC?

18. Music, Theater and Dance!

1. Have you seen a play or musical? Talk about it.
2. What do you like more: a musical or a play?
3. Do you have a favorite actor or singer? Who?
4. What kind of music do you like best?
5. Do you like to go to a club? What kind?

19. Times Square

1. What do you like more: a quiet place or an exciting place?
2. What can you do at Times Square?
3. Is there a place like Times Square in your hometown?
4. Why do tourists like to visit Times Square?
5. Do you want to go to Times Square on New Year's Eve? Why or why not?

20. Central Park

1. Why is Central Park important to people who live and work in Manhattan?
2. What do you like to do when you visit a park?
3. What can children do in Central Park?
4. What kinds of sports can people play in Central Park?
5. What kinds of animals can you find in Central Park?

21. The High Line

1. What is the High Line?
2. What can you do there?
3. How do you like to relax?
4. Do you like "people watching?" Why or why not?
5. What do you like more: city views or river views?

22. The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1. Have you ever visited an art museum? Talk about it.
2. What do you like to see at an art museum?
3. Do you like modern art? Why or why not?
4. What collections at the Met are interesting for you?
5. What do you think you can buy at a museum store?

23. The National Museum of the American Indian

1. What is the National Museum of the American Indian about?
2. What can you see there?
3. Can you see everything in the Heye collection at this museum?
4. What Native American group lived in what is now New York City?
5. Do you collect things? What?

24. Three Quiet Places in Manhattan

1. Do you think Manhattan is stressful or relaxing?
2. What can children do at Carl Schurz Park?
3. Would you like to live at Gracie Mansion? Why or why not?
4. How do you feel when you are near a waterfall?
5. Of the three parks in this chapter, which would you like to visit most? Why?

25. A Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge

1. Why is the Brooklyn Bridge important?
2. Would you like to walk across the Brooklyn Bridge? Why or why not?
3. What can you see from the Brooklyn Bridge?
4. Do you have a favorite bridge in your home city or town? Talk about it.
5. Do you like bridges?

26. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden

1. What can you see at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden?
2. What kinds of animals live in a botanic garden?

3. What do you think is special about a Japanese garden?
4. Do you like flowers? What is your favorite kind of flower?
5. What do you think you can buy at a botanic garden shop?

27. The Staten Island Ferry

1. Have you ever taken a trip on a ferry? Talk about it.
2. What can you see from a Staten Island ferry boat?
3. When would you sit outside? When would you sit inside?
4. Would a trip on the Staten Island Ferry be fun at night? Why?
5. If you took a trip on the Staten Island Ferry, who would you go with? Talk about it.

28. Study English in NYC

1. Why is New York City a good place to study English?
2. What are the differences between a *public* school and a *private* school?
3. What kinds of schools can you go to if you have money?
4. What kinds of schools can you go to for free?
5. How can you improve your English?



A view of Lower Manhattan from Brooklyn.

NYC Links

1. Welcome to New York City!

NYC & Company: nycgo.com

NYC Government Official Website: nyc.gov

Time Out New York: timeout.com/newyork

New York State: NY.com

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation: nycgovparks.org

4. Manhattan

Statue of Liberty: nps.gov/stli

5. Brooklyn

Coney Island USA: coneyisland.com

Prospect Park: prospectpark.org

6. Queens

The Queens Tourism Council: itsinqueens.com

7. The Bronx

The Bronx: ilovethebronx.com

City Island: cityisland.com/index.html

The Bronx Zoo: bronxzoo.com/

New York Botanical Garden: nybg.org

8. Staten Island

Snug Harbor: snug-harbor.org

Historic Richmond Town: historicrichmondtown.org

The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art: tibetanmuseum.org

The Staten Island Ferry: siferry.com/

9. The New York City Subway

Metropolitan Transportation Authority: mta.info

10. Riding the Subway

Metropolitan Transportation Authority: mta.info

11. Riding the Bus

Metropolitan Transportation Authority: mta.info

12. New York City Says Hi to You!

Nathan W. Pyle's Basic Tips and Etiquette: wisebread.com/nyc-basic-tips-and-etiquette

14. Emergency 911 and Non-Emergency 311

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/>

15. How to Find a Good Restaurant

Restaurant Grades: [nyc.gov](https://nyc.gov/search?q=restaurant%20grades) > search “restaurant grades”

17. Public Libraries in NYC

Brooklyn Public Library: bklynlibrary.org/

New York Public Library: nypl.org

Queens Library: queenslibrary.org.

Culture Pass (for NYC library card holders): culturepass.nyc

18. Theater, Music and Dance!

TKTS: tdf.org/nyc/81/TKTS-Live

Off-Broadway theaters: offbroadway.org

19: Times Square

Times Square Official Website: timessquarenyc.org

20. Central Park

Central Park Conservancy: centralparknyc.org/

21. The High Line

Friends of the High Line: thehighline.org/

22. The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: metmuseum.org

23. The National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian: americanindian.si.edu/

24: Three Quiet Places in Manhattan

Cark Schurz Park Conservancy: carlschurzparknyc.org

Paley Park: paleypark.org/

St. Luke’s Garden: stlukeinthefields.org

25. A Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge

Brooklyn Bridge Park: brooklynbridgepark.org

26. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden: bbg.org

27. The Staten Island Ferry

The Staten Island Ferry: siferry.com/

Answer Key to Exercises

1. Welcome to New York City!

- A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. b; 5. a; 6. c; 7. a; 8. b; 9. c
- B. 1. immigrant; 2. operates; 3. different; 4. boroughs; 5. port; 6. cultural; 7. largest;
8. financial
- C. 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. F

2. New York City's First People

- A. 1. b; 2. c; 3. a; 4. c; 5. a; 6. b; 7. c; 8. c
- B. 1. bark; 2. turkey; 3. villages; 4. Dutch; 5. Indian; 6. hills; 7. arrive; 8. forest;
9. tobacco
- C. *Singular*: deer, fish, person, turkey, wolf, mountain lion
Plural: deer, fish, people, turkeys, wolves, mountain lions

3. Old New York: 1524-1898

- A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. b; 4. c; 5. a; 6. c; 7. b; 8. a
- B. 1. colony; 2. shortcut; 3. explorer; 4. create; 5. trading company; 6. capital;
7. connects; 8. separate
- C. 1. Verrazzano; 2. Henry Hudson; 3. \$26; 4. New Amsterdam; 5. 1664; 6. 1898
- D. a. 4; b. 3; c. 7; d. 1; e. 6; f. 5; g. 2

4. Manhattan

- A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. a; 5. c; 6. b; 7. a; 8. c; 9. b
- B. 1. commuter; 2. department store; 3. entertainment; 4. headquarters;
5. famous; 6. attraction; 7. media; 8. landmark; 9. increase
- C. 1. radio / television/ newspapers; 2. schools and universities; 3. most important
office; 4. movies/ theater/ dance; 5. something interesting to see and do
- D. 1. Macy's, Bloomingdale's; 2. the Metropolitan Museum, the American Museum of
Natural History, the Guggenheim Museum, the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum,

the Museum of Modern Art; 3. Columbia University, New York University, the Fashion Institute of Technology; 4. 1.6 million; 5. Central Park; 6. Wall; 7. Times Square, Central Park, Grand Central Terminal

5. Brooklyn

- A. 1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. c; 5. a; 6. a; 7. b; 8. c
- B. 1. multicultural; 2. neighborhood; 3. historic; 4. popular; 5. villages; 6. amusement park; 7. Brooklynite; 8. fought
- C. 1. a; 2. c; 3. c; 4. c; 5. d; 6. a

6. Queens

- A. 1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. c; 5. b; 6. a; 7. c; 8. a
- B. 1. celebration; 2. boardwalk; 3. diverse; 4. ferry; 5. flights; 6. cuisine; 7. excellent
- C. 1. different; 2. party; 3. trip by airplane; 4. go from one place to another to live; 5. type/style of food
- D. 1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F

7. The Bronx

- A. 1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b; 5. a; 6. c; 7. b; 8. a
- B. 1. northern; 2. hip-hop; 3. mountain lion; 4. baseball; 5. views; 6. suburbs; 7. residents; 8. several
- C. 1. a; 2. a; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c; 6. a; 7. c; 8. a; 9. a

8. Staten Island

- A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. c; 4. b; 5. b; 6. c; 7. b; 8. c; 9. a
- B. 1. monastery; 2. suburban; 3. connects; 4. destination; 5. Museum; 6. Approximately; 7. gallery; 8. interested
- C. 1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

9. The New York City Subway

- A. 1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. c; 5. c; 6. a; 7. b; 8. b; 9. a
- B. 1. passenger; 2. elevated; 3. underground; 4. separate; 5. hurricane; 6. run;
7. fare; 8. system; 9. tracks
- C. 1. sunny; 2. store; 3. airplane; 4. LGA; 5. runner; 6. Newark
- D. 1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T

10. Riding the Subway

- A. 1. a; 2. b; 3. c; 4. a; 5. b; 6. c; 7. a; 8. b
- B. 1. passenger; 2. turnstile; 3. swipe; 4. express; 5. local;
6. repairs; 7. conductor/ announcement; 8. route
- C. 1. conductor; 2. underground; 3. rider; 4. study; 5. unlimited
- D. 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T

11. Riding the Bus

- A. 1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. c; 5. c; 6. a; 7. b; 8. a; 9. c
- B. 1. enter; 2. exit; 3. express; 4. usually; 5. uptown; 6. downtown;
7. everywhere; 8. operate; 9. front
- C. 1. Express; 2. direction / way; 3. forward; 4. get in or on; 5. rear;
6. get out or off
- D. 1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

12. New York City Says “Hi” to You!

- A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. b; 4. c; 5. a; 6. b; 7. a; 8. b; 9. a
- B. 1. polite; 2. friendly; 3. repeat; 4. bump; 5. formal; 6. informal; 7. accident;
8. someone
- C. 1. T; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F; 5. F; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F

13. Stay Safe

- A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. b; 4. a; 5. b; 6. a; 7. c; 8. b; 9. a
- B. 1. rare; 2. tips; 3. alone; 4. text / cross; 5. carry / safe (secure); 6. carry (keep);
7. emergency; 8. secure; 9. enjoyable
- C. 1. advice / suggestions; 2. obey / respect; 3. doesn't happen often; 4. be careful;
5. transport / bring / take; 6. secure / no danger
- D. 1. T; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F; 5. F; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

14. Emergency 911 and Non-Emergency 311

- A. 1. a; 2. c; 3. a; 4. a; 5. b; 6. c; 7. b; 8. a
- B. 1. robbery; 2. overdose; 3. poisoning; 4. missing person; 5. suspicious;
6. fight / serious; 7. report; 8. emergency; 9. dangerous
- C. 1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T; 9. T

15. Finding a Good Restaurant

- A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. a; 4. c; 5. c; 6. b; 7. c; 8. b; 9. a
- B. 1. guidebook; 2. insects; 3. grade; 4. prepare; 5. sidewalk; 6. inspection;
7. post / sign; 8. eat out; 9. safe
- C. 1. flies / bugs; 2. mice / rats; 3. free from harm or danger; 4. looking at
something very closely; 5. a piece of paper with pictures and/or words
- D. 1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. T

16. Tipping

- A. 1. b; 2. b; 3. a; 4. a; 5. c; 6. c; 7. b; 8. a; 9. b
- B. 1. tip / bill; 2. voluntary; 3. normal; 4. excellent; 5. concierge; 6. request;
7. fast food; 8. server; 9. cash register
- C. 1. gratuity; 2. customer; 3. usual / common; 4. check; 5. nasty / impolite;
6. waiter / waitress
- D. 1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. T; 8. T; 9. T
- E. 1. c; 2. b; 3. c; 4. c

17. Public Libraries in New York City

- A. 1. b; 2. c; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c; 6. a; 7. c; 8. a
B. 1. public; 2. branch; 3. research; 4. manuscript; 5. librarian; 6. rare; 7. system
C. 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F

18. Theater, Music and Dance!

- A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. a; 5. b; 6. c; 7. b; 8. a
B. 1. capital; 2. musical; 3. drama; 4. performer; 5. musician; 6. composer;
7. concert; 8. orchestra; 9. comedy; 10. birthplace
C. 1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F

19. Times Square

- A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. c; 5. b; 6. c; 7. a; 8. a; 9. c
B. 1. exciting; 2. interesting; 3. downtown; 4. mayor; 5. dinner; 6. destination;
7. entertainment; 8. area
C. 1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. T
D. 1. b; 2. b; 3. c; 4. a

20. Central Park

- A. 1. a; 2. b; 3. c; 4. b; 5. a; 6. c; 7. c; 8. b
B. 1. crowded; 2. approximately; 3. playgrounds; 4. shrub; 5. paradise; 6. meadow;
7. path; 8. country
C. 1. 1958 > 1858; 2. farm > paradise; 3. week > year; 4. dozens > thousands;
5. Prospect > Central

21. The High Line

- A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c; 6. b; 7. a; 8. c; 9. a
B. 1. unique; 2. art gallery; 3. views; 4. species; 5. enjoy; 6. dozen; 7. close;
8. above; 9. picnic; 10. popular
C. 1. a “family” of plants or animals; 2. near; 3. have fun; 4. twelve; 5. only one;

6. many people like

D. 1. underground > elevated; 2. winter > summer; 3. Railroad > Meatpacking;

4. isn't > is; \$5 > free

22. The Metropolitan Museum of Art

A. 1. c; 2. b; 3. c; 4. a; 5. c; 6. b; 7. c; 8. c; 9. b

B. 1. collection; 2. paintings; 3. gardens; 4. costumes; 5. drawings; 6. ancient;

7. sculpture; 8. print; 9. armor

C. 1. new; 2. very old; 3. art made with paint; 4. fancy clothing; 5. protection for soldiers;

6. art objects that are both beautiful and useful

D. 1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

23. The National Museum of the American Indian

A. 1. a; 2. b; 3. c; 4. b; 5. a; 6. b

B. 1. indigenous; 2. engineer; 3. all over; 4. literature; 5. became; 6. complex;

7. objects

C. 1. thing; 2. important books, poems or plays; 3. native; 4. everywhere;

5. a group of buildings; 6. a group of beautiful things

D. 1. F; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. F

24. Three Quiet Places in Manhattan

A. 1. a; 2. c; 3. a; 4. a; 5. c; 6. c; 7. b; 8. a; 9. c

B. 1. quiet; 2. entrance; 3. pet; 4. outdoors; 5. playground; 6. waterfalls;

7. tiny; 8. relax; 9. promenade

C. 1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. F

25. A Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge

A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. b; 5. a; 6. b; 7. c; 8. a

B. 1. carries; 2. cross; 3. trolley; 4. Pedestrians; 5. clothing; 6. skyscrapers;

7. windy; 8. traffic

C. 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T

26. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden

A. 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. c; 5. a; 6. c; 7. a; 8. a

B. 1. miniature; 2. indigenous; 3. varieties; 4. flowering; 5. bonsai; 6. festival;
7. important

C. 1. peony; 2. pine tree; 3. indigenous; 4. apples; 5. large; 6. imported; 7. quiz

27. The Staten Island Ferry

A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. a; 4. b; 5. b; 6. a; 7. c; 8. b

B. 1. passengers; 2. operates; 3. connections; 4. beverage; 5. terminal; 6. trip;
7. escape; 8. view

C. 1. drinks; 2. passenger boat; 3. traveler; 4. front of a boat; 5. back of a boat;
6. first (or final) station

D. 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. F

28. Study English in NYC

A. 1. c; 2. a; 3. b; 4. c; 5. b; 6. a

B. 1. offer; 2. private; 3. community; 4. Public; 5. organizations; 6. college;
7. university; 8. government



The East River between Manhattan and Roosevelt Island, looking north.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank the following people for their suggestions, corrections and inspiration during the preparation of this book: Judith L. Aissen, Marina Bleyer, Che Jung Chang, Robert Hammel, Valentina Kharenko, Hideo Sakata and Shi-Wei Shei. I am also grateful to the students at the Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst for reading the chapters, doing the exercises, and offering their valuable suggestions. Any spelling, typographical or other errors are the responsibility of the author.

I would also like to thank the following for the use of their photos and drawings: Nick Amoscato (Brooklyn Skyline), Fritz Geller-Grimm (Central Park), Che Jung Chang (Central Park), Simon Fieldhouse / Wikipedia (Metropolitan Museum of Art) and Shi-Wei Shei (author photo). Other images were either found uncredited or are in the Public Domain. The photo of the Statue of Liberty that appears on the title page and the photos on pages 2, 5, 14, 17, 20, 21, 26, 28, 30, 33, 35, 38, 39, 42, 46, 58, 59, 63, 64, 70, 71, 77, 79, 82, 83, 88, 92, 97, 99, 101, 102, 105, 107, 108, 109, 111, 115, 123 and 132 were taken by the author.

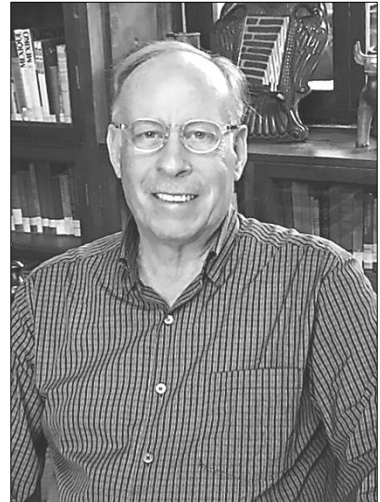
If any required acknowledgments have been omitted, or any rights overlooked, it is unintentional and forgiveness is requested. If notified, the author will be happy to rectify any omissions.

Nathaniel Altman

About the Author

Nathaniel Altman was born in Manhattan and spent his early years in the Bronx. A resident of Brooklyn since 1978, he is a writer, teacher and consultant who has authored more than 20 books on spirituality, peace studies, healthy diets, alternative healing, nature and relationships.

A 1971 graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Nathaniel served as a faculty member and registrar at the Krotona School of Theosophy in Ojai, California. He received a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA) from Cambridge English Language Assessment in 2003.



He was an ESOL instructor at the Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst from 2003-2016, which included several years as Staff Developer and Curriculum Developer. He also taught classes for the innovative *English for Your Health* program at Queens Library from 2008-2012. Now retired from teaching, Nathaniel continues to write and travel.

Nathaniel's books have appeared in more than 20 foreign language editions. His titles include *The Nonviolent Revolution*, (Element Books, 1988 and Gaupo Publishing, 2017), *Sacred Trees* (Sierra Club Books, 1995; Sterling Publishing, 2000; Gaupo Publishing, 2017), *The Honey Prescription* (Healing Arts, 2010), *The New Oxygen Prescription* (Healing Arts, 2017) *Taiwan: 50 Things You Didn't Know* (Gaupo Publishing, 2024) and *The Genealogy of Plant Foods* (Healing Arts, 2026).

Nathaniel has appeared on over 150 radio and television programs throughout the United States, Australia, Latin America and Europe. His articles have appeared in a variety of publications, including *USA Today*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The Sun*, *Natural Health*, *Well Being*, *Free Spirit*, *The Townsend Letter*, *New Life* and *Vegetarian Times*.

His website is: www.nathanielaltman.com

Also in this series

New York:
City of Opportunity
A Big Apple Reader for Intermediate
and Advanced Students of ESOL.

Fourth edition, 2026.



Nathaniel Altman



Gaupo Publishing ESOL
Brooklyn, New York
www.gaupo.net

