

AMISH LIFESTYLE

Amish, often referred to as a plain people, maintain a very distinct lifestyle. They use few modern conveniences and keep a horse and buggy* as their means of conveyance*. Buggies are a common sight in Lancaster as they clip-clop down country roads as well as more travelled routes.

Amish are easily identified by their manner of dressing, which, they feel, is a symbol of their separation from the world and a constant reminder of their commitment to God and their religion.

Men and boys wear dark suits, coats without lapels*, pastel-coloured shirts, a straw or black broad-brimmed hat and black shoes. Women wear skirts with long sleeves and high necks topped off with caps and white or black aprons. They also wear select pastel colours. Wire hook-and-eye fasteners, straight pins and velcro* are used as fasteners. Women and men do not wear jewellery or embellishments such as buttons (although, some buttons are worn on winter coats) on their clothes in order to maintain humility and disavow* anything that might gain them recognition, such as distinctive dress. Likewise, Amish do not style their hair, wear makeup, manufactured clothing or anything to alter God's creation.

Black is the dominating colour for Amish life but, ironically, Amish are buried in white. Married men wear a beard. Moustaches are taboo since they were once associated with military officers and Amish are pacifists. Men keep their hair trimmed in a single layer, unparted cut that dips to the earlobe on the sides and above the collar in the back of the head.

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**buggy=a small car, usually with no roof, which is designed for driving on rough ground*

** conveyance =a vehicle or method of transport*

**lapel= one of the two parts at the front of a coat or jacket that are folded back on each side below the collar*

**Velcro= special cloth material having two rough surfaces that stick together when pressed, used for fastening clothing and other objects*

**disavow=deny*

- **Answer the following questions**

- a. Why are Amish referred to as plain people?
- b. When do Amish people wear clothes in white?
- c. Why do they not wear luxurious things?
 - **What do you think** about fashion and models?

TOBACCO ADVERTS

A recent cigarette advert consisted of a dull picture of a motorcycle. Only one clue told consumers which brand to buy: the motorcycle was red, the colour of Marlboro. Such adverts may puzzle or bore most people, but they anger anti-smoking groups, which argue that smoking is a health risk that should be prohibited.

Next week, The British Parliament will vote on a ban for all cigarette advertising. Ministers wish to cut smoking by children under 16 years by a third by 1998. Their proposal is to make existing rules tighter.

However, there is no hard evidence that advertising has much effect on total consumption. Whereas in some countries prohibitions are followed by a fall in consumption, in others there seems to be an increase in smoking.

Many people believe there are better ways to prevent smoking. Tax increases or to enforce the law to prevent cigarette sales to teenagers under sixteen may have more effect than restrictions on advertising.

- **What's the main idea of the text? Do you agree or not with the text?**
- **Comment upon:** Cigarette smoking should be forbidden in all public places.

MOTHERING MOCKED

Your article "Power lunches with my two-year-old" (City +, 8 April) reminded me of the contract babies I saw in Philadelphia in 1995.

Six-week-old infants were brought into a superbly equipped crèche in the basement of an office block. They were also brought in to the crèche at weekends and when they were sick, so that their working mothers could have time off. The nurse became their mother, and the crèche home. These children suffered severe emotional distress at the age of three when they had to leave. When I questioned why such women wanted children at all, I was told that many of them didn't want a baby; it was the men who wanted to be fathers and promised to finance the excellent childcare from six weeks if the women would agree to give birth. This makes a mockery of mothering. Power lunches make a mockery of fathering.

From August this year, Norway plans to pay mothers to stay at home with their 0-2 year olds on condition that they do not use a public daycare centre. It is time the UK followed this example and set a true value, financial and social, on the time a mother spends caring for her young children at home. (Sue Clasen, Chairman, Pershore, Worcestershire)

- **Answer the following questions**
 - a. When were infants taken into crèches?
 - b. Why were infants taken into crèches?
 - c. Did these mothers want to have babies? Why did they have them?
 - What kind of father/mother would you like to be?

THE USE OF ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL TONGUE IS BOOMING AND SO IS CONCERN

THALWIL, Switzerland – In the tall stucco schoolhouse here its big, airy classrooms and views of Lake Zurich, English has become part of the daily routine.

Students, as young as 7, are learning multiplication or discussing the weather in English. In one classroom, lists of songs that the first grade has already mastered include not only local German tunes but “Old Mc Donald” and “How are you this morning?”

Parents are delighted. “It is something that you need,” said Beatrix Caforeo, whose son, Andrea, goes to the school there. “Everywhere people are speaking English, not just abroad.”

Throughout Europe, English is growing in use and acceptability. Beyond the schoolhouse here, European Universities, particularly in Northern Europe, are giving courses in science, philosophy and business in English. Even some companies like the French telecommunications giant Alcatel –state-owned until 1982- now use English as their internal language.

But the growing use of English is not going down easily everywhere. The English program here has caused uproar in other parts of the country, where critics have questioned why English should be taught before another one of Switzerland’s four national languages. In many places and in many ways, Europe is debating the growing prominence of English.

Some see it as the language that might bind the Continent together. In one European Union survey, 70 percent of those surveyed agreed with the proposition that “everybody should speak English.” But nearly, as many said, their own language needed to be protected. Capturing the right balance is a subject of debate.

- **Answer the following questions according to the text.**

- a. According to the text, where in Europe, besides the Swiss school, is English increasing in use?
- b. What is the main argument against the teaching of English in Switzerland?
- c. What do the defenders of using English as global language content?
- d. According to the article, what seems to be the opinion of the majority of Europeans?
 - What do you think about the use of English as a global language? Would it be practical? Would it threaten or endanger national identity?

THE TITANIC: ANOTHER DISASTER MOVIE?

The biggest gamble in movie making history has received no fewer than fourteen Oscar nominations. And not only that: contrary to what almost everyone said during the troubled course of its production, it looks like the gamble is going to pay off. Titanic, James Cameron’s \$200 million epic about what he has called the quintessential tragedy of the 20th century has been a great success across Europe and America. Test screenings in America have been overwhelmingly positive. Daily Variety, the most influential film newspaper in America, has no doubts. They call it a spectacular demonstration of what modern technology can contribute to dramatic story-telling, and concludes that, unlike the liner which sank in the North Atlantic eighty-five years ago, this Titanic arrives at its destination.

But it hasn’t been all that easy. Shot over eight months (about two months longer than originally planned), Titanic saw its budget spiral almost out of control. With such lavish sets, huge casts and expensive, state-of-the-art computerized special effects, the movie seemed set to become as big a disaster as the story on which it was based.

The perfectionist James Cameron went to extraordinary lengths to get his film exactly right. The filmmakers built a perfect scale model of the ship, which at 236 metres was almost as big as the original, and mounted it on giant hydraulic lifts to reproduce the effect of the vessel sinking. The model stood in a tank filled with 77million litres of sea water.

Everything in Cameron's movie is bigger, grander and more expensive than anything that has been done before.

- **Answer the following questions according to the text**
- a. What does the Daily Variety mean with this Titanic arrives at its destination?
- b. How long did it take to shoot the Titanic?
- c. Why is Cameron being described as a perfectionist?
- Going to the movies is one kind of entertainment. Do you have any hobbies? How do you like to spend your free time?

HIGH-FLYERS

Airline pilots have high social status and earn a great deal of money. Air hostesses have an uncertain status and earn little. For those recently qualified, the basic pay is as little as \$300 a month. This is little to balance against the possibility of a hijack or a disaster. So why do they do it?

I went to see Diane Humphreys, who is responsible for all Dan-Air's cabin staff based at Manchester airport.

One reason why air hostesses don't get over-anxious about flying may be that they're so busy, before, during and after a flight.

On a Monday morning, a hostess might have an early morning flight, perhaps at 7 a.m. She has to check in 1.5 hours before the flight. That might mean leaving home at 4 a.m. Before the flight hostesses have to prepare the cabin and toilets and make sure that the food and drinks are aboard. Dan-Air doesn't do long-distance flights and so there are no overnight stopovers. There's a 45 minute turn-around interval, when the hostesses have to prepare the plane for the return flight. Depending on where you're flying, this can make it a 12-hour day.

During the flight you've got no time to relax -the safety instructions have to be demonstrated and the food and drinks served. So one day you might have an early morning flight, the next an afternoon flight, the day after you might be on relief duty and have to be ready to work if someone else becomes ill or there is an emergency.

- **Read the text and answer these questions in your own words.**
- 1. What are the main differences between pilots and air hostesses?
- 2. What do air hostesses have to do before and during the flights?
 - **Summarize paragraph 4 (*On a Monday morning... a 12-hour day*) in no more than 30 words.**
 - Is there a job that you would especially like to do?

ULSTER'S OPPORTUNITY

As before, Unionist opponents of the Northern Ireland peace deal are quoted as saying they are British and want to stay British. Yet if you look around Europe, the qualities the British are known for are tolerance, the ability to laugh at themselves, an acute sense of irony, willingness to accept and implement negotiated agreements and above all, a commitment to democratic process. Do the Unionists recognise and cherish these qualities in themselves and will they work to sustain them as we try to on the "mainland"?

Undoubtedly, on a narrow interpretation, the Unionists have most to lose from the agreement as their 60-year stalemated hegemony departs. But the opportunity they and all Ulster are being offered is the chance to stop fighting over pieces of the same historic cake and to co-operate in sharing out a much larger cake, which, thanks to the EU, US, UK and peace itself can provide everyone with more: more jobs, more prosperity, more infrastructure, more future. Why settle for less when you can have more?

Nick Russell, London, NW5

- **Answer the following questions**

- a. What's the difference between British and Unionist opponents?
- b. What opportunity is Ulster being offered?
- c. What will they get if they become a single Ireland?

- **Comment upon:** Gibraltar: British or Spanish?

HEALTH IN AMERICA

When Americans go abroad, one of their biggest concerns is, "Can you drink the water?" You may find asking yourself the same question, especially in a hip, urban setting where you may notice many people, young and old, drinking from large and small plastic bottles. And these people will tell you, fiercely to put the fear of God in you, that "No! You cannot drink the tap water in this country anymore!" Ignore these people. These are the same kind of people who will also inform you that you will drop dead before 40, or worse, become ugly fat and stupid if you don't jog or join an expensive health club where you pay to sweat. Now simply turn the tap water and drink long and deep to quench your thirst. Do not be surprised the next morning if you still feel healthy and energetic.

Unless you come from a country, or stopped over in one, where dreaded diseases such as cholera, malaria, yellow or dengue fever are a fact of daily life, you do not need inoculations to enter America.

Availability of certain drugs is also restricted. What you have been able to get at your neighbourhood pharmacy in your country may require a doctor's prescription. So if you take medications, (e.g., for blood pressure or cholesterol), you must find an American doctor who can prescribe them for you. Or bring extra enough to last during your stay.

- **Answer the following questions according to the text**

- a. Is the water from the tap good in America?
- b. Do you need to be vaccinated if you travel to America?
- c. What can you do if you go to America after having been prescribed a certain medicine?
- d. Why do some America people drink water from plastic bottles?

- **What do you know about** health and healthy habits?

BLACK ENGLISH

During the early years of American settlement, a highly distinctive form of English was beginning to develop in the islands of the West Indies and the southern part of the mainland, spoken by the incoming black population. The beginning of the seventeenth century saw the emergence of the slave trade. Ships from Europe travelled to the West African coast, where they exchanged cheap goods for black slaves. The slaves were shipped in barbarous conditions to the Caribbean islands and the American coast, where they were in turn exchanged for such commodities as sugar, rum, and molasses. The ships then returned to England, completing an 'Atlantic triangle' of journeys, and the process began again. Britain and the United States had outlawed the slave trade by 1865, but by that time, nearly 200 years of trading had taken place. By the middle of the nineteenth century, there were over four million black slaves in America.

The policy of the slave-traders was to bring people of different language backgrounds together in the ships, to make it difficult for groups to plot rebellion. The result was the growth of several pidgin forms of communication, and in particular a pidgin between the slaves and the sailors, many of whom spoke English. Once arrived in the Caribbean, this pidgin English continued to act as a major means of communication between the black population and the new landowners, and among the blacks themselves. Then, when children came to be born, the pidgin became their mother tongue, thus producing the first black Creole speech in the region. This Creole English rapidly came to be used throughout the cotton plantations, and in the coastal towns and islands. Similarly, creolized forms of French, Spanish and Portuguese emerged in and around the Caribbean.

- **Answer the following questions according to the text.**

- a. When did the slave trade begin?
- b. When was the slave trade forbidden in the USA?
- c. Why did the pidgins emerge?
- d. What kind of job did the slaves have?
 - What kind of job would you like to have in the future?

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Yosemite National Park became America's first state park in 1864. Compared to other protected areas, Yosemite Valley is quite small, about seven miles long and a mile wide. Small enough, anyway for John Muir, the conservationist and founder of Sierra Club, to explore the entire area on foot is quite hard. But within its narrow confines are some of the most impressive cliffs, valleys, meadows, waterfalls, and flora and fauna.

The park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet. Among its most famous peaks are El Capitan, the largest piece of exposed granite in the world, and Half Dome. Some of the most spectacular waterfalls, such as the Bridal Veil Falls, are only a short hike from the Yosemite Valley floor. The view of the Valley floor from the top of 3,200 foot Glacier Point, 32 miles away by road, is considered by many to be the most impressive of all. When you are not feeling "stoned" by the sheer cliffs that circle the valley, be aware of the black bears that no longer appear to fear humans and have known to brazenly walk into campsites and raid food. Coyotes

and other denizens of the forests are more cunning and less visible. There are 196 miles of paved roads within the park and 840 miles of trails. Since it also has 8 miles of paved bike path, rent a bike and explore the relatively flat valley floor. To prevent congestion and overcrowding, there have been proposals to ban automobiles in Yosemite, especially during the very busy and crowded holiday weekends such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labour Day But don't let a trifle like that stop you from visiting one of the most fabulous natural wonders of the world.

- **Answer the following questions according to the text**

- a. How big is Yosemite Park?
- b. What animals may threaten the visitors?
- c. Can you ride a bike around the park? Why?
- d. Why do some people want to ban cars from the Park?
 - **What do you know about National Parks?**

GLOBAL ENGLISH

The global English of our times has all the benefits of a standardizing process. There is a recognized standard in Britain and America. There is also an agreed, standardized vocabulary and spelling system. Or nearly. Global English speaks with two voices: British and American. A student in, say, Japan or Saudi Arabia is confronted with not one version, but two, a distinction recognized by the main language schools, like Berlitz, who offer either British English or American English to their pupils.

The differences are essentially differences of accent, inflection*, spelling and, above all, vocabulary: *apartment* versus *flat*, *buddy* versus *mate*, *candy* versus *sweets*, *diaper* versus *nappy*. There are so many different expressions that America's Associated Press and Britain's Reuters news agencies have to translate English into English. The Reuters office in New York has a twelve-page list of common terms requiring translation and many are the books that compile jokes about *box*, *knock up** and *fag*.

* *the way in which the sound of your voice changes during speech, for example when you emphasize particular words*

**knock up= to make a woman pregnant*

* *To **box** someone **in** is to limit their choices in a difficult situation*

- **Answer the following questions using your own words.**

- a. What is the greatest difference between British and American English?
- b. How many varieties of English do some school languages teach? Which ones?
 - **Comment upon the** differences between your mother language and a foreign language.

MURDER AT THE QUEEN ROCK FESTIVAL FAN BLEEDS TO DEATH IN CROWD.

A 21-year-old pop fan was knifed to death early yesterday during a massive open air concert by rock super group Queen.

As Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury thrilled 120.000 people at Knebworth House, Hertfordshire, a fight broke out between rival fans only yards* from the stage. The dead man, believed to be from Glasgow, was stabbed five times in the stomach and chest. He died before an ambulance could get him to hospital in nearby Stevenage. A shocked witness said: "The guy didn't have a chance in hell. Ambulance men couldn't get to him because of the crowds and he was just bleeding to death." An ambulance man confirmed:

"People were standing shoulder to shoulder and it was impossible to get through quickly. The whole thing was overcrowded and badly organised."

Last night several youths were helping police in Stevenage with their inquiries. In another incident an ambulance was called to help a young woman attacked by a Hell's Angel* who poured boiling water over her. More than 1000 people needed first aid during the concert. There were about a dozen arrests but none for drug offences.

** One yard is equal to 0.91 metres.*

**a member of a motorcycle gang and organized crime syndicate whose members typically ride Harley-Davidson motorcycles.*

- **QUESTIONS.**

1. Did the fan die?
2. How old was he?
3. Where was the concert played?
4. Why couldn't the fan be saved or rescued?
5. How many people needed help?
 - What do you think about safety in pop concerts?

TELEVISION AND DRAMA

During the last five or six years television has become more and more important to drama in general, not only in offering a valuable testing ground for new dramatists, but also in forming taste and preparing audiences, almost imperceptibly, for new things. The advantage with television in this respect is precisely what has generally been taken as its main disadvantage: the relatively uncritical approach of the mass audience. This is not to say they are really "captive", as superior people like to say: one has only to look at the series of TAM* ratings, which record the state of the television set in the testing sample's home every thirty seconds, to find out the speed with which a programme will be switched off if viewers don't like it. But though they know what they like and what they don't like when they see it, they do not on the whole have any marked preconceptions before any given programme begins. A play, whoever it is by and whatever style it is written, is judged by the same simple but reliable rule of thumb* as *Wagon Train* or *What's my line**: if they like it, if it holds their attention, it stays on; if not they switch to the other channel or even, in extreme cases switch off.

**Television Audience Measurement*

** a practical and approximate way of doing or measuring something*

**TV series*

- **QUESTIONS**

1. When has television become important?
2. What is it important for?
3. Why is it important?
4. Which is the real advantage for television?
 - Do you think it is important to have any preconceptions of a programme before watching it?
 - Do you agree with the text? Why? Why not?

THE SPORTING SPIRIT

I am always amazed when I hear people saying that sport creates good will between the nations, and that if only the common peoples of the world could meet one another at football or cricket, they would have no inclination to meet on the battlefield.

Even if one didn't know, from concrete examples (the 1936 Olympic Games, for instance) that international sporting contests lead to orgies of hatred, one could deduce it from general principles. Nearly all the sports practised nowadays are competitive. You play to win, and the game has little meaning unless you do your most to win. On the village green, where you pick up sides and no feeling and local patriotism is involved, it is possible to play simply for the fun and exercise: but as soon as the question of prestige arises, as soon as you feel that you and some larger unit will be disgraced if you lose, the most savage combative instincts are aroused.

At the international level sport is frankly mimic warfare. But the significant thing is not the behaviour of the players but the attitude of the spectators: and, behind the spectators, of the nations who work themselves into furies over these absurd contests, and seriously believe -at any rate for short periods- that running, jumping and kicking a ball are tests of national virtue.

Even a leisurely game like cricket, demanding grace rather than strength, can cause much ill-will. Football, a game in which everyone gets hurt, is far worse. Worst of all is boxing.

George Orwell.

- **QUESTIONS**

1. What do people say about sport?
2. Does the writer agree with them?
3. What is the attitude of the spectators?
4. Do you agree with the author's opinions about sport? Why? Why not?
 - **What do you think/know** about American habits?