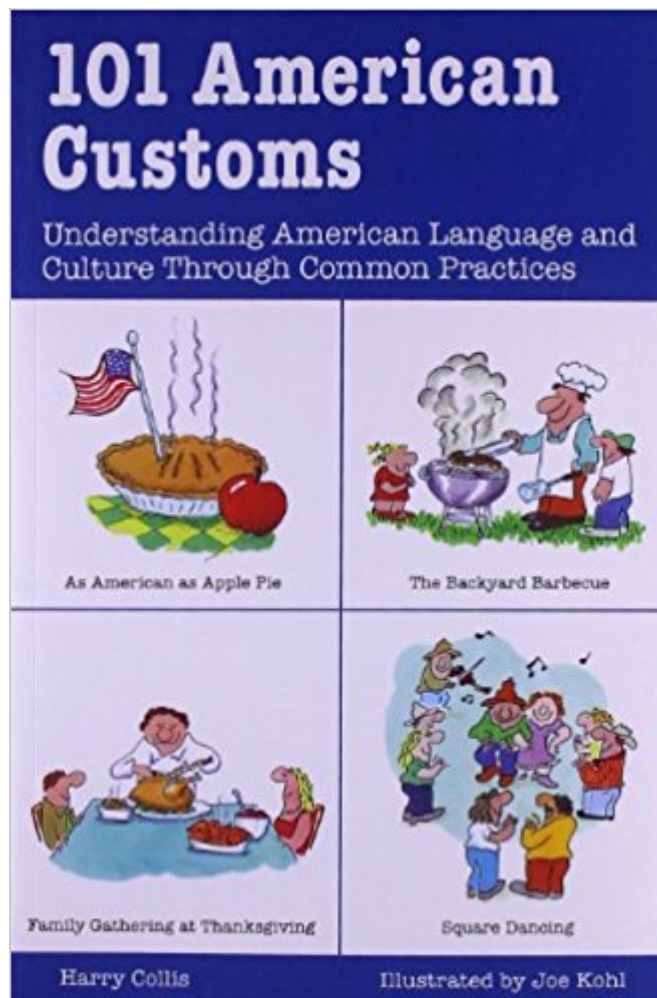




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101 American Customs : Understanding Language And Culture Through Common Practices



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Synopsis

What is sold at garage sales? Why does no one get wet at a bridal shower? For non-native speakers, here's a humorous approach to understanding common American customs and the expressions related to them. Customs are explained, one to a page, with conversational examples and whimsical cartoons. Topics range from age-old traditions, such as shaking hands and bachelor parties, to more modern American practices--coupon clipping, TV dinners, and tailgate parties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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This book is full of obvious. I can not believe you can learn a bit about American culture with this at all.The pictures are not particularly cute as well. Pretends to be somewhat humorous, but never made me laugh, so - no credit for that part. To me, it is actually annoying - if something is not a joke to laugh at, just make it sound normal. This is minor though, the content is what matters.I was going to give this as a present to my friend who spent a few months in the US and plans to come to study. Not that it could be a rich source of information, but I was expecting at least somewhat helpful - some good points and useful tips. NopeI do always read the book intended to be a present to avoid being irresponsible about my friends time. This one is a complete waist of it.If it is designated for

kids in their early teens, this is supposed to be mentioned at some point in the description. If you are really desperate for such helpful information as that people commonly shake hands, make OK gesture, sing the happy birthday song, say "bless you" for sneezing and enjoy popcorn in the movie theater, then go for it, but I doubt it. It is also sort of misleading in some way. It contains a good percentage of out of practice old traditions while lacking some essential ones. I don't know that many people saying prayers before a meal, obviously there is nothing wrong with it and some people do exactly that - but introducing it as a main practice associated with modern American culture? Some very specific Jewish traditions are included in one row with independence day parade - again, there is nothing wrong with Jewish traditions, but I thought this book was about American culture. The majority of the customs mentioned are not unique to US, but very general and common sense to any European person whether or not he/she has been to America. This is while in reality, there are so many unique traditions that need to be covered. (I can not view this from a stand point of someone from, say, China or Korea, or Malaysia etc., in terms of how much the common sense can cover, but I bet, this book will be not much of a help still) The bottom line: don't waste your time and money for this book and save the trees! I gave it another star for an effort.

Did not buy this

A great little book for second language learners. Also gives us (Americans) an interesting view of some our customs.

A great jumping off place for cultural discussions with our short-term Japanese program. Each student received a copy to take home to Japan.

1. I choose this rating because the product that I selected are of what I expected in terms of quality and quantity
2. I like this product
3. I would recommend this to my friends who also own the same car that I own (kia carnival)

It frustrated me that the customs, especially religious customs were a bit watered down so that I was not sure that they showed the significance of the event very well.

Pictures and samples are fun to teach. Idioms are always fun to do. Also, they are a great break after a boring lesson.

I was hoping for more when I ordered this book. There are a few good descriptions for adult learners of ESL but I didn't find it compelling or useful for my ESL kids.

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