

## What does the American dream mean to you?

1 Every generation has dreamed of a better life for their children, and many decided to  
2 pack up the family and immigrate to America and that is how most Americans came to  
3 be Americans.

4 For 200 years, people who have suffered from poverty, hunger or oppressive  
5 governments have come to the United States of America in search of the American  
6 Dream. Many people around the world have to work 18 hours a day just to make  
7 enough money to survive; to these people, the American dream means an easier life  
8 and a better education for them and their children. To others, it is the idea of getting  
9 rich without working hard to do it. This is not much different from the mentality from  
10 an American who maybe builds houses or works in a factory or some other type of  
11 physically demanding job that they hate, and at the end of the day, they dream of  
12 winning a slot machine jackpot in a casino.

13 Winning the grand prize and making enough money to put a nice roof over their kids'  
14 heads, put the kids in a good school, have money for college, this is exactly what the  
15 American dream is about. Many Americans work 2 or more jobs a day to support their  
16 families and they just do not have the opportunity to work towards a better life, or do  
17 they?

18 Many Americans are turning to the internet to live the American dream. The best part  
19 about this is that now you can live the American dream without being in America.  
20 Since the creation of the internet, we have seen more impressive technologies than  
21 ever and more way to achieve success. With only a small amount of money, anyone  
22 can create their own webpage or app that could turn into the next big thing. It might  
23 sound easy but in reality, it is a lot of hard work however it is possible. The internet is  
24 the American dream because what the American dream is, in reality, is an equal  
25 opportunity for all.

26 What if a hard-working person saved up some money and decided he wanted to open  
27 a restaurant and the government denied him permission because the restaurant  
28 business is risky and most new restaurants fail within the first 6 months. Or what if you  
29 wanted to do something that nobody has ever done before but you are not allowed  
30 because people don't understand it.

31 The dream is that you can do better in life than the cards you have been dealt, just like  
32 in poker you are dealt your cards then after looking at them you have the chance to  
33 exchange your bad cards for better ones. Many people around the world are dealt a  
34 bad hand in life but the idea that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed gives  
35 hope.

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### Comprehension Questions

1. What opinion does the text express about the American dream?
2. The American dream is all about making money quickly. True/False.
3. You have to be American to live the America dream. True/False.
4. Why do people want the America dream?
5. How can you achieve the American dream?
6. What analogy did the text give about the American dream?
7. Why is the American dream like the internet?

### Writing Task

You are an American immigrant. Today you just completed your citizenship test and are officially an American. Describe your life up until this moment. Include details about good and bad times, problems you overcame and things you failed at.

Write a short letter (200 words) describing your life and your hopes for the future.

### Gap Fill

Winning the ..... prize and making enough money to put a nice ..... over their kids' heads, put the kids in a good school, have money for college, this is exactly what the American dream is about. Many Americans work 2 or more jobs a day to ..... their families and they just do not have the opportunity to work towards a better life, or do they?

What if a hard-working person saved up some money and decided he wanted to open a restaurant and the government ..... him permission because the restaurant business is ..... and most new restaurants ..... within the first 6 months. Or what if you wanted to do something that nobody has ever done before but you are not allowed because people don't understand it.

The dream is that you can do better in life than the cards you have been ....., just like in poker you are dealt your cards then after looking at them you have the chance to exchange your bad cards for better ones. Many people around the world are dealt a bad ..... in life but the idea that everyone has an equal opportunity to ..... gives hope.



Vocabulary	Definition / Example / Translation



United .....	Grand .....	To suffer .....
To mean .....	Impressive .....	Risky .....
To deal .....	To immigrate .....	Oppressive .....
To survive .....	Slot machine .....	To deny .....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
Talk about... How difficult it is to get a job	Talk about... Your hopes for the future	Talk about... The main goal of people in your country
Talk about... How important it is to you to set goals	Talk about... Life changing moments	Talk about... How you feel after failing to achieve a goal



## Speaking Task – Role-play

## Role 1

You are a life advisor. People come to you to ask for help. Often they are confused and don't know what to do in life. Sometimes people know what they want to do but they just don't know how. A person is coming to ask for your advice.

## Checklist:

- Listen to the goals and life story of the person. Take notes.
- For each goal they tell you, ask them for more details.
- Give them some concrete advice for each goal.
- Give the person encouragement and organize another appointment next year.

You must use the following words: risky, impressive, deny, jackpot and deal.

## Role 2

You are a young person with many dreams and goal but you don't know what you want to do or how to do it. You are going to see a life advisor. Before you start, invent a backstory for your life.

## Checklist:

- Tell the advisor your life story.
- Tell them your goals in detail
- Listen to the advice of the life advisor
- Make a plan to achieve your goals

You must use the following words: survive, immigrate, factory, poverty, and hunger.

## Debate Topics

- Living the American dream should be your only goal
- You should do anything to achieve your goals

## Discussion Topic

- Being equal vs. fair

## Discussion Topic

- Something you wish you had learned when you were younger

## Discussion Topic

- How do dreams change as you get older?

## Discussion Topic

- The benefits and negatives of setting unrealistic goals



### Answers

1. What opinion does the text express about the American dream? **The American Dream is different for everyone. In essence, it is the idea that you can always do better for yourself if you just work hard. The American Dream is for everyone.**
2. The American dream is all about making money quickly. True/False. **False. For some people, it is all about making money quickly. For others, the dream is just a better quality of life.**
3. You have to be American to live the America dream. True/False. **False. Anyone can pursue The American Dream.**
4. Why do people want the America dream? **It represents a better quality of life. To do better than how you started life.**
5. How can you achieve the American dream? **You have to work hard. Some people have two jobs just to support their families. Many people are now starting web pages and creating apps. Of course, you could go to the casino or buy a lottery ticket too.**
6. What analogy did the text give about the American dream? **The American Dream is like playing poker. You can't choose the cards you are dealt but what you do with them is your choice.**
7. Why is the American dream like the internet? **The internet represents an opportunity. People who have nothing can create a webpage or app that could make lots of money. You don't necessarily need a lot of money just an idea and hard work.**

### Gap Fill

Winning the **grand** prize and making enough money to put a nice **roof** over their kids' heads, put the kids in a good school, have money for college, this is exactly what the American dream is about. Many Americans work 2 or more jobs a day to **support** their families and they just do not have the opportunity to work towards a better life, or do they?

What if a hard-working person saved up some money and decided he wanted to open a restaurant and the government **denied** him permission because the restaurant business is **risky** and most new restaurants **fail** within the first 6 months. Or what if you wanted to do something that nobody has ever done before but you are not allowed because people don't understand it.

The dream is that you can do better in life than the cards you have been **dealt**, just like in poker you are dealt your cards then after looking at them you have the chance to exchange your bad cards for better ones. Many people around the world are dealt a bad **hand** in life but the idea that everyone has an equal opportunity to **succeed** gives hope.

