Contents

Introduction		vii
1.	First Impressions	1
	A. America's Size and Its People	2
	B. A Brief History of the USA	8
	C. The Melting Pot of America: Statistics on	
	Where People Come From and Their Languages	11
	D. Puzzles of American Culture: Basic Values	1.4
	and Unpleasant Realities	14
2.	Body Language	17
	A. Translation of American Body Language	18
	B. Personal Space	20
	C. Touching	22
	D. Gestures	25
3.	Social Customs and Manners	31
	A. Smiling Faces	32
	B. "How Are You?"	34
	C. Eating in Restaurants	36
	D. Being Invited or Inviting Americans to the Home	43
	E. American Parties	45
	F. What to Wear	50
	G. Things We Don't Talk About	55
4.	Relationships	59
	A. Dating	60
	B. Marriage and In-Laws	64
	C. Children, Parents, and Pets	68



Life in the USA: An Immigrant's Guide to Understanding Americans Planaria J. Price and Euphronia Awakuni http://www.press.umich.edu/titleDetailDesc.do?id=309302 Michigan ELT, 2009

	D. Senior Citizens	73
	E. Homosexuality	77
	F. Domestic Violence	79
5.	Celebrations and Gifts	83
	A. Weddings	84
	B. Birthdays and Anniversaries	87
	C. Baby and Wedding Showers	90
	D. Funerals	93
6.	Surviving in the City	95
	A. Public Transportation	96
	B. Walking in the City	101
	C. Driving in the City	104
	D. The Police	106
	E. City Services	109
	F. Tenant/Landlord Rights	111
	G. Strange Laws	115
	H. Garage Sales	117
7.	The Workplace	121
	A. Job Interviews	122
	B. Unwanted Attention	125
8.	Schools	127
	A. Taking Tests and Cheating	128
	B. Teacher Expectations and Student Responsibilities	132
٩.	Health and Personal Matters	135
	A. Staying Clean and Healthy	136
	B. Talking to a Doctor	138
	C. Using Bathrooms	142

