

The United States

Exercise 1

Fill the gaps by choosing the correct word from the box below. There are fifteen words but only twelve gaps.

military	soldiers	she	chewing gum	woman
main	fewer	male	outside	person
important	people	smallest	number	more

Of the fifty states in the United States, the largest is Alaska and the (1) _____ is Rhode Island. California has the biggest population (37 million); Wyoming has the smallest (550,000). The total US population is about 310 million.

(2) _____ in the United States consume more (3) _____ per head than in any other country.

Barack Obama is, of course, the first black president of the United States. He is in one of the two (4) _____ political parties in the US, the Democratic Party. The (5) _____ he beat to become the party's candidate in 2008, Hillary Clinton, is now the US Secretary of State (or foreign minister, as (6) _____ would be called in many countries).

Many of the most (7) _____ singers and groups in the history of pop music have been American. The biggest-selling (8) _____ solo artist, for example, is Elvis Presley (or Michael Jackson, according to some statistics) and the biggest-selling female solo artist is Madonna.

There are around 1.5 million people in the US (9) _____ (army, navy and air force), and more than 350,000 of them are (10) _____ the US. In fact, there are US military personnel in about 150 countries (although in most of these countries there are fewer than 1,000 of them).

The most popular spectator sports in the US are baseball, basketball and American football. (11) _____ Americans watch football (or soccer, as the Americans call it) but a lot of them play it, and quite a high percentage of players are female. In fact, the US women's soccer team is (12) _____ one in the world ranking and won the gold medal in both the last two Olympic Games.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 2

Can you match the numbers in the first column of the table with the items in the second column?

30,000,000	The number of pieces of chewing gum that the average American consumes every year.	(A)
0	Of the people who play football (soccer) in the United States, the percentage who are female.	(B)
20	The number of US military personnel in Afghanistan.	(C)
48	The number of women who were US Secretary of State before Hillary Clinton.	(D)
25	The number of women who have been US president.	(E)
300	The number of people who live in the US state with the second biggest population, Texas.	(F)
2	Of the three biggest-selling groups in the history of pop music, the number that are American.	(G)
40	The number of Americans who watched the 2010 Super Bowl (the year's most important American football game) on TV.	(H)
25,000,000	The number of copies of Madonna's album <i>The Immaculate Collection</i> (1990) that people have bought.	(I)
70,000	The percentage of women in the US military.	(J)
105,000,000	The number of American states that are next to the sea.	(K)
0	Barack Obama's age.	(L)

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Decide whether the following sentences are correct or incorrect. Then bet a minimum of 10 points up to a maximum of 50 on your choice.

		Correct/ Incorrect	Points bet	Points lost	Points won
1	Americans consume a lot of chewing gum.				
2	Fifty percentage of American states are next to the sea.				
3	California has a populated of 37 million.				
4	The Super Bowl is a very important American football game.				
5	There are a lot of US military personal in Afghanistan.				
6	Michael Jackson was a very important American singer.				
7	The US women's soccer team is number one in the world rank.				
8	Two women had been US Secretary of State before Hillary Clinton.				
9	The US men's basketball team won the golden medal in the last Olympic Games.				
10	The US military includes the army, naval and aeroforce.				
11	The biggest-selling American group in the history of pop music is the Bee Gees.				
12	The US state with the third biggest population is New York.				
13	Madonna is the biggest-selling female solo artist in the history of the pop music.				
14	The Democratic Party is one of the two mane politic parties in the US.				
15	Football (or soccer) is a popular spectator sport in the United States, but more people watch baseball, basketball and American football.				
				Total points lost and won	
				Final total (subtract total points lost from total points won)	