

# Supplemental Conversation Booklet

Discussion-starting scenarios and questions to  
use in conjunction with this guidebook:



[www.livingintheus.org](http://www.livingintheus.org)

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET:

This booklet is intended to be used in coordination with the guide entitled *What Every Immigrant Needs to Know* VERSION 4, published by Intercambio Uniting Communities in Colorado. This teaching supplemental includes practical exercises and discussion questions that are useful for adult English language learners in intermediate, advanced, conversational or writing classes.

Using these tools will improve your students' pronunciation, vocabulary, reading abilities, writing skills, and knowledge of critical information about succeeding in the United States.

### DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHER:

Part A. Use the immigrant guide, *What Every Immigrant Needs to Know* (Version 4). It is highly recommended that each student have a copy of the guide.

1. Pick a topic (e.g. #10 – Getting Legal Help).
2. Teach vocabulary that might be new. Words in italics are defined in the glossary. Teach and have them practice the pronunciation of words that might be challenging.
3. Have the students read the section from *What Every Immigrant Needs to Know* out-loud. For reading practice, make sure they pause for commas and periods. If you are teaching a group, have each student read a portion of the section out-loud. If you have students who are fearful to read out-loud, you can have everyone walk around the room and read aloud to themselves at their own pace or have them do “choral reading”, where they read together out loud. Correct pronunciation when applicable.
4. Have them close the guide and go on to part B using this booklet. We close the guide so that they discuss what they remember rather than re-reading it word-for-word.

Part B. Use this supplemental booklet. You can provide a booklet/handout for each student or you can have them read from your copy.

1. Find the corresponding entry in this conversation booklet. Again, go over any vocabulary and pronunciation that might be new or challenging.
2. Have a student or two read the scenario or question(s) from this booklet aloud.
3. Have the students discuss possible responses to these questions. If you are teaching a group you can have them discuss their responses in small groups and then have them share with the larger group. You can also have them write responses if they want to practice writing or if they are uncomfortable discussing a certain topic.

\*Some subjects are personal, so you can omit topics that may be too controversial given the difference in cultures, opinions, and experiences of the students. The questions and exercises are meant for general discussion and learning purposes only, and not to offend.

If you do not feel very knowledgeable about a certain topic, you can do some research or bring in an expert who can answer questions. [www.livingintheus.org](http://www.livingintheus.org) has a helpful “Links” page.

There are no right or wrong answers for some of the questions. Feel free to create your own scenarios and questions. Remember that the objective is to create a respectful and comfortable environment to practice English using real-life experiences and to have fun!

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<p>**Be sure to read the instructions on the back of the front cover before using this guide!</p>
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# The Law and the Role of the Police

## **1) Calling 911**

Lucia's 7-year-old son Christopher was playing with Lucia's phone one day. He called 911 and then hung up quickly. What do you think happened next?

What are some examples of specific situations that deserve a call to 911? Discuss and list the examples with your classmates.

What type of information should you be prepared to give a 911 operator?

In groups of two, sit back to back and role play a conversation with a 911 operator. Have them say the address or street they are on. Switch roles.

## **2) Alcohol and Drugs**

Mary is a good mother to her two teenage boys. One Friday night, she left them home alone while she went on a business trip. With their mother gone, the boys invited some friends over and opened their mother's liquor cabinet. One of the friends got drunk and was involved in a car accident on his way home.

Should Mary be held responsible for the boy's car accident?

Would you leave your teenage children home alone for the weekend? Why or why not?

Joe is 24 years old. He went to buy some beer at the liquor store, and outside the store a young woman politely asked Joe if she could give him money to buy her a bottle of wine. Joe bought the wine for the woman. A police officer saw Joe hand the paper bag to the woman outside the store.

What do you think happened next?

## **3) Drinking and Driving**

Marie met her friends for a couple of drinks after work one evening. When she was ready to go home, she did not feel drunk. However, she thought that she probably shouldn't drive. She knew the hazards of drinking and driving, but she had to get home.

What should Marie do? What options does Marie have?

What could happen to Marie if she decides to drive?

How can you tell when your friend has had too much to drink?

Extra activity: Have students go to the links page at [www.livingintheus.org](http://www.livingintheus.org) and click on the link for Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) for Drinking and Driving and find out how much you can drink and be under the legal limit given your weight and gender.

#### **4) Know Your Rights**

Eduardo was walking down the street late one night when a police officer approached him and accused him of leaving a nearby restaurant without paying the bill. Eduardo was not at the restaurant in question that evening. He was being falsely accused of stealing.

What should Eduardo do? Act out the situation with a classmate and discuss how Eduardo can respond to the police officer.

What would you do if a police officer came to your house and asked you if he or she could look around your house?

Have you ever been falsely accused of anything by the authorities? If so, explain.

#### **5) Sexual Harassment**

Eric is a good employee, devoted father, and faithful husband. He wanted to make his new co-worker, Susan, feel comfortable. When Eric and Susan were first introduced, he smiled and said, "Finally, a pretty face around here!" and he gave her a hug. Later on that day he asked her on a "lunch date". The following day he befriended her on *Facebook*, winked at her when he passed her in the hall, and commented on her looks.

While Eric meant nothing inappropriate, Susan began to feel uncomfortable around him. She did not know him well enough to understand that he was just trying to be friendly. She told management that she was uncomfortable around him. Eric was eventually written up for sexual harassment and transferred to another department.

Do you think what happened to Eric was fair? Why or why not?

How would you feel as a new female employee if a male co-worker treated you this way?

Discuss other ways that Eric could have made Susan feel welcome at the company without making her feel uncomfortable.

#### **6) Sexual Assault**

Jennifer was at a club with friends when a man approached her. He seemed nice at first, but then he got very aggressive and started touching her leg and her back. When she told him she wasn't interested, he was verbally abusive and said very rude and perverse things to her. She firmly excused herself and left the club immediately.

While she and her friends were driving home, Jennifer was embarrassed and reluctant to tell anybody about this man.

Jennifer did not get hurt, so did the man really do anything wrong?

Should Jennifer report this man's behavior?

Whom should she tell?

## **7) Domestic Violence**

John and Jessica had been married for 5 years when the relationship started to get bad. John never physically hit Jessica, but he insulted her frequently and he didn't allow her to leave the house. They shared a bank account, but he threatened to divorce her if she tried to take out money from the account.

Which of John's actions can be considered domestic violence?

Who could you ask for help if you feared your domestic partner?

What signs might you see in a friend who is experiencing domestic violence?

What could you do to help a friend in this situation? List the resources in your community available to aid victims of domestic abuse.

Can a woman be guilty of domestic violence?

## **8) Stealing**

Claudio was at a store to buy a copy of his house key and a new light bulb. He had the light bulb in his hand and he put the copy of the key in his pocket. He paid for the light bulb but he forgot to pay for the key. What do you think happened after he walked out of the store?

What are the penalties in your area for stealing cheap items?

## **9) Discrimination**

Fatima had just arrived from Iraq and she was looking for an apartment to rent. She found the number of an apartment to call on Craigslist.org, and she called the landlord. The landlord asked her name and where she was from, and after Fatima responded the landlord said that she was sorry but the apartment was not available.

Do you think Fatima was discriminated against? Why or why not?

Carolina had just arrived from another country and enjoyed going to a coffee shop near her apartment. She was new to learning English so she occasionally had difficulties ordering what she wanted. One day, a new employee was very rude to her and refused to serve her. She believed that it was because she did not speak English well, and that she was the victim of discrimination.

Discuss what Carolina could have done and said at the coffee shop that day.

Imagine that you were in the coffee shop that day and witnessed the discrimination. Write a letter to the owner of the coffee shop explaining what happened and how it could be resolved to avoid future incidents of discrimination.

Have you ever experienced discrimination? Where and how?

## **10) Getting Legal Help**

There are many different types of attorneys in the United States, and each has his or her own area of expertise. It is important to use an attorney that specializes in the type of law you need. For instance, a family law attorney is not the best choice to help you if you are in jail for a criminal offense. Other types of attorneys specialize in: bankruptcy, workers compensation, divorce, personal injury, consumer fraud, immigration, corporate, tax and employment law (to name a few!).

Using the types of lawyers listed above, what type of lawyer would you call if you needed help with the following?

- You have an issue with your green card.
- You feel you were fired (terminated) from your job unjustly.
- You were injured in an auto accident.
- You want to start a small business of your own.
- You feel you were overcharged for a service and want to be compensated for the overage.

What would you do if you needed the help of an immigration attorney? Would you prefer to pay a flat rate or hourly fee and why?

## **11) Becoming a U.S. Citizen**

Sonia and Warren want to vote in the upcoming presidential election as well as become U.S. citizens. They are nervous about the U.S. citizenship test that is required. The test covers the basics of the U.S. government and history.

How can they prepare for the test? Are there classes in your community that prepare immigrants for the citizenship process?

Do you think it is fair that foreigners have to take the test to become citizens?

Do you or did you have a desire to become an American citizen? Why or why not?

## Housing

### **12) Finding Housing**

After moving to a new city, Elaine was eager to find an apartment to rent. She was new at her office and knew very few people in the area. She heard that *craigslist.org* is a good resource to find housing for rent. She researched the area where she wanted to live and found an available apartment listed on *craigslist.org* that was in her price range.

How should Elaine proceed? (i.e., Should she go see the room by herself?)

Create a list of what is most important to you when deciding on an apartment. Start with the most important (such as location, cost, and size).

Create a list of rental resources in addition to *craigslist.org*.

Who would you give as your references if you needed to rent an apartment and why?

### **13) Renting**

George was excited about his new apartment because it was large enough to entertain his friends. George was not a messy or sloppy person. He hosted frequent parties that lasted late into the night. A year later, when George was preparing to move out, his landlord refused to return his security deposit. The landlord claimed he was keeping it to pay for damages in George's apartment. George believed that the damages were caused by the previous tenant, and not by him.

What could George have done differently to prevent this situation?

Pretend that you are George. Call the landlord on the phone and explain why you believe you are not responsible for the damages.

What would you do if the landlord does not cooperate with you?

### **14) Getting Problems Fixed**

Imagine that you recently moved into a new apartment and discovered that there are many appliances that do not function in addition to other problems such as leaky faucets and broken drawers. In order to have the appliances fixed and other issues resolved, you need to leave a note for the maintenance man.

Write a simple note kindly explaining what needs to be fixed (make up at least five things that need to be fixed to write about in the note).

If your landlord does not respond to your note, what should you do?