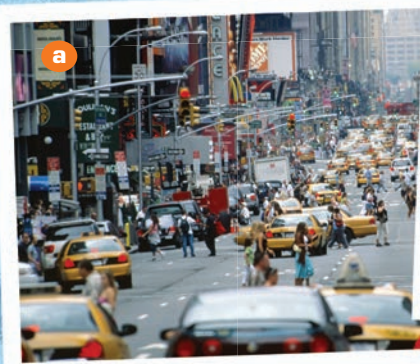


Culture Choice 1



1 Look at the photos (a-c). Read the sentences (1-5). Guess which sentence is false?

- 1 New York City has eight million people.
- 2 There are about forty thousand homeless people (people with no home).
- 3 Ninety-five percent of homeless people sleep in shelters (simple hotels with bedrooms and bathrooms).
- 4 Sixty percent of New Yorkers are Hispanics (from Latin America).
- 5 New Yorkers speak 138 different languages.

2 4.1 4.2 Listen to two interviews with New Yorkers. Check your guess from Exercise 1.

3 4.1 4.2 Listen again. Choose the best answer to these questions.

- 1 Where does Tom usually sleep when it's not cold?
a streets or parks b shelters
c the subway (the New York Metro)
- 2 How does he get money?
a he works with tourists b he plays the guitar
c he works in a park
- 3 What does he like about New York?
a it's an easy city b it's a big city c it's his city
- 4 Where does Miriam live?
a in Manhattan b near an airport
c in the centre of New York
- 5 How many people live in her house?
a 4 b 5 c 6
- 6 What does she like about her city?
a the people b the languages c the culture

4 **Your Culture** Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions about *your* home town or city.

- 1 How many different languages do people speak?
- 2 Are there a lot of homeless people?
- 3 Where is your home? (e.g. near the centre)
- 4 What do you like about your city or town?

5 Read the information about O. Henry on page 97. What are his stories about?

6 4.3 Read and listen to the short story. Order the events (a-g).

- a Soapy goes to a restaurant but he can't get in.
- b Soapy sings and dances in the street.
- c Soapy decides to work and rent a flat.
- d The police put Soapy in prison.
- e It starts to be cold in New York. 1
- f Soapy breaks a shop window with a bottle.
- g Soapy takes a man's pen.

7 Read the story again. Match the sentences (1-5) with the reasons (a-e).

- 1 Soapy usually goes to prison in December e
 - 2 Soapy does bad things
 - 3 The man in the office doesn't call the police
 - 4 Soapy goes to prison
 - 5 Soapy plans to get a job
- a because he is homeless.
 - b because he wants to change his life.
 - c because he wants to go to prison.
 - d because he has problems with them.
 - e because he gets cold in New York.

My Culture Project

8 Write notes about your home.

- where it is: in a village/town/city
- the rooms in your home
- the things in it
- your bedroom

9 Use your notes to write a description of your home. Include two false things.

10 Read your partner's descriptions. Can you guess the false information?



O. Henry (1862-1910)

American writer of short stories

Real name: William Sydney Porter

Jobs: farm worker, bank worker, journalist, writer

Family: married with one daughter

Problems: three years in prison (money problems at the bank); problems with alcohol

His stories: funny stories about everyday life in the USA

Soapy hasn't got a home and lives on the streets of New York. He likes the sun and trees and doesn't like houses or jobs. For nine months of the year, Soapy is a happy man. Then the first week of December comes and it gets very cold. Soapy has the same plan every December – to do a bad thing and go to prison for three months.

First, Soapy visits an expensive restaurant and wants to have a big lunch and then say 'Sorry, I haven't got any money.' But when Soapy walks into Sanborn's Restaurant the waiter says, 'You can't come in here. Sorry.'

Soapy thinks of a new plan. He goes to an expensive shop and takes a bottle. He hits the window with the bottle. A policeman comes but at that moment he sees a man running away from the shop. No prison for Soapy this afternoon.

That evening, Soapy goes to a street with a lot of theatres. Rich men and women in expensive clothes are going into the theatres. Soapy starts to sing and dance and talk to the people. There is a policeman but he says to the people: 'He's a student from a theatre school. Don't worry about him.'

Soapy is angry and unhappy. How can he get into prison for the winter? He sees a man in an office and goes in and takes his pen.

The man goes after him. 'Stop! That's my pen.' 'Call the police then,' says Soapy.

But the man doesn't call the police because he has problems with them.

'Okay, maybe it is your pen,' he says to Soapy. Soapy sits down and makes a new plan. Maybe he can get a job and some money. Then he can get an apartment and some good clothes. Maybe he is too old for the street. Tomorrow he decides to find a job.

Then Soapy hears a person next to him. 'Excuse me,' a policeman says. 'What are you doing here? What's your address? Where do you work?'

'I haven't got a home but I want to get a job tomorrow,' says Soapy.

'No address. Come with me. Three months in prison for you,' the policeman says.

