

From: Rick
To: IELTS Prep Group
Subj: IELTS Reading lesson 6-7-2017

Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

Section One

Vocabulary

Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

Column A

Column B

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
1. ASSIMILATION (NOUN)	A. A PERSON OR GROUP OF PEOPLE OPPOSING, CRITICIZING, OR PROTESTING SOMETHING, SOMEONE OR ANOTHER GROUP
2. OPPOSITION (NOUN)	B. THE PLACE TO WHICH A PERSON OR THING TRAVELS OR IS SENT
3. DERIVED (VERB)	C. A MOVEMENT TO GOALS OR HIGHER STATE/STAGE
4. PROFICIENCY (NOUN)	D. SOMETHING FROM WHICH ANYTHING ARISES OR IS DERIVED
5. DESTINATION (NOUN)	E. ABLE TO ADJUST ONESELF READILY TO DIFFERENT CONDITIONS
6. ORIGIN (NOUN)	F. SKILLS, EXPERTISE
7. PROGRESS (NOUN)	G. TO REACH OR OBTAIN BY REASONING; DEDUCE; INFER
8. ADAPTABILITY (ADJECTIVE)	H. THE PROCESS OF ADAPTING OR ADJUSTING TO THE CULTURE OF A GROUP OR NATION, OR THE STATE OF BEING SO ADAPTED, BEING ABSORBED INTO

Section Two

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

ARTICLE A

Assimilation Today

Source

New Evidence Shows the Latest Immigrants to America Are Following in Our History’s Footsteps

1. The story of immigrants in our nation is about newcomers integrating into our society and then strengthening our culture and especially our economy. The longer immigrants have lived in the United States, the more “they” become “us.” Pasta, salsa, sausage, and egg rolls are now as common place on American dinner tables as corn, pumpkin, and turkey. Soccer is now a national pastime, at least among youth, and millions of sports fans cheer the hundreds of immigrants who are members of Major League Baseball.





Nonetheless, opposition to immigration today is whipped up by conservatives who claim that assimilation is not occurring and that instead most immigrants are a burden on our society. But our history tells us otherwise. Immigrants to our shores today are following closely in the path of their predecessors, assimilating rapidly just like they did in the past—as most Americans witness every day in one way or another.

2. In this paper, we use the most comprehensive U.S. Census Bureau survey data to investigate how well the process is working for today's immigrants. Replacing the misleading rhetoric of immigration opponents with firm data, this study shows that assimilation is happening across our nation. The illusion of nonassimilation is created by looking only at newcomers who have not had time yet to assimilate as fully as earlier arrivals. But once we examine immigrants' advancement over time—in this study from 1990 to the present—we discover that the longer immigrants are here the more they advance and the better they are integrated into our society.

The results are plain to see. Evidence showing how more recent arrivals to our country are progressing is derived from careful study of census data over two decades, with a focus on key areas that demonstrate the advancement and integration of immigrants into society. Our assimilation benchmarks are those we know from our history to be bellwethers, among them:

- Citizenship
- Homeownership
- English language proficiency
- Job status
- Earning a better income

3. These benchmarks demonstrate that immigrants in our country since 1990 are advancing at high rates no matter their social and economic status 20 years ago.

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Integration is occurring fastest in the areas of citizenship and homeownership, with high school completion and earnings also rising. The share of foreign born men earning above low-income levels in our country, for example, rose to 66 percent in 2008, the last year for which complete data is available, from just 35 percent in 1990 when the immigrants were recently arrived. And Latino immigrants in the first 18 years of U.S. residency swiftly attained the hallmark of the “American Dream”—homeownership, with 58 percent achieving this feat in 2008, up from only 9.3 percent in 1990. This is a substantial leap. While lower than the 66.6 percent homeownership rate for non-Hispanic native-born men, the homeownership levels for Latinos and other foreign-born immigrants rises as their time in the United States lengthens.

4. Not surprisingly, the rates of assimilation in education and occupation are higher among immigrant children, especially among Latinos, than among adult first-generation immigrants who have less access to education because they are newly arrived workers.

The college graduation rate among immigrants is also on the rise since 2000, demonstrating that immigrant children are more able to pursue opportunities for educational advancement. Lesser access to education and learning centers for immigrant adults also means a lower English proficiency rate, especially among Latinos, due not just to their work and income status, but also because language classes are not evenly provided across all states and have lost funding in recent years. But immigrant children are bridging this language gap exceedingly quickly.

Geographically, too, our nation's latest immigrants are following in the footsteps of our ancestors, spreading out across the country to assimilate in communities large and small. There are now 14 states that have foreign-born populations greater than the national average share of 12.5 percent. In a reflection of the movement of immigrants into new communities, the data show 27 states with immigrant populations that are only recently arrived (since 2000) of at least two percent of these states' population.

5. The longer immigrants are in the United States, the more integrated they become—a fact that remains consistent across the

nation, regardless of whether they came from Mexico and Central America or from other countries.

New destination states such as Georgia and North Carolina have more “new” immigrants than immigrants who arrived before 1990. The opposite is true in the traditional immigrant destination states of California, New York, Texas, Florida, and Illinois. The longer immigrants are in the United States, the more integrated they become—a fact that remains consistent across the nation, regardless of whether they came from Mexico and Central America or from other countries.

Indeed, in Arizona—the state that now has immigrants in the crosshairs of its law enforcement officials—Latino immigrants have proven much more successful than some assume. After 18 years of U.S. residence, 66.6 percent are homeowners, 59.2 percent speak English well, and 57.9 percent earn better than a low income.

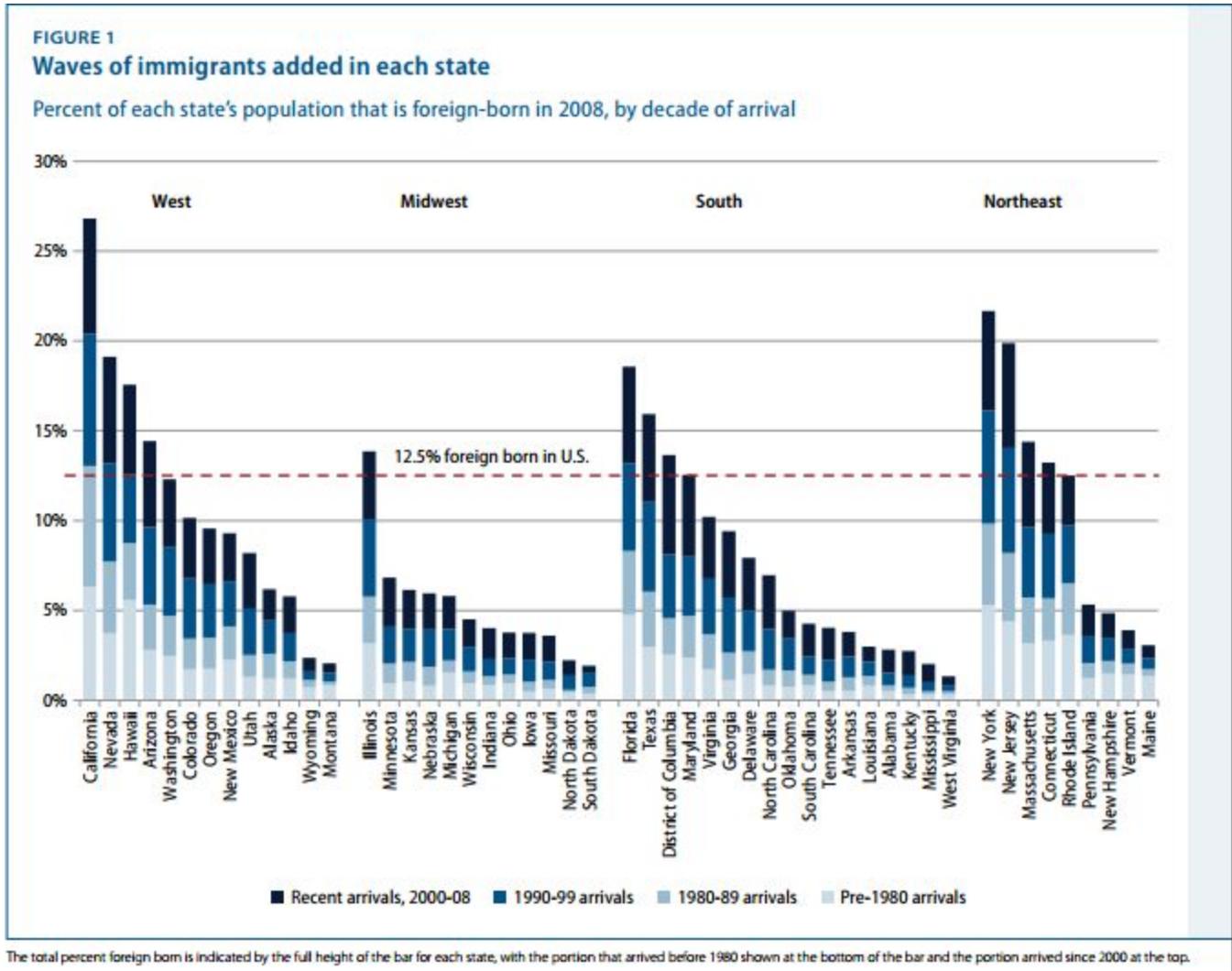
6. So why is it that some residents in some states with large new immigrant populations believe that integration is not occurring? One reason is that new arrivals increased over a short period while assimilation, by definition, can only be observed over time. Therefore, states with larger segments of long-settled immigrants also are states where their melding into society has had more time to unfold, and thus immigrant advancement and integration has grown more visible. Many Americans fall prey to the presumption, largely unconscious, that “immigrants are like Peter Pan—forever frozen in their status as newcomers, never aging, never advancing economically, and never assimilating...people who perpetually resemble newcomers.” Seeing the data on immigrant advancement may be surprising and should help dispel the illogical Peter Pan fallacy.

Almost a half century ago, President John F. Kennedy reflected on how the immigration process contributed to the evolution of our great nation and became “central to the whole American faith.” Immigration, he added, “gave every old American a standard by which to judge how far he had come and every new American a realization of how far he might go.” It reminded every American, old and new, that change is the essence of life, and that American society is a process, not a conclusion.

In the pages that follow, this report documents in detail what President Kennedy described so elegantly a half century ago—the ever-ongoing process and growth of immigrants’ advancement and integration in the United States through citizenship, education, learning English, work, and fulfilling the “American Dream” of home ownership. The longer immigrants are here, the more they assimilate, resulting in even greater levels of achievement for their children and sowing the seeds of progress for generations to come.

7. The foreign-born population of the United States reached 38 million in 2008, up from 19.8 million in 1990 (and 9.8 million in 1970). This increase followed several decades of declining immigration to our shores in the middle of the 20th century, such that the 4.7 percent share of the U.S. population that was foreign-born in 1970 was the lowest in American history.

Since then, the foreign-born share of our total population rebounded substantially, first to 7.9 percent in 1990 and then reaching 12.5 percent in 2008—a level of immigrant residents still below that of the early 20th century, when it reached 14.7 percent at its apex in 1910.⁴ This new resurgence of immigrant residents was most evident initially in a handful of states—California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, and Texas—but soon spread more broadly across the country. Growing demand for labor outside these Big Six states led to dispersed migration networks that spread immigrants more evenly, often to states where few immigrants went before.



8. Fast Facts (1)

- There are now 14 states that have foreign-born populations greater than the national average share of 12.5 percent. In a reflection of the movement of immigrants into new communities, the data shows 27 states with immigrant populations that are only recently arrived (i.e. since 2000) of at least two percent of the state population.
- Integration occurred fastest in the areas of citizenship and homeownership, especially in the first 18 years of U.S. residency, reaching the fabled “American Dream.”
- The rate of citizenship grew at a similarly fast rate, from below 10 percent in 1990 to 56 percent by 2008, a substantial achievement given the constraints of federal citizenship law, which requires a five-year waiting period to become eligible for naturalization or three years if the immigrant is married to a U.S. citizen.
- High school completion and earnings also are rising. The share of foreign-born men earning above low income, for example, rose since 1990 from 35 percent, when they were recently arrived, to 66 percent in 2008, when they were longer settled.

9. Fast Facts (2)

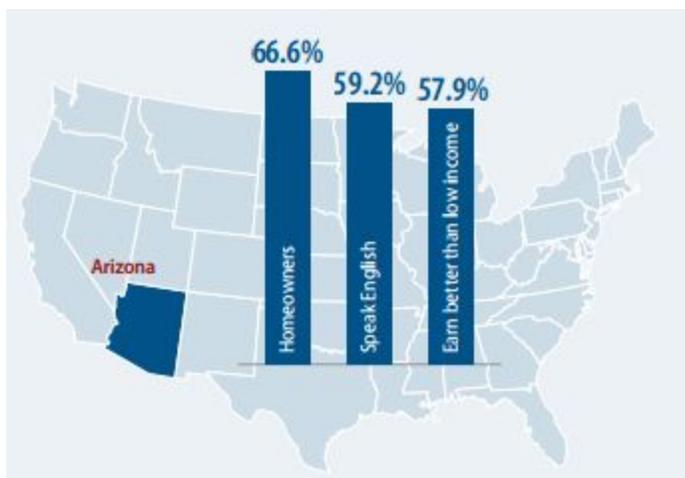
- Immigrant children—especially among Latinos—have higher rates of attainment in education and occupation than adult immigrants, who have less access to education as newly-arrived workers.
- U.S.-born children whose parents are immigrants have lived their entire lives in the United States and participate as citizens

in their communities and their schools. They are exceeding their parents' educational attainment levels.

- Second-generation Latinos are more likely than their immigrant parents to have B.A. degrees (21 percent), higher-paying occupations (32 percent), be living in households above the poverty line (92 percent), and own homes (71 percent).

10. Fast Facts (3)

- The college graduation rate has steadily risen since 2000, supporting the theory that immigrant children are more able than adults to pursue opportunities for educational advancement. Lesser access to education and learning centers for immigrant adults also means a lower English proficiency rate, especially among Latinos, due to their work and income status, and also because language classes are not evenly provided across all states and have lost funding in recent years.
- New destination states such as Georgia and North Carolina have more “new” immigrants than immigrants who arrived before 2000. The opposite is true in the traditional destination states of California, New York, Texas, Florida, and Illinois.
- The longer immigrants are in the U.S., the more integrated they become, a fact that remains consistent across the nation, regardless of whether they came from Mexico and Central America or from other countries.



Arizona stands out as an example, where Latino immigrants have proven much more successful than some have assumed. For example, after 18 years of residence, 66.6% are homeowners, 59.2% speak English well, and 57.9% earn better than a low income.

11. Meanings and Measurement of Assimilation

Assimilation is a contested topic. There are different points of view about what it means. The generally understood meaning, however, is one of immigrants' adjustment to life in America, yet the topic of assimilation is variously addressed in different debates or discussions with different audiences. It revolves around different terminology used to describe assimilation as well as the choice of reference groups that serve as models for immigrants when adjusting to life in America.

Another, more politically charged debate involves conservative activists who oppose any increases in immigration, some of whom question whether immigrants are assimilating at all and whether they can fit into America. This charge is especially leveled against Latino immigrants. Opposing this view are supporters of immigration, including the Center for American Progress, who point to our nation's deep immigrant heritage and view Latino immigrants as assimilating just as past immigrants have. These differing points of view require us to define what we mean by assimilation and how we can measure it.

12. Assimilation: Concept and Terminology

What all the discussions about assimilation have in common are concerns about the pace of change over time in immigrants' life in America. Often the facts are elusive because at any moment in time no observer can see all the changes. Assimilation might take several generations to complete, or be largely completed 10 Center for American Progress | Assimilation Today in a single generation, or, alternatively, it might reveal rapid progress in just a decade.⁶ This is why the central question broadly shared in all debates is how rapidly immigrants change—something we term the pace of advancement in joining the American

mainstream.

A number of different terms are used to describe the assimilation process. One set includes integration, incorporation, inclusion, or accommodation—all having to do with the process of knitting immigrant groups into our economy, polity, and society. Another set of terms which emphasizes immigrants' own changes includes adaptation and adjustment, or the process of immigrants' alignment with new constraints and opportunities. Each of the different terms embodies a particular concept or model about how assimilation should proceed. An earlier model of assimilation embraced in the early and mid-20th century but rejected by most scholars today is termed "Anglo conformity," or the assumption that immigrants should abandon their old customs and traits and try to resemble white America as closely as possible.

However, after decades of multicultural experience as previous waves of immigrants successfully integrated into our society, we are now very accustomed to validating and celebrating ethnic differences. Today's model of assimilation is less culturally restrictive and instead emphasizes advances by immigrants in civic and economic participation. Today sociologists ask: With whom do immigrants aspire to assimilate, or more academically what is the model to which they aspire?

A major new theory proposed in the 1990s by sociologists Alejandro Portes and Min Zhou is the "segmented assimilation" model, which posits that different immigrant groups converge on the behavioral norms of different native groups.⁷ This model does not espouse the goal of assimilation for any groups but merely seeks to better describe a more diverse empirical reality. More recently, sociologists Richard Alba and Victor Nee proposed a view of assimilation as simply the lowering of ethnic barriers and distinctions between groups.⁸ They characterize the 20th century process in the United States as transpiring over several decades and multiple generations. Alba and Nee also reclaim the traditional term assimilation but take pains to separate it from the ethnic bias so evident in the outdated Anglo-conformity model. The two scholars also maintain assimilation is a two-way street as all groups in society converge to form a broad new mainstream of society.

13. Assimilation Indicators

- Citizenship—the percent of our foreign-born population aged 20 and older who have naturalized to U.S. citizenship, with 100 percent attainment level observed among the native-born because by definition all native-born are citizens, though there is a waiting period for all eligible immigrants.
- Homeownership—the percent of our foreign-born householders aged 20 and older who own rather than rent their homes, with average attainment level of the native-born at 66.6 percent.
- English proficiency—the percent of our foreign-born population aged 20 and older who speak only English, or who speak English either well or very well, with 99.4 percent the average attainment reported among the native-born.
- Education—the percent of our foreign-born population aged 20 and older who complete a high school degree or General Education Development test equivalent (average reported among the native-born is 88.5 percent) and the percent of our foreign-born population aged 25 and older who complete a 4-year college degree or a more advanced degree, with average attainment among the native born of 27.8 percent.
- Higher occupation—the percent of our foreign-born men aged 20 and older (whether employed or not) whose occupation is classified as professional or management, with average attainment among the native-born of 37.9 percent
- Earnings better than low income—the percent of our foreign-born men aged 20 and older (whether employed or not) who have individual earnings greater than the poverty threshold for a family of four, with average attainment among the native-born of 55.4 percent.

Each of these indicators measures a different aspect of successful immigrant integration and advancement in life in America. Citizenship represents political incorporation and is the threshold condition needed for voting and full participation in our democracy.¹⁶ Homeownership is a central component of the storied "American Dream" and signifies both landed settlement in the United States and entry into the middle class.¹⁷ English-language proficiency is an indicator of civic integration and also cultural adaptation.¹⁸ Educational attainment is a widely-used measure of human capital formation helpful for successful economic incorporation, and improves chances for higher occupational attainment and a better income