

AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE

UNIT 2410

OUTLINE AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

READING: EARLY AMERICANS

QUESTIONS ON THE READING

SPECIAL EXPRESSIONS

TAPE 2410A

TAPE 2410B



*A MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF KANSAS DEDICATED TO
THE MEMORY OF THE PIONEER WOMEN.*

UNIT 2410

READING

EARLY AMERICANS

Many early American heroes are mentioned on television and in movies. This often *de-emphasizes* (puts less stress on) the *role* (part) the American women played in developing the American frontier. Some people believe that the United States is what it is today because the women were willing to risk the same hardships as their men.

It is important to know that the early American settlers were colonists. There is a difference between an army and colonists or between explorers and colonists. A colonist goes to an area *to settle* (make a home) there. His wife and children go with him. A soldier or explorer will *eventually* (sooner or later) return to his homeland.

The American colonist came to the United States because he was dissatisfied with the living conditions in his homeland. He was independent in character and was willing to risk the hardships of a new land. Because of their previous experience, many of them had a basic mistrust of imposed authority. This caused them to move westward when they felt too crowded. They wanted the freedom and independence that the wilderness gave them.

A soldier or explorer can *undergo* (be subjected to) many hardships. A man with his family not only has to protect himself but has the responsibility for his wife and children. This responsibility was so great that quite often the wives had to share it with their husbands.

Women had to work almost as hard as their husbands. They worked from sunup to sundown. Practically everything they used had to be made by them. There were no stores, doctors, hospitals, or any kind of luxury. They had to make their own candles for lights and make their own soap in order to wash the clothes they had woven themselves. Practically every tool and utensil had to be handmade. Sometimes they had to *fight off* (repel) Indian raids. There are *numerous* (many) stories of women and children hiding for days in order to escape from enemies.

The country slowly became civilized because of these women. They united a man to both his home and family. Eventually the pioneer cabins became homes from which the man had less desire to move. Therefore, we can say that women did their part in developing the United States. Without their wives, men would have either returned to Europe or would have lived in a wildly unsettled *state* (condition). Because of their wives, they finally had to make homes out of their cabins. These homes eventually became cities.

QUESTIONS ON THE READING

1. What is a colonist?
2. What is the difference between explorers and colonists?

3. Why did the colonists come to the United States?
4. Why did they mistrust imposed authority?
5. Why was life extremely difficult for a pioneer woman?
6. What would be the differences between a country occupied by soldiers, explorers, and fortune hunters and a country occupied by colonists?
7. Would a modern woman be willing to follow her husband anywhere?

SPECIAL EXPRESSIONS

willing to = agree to

Examples: He is willing to come.
He agrees to come.

Are you willing to study for 5 years?
Do you agree to study for 5 years?

They are willing to cooperate.
They agree to cooperate.

eventually = sooner or later

Examples: The house will eventually be yours.
Sooner or later the house will be yours.

Eventually a person will pay for his errors.
Sooner or later, a person will pay for his errors.

to undergo = to be subjected to

Examples: John will undergo a series of examinations before being admitted into the university.
John will be subjected to a series of examinations before being admitted into the university.

Mother had to undergo a serious operation.
Mother was subjected to a serious operation.

fight off *repel*

Examples: They were fighting off a superior enemy.
 They were repelling a superior enemy.

 They fought off a mass attack.
 They repelled a mass attack.

numerous *many*

Examples: There are numerous kinds of cigarettes.
 We saw numerous airplanes at the airport.

 There are numerous ways to express a thought in English.
 Abraham Lincoln told numerous stories to explain his ideas.

emphasize (verb) *to stress; place importance*
emphasis (noun) *stress, importance*

Examples: They place much emphasis on physical fitness.
 They stress physical fitness.
 They think physical fitness is very important.

 The emphasis is on speaking rather than reading.
 They stress speaking rather than reading.
 They think speaking is more important than reading.

 Emphasis must be placed on self-discipline.
 Self-discipline must be stressed.
 Importance must be given to self-discipline.

 In this course we emphasize conversational English.
 We stress conversational English in this course.
 We think that conversational English is a most important thing in this course.

play a part in *participate in*

Examples: He played a big part in preparing this book.
 He prepared most of the book.

 Scientists play a big part in the defense of our country.
 Scientists are very important in the defense of our country.

 Overeating plays a big part in causing heart trouble.
 Overeating causes most heart trouble.
 Overeating is an important factor in the cause of heart trouble.

TAPE 2410A

Listen.

You will hear short paragraphs. Then you will be asked questions. Answer when you hear **
Repeat when you hear * Again, it is very important that you answer when you hear **

American settlers began moving westward in the early 17th century. They did not move fast at the beginning. First they had to learn the techniques required for a fast advance.

When did the settlers began moving westward? **
in the early 17th century *
They began in the early 17th century. *

Did they move fast at the beginning? **
No, they didn't. *
No, they did not move fast at the beginning. *

The region (New England) in which the settlers first landed is a forest region. They did not know how to live in this new land. They did not know which foods to eat, which animals to hunt, or which plants to grow. The settlers had to learn this before attempting to move westward.

Where did the settlers land? **
in a forest region *
The settlers landed in a forest region. *

Did they know which foods to eat? **
No, they didn't. *
No, they did not know which foods to eat. *

Did they know which plants to **
No, they didn't. *
No, they did not know which plants to grow. *

What did the settlers have to do before moving westward? **
They had to learn many things. *
They had to learn many things before moving westward. *

Most of the equipment the settlers brought from Europe was not suitable for the new world.

Thus the settler had to devise more suitable equipment. They had to make better wagons and discover suitable clothing for traveling long distances. They also had to develop better weapons and defense techniques.

Was most of the equipment that the settlers brought suitable for the new world? **
 No, most of it was not suitable. *
 No, most of the equipment was not suitable for the new world. *

What did the settlers have to learn? **
 They had to learn to make be *
 They had to learn to make more suitable clothing. *
 They had to learn to make be *

The migration across the United States followed a pretty orderly and standard pattern. The first people who went into the west were the hunters. They hunted animals for their fur. Fur was as valuable then as it is today.

Did migration across the United States follow an orderly pattern? **
 Yes, it had an orderly pattern. *
 Yes, migration across the United States followed an orderly pattern. *

Who were the first people to go into the west? **
 the hunters *
 The hunters were the first people to go into the west. *

Why did the hunters go into the west? **
 because fur was valuable *
 The hunters went into the west because fur was valuable. *

The miners usually followed the hunters. They usually wanted gold. Discoveries of gold deposits significantly increased the migration to the west.

What kind of people followed the hunters? **
 the miners *
 The miners followed the hunters. *

What did they usually want? **
 They wanted gold. *
 They usually wanted gold. *

What discoveries increased the migration to the west? **
 the gold deposits *
 Discoveries of gold deposits increased the migration to the west. *

The cattlemen followed the miners. They sought places where their cattle would have grass, water, and unfenced land. Cowboys kept themselves west of the civilized settlements. That is why we today associate cowboys with the west.

Why did the cattlemen follow the miners? **
 because they wanted grass, water and unfenced land *
 They followed the miners because they wanted grass, water, and unfenced land. *

Why is a cowboy associated with the west? **
 because he stayed west of the settlements *
 The cowboy is associated with the west because he stayed west of the settlements. *

The cowboy, miner, and hunter made little impression on the country. Nature was an obstacle to the farmers that followed. Forests and grass made planting difficult. The farmers cut trees, built houses, and gave the land a more civilized appearance. Often these first farmers sold their land to new industries and moved farther west.

Did a miner change the appearance of the land? **
 No, he didn't. *
 No, the miner did not change the appearance of the land. *

Why are forests and grass obstacles to a farmer? **
 because they make planting difficult *
 Forests and grass are obstacles to a farmer because he cannot plant. *

Why did the country look more civilized? **
 because the farmers built houses *
 The country looked more civilized because the farmers built houses. *

Once an area had many farms, the people usually established a community or town. Once there was a town, merchants would go west, and then craftsmen, lawyers, and doctors would follow.

What happened when farms would become numerous? **
 A community or town would be established. *
 When farms would become numerous a town would be established. *

When would merchants go to the west? **
 When towns were established. *
 Merchants would go west when towns were established. *

Who followed the merchants? **
 craftsmen, lawyers, and doctors *
 Craftsmen, lawyers, and doctors followed the merchants. *

In 1890, the government announced that there were no more unsettled western areas. There was no more frontier. All the land had towns and villages. This announcement closed a period of American history which had lasted approximately 300 years. The continuous migration to the west, a distinctive feature of the past, was over.

When was the settlement of the west completed? **
 in 1890 *
 The settlement of the west was completed in 1890. *

How long did it take to settle the west? **
 300 years *
 It took 300 years to settle the west. *

TAPE 2410B

You will hear short paragraphs. Be sure to listen carefully. There will be questions after each paragraph. Answer the questions when you hear **. If you do not listen carefully, you will not be able to answer when you hear **. Repeat when you hear *

We can trace some American characteristics to the influence of the west. For example, the American pioneer moved very often from place to place. When the west was settled, Americans didn't stop moving. Americans are still mobile. Very few live in the same place where their parents live. Most Americans are willing to move any place where they think they have better opportunities.

Did Americans stop moving when they could no longer move west? **

No, they didn't. *

No, they did not stop moving. *

Do Americans usually live in the city where they were born? **

No, they don't. *

No, they do not live in the city where they were born. *

Are Americans willing to move? **

Yes, they are. *

Yes, they are willing to move. *

Because the early colonist moved quite often, he left many of his possessions behind. He often burned his house in order to take the iron nails with him. He destroyed much that other people would save. This characteristic still seems to be with Americans. Many of them have to move quite often in their lifetime. They have to buy new homes before the old one is even paid for. Likewise, they trade cars frequently, not waiting for the car to fall apart. Today, like the pioneer, most Americans don't usually use an item until it is too old to use.

Did a pioneer carry all his possessions? **

No, he didn't. *

No, he did not carry all his possessions. *

No, he left many of his possessions behind. *

Why would he burn his home? **

in order to take the nails *

because he wanted the nails *

He burned his home because he wanted the nails. *

He burned his home in order to take the nails. *

Does an American always need a new car when he buys one? **
 No, he doesn't. *
 No, he doesn't always need a new car. *
 No, the old car is often still in good condition. *

Do Americans usually use an item until it's too old to use? **
 No, they don't. *
 No, they do not usually use an item until it's too old to use. *
 No, they usually trade it for a new one. *

You will now connect sentences. First, you will hear instructions; then you will hear two sentences. Repeat each sentence when you hear *. Connect the sentence when you hear **.

Connect the following two sentences with *because*.

The problems were unique. *
 They had to be solved locally. *

Now connect the sentences with *because* **

Because the problems were unique, they had to be solved locally. *

Connect with *although*.

Many had never studied democracy. *
 They practiced it every day. *

Connect with *although* **.

Although many had never studied democracy, they practiced it every day. *

Connect with *because*.

All men faced the same dangers and hardships. *
 All men were equal. *

Now connect with *because* **

Because all men faced the same dangers and hardships, all men were equal. *

Connect with *since*.

Americans think democratically. *
 They like to take part in government affairs. *

Now connect with *since* **

Since Americans think democratically, they like to take part in government affairs. *

Phrases or clauses usually sound the same even though they have different numbers of words. Listen carefully for the sound pattern. You will see that all the clauses or phrases have the same pattern.

for 300 years
the process of moving
in each generation
because they moved often
in the new societies
in many situations
under an Indian attack
in order to survive

These clauses and phrases can be placed in front or after a sentence.
Repeat when you hear *

For 300 years, American people moved westward. *
American people moved westward for 300 years. *

In each generation the process of moving was often repeated. *
The process of moving was often repeated in each generation *

Because they moved often, rigid social customs were forgotten. *
Rigid social customs were forgotten because they moved often *

In the new societies, a man was accepted for what he was. *
Man was accepted for what he was in the new societies. *

In many situations, privilege of birth and wealth was not important. *
Privilege of birth and wealth was not important in many situations. *

Under an Indian attack, a wealthy settler was no more important than a poor one. *
A wealthy settler was no more important than a poor one under an Indian attack. *

In order to survive, courage, intelligence and physical strength were of prime importance. *
Courage, intelligence and physical strength were of prime importance in order to survive. *

Practice with related words. Repeat when you hear *

comprehended * comprehended *
He comprehended the situation. *

realized * realized *
He realized he needed only his own energy to succeed. *

was aware	*	was aware	*
He was aware that the new land had abundant resources.			*
recognized	*	recognized	*
They recognized the importance of being left alone.			*
easy to understand	*	easy to understand	*
It is easy to understand that many problems cannot be solved locally.			*
understood	*	understood	*
It is understood that the government now takes a more positive social role.			*
acknowledged	*	acknowledged	*
However, it is acknowledged that Americans prefer to solve their problems locally.			*

Practice in passive and active constructions. Repeat when you hear *

Americans are a product of many countries.	*
Many countries produced the American.	*
Many ideas were started in other countries.	*
Other countries started many ideas.	*
Yet, the American was given some basic attitudes by the frontier.	*
Yet, the frontier gave the American some basic attitudes.	*
Some of the basic attitudes were discussed in this tape.	*
This tape discussed some basic attitudes.	*

WORD LIST

Following is an alphabetical list of Intermediate English terminology introduced in this student text. The number following the term indicates the page on which the term is used.

abundance	57	carry out	111	depth	82
abrupt	32	case	71	design (ed)	110
absorb	51	caution	32	desire	125
acid solution	58	cautious	70	determination	19
a close shave	97	chaplain	12	develop (ing)	26
acquire(d)	57	character	125	device	61
active	19	circuit	59	diminish	61
affect	30; 84	civilized	125	dirty	84
aim	19	clarify	18	dismount	69
allied	69	clear the area	71	disposed of	68
alert	71	cockpit	70	dissatisfied	125
altitude	46	compass	56	drawn	70
amber	84	conclusion	29	drill(ed) (a well)	82
apply	32	concrete	45	duct	70
apply to	32	conduction	107		
area	125	constant	33	effect	44
artificial	95	container	45	electrical charge	57
assign(ed)	69	continent	82	electric shock	58
authorize(d)	71	continuous	44	electromagnet	59
average	33	controls	32	electron	58
awkward	32	convection	107	emergency fuel	
		convert (ed)	61	system	70
		convey (ed)	86	emit	94
		convince	21	emission	107
		crash helmet	71	emphasis	127
		crosscheck	97	emphasize	18
bar	107	cross out	111	energy	58
bar magnet	56	crowd (ed)	125	enlisted man	12
behavior	44	crucial	12	en route	71
bit	57	crude	82	equator	44
boom	82	cubic feet	86	erratic	32
brief	19			essential	21
bring up	111			eventual	125
bulb (light)	95			exceed	32
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				exercise (d)	68
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capable	32				
		danger zone	71		
		deaf	24		
		de-emphasize	125		
		demand (n)	82		
		demonstrate	32		
		density	46		
		deposit	82		

express (ed)	110	impose	125	motivate (d)	25
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		include	83	mount	69
		industrial	58		
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focus	20	item	68	navigator	56
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filament	95			negative charge	57
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flashlight	95	jot down	19	north pole	56
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frighten	14			numerous	32
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furnish	107	keep an eye on	97	object	57
		keep out	71	observe	32
		kerosene	82	oil field	82
		kill (ed)	58	oil line	84
				oil tank	84
gaseous	44			on account of	77
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gentle pressure	32	landing strip	78	organize	20
get by with	97	lecture	107	organization	20
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hardship	125	maintain	20	piles	69
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head (ing)	12	man-made	95	plastic	83
high voltage line	58	marine (adj)	83	portable	58
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