

**Read the text.**

**Do the same grammar analysis you did with the 'Neighbours from Hell' article.**

**Write down any single words you are unfamiliar, part of speech, meaning and pronunciation (keep a list of words you have trouble pronouncing to show me so I can supply you with the correct pronunciation)**

**Do not send me the analysis.**

**Do the exercises/answer the questions.**

**Deadline: Friday, 27/3/2020**

**I will send the answer key to the exercises to you.**

**Send me only the responses to the open questions via e-mail.**

## NEW ENGLAND

New England is highly industrial, but it also has many fields, woods, and small towns. New England is the part of the United States that is most like "Old" England. It is also the most well-defined region of the United States: Americans might disagree over exactly which states are part of the south, but for everyone New England includes six states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

To people of the south of the United States, Yankee may mean a northerner. To people from other countries, Yankee means an American. But, properly used, Yankee has a more specific meaning: It refers to people who live in New England.

What is the Yankee character?

Yankees are known for being honest, but shrewd; realistic and to-the-point; practical rather than romantic; untalkative, thrifty, principled, and independent. Calvin Coolidge, the thirtieth president of the United States, was a Yankee (nicknamed "Silent Cal."). Yankee thrift is well expressed by a New England saying: Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, do without."

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the American Revolution began in New England. Yankees were among the strongest supporters of independence. New England Yankees led the movement to end slavery in America.

## TWO NEW ENGLAND WRITERS: HAWTHORNE AND THOREAU

Hawthorne's most famous novels are set in the town of Salem. One of Hawthorne's ancestors was a judge at the Salem Witch trials. A woman he found guilty put a curse on the Hawthorne family. Hawthorne used this theme in his novel *The House of the Seven Gables*.

Thoreau is known for his book based on his experiences at Walden Pond, near the town of Concord, Massachusetts. Thoreau believed that citizens had the duty of civil disobedience, that is, of peacefully protesting government policies they considered

wrong. Thoreau practiced what he preached. To express his disapproval of the Mexican War, he refused to pay his taxes and consequently went to jail.

**Respond to these questions with an e-mail to me. (Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2020)**

**What definition would people from the south of the U.S. be likely to give to the word Yankee?**

**How about people from other countries?**

**What is actually the true meaning of a Yankee?**

**Do you agree with Thoreau's idea that civil disobedience is a citizen's duty? Do you think people should protest against government policies they disagree with? How do you think they should protest?**

## ECONOMY

The sea played a major role in the region's economy. In colonial times, New England prospered from fishing and trade. One kind of trade was the "triangular trade": New Englanders brought sugar up from the islands of the West Indies, used the sugar to make rum, took the rum to West Africa and traded it for slaves, and then sold the slaves in the West Indies.

Cod was the main fish export. Its importance was reflected everywhere.

The American Revolution disrupted trade with England and New Englanders had to find new trading partners. They soon were trading with Russia, Sweden, and even China.

Whaling became an important activity and as the whaling industry grew, so did New England seaports like New Bedford, Salem, Marblehead, and Nantucket.

The mid-1800s were the era of the Yankee clipper ships. These elegant wooden ships, built in New England, were designed for speed and broke many records.

The discovery in the 1850s of underground sources of oil marked the decline of the whaling era in New England. The days of the clipper ships also ended, as they could not compete with the metal steamships developed in England in the 1860s. By the late 1800s, the sea no longer played such an important role in New England's economy.

**MAINE:** A Maine vacation can be almost any kind of vacation you want.

Glaciers and the sea have carved so many inlets and harbors that the 228-mile long coast would be 3,478 miles if it were stretched out straight! Thousands of islands lie off the coast of Maine (mostly uninhabited and only visited by fisherman). One large

and well-known island is Mount Desert Island. Here you'll find the town of Bar Harbor, a very popular summer resort.

Maine is famous for its lobsters and its lighthouses. Maine's woods are perfect for a fishing hiking and camping vacation. Maine has hundreds of lakes and rivers for boating and is also popular among hunters, because of its many deer, bears, squirrels, and rabbits.

In September, people drive through Maine to see the leaves turn all shades of red, yellow, and orange.

### The FREEDOM TRAIL, BOSTON: a bit of history

The American Revolution lasted from 1775 to 1781.

After March, 1776, the city of Boston was never again touched by fighting. Yet no other city played as important a role (as Boston, implied) in the struggle for independence. It was events in Boston that led to the revolution.

In the 1760s, England passed laws that imposed taxes on the colonists and limited their rights. Bostonians strongly objected. Riots in 1768 led to the occupation of Boston by British soldiers. From there problems grew.

In 1770 an angry crowd threw snowballs (filled with stones and ice) at some soldiers, who then fired into the crowd, killing 5 men. This event became known as the Boston Massacre.

In 1773, to protest a new tax, Bostonians, dressed as Indians, threw 400 crates of British tea into the Boston Harbor. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party. In response, Britain closed the harbor. This was a severe response, since Boston depended on trade.

The first shots of the war of independence were shot in April 1775 in the nearby town of Lexington.

Independence was formally declared by the thirteen colonies\* on July, 1776.

- The 13 American colonies were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia (represented by 13 stars on the first flag of the United States of America).

### True or False?

1. Hundreds were killed in the Boston Massacre.
2. The Boston Tea Party was a meeting held to discuss a tea tax imposed by the British government.
3. The first battle of the revolution was fought in 1775.
4. In the beginning, the revolution took place mainly in Boston and the surrounding area.
5. Boston was occupied by the British throughout the revolution.

## CAMBRIDGE

Just across the Charles River from Boston is Cambridge, America's most famous student town. Cambridge is sometimes called the birthplace of American intellectual life: it has the oldest university, Harvard University, founded in 1636.

Cambridge is also home to MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Students attending Harvard and MIT come from all over the world (from more than 90 countries).

Since one-fourth of the people in Cambridge are students, it's not surprising that Cambridge has many bookstores, shops, restaurants, coffee houses, and clubs.

A common sight in Cambridge, is Harvard oarsmen rowing on the Charles River, preparing for races in the spring, like the Harvard-Yale Regatta.

(Yale University is Harvard's biggest rival).

## THE BOSTON BRAHMINS

Elites don't fit the American ideal of equality, and the U.S. has had few elites. The Boston Brahmins were an example of one of these few elites.

The Boston Brahmins were wealthy, well-educated, and exclusive.

They were always protestants and belonged to the old Yankee families. Prominent among them were Cabots, Lowells, Peabodys, and Endicotts. These families often lived in Beacon Hill, an elegant part of Boston. They socialized in private clubs. They married among themselves and gave their sons Brahmin names (Cabot Lowell, Lowell Cabot, Endicott Peabody). Their sons always went to Harvard.

The Boston Brahmins were very "proper" - they did things in established ways.

They were definitely exclusive. They did not like to socialize with other Yankees, and they especially looked down on the Irish Catholic immigrants who poured into Boston in the mid-1800s.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, barriers broke down, partly because of the growing influence of a certain Irish-American family from Boston - namely, the Kennedy family. And yet, even after he was elected president, John F. Kennedy told a friend that he wasn't sure the exclusive Boston Brahmin club, the Somerset, would have him as a member!

**Send me your responses to these questions via e-mail.**

**Deadline: Monday March 30, 2020**

**Do you know of any towns in your country which can be compared to Cambridge?**

**Can you think of any rival teams in sports or schools in your region, country, city?**

**Are there any/many elites in your country? If so, what are they? Describe them.**

#### VOCABULARY BUILDER

Accusation	a statement that someone has done something wrong
Ancestor	someone who was in your family long ago (e.g. great-grandfather)
Barrier	something that stops you from passing
Brahmin India)	a member of the highest social class (taken from Hindu castes in
Campsite	a place where people camp
Character	your nature, what kind of person you are
Clam	a shellfish that is eaten as seafood
Colony	an area that is governed by another country
Conform	to go along with the rules, to behave in the expected way
To convince	to make someone believe something
Cradle movement	a small bed for a baby; the starting point of an activity or
Crop	plants grown by farmers – fruits, vegetables, etc.
Curse	a strong wish for something bad to happen to someone
To decay	to become ruined, usually slowly over time
To declare	to say something firmly and clearly, especially in an official way
Defeat (noun)	the losing of a game, fight, war, etc.
To disrupt	to bring or throw into disorder, to cause a change in something
Distinct	clear, easy to see, hear or smell
Dwelling	a place where people live
Elite	a small group with a lot of money and/or power
Emotion	a mood or feeling
Era	a period of time
Essential	necessary
Event	something that happens
Exclusive	including only certain people and not including others
Export (noun)	something one country sells to another country
Feast	a large and special meal
To gallop	to ride very fast on a horse

Geography	the land, climate, etc. of an area
Glacier	a huge piece of moving ice
To hang (capital punishment)	to be killed by hanging from a rope around the neck (e.g. as capital punishment)
Harsh	cruel, severe
Hike	a long walk, especially in the country
Immigrant	someone who comes from one country to live in another country
To impose	to force something on someone
Industrial	with many factories
Inland	away from the sea
Inlet	a bay or strait; a place where the coast goes in
Landmark recognized	an important building or other important place, often easily recognized
Lobster	a shellfish with large claws
Log	a thick, rounded piece of wood from a tree
Market	a place where food and other things are sold
Massacre	killing a group of people in a cruel way
Miner	someone who digs in the ground for metals like gold or coal
Movement	people coming together to reach a goal, especially a political goal
To object	to disagree with, to not like
Objection	disagreements with something
Policy	general plan of a government, business, company, etc.
"Practice what you preach"	to behave in a way that fits with what you say
Properly	correctly
Prosper	to become wealthy, to do well financially
Relevant	to have meaning for, to be important to
Resort	a place that many people visit on vacation
Riot	fighting in a crowd of people
Role	a part, a function; play a role: to act a part (e.g. in a movie)
Rum	an alcoholic drink made from sugarcane
Sarcastic	using expressions that clearly mean the opposite to what is felt
Seaport	a town with a harbor used by large ships
Seaweed	a kind of plant that grows in the sea
To settle	to make your home in a new place

To socialize	to spend time with other people in a friendly way
Struggle	a big effort, a fight
Trade (noun)	buying and selling
Uninhabited	not lived in
Weapon	an instrument for fighting
To wear out	to use something until it is completely finished
Whaling	hunting and killing whales for their oil
Winding	having many twists and turns
Witch	a woman who uses magic to do things

Write the word which means each definition on each line. Once you have written all the definitions, the letters in the boxes will spell out a common New England saying.

1. General plan of a government    2. A shellfish with large claws    3. A member of the highest social class    4. To spend time with other people in a friendly way    5. The losing of a game, fight, war    6. Fighting in a crowd of people    7. Killing a group of people in a cruel way    8. Someone who digs in the ground for metals or minerals like gold or coal    9. A place where people live    10. Not lived in    11. Cruel, severe    12. A small group with a lot of money/power    13. To become ruined, usually slowly over time    14. An area that is governed by another country    15. A statement that someone has done something wrong    16. A town with a harbor used by large ships    17. Correctly    18. A huge piece of moving ice    19. Hunting and killing whales for their oil    20. Using expressions that clearly mean the opposite of what is felt    21. Your nature, what kind of person you are