

## 1 Reading

**A** Brainstorm! How many words can you think of related to weddings? Make a class list.

weddings: bride, photographer, meal

**B** Read the article. Which of your words can you find?

## Time to celebrate!

### An invitation to a wedding

Different countries celebrate weddings with different traditions. Here are some traditions in the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Australia:

### Before the wedding

Before the wedding, the bride's family sends out invitations. Some weddings happen at midday; others happen in the afternoon or morning.

The bride and groom go to with their families for a wedding ceremony. At the ceremony, the bride and groom make promises. Then they sign the wedding register. The main bridesmaid, usually a friend or relative of the bride, holds the bride's flowers in the ceremony. After the ceremony, the bride and groom usually travel together to the reception in a large car, decorated with ribbons.

### The reception

The reception happens at the bride's house, a hotel or large country house. Before the reception, a photographer takes photos of the bride and groom and their families. The photographer also takes more photos at the reception. All the guests enjoy a meal together. At the end of the meal, some people make speeches. They wish the bride and groom 'good health' and 'great happiness'. Then the bride and groom cut their wedding cake – this is a good chance to take photos.

After the wedding, the bride and groom leave the reception and go on vacation together. This is called a 'honeymoon'. When the guests leave, they often receive a small bag of 'Jordan almonds'—nuts covered in sugar—to take home with them.



## Exploring the city

## 1 Reading

**A** Are there any interesting places to walk around your city? Where are they? Can you go on a walking tour? Tell the class.

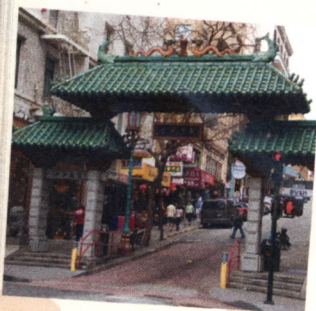
**B** Read these pages from a walking-tour guide. As you read, follow the tour on the map.

## A Walking Tour of San Francisco's CHINATOWN

San Francisco's Chinatown is the largest Chinese community on the West Coast of the U.S. and is now home to over 14,000 people. Chinese settlers came here as early as 1846, opening businesses near Portsmouth Square.



**1.** The tour begins at the **Chinatown Gate** at the intersection of Bush Street and Grant Avenue. Walk north on Grant – a busy street of shops selling souvenirs, jewelry, artwork, furniture, cameras, and electronics.



**2.** Between Pine and California is **St. Mary's Square** – a quiet park with a statue of the Chinese leader Sun Yat-sen.

**3.** Continue north on Grant, and turn right on Clay Street. Then turn left into **Portsmouth Square**, and watch local people play Chinese chess.

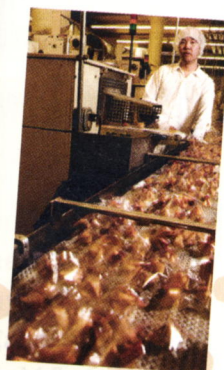
**4.** Take the footbridge across Kearny Street to the **Chinese Culture Center**. Here there are exhibitions of Chinese and Chinese-American art. It's well worth a visit.

**5.** Return to the square, and turn left onto Washington Street. On the left is the **Old Chinese Telephone Exchange**. Now a bank, the exchange opened in 1909. Operators had to speak English and five Chinese dialects.



**6.** Continue west on Washington, and turn right into Ross Alley. Near the end of the block is the **Golden Gate Cookie Company**, where you can sample the cookies.

**This is where your tour ends.** We hope you enjoy your tour of San Francisco's Chinatown.





## 1 Reading

**A** Discuss these statements with a partner. How many are true for you?

- I make my bed every morning.
- I always turn off the light when I leave a room.
- I do the dishes right after I eat.
- I keep my magazines for about six months.
- I organize my books and magazines.
- I use a dozen different cleaning products.

**B** Read the article. How do your home habits compare with the ones in the article?

# AT HOME – How **typical** are you?

Do you make your bed every day? Do you try to save electricity at home? Are you a pack rat? Read about the home habits of Americans – are they the same as yours?

## Making beds and doing dishes

74% of people make their beds every morning. 5% *never* do. And 3% actually change their sheets every day.

Do you wash the dishes right after eating? 58% of Americans do, but 5% let theirs sit for two or more days!



## Neat and tidy

Are you an organized person? 13% of people alphabetize their books and magazines, or organize them in some way!

The average home has 13 cleaning products around the house.

## Pack rats

How long do you save magazines? About half the population throws away old ones after six months. But 20% keep them for years and years.



## Lights out

Are you careful about saving electricity? 25% of people turn off the light when they leave a room. 8% never do. Four out of five leave the lights on when they go out at night.



## Who does the laundry?

Men do 29% of the 419 million loads of laundry washed each week. Almost all unmarried men do at least one load a week.

**C** Fill in the missing information from the article. Then discuss with a partner. Which facts do you find interesting? Which are surprising?

1. 74% of people in the U.S. make their beds every morning.
2. 58% of them do the dishes right after eating.
3. 8% of Americans never turn off the light when they leave a room.
4. 13% of them organize their books and magazines.
5. 50% of all Americans throw away old magazines after six months.
6. Almost all unmarried men in the U.S. do at least one load of laundry a week.

**A** Most people make their beds. I think that's surprising. I don't make mine every day.

**B** No, me neither. I don't have time. I also think it's interesting that . . .