

Дніпровський національний університет імені Олеся Гончара
Кафедра перекладу й лінгвістичної підготовки іноземців

**КОНТРОЛЬНІ РОБОТИ
З ОСНОВНОЇ ІНОЗЕМНОЇ МОВИ**

Для студентів I курсу спеціальності «Філологія (германські мови та літератури (переклад включно)), Переклад з англійської та німецької мов»

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Вступ

Посібник систематизує основний мовний матеріал для проведення контрольних робіт з Основної іноземної мови для студентів I курсу спеціальності «Філологія (германські мови та літератури (переклад включно)), Переклад з англійської та німецької мов» та включає в себе комплекс комунікативних вправ, спрямованих на активізацію мовного матеріалу; тексти і завдання до них для поглиблення комунікативної компетенції студентів в межах теми, а також розвитку навичок різних видів читання; мовні завдання, що вдосконалюють уміння і навички монологічного та діалогічного мовлення; тексти для обговорення, що забезпечують діяльнісний характер іншомовного спілкування.

Методичні вказівки та навчальні завдання складені з метою забезпечення лексико-граматичного матеріалу, передбаченого програмою та необхідного для підготовки студентів з Основної іноземної мови (англійської). Навчання мовних тем та навчальні завдання контролюють знання та вміння студентів розпізнавати певний лексико-граматичний матеріал і користуватися формами, структурами і словосполученнями вивченого лексико-граматичного матеріалу.

Мета методичних вказівок – розвинути, вдосконалити та перевірити вміння і навички усного та писемного мовлення, читання та перекладу за темами. Методичні вказівки покликані розширити словниковий запас загальної та фахової лексики; навчити студентів аргументовано висловлюватися, вести дискусію. Методичні вказівки містять систему вправ, які забезпечують вироблення навичок фахової комунікації та перекладу.

Велика увага приділяється двосторонньому перекладу, тому додаткові розділи містять комплекс лексичних вправ та тестів, які допоможуть студентам удосконалити навички перекладу та перевірити виконання завдань.

Методичні вказівки призначені для студентів вищих навчальних закладів – майбутніх перекладачів, та викладачів англійської мови як основної іноземної.

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Unit 1. The queen of hearth

Lessons 1-3

I. Give Ukrainian equivalents for the following words:

to divorce –
engaged –
stepdaughter –
marriage of convenience –
toddler –
flexible –
wet blanket –
straightforward –
determined –
generous –

II. Find synonyms for the following words:

Unhappy –
Cheerful –
Good-natured –
Energetic –
Brave –

III. Write the antonym for the words:

Calm –
Hesitant –
Stingy –
Secretive –
Relaxed –

IV. Explain the meaning of the idioms:

Big heart –

Halfhearted –

Hearts and flowers –

Bone of discord –

Tear limb to limb –

V. Write the given adjectives in the appropriate column with the noun:

auburn, floppy, wavy, pointed, slender, plump, sloping, slant, hazel, tousled, furrowed, overweight, wrinkled, ginger, shiny, domed, petite, close-set, ample

HAIR	EARS	FOREHEAD	EYES	BODY BUILD

VI. Translate into English.

1. Тільки наступного дня вона зважилася зателефонувати.

2. Аби працювати тут, ви маєте бути оптимістичним та моторним.

3. Який ви сором'язливий та вразливий! Важко жити з таким характером.

4. Не встиг він і оком моргнути, як вони вже були тут.

5. Результатом надмірної нічної праці були глибокі тіні під очима.

VII. Answer the question: "Is it better to have big or small family? Why?"

Unit 1. The queen of hearth

Lessons 4-6

I. Match the words with their antonyms:

1.	Annoyed		Proud
2.	Nervous		care for
3.	Fierce		Lonely
4.	Concerned		non-violent
5.	in company		overjoyed
6.	feel affection for		Calm
7.	Admire		free from anxiety
8.	Modest		Glad
9.	grief-stricken		feel aversion to
10.	Neglect		Hate

II. Give the Ukrainian equivalents for the words and word-combinations:

Bridesmaid –
Tied cans –
Bride –
To suspect –
To allow –
To complain –
Input –
Advantage –
To praise –
Proprietorial –

III. Find the explanation of the idioms:

1.	After one's heart		Please, be merciful
2.	Put one's heart at rest		Beloved person
3.	Sweetheart		Be envious
4.	Take to heart		Make someone oversentimental
5.	Have a heart		Take seriously
6.	Move heart		Calm down
7.	Heart leaps		Sincerely
8.	From the bottom of one's heart		Get excited
9.	Heartstruck		Extremely moved
10.	Heartburn		Jealous

IV. Write the definition for the following words:

Contender –

Crucial –

Trap –

Swap –

Indoctrinated –

V. Complete the following sentences with the words:

nod, embarrassing, mayhem, cram, nightmare

1. I didn't expect such _____ in her apartment. 2. She used to scream at night as she often had _____. 3. She blushed remembering that _____ situation. 4. You can't _____ so many clothes in one suitcase. 5. If you agree, you can just _____.

VI. Translate into English:

1. Буде краще, якщо ти відверто висловиш свою думку.

2. Їм вдалося розібратися у власних взаємовідносинах та зберегти шлюб.

3. Розкажи мені про своє походження.

4. Кількість неповних родин постійно зростає.

5. Вона виявилася неготовою до сімейного життя.

VII. Answer the question: "What are the main problems in parent-children relationships?"

Unit 2. Full house

Lessons 1-3

I. Explain the meaning of the following words and word-combinations:

Semi-detached house –

Detached house –

Block of flats –

Skyscraper –

Terraced house –

II. What parts of the house and things around it you can see in the picture:



III. Explain the idioms:

Full house –

Keep house –

Go out of the window –

Like a house on fire –

Go through the roof –

Darken the door –

Bring the house down –

IV. Write the full variant of the abbreviated words and word-combinations:

OIRO –

Neg –

FGCH –

Ono –

ASAP –

V. Translate into Ukrainian:

Conservatory style –

Raised ground floor –

Excellent value –

Looking for extra guestroom –

Give unique appeal –

VI. Translate into English:

1. Банк по сусідству – надійний, як замковий мур.

2. Продаж у повне володіння. Торг.

3. Будівельна компанія пропонувала житло на будь-який смак.

4. Пропонуються також помешкання у кооперативних будинках.

5. Чудово збереглися архітектурні ознаки вікторіанського періоду.

VII. Answer the question: “Is it better to live in a flat or in a house? Why?”

Unit 2. Full house

Lessons 4-6

I. Give English equivalents for the words:

Може служити також як –

Створювати тло –

Втричі ширший –

Розташовувати меблі –

Сприяти розвитку уяви –

Забезпечувати додаткову площу –

Схильний до самотності –

II. Translate into Ukrainian:

This light and airy bedroom invites you to relax. The cool scheme contrasts with the warm wood trim, brining it out, and harmonizes with the hard-wood floors creating a lively energy. With enough room for entertainment shelving and dressers this room offers a lot of space. The wicker armoire and matching ottoman are perfect foils for the other furniture. The sitting room area with two beautiful glass and wood doors can double as an office.

III. Find the explanation for the idioms:

1.	Pot luck		Informer
2.	In trim		Very pale
3.	The key to success		Meal where guests bring food
4.	Stoolpigeon		Mixture of vodka and orange juice
5.	White as a sheet		Body state when it is difficult to move
6.	Stiff as a board		Way to succeed
7.	Screwdriver		In perfect condition
8.	True blue		Newspapers, that do not keep ethical norms
9.	Red tape		Completely loyal
10.	Yellow press		Bureaucracy

IV. Describe the room. What can you see there?



V. Explain the words:

To purchase –

Expenses –

Afford –

Available –

Tenant –

VI. Translate into English:

1. Це приватна квартира, і вони – її довічні мешканці.

2. Агенти з нерухомості стверджують, що ціни на житло виростуть.

3. Крім відсотків по кредиту, ми маємо сплачувати страховку.

4. Наша хазяйка призначила хоча й не низьку, зате справедливу квартплату.

5. Гадаю, утримувати такий будинок непросто.

VII. Answer the question: “Is there a problem of homeless people in Ukraine?”

Unit 3. Pie in the sky

Lessons 1-4

I. Translate into Ukrainian:

Cheeseboard –

Sophisticated –

Counter –

Snack bar –

Impeccable –

Salad bar –

Buffet –

II. Explain the words:

To bake –

To steam –

To grill –

To fry –

To simmer –

To slice –

To chop –

III. Match the names of meat with the animal:

1.	Mutton		Cow
2.	Lamb		Turkey
3.	Beef		Wild duck
4.	Veal		Sheep
5.	Pork		Young sheep
6.	Poultry		Calf
7.	Game		Pig

IV. Explain the idioms:

To ham up something –

To bring home the bacon –

Dead meat –

To get egg on the face –

To make mincemeat out of somebody –

V. Write what you can see in the picture:



VI. Translate into English:

1. Яйце-пашот варять без шкаралупи. 2. Відварний язик подають з хроном та овочами. 3. Для приготування паштету печінку смажать до готовності, тушкують протягом 10 хвилин, а потім пропускають крізь м'ясорубку. 4. Свинина є загалом популярною в Україні. 5. Противень з ручкою схожий на звичайну сковороду, але він призначений для випікання хлібних виробів.

VII. Answer the question: "Should all members of the family know the basic ways of food preparation?"

Unit 3. Pie in the sky

Lessons 5-7

I. Translate into Ukrainian:

Herring –
Salmon –
Perch –
Sturgeon –
Pike –
Bread crumbs –
Mussels –

II. Explain the idioms:

To spill the beans –

As happy as a clam –

It cut no ice –

A cauliflower ear –

As cool as a cucumber –

III. Find the translation for the following words:

1.	Walnut		Ревінь
2.	Cinnamon		Кавун
3.	Fennel		Гарбуз
4.	Lettuce		Баклажан
5.	Pumpkin		Салат
6.	Water melon		Укріп
7.	Egg plant		Часник
8.	Pepper		Кориця
9.	Garlic		Волоський горіх
10.	Rhubarb		Перець

IV. Translate into Ukrainian:

1. Scallops are usually served baked.
2. Oysters are comparatively cheap.
3. Shrimps may be steamed or fried and they are an ingredient to many Thai soups.
4. Crabs are steamed or simmered in coconut milk.
5. Lobsters are usually boiled and served in cheese sauce.

V. What fruits can you see in the picture?



VI. Translate into English:

1. Заморожені креветки перед готуванням страв розморожують на повітрі або у воді.
2. Рибу часто мелють на фарш, який потім перемішують з іншими продуктами.
3. Крабів варять на малому вогні або готують на парі.
4. Вона спробувала тушкувати пастернак – та все було даремно.
5. Він вискочив прожогом із кімнати, червоний, як буряк.

VII. Answer the question: “Some people believe that eating a lot of sugar is dangerous? What do you think?”

Unit 3. Pie in the sky

Lessons 8-10

I. Give Ukrainian variants for the following word-combinations:

Brown as a berry –
Go Dutch –
Warm as toast –
Tip top –
Eat like a bird –
Doggie bag –
Dutch treat –

II. Translate the phrasal verb:

Blow up	
Give up	
Sit through	
Go for	
Look for	
Turn down	
Take away	
Shout down	
Rustle up	
Finish off	

III. Substitute the neutral word-combinations with the idioms:

1. She was very *tanned*, when she got back from sea journey. 2. Unable to resist the free drinks, he got *completely drunk*. 3. A man who *eats too much* looks like a pig. 4. They don't need much food, they have *very light meals*. 5. He can't remember anything; his memory *is a complete failure*. 6. The waitress brought some dish, it was *very creamy*. 7. He said he did not *pretend to be better than others*.

IV. Write synonyms for the words:

Nugget –

Gristle –

Bowels –

Slab –

Starve –

V. Write adjectives for description of the following food:







VI. Translate into English:

1. Їжа була далекою від традиційних страв, а тому він категорично відмовлявся від щедрої порції величезних кусків м'яса. 2. Однак ця пригода не привела до відсутності апетиту. 3. Не турбуйтеся, компанія оплатить ваш рахунок. 4. Аби зменшити витрати, краще організувати вечерю в складчину. 5. Він був найкращим кухарем в столиці.

VII. Answer the question: "Who should pay in the restaurant: man or woman? Why"

Unit 4. The school of fish

Lessons 1-3

I. Give the explanation for the following words and word-combinations:

Public school –

Boarding school –

State school –

Curriculum –

Reception class –

Six-form collage –

Voluntary schools –

II. Write English equivalent for the following words:

Вчена рада університету –

Факультет –

Заочне відділення –

Викладачі –

Завідувач кафедри –

Курси (вечірні) –

Співробітники –

III. Write about the comprehensive and selective systems of education.

IV. Give Ukrainian equivalents for the following idioms:

Heebie-jeebies –

Nitty-gritty –

Teeny-weeny –

Chitchat –

Mishmash –

Hocus-pocus –

Handy-dandy –

V. Write about the main exams schoolchildren pass in Britain:



VI. Translate into English:

1. Мій новий комп'ютер – справді цінна та чудова річ.
2. Зміст освіти у Великобританії визначається програмою.
3. Українська діти мають ходити до школи з 6 до 17 років.
4. Такі іспити не дають права на вступ до університету.
5. Іспити у школі проводять на загальнодержавному рівні.

VII. Answer the question: “What is better: to study in state or private school? Why”

Unit 4. The school of fish

Lessons 4-6

I. Explain the following notions for UK, US and Ukraine:

High school –

Bachelor –

Postgraduate level –

Master –

PhD thesis –

II. Match the words with their definitions:

1.	Hall of residence		A room provided by a landlady plus two meals
2.	Hostel		Place where people living away from home can live fairly cheaply
3.	Lodgings		A flat rented by two or more fellow-students
4.	Rented flat		University building where students live
5.	Shared rented flat		A flat rented by a one person\family

III. What British aid programs to help students finance their education do you know?

IV. Write the antonyms for the words:

Gap –

Rival –

Benefit –

Tension –

Intake –

Complete –

Deny –

V. Write about marking systems in the USA and UK.



VI. Translate into English:

В українських та американських університетах навчальний рік складається з двох семестрів, наприкінці кожного з яких студенти складають семестрові іспити та заліки. Студенти, які закінчують повний курс навчання, складають іспити на присвоєння відповідного ступеня. Навчальний рік в Україні та Великобританії закінчується одночасно.

VII. Answer the question: “What is better: Ukrainian or British system of education? Why”

Additional texts for reading and discussing

Generation Gap

One of the important problems of all times is a generation gap. Adult's mentality is different from teenager's. We are the children of two epochs with different views on various subjects. Because of this parents and children sometimes argue with each other.

Some people believe that teenagers today are generally rude, lazy and ill-behaved. Other people, however, think that teenagers are not so bad. Sometimes people don't understand teenagers. They don't understand some problems and things which are very important in teenagers' life, for example the lifestyles, piercing, tattoos, relationship with friends and teachers.

Some people don't want to understand modern views, ideals and our system of values. They say that teenagers are cruel, brutal, heartless and rude. Yes, today new generation «plays» with smoking, drugs and alcohol, but this doesn't mean that all teens are really bad! On the other hand, today many elderly people look at the world with new eyes. Moreover, they try to understand teenagers' problems and solve them.

Most of the quarrels between parents and children happen because of children's marks at school and generation gap. We try to learn better, but if we have a bad mark our parents can shout at us.

In most cases «new generation» doesn't understand their parents and becomes depressed because of this. To protest against it, teens can shock people around them. That's why it is considered that teens today are lazy and ill-behaved. Elderly people usually compare their childhood and youth with present, they are always talking about «the good old days». People are said to become wiser with age. Sometimes it is true and sometimes it is not. I think that you can meet a wise man among the old as often as among the young. It is wrong that when wisdom always comes in old age. Sometimes when we talk to adults, they listen only to their own point of view. That's why some teens don't like to talk to adults. To sum it up, nowadays everyone has a different view on teen's life. But, in fact, we should simply learn to understand each other.

Do you know what a generation gap is? Even if you don't know the particular definition, you are aware of this problem, basing on your own experience. Generation gap is a popular term used to describe serious differences between people of two generations.

To realize how to deal with it, you should keep in mind that generation gap includes several aspects: children must know as much as possible about their parents and parents — about the world outlook of their children, about relations between brothers and sisters, and also about the attitude to them of close relatives on both sides — father's and mother's.

Children demand a great deal of attention, time and patience, so, if you are not ready to devote all that to your baby, it is better not to hurry. There are many families where both parents keep working after giving birth to their baby. It is similar to the situation with a single-parent family, when a father or a mother hardly have enough time and

neglect their children's upbringing. In such cases most of the time the child has to spend on his own or with his friends. Due to the fact that he has not got any guidance from his parents he may be involved in some bad companies which commit violence or even crime and become alcohol or drug addicted. When the parents discover that, it's usually too late to change anything.

On the other hand, there is a different situation when the parents treat their children too strict and don't give them any freedom at all. In this case the children may become pariahs among their peers. Constant bans may increase the risk that the child will grow up insolent and defiant. This causes another big problem — lying. The child is forced to lie to the parents because of the fear to be punished. It can be anything from putting on make-up in the girls' room at school to stealing.

Some children rebel against discipline and family values. They listen to a loud music, wear inappropriate, to their parents' mind, clothes, dye their hair in inconceivable colours, have all their bodies pierced and tattooed trying to show their independence and establish their identity. They want to be treated as adults, but they are not ready to take all the necessary responsibilities. It doesn't mean that your child is bad and he will become a criminal. Of course, not! It only means that your child is in his transitional age and he is in need of your understanding and support.

But how to handle such behaviour? Parents should become his close friends. First of all they should learn to respect his interests. Try to speak with him as often as possible, offer some parent-child activities like shopping or going in for sports. It is worth involving the child in discussing some family questions, just to show that he is a full member of the family. Moreover, children in their teens are very vulnerable when they are criticized in public, so try to avoid it. Parents should always be honest and sincere with their child; otherwise it would be unfair to require the same from him. It demands to make a great effort from both parents and children to reach mutual understanding. There are many different opinions on the question of treating children if they disobey their parents, but every parent should decide for himself what will be best for his child and set him on the right path.

Understanding Parents-Children conflict

The parent-child relationship is one of the most trustworthy relationships of a society. It is one of the long lasting social ties among human beings and a pillar for forming family. But a very common problem to every family irrespective of its social, financial status is conflicts between parents and children. Many times it is visible and many times it is invisible, but presence of certain conflict is inevitable especially among traditional parents and teenage children. The most interesting characteristic of a parent-child conflict is that, it can be over anything however small it may be, but in normal circumstances it is easily avoidable. So, why those minor issues turns out to be major conflicts in this particular relationship? Conflicts however are not long-lasting, but impact on family is always negative.

A list of factors is responsible for conflict, but root cause is 'Difference'. Difference in opinions and ways of expressing, difference of personality etc. collectively leads to conflict. A latest study has revealed that most of parents and children experience some conflicts and tension with each other. In which parents are more prone to tension, and older the child, the greater the bothering of tension. Many research findings says that, "Relationship problems like basic personality differences and parents providing unsolicited advice tend to cause more problems and it may be that these kinds of tensions are longer-term, and reflect deep-seated conflicts that you just can't escape, whereas conflicts about lifestyles, education or finances can sort of be put off to the side if you make an effort."

A famous psychologist once concluded that the teenagers and children do have an antenna which works efficiently to provoke them to do things which their parents do not like. At that time his conclusion was taken as authority by parents, as it gives them a chance to hide their faults in parenting. But later with more deep studies it was found that the scene was opposite. It includes parents too as a key factor for such conflicts. It suggested that both of them are responsible. Here I would like to include one more factor that children are forced by biological instincts rather parents by traditional factors. It is true in child rudeness, rebel nature is found but that is natural and a part of their personality building. Factors which turn out to be cause of conflict between parents and children are:

- 1) Parent's expectations related to discipline, like social customs, moral values, choice of friends, time management etc.
- 2) Parent's expectations related to understanding family responsibilities like family works, family relationships money management etc.
- 3) Academic performance including study habits etc.
- 4) Perception by children that, parents are less caring, taking away his freedom, less communicating, less inductive, but more indulgent and exactly opposite perception of parents.
- 5) Children think that parents interfere in their private life. It is more common in teenagers who do not want to share their life. For them it is meant to be outside of her/his parent's authority.
- 6) A research suggests that conflicts are more likely and frequent where contact and interdependence between people is more.
- 7) An important factor behind such conflicts is that this relationship is not voluntary. Neither children select parents nor do parents pick their children.
- 8) Frequency of conflict depends upon the 'way of parenting.'

Every generation is full of struggles between parent and child. From the factors it can be concluded that parents are responsible for conflicts by pushing their children too far and expecting too much from them. Also, the role of child is prominent because they do not try being stubborn. Taking reference from above said factors it can be concluded that, following types of conflict in Parent-Child relationship occurs:

a) Dominance Conflict: Conflicts, in which parent or child try to settle every issue by the use of power. In such conflict individual feels that his values, beliefs, way of life

and territory are threatened. Feeling of exploitation is key factor of reaction by domineered person who feels helpless.

b) Ideological variance Conflict: It is the healthiest conflict among any relation. Because of different ideological path, both of them may fall in a conflict. In such conflict both the parent and child openly address their complaints, problems and situation, and can work to come up with a satisfying solution.

c) Habit based Conflict: Due to difference in age, a lot of habitual and life style difference found in Parents and children. Also a feeling of compliance which finally led to an unnecessary conflict like conflicts on dress, types of recreation, personal choices.

d) Communication gap Conflict: Many times teenager and children complain that, 'parents do not understand them'. This rises because of less or non effective way of communication.

Conflicts in a relationship are unavoidable. Sometimes one could not express and sometimes one could not understand. The resolution to every type of conflict is 'understanding'. There is no specific way defined to understand each other. It is situational, one has to learn it. In parent-child relationship parent's side is more responsible for any conflict because out of both sides parents are mature side.

Family Life in Britain

A "typical" British family used to consist of mother, father and two children. But in recent years there have been many changes in family life. For example, since the law made it easier to get a divorce, the number of divorces has increased. That's why 24% of British children live with only one parent, usually their mother.

The contemporary British child doesn't have a lot of companionship from brothers and sisters, because the average family has only one or two children. Most British children live with their parents at least until they finish school at the age of 17 or 18. Then many go away to college, leaving some parents sad and lonely in their empty nest and others enjoying their release from parental responsibilities.

But many adults stay with their parents during their college years or return home after graduation. Today's parents cannot even be sure that their married children have moved out forever. After a divorce they may return to the parental home temporarily or even on a long-term basis.

Older people take pride in their independence, enjoy their freedom and don't want to be a burden to their children. The telephone, the car and the airplane keep them in close contact even when they live in different parts of the country.

Members of family — grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins-keep in touch, but they see less of each other than they used to. This is because people often move away from home town to work and so the family becomes scattered. Christmas is the traditional season for reunions.

Although the family group is smaller nowadays than it used to be, relatives often travel many miles in order to spend the holiday together. Family parties may be all the more joyous when they bring together relatives who haven't seen each other for a while.

British and American families are small. In fact the populations of both Britain and the USA have stopped growing. The typical family has a father, mother and two children. Grandparents come to visit, but do not usually live with their children.

Most people get married between the ages of 20 and 23 but many marriages end in divorce. This means that both countries have a large number of "single parent families", one father or mother looking after their children alone.

The typical British family has a car, a colour TV set, a washing machine, and a cat or dog as well. They start the day at about 7 o'clock, have breakfast at 8 and are off to work by 8.30. More and more women now go out to work as well as men. The children have lunch at school at about 12.30, and come home at 4 in the afternoon. Their parents are usually home by 6 o'clock, and the family eats together at 6.30 or 7. In the evenings, father may go to the pub for a drink, or stay at home and watch TV with the others. Children go to bed early, at about 8 o'clock, two or three hours before their parents.

A typical American family has more money than a British family. Many have two or three cars, large modern kitchens and more electrical devices. They eat more meat and spend more on clothes. But their daily programme is nearly the same. Like British children, American children eat lunch at school, come home mid-afternoon, and go to bed earlier than their parents.

About Hair

Hair has always been an important sign of beauty. This is especially true for women. Next to the face, hair is one of the main qualities people look for when they consider a woman's beauty. Whether long or short, curly or straight, hair often gets a lot of attention. People who have it value it. Those of us who do not, often mourn its loss.

Each hair on a person's head grows from a single tube-like hole in the skin called a follicle. People are born with all of the hair follicles they are ever going to have. The average person has about 100,000 hair follicles. They begin to form on a fetus around the third month of pregnancy.

The part of the hair under the skin is known as the hair root. The hair sticking out from the skin is known as the hair shaft. The shaft is made up of dead cells that have been pushed up through the root. At the base of the hair root is a small ball-like formation called a bulb. This is where new cells are formed. These cells receive nutrition from the blood supply under the skin.

As new cells form, the older cells are pushed up through the root. In time, the old cells are cut off from the blood supply and begin to form a hard protein called keratin. Keratin is the same protein found in our skin and nails. These dead cells and keratin are what make up the hair shaft. This whole process is what causes hair to grow.

Each hair grows independently of other hairs. There are three periods of hair growth. Not all hairs experience the same period of growth at the same time. The period of active growth is called Anagen. During this period, hair grows at a rate of about 3/10 millimeters a day, or one centimeter a month. About 85% of hair follicles are going through this process at any given time. This period can last from two to six years.

The Catagen period of hair growth comes next. It is then that hair growth begins to slow down. This period usually lasts two or three weeks. Finally, hair growth comes to a complete stop and the hairs begin to fall out. This period is known as telogen. It affects about 15% of all hairs at a time.

On average, a person loses between 50 and 100 hairs every day. Since each hair grows at a different rate, this process is overlooked. Once the telogen period has ended, the hair growth process begins again.

So what happens when a person has trouble growing hair or suffers from hair loss? Your genes control how fast or how long your hair will grow. Some people have a longer than usual anagen growth period. These people may be able to grow more hair than the average person. However, others struggle to grow shoulder-length hair. These people have a shorter than normal anagen period.

Your health can also affect hair growth. Poor nutrition can cause some hair follicles to stop growing or cause the hairs that grow to become weak or thin. Problems with hair growth can result from thyroid problems or other conditions like anemia, diabetes and lupus. Health experts say people who experience a sudden increase in hair loss should seek medical advice.

Some hair loss can result from a combination of genetics, aging and hormones. When this happens, the hair growth cycle changes and the hair follicles get smaller. In addition, the hairs may get thinner and shorter. Soon the hairs stop growing completely on some parts of the head. People with this condition usually have family members who have experienced similar hair losses. This kind of hair loss is known as pattern baldness. It is the most common kind of hair loss. The official medical term for the condition is androgenetic alopecia.

The Latin word alopecia means loss of hair or baldness. It is also the term used to describe the medical condition that results in the loss of hair. Alopecia areata is the second most common form of hair loss after pattern baldness. It is the most common form of autoimmune disease. In alopecia areata, the body's defenses against disease attack the hair follicles, resulting in a loss of hair on the scalp and other parts of the body.

The condition usually begins with small round areas of hair loss on the scalp. When hair loss takes place over the whole surface of the scalp, it is called alopecia areata totalis. Sometimes a person may lose their eyebrows, eyelashes or hair on other parts of the body. This condition is called alopecia areata universalis. It is the rarest form of alopecia.

The National Alopecia Areata Foundation says alopecia areata affects about 2% of the population. About five million people in the United States have the condition. It affects people of all ages and races, and often begins in childhood.

That was true of 22 year old Kayla Martell, the winner of the Miss Delaware Pageant last year. Ms. Martell began losing her hair when she was about ten years old. By the time she was thirteen, all of her hair had come out.

Kayla Martell began competing in beauty pageants around that same time. In many of the events, she competed without hair. In fact, three of the five times she attempted to

become Miss Delaware, Kayla was bald. She wore a blond wig the last time she competed, winning the competition in 2010.

That win put her in position to take part in the Miss America Pageant in January.

Ms. Martell has used beauty pageants to help educate the public about alopecia. She compares wearing a hairpiece to other beauty queen traditions, like false eyelashes and hair weaves.

She says it is important for people to understand the emotional and social pressure that alopecia sufferers experience. She advises people with alopecia to contact a support group to tell them that they are not alone. She also says the most important form of beauty is inside out, not outside in.

Kayla Martell did not win the 2011 Miss America Pageant. But she was one of the top ten finalists. And her public comments have helped raised public understanding of alopecia.

Except for their hair loss, many people with alopecia are healthy individuals. And, since the hair follicles are not dead, some people with alopecia can experience periods of hair growth. Ms. Martell's hair grew during the Miss America competition. She now has what is sometimes called a buzz cut, a short crop of soft, fuzzy hair. Alopecia patients may grow and lose their hair several times during their life.

Scientists are not exactly sure what causes alopecia areata. It is not clear why the body's white blood cells begin to attack the cells in the hair follicles. There is no cure for the disease and no effective treatment that works for everyone.

Last year, researchers at Columbia University Medical Center in New York reported findings that they hope will help lead to a cure. The researchers found eight genes they believe may be important in causing the condition. They said many of the genes are also linked to autoimmune diseases. These include rheumatoid arthritis, type 1 diabetes and celiac disease, a condition that affects the digestive system.

There are already effective treatments available for many of these conditions. Other treatments are being developed. The researchers say these treatments could prove to be promising for alopecia patients.

Angela Christiano is a professor at Columbia University Medical Center. She also suffers from alopecia areata. She says the study gives hope that there may someday be a cure for the condition.

The researchers studied 1,054 cases from the The National Alopecia Areata Registry. They looked for similarities in the genes that people with different levels of alopecia carry. They found that those with 13 to 14 similar genes had diseases that did not progress. Those with 16 or more similar genes usually progressed to alopecia universalis, or total baldness.

The researchers are now working on a genetic test to predict the severity of the disease. Professor Christiano says the next step is to repeat the study in future research, with a larger number of patients.

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How to control emotions in the stressful situation

While many situations arise that may cause us to be stressed, how we handle the emotions attached to these situations can help us maintain a level of control necessary to cope with the situation at hand. The following are a few suggestions that you may find useful the next time you are faced with a stressful situation.

When you feel yourself becoming overly stressed, tense or upset, train yourself to stop and inhale/exhale three times very slowly. With each inhale, make sure that air is entering either your lungs or your diaphragm. Keeping your mind focused on your breath, you should be able to visibly see either your stomach or your chest rise and fall with each inhale/exhale.

While inhaling/exhaling, pay attention to which parts of your body are tense and purposely relax those muscles. Imagine yourself inhaling calm, peace and control while exhaling anger, stress, fear or whatever emotion it is you are wanting to control.

Remind yourself that you can control your reactions. While the situation you're in may cause agitation, in order to deal with it most effectively, you will need to consciously and deliberately choose your actions. In doing so, it is important that you remain calm and alert. Do not allow your buttons to be pushed and do not allow yourself to become a victim of your own emotions. While you may feel certain emotions, it is important not to allow your emotions to then dictate your reactions. If this is a difficult task for you, tell yourself that you will allow yourself time later to respond emotionally once you are away from the immediate situation and in an environment where you are safe to let it all out without harming yourself or someone else, but that right now you will need to keep those emotions contained and react with a clear mind, calm speech and deliberate, peaceful action.

If your situation involves conflict with another person or persons, allow that person time to speak while you patiently listen. While listening, don't focus on creating a response to what you are hearing, but give your full attention to the points they are trying to make and try to sincerely recognize their point of view. Even if you disagree with their opinion or their actions, take a moment to calmly acknowledge that this is their opinion or the action that they are choosing to take. Be sure to tell them that you are considering their point of view even if you do not agree at this time. Doing so takes your mind off of your position long enough to let you clearly assess both sides and, hopefully, will give the other person a sense of calm in that their position is at the very least being heard. This may cause them to relax a little and even contribute to an attitude of peace toward whatever the situation is. At the very least, it will give you a measure of control over the situation in that you are now out of the stress of an "emotional battle" and are seeking understanding and peace instead.

If you need to, allow yourself time to place the stressful situation on the back burner until you've had time to calm down and better decide your approach. Even if your situation involves conflict with another person, make them aware that you'd feel better if you can take a little time to better understand both of your positions and make a better decision. Then, make an appointment with yourself on when you will sit down to

consider the situation and for how long you will do so. You may decide that from seven to eight pm, you will give your full attention to the matter and, hopefully, arrive at a solution, but that for the time being you are going to give your mind a break from it and do something else instead. Be diligent in setting this time aside and do not try to let your mind wander back to attempt to work the situation out before then.

While we sometimes can't control the stressful situations we are faced with, we can control how we react to them and the degree to which we allow them to impact our lives. Hopefully, from this point forward you will be aware of your responses and seek to keep your emotions on a safe frequency.

A typical house, its orientation and structure

A Slavonic village is oriented according to the Milky Way: the main street corresponds to it and lies in the direction from East to West. The houses are placed perpendicularly to the road, with their blind walls towards the North and windows towards the South. There are usually two windows looking at the road and two or three windows looking at the yard. The former two serve as the channels connecting people living in the house with the Sun (because these windows are the closest ones to the red corner), and the latter ones are said to connect people with the Moon. The number of the windows looking at the yard is three because they symbolize a traditional Slavonic family which consists of three generations of people.

A typical house is one-storey. The inner space of the house is divided into three parts, each of which has its own predestination and determines the life of the lodgers and the behaviour of the guests. The borders between the three zones are indicated by two tie-beams holding the ceiling. The space from the first to the second beam is for the people entering the house; here guests are received. The space from the second to the third beam belongs to the lodgers; here they work, eat, sleep. The third zone with the red corner is sacred. Here icons and other ritual objects are kept and the family prays the God. This is the horizontal structure of the house according to its length.

There is also the division of the house according to its width. The house is diagonally divided into the left and the right halves with the border passing from the hearth to the red corner. In the Slavonic world outlook the left side is considered to be the 'female side'; here the hearth is situated. The right side is called the 'male side'; this is the place for men.

Vertically the house has three levels; it is considered to be a microlevel model of the Universe. The upper level is for the gods; the lowest level – for the late ancestors; the middle – for the family. The garret is the place where spirits live, that is why there is a special window there for them to move in and out. The middle part of the house is for people to live in.

A typical Chinese house is two-storey. The first floor is for the host and his wife; children live upstairs. The best form for the house is rectangular (gives success and constancy to the family) and square (gives stability). A house with more than four angles, especially if it is unsymmetrical, accumulates negative energy; a house in the

form of a circle lacks stability and endangers the strength of the family. The best form for the area around the house is a regular one: a circle, a square or a rectangle. Unsymmetrical and angular forms are unfavourable as negative energy accumulates in such places. The way to correct such a situation is to hide the corners behind the fence. If the main entrance faces a sharp angle it is best to use another door or to build a porch. The best position for the house on the area around it is in the centre.

The direction in which the door or a window looks may be different. The family is free to choose any direction they prefer depending on what objects they pursue:

- the North – if they want to live a very quiet and peaceful life;
- the South – if they like an active way of life and often invite guests;
- the East is good for young people, especially creative ones;
- the West is the best direction for the families with children; it helps children grow happy and creative;
- the North–West is good for men – they will be highly respected in the family;
- the South–West is good for women – it makes the marriage stronger and strengthens the role of the mother in the family;
- the North-East helps good education;
- the South-East helps enrichment.

A typical Madagascarin house is two-storey and made of bricks. The roof is made of reed or flat tile. The walls are covered with red clay. On each floor there are two rooms: one larger and one smaller. One of the larger rooms is used as both the bedroom and the sitting-room. In the other room corn is stored.

The house is oriented according to the parts of the world. It should be directed from North to South. If it is directed from West to East, then the Nature will make the family leave the house sooner or later. All the doors and windows must look westward. If they look southward, the host is believed to become a wizard; if eastward, he will lose his wife; if northward, the house will inevitably be struck by a lightning.

The inner space of the house is also divided in accordance with the parts of the world. The southern part of the house is for the host; here he sleeps as it is believed to be the best part of the house. In the south-eastern part the basket with talismans is placed. In the eastern part the jar with drinking water is placed. In the western corner poultry is kept. The southern part of the house is the part of the material wealth; rice is kept there. The hearth is placed in the centre of the house or closer to the southern wall. Guests are received in the south-eastern part of the house.

The main zones of the house

The door is the place of entrance and exit. On the one hand, it symbolizes a border between the house and the yard, on the other hand, it ensures protection and access. The open door connects people with the world, the closed door protects the family from the outside invasion. Slavonic tradition pays great attention to this zone.

The closed position of the door is considered right. The door can be left open only if some extraordinary event has happened to the family. In the wedding ceremony the door

also plays an important role. The mother-in-law should close the door with her back after letting in the new-married couple so that the daughter-in-law will never leave the family.

The threshold also belongs to the zone of entrance. It symbolizes the border between the world of living people (the house) and the world of the ancestors (under the house).

According to the Chinese tradition, the stream of positive energy Chi enters the house through the main door. Any obstacle in front of the door prevents it from entering, so the space here should be empty. If the obstacle cannot be removed away, the door should be painted the colour corresponding the part of the world it looks at. The colours are: black for the North, green for the East, red and orange for the South, white for the West. The space before the door should be brightly lit. The door must be strong to protect the family from any unwanted influence from outside.

The zone of cooking is represented by the stove.

The Chinese use to choose the western or the northern part of the house for the stove and the kitchen. The stove should be seen very well from the door. The door should not set against any furniture, there must be enough space for the door to open freely. The stove and the sink should be placed as far from each other as possible since they represent different kinds of energy – those of the fire and of the water. Different energies in close contact cause distress to the lodgers. The shelves in the kitchen should have doors and be kept closed. The window-sills should be free of any objects and the curtains should be drawn back for the energy to move freely.

On Madagascar the stove is placed on three stones in the centre of the house. It can also be built in the southern part of the house to neutralize negative energy coming from the South as the South is considered to be the worst part of the world. The guests sit northward to the stove. The first person to make fire in the hearth in a new house is the host.

The place people use for sleeping is subject to numerous regulations concerning its position and the orientation of sleeping people according to the parts of the world. These rules differ from one culture to another as they are dictated by the world outlook of nations.

The Chinese say that different people should choose different places for sleeping. Calm people should sleep in the northern part of the house; energetic ones – in the southern part; the eastern part is the best for the young. People of any age wishing to bring more romance into their life should choose the western part of the house. The place for the bed in the room is chosen individually.

Malagasies use to sleep on mats instead of beds; still there are certain rules concerning the sleeping place, too. Great importance is given to the direction of the head of a sleeping person. Men sleep by the eastern wall with their head to the North or East. Women and children sleep to the South from the stove with their heads to the East. It is forbidden to sleep with the head to the South as only wizards do so. Children can never sit or lie on the place the adults sleep on as they show their disrespect to the elders if do so.

These are the zones recognized in all the three cultures, but there are other zones, typical only of some of them. One of such zones is the red corner in Slavonic culture, which is not singled out in the Chinese and Madagascanian ones because of the difference in their religious beliefs.

Advantages and disadvantages of living in a detached (private) house

If you're tired of being disturbed by the quarreling couple above and your neighbor's blown-out stereo speakers below, life in a single family home is probably right for you. But before calling the movers, consider all of the pros and cons of saying goodbye to apartment life. Oftentimes home dwellers pay significantly more to live without shared walls, so verify that your current income can support this kind of major lifestyle change.

Privacy and Isolation

The thin, shared walls of an apartment or condominium are no match for the increased solitude and privacy you'll enjoy from living in a stand-alone house on its own piece of land. On the other hand, a single family home can isolate its inhabitants by robbing them of the opportunity to build community. Since most typical stand-alone homes are designed to encourage backyard activity, house dwellers have fewer opportunities to interact with neighbors and create lasting friendships.

Consuming and Spending

The compact nature of apartment life can quickly lead to hoarder-like conditions if you don't manage your consumption habits. But when you're living in your own house, you'll have the space to indulge in more consumer-oriented recreational activities, like warehouse club shopping and yard sale excursions. Should you run out of room inside the house, you can usually add extra shelving in the garage. However, you'll need to keep an eye on your bank account, since it's easy to fall into the habit of spending more to stock up, just because you have empty space to accommodate it.

Working Outside

If you have a green thumb, having your own house gives you the freedom to exercise your favorite hobby. From growing your own vegetables to decorating your front lawn with ferns boxwood, a house offers the chance to be outside, doing what you love while getting closer to nature. However, unless you can pay a gardener to handle the drudge work like weeding and hedge trimming, you'll spend a significant amount of time doing boring, routine maintenance.

Paying for Freedom

The greatest advantage of having your own house is the ability to express your individuality, however you see fit. Want to paint your house pink? Park your motorcycle in your living room? Build a castle out of recycled junk in your backyard? As long as you don't live in a neighborhood with strict regulations or pay rent to a landlord, you can thumb your nose to typical rules regulating apartment dwellers. But the personal freedom you enjoy when living in a house comes with a heavy price tag, like higher monthly payments, property taxes, insurance and replacing the carpet after your Harley leaks oil on the floor.

First-time home buyers looking for the best real estate deal available often find themselves choosing between a single-family home and a townhouse. While each type of property offers distinct advantages and shortcomings, the buyer's own needs and preferences can make one type of property considerably more appealing than the other.

Maintenance

Homeownership of any type requires maintenance, but maintenance in a townhouse may require considerably less effort than in a single-family home. In a free-standing house, homeowners must maintain the interior of the house as well as exterior items like the roof, shutters, driveway and outside fixtures. In a townhouse community, though, the homeowners' association typically handles external maintenance. Community maintenance helps ensure a uniform appearance among all townhouses in the neighborhood, but some homeowners may find this approach a little restrictive; townhouse associations typically maintain tight control and restrictions concerning outside fixtures.

Amenities

In addition to covering external maintenance, the homeowner associations in townhouse communities often provide a wealth of other services. Typical townhouse communities include swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds and clubhouses, and some may offer luxuries like a community library, video library, gym or boat dock. Because the community shares these facilities, though, there is somewhat less privacy than similar amenities in single-family homes.

Yard

Though some townhouses have lawns, these yards are typically considerably smaller than a single-family home's lawn. In some communities, the association enforces a "common area" approach that forces townhome owners to share their backyards with neighbors. Townhouse associations often include lawn maintenance and landscaping in the monthly fee, though, so homeowners with an aversion to yard work may prefer the convenience of living in a townhouse.

Privacy

Single-family homes typically offer some space between the home and the closest neighbor, and this separation can equate to increased privacy for residents. In a townhouse, by contrast, the structure's shared walls may mean that neighbors can hear your loud music, television, parties and even arguments.

Cost

Townhouses often carry a lower price tag than comparable single-family homes, according to the financial website Money Crashers. In addition to the lower purchase price, townhouse owners may find themselves paying lower utility bills as a townhome's shared walls help prevent heat loss. Though the lower initial purchase price may result in a more affordable mortgage payment, the homeowner association dues may offset these savings. Many townhouse associations charge monthly dues that can reach into the hundreds of dollars, so home buyers should carefully compare the overall expense before making a purchase. In addition, homeowners who hope to profit from the property's appreciation while living in the home may prefer to pursue a single-

family property, as townhouses tend to appreciate at a slower rate than detached dwellings.

Renting v Buying - should I rent or buy a property?

The answer to this question is not straightforward. It comes down to personal circumstances and current market conditions and is always a hotly debated topic. The case for and against both options can easily be made. Fundamentally it depends on an individual's personal circumstances.

Recent record low interest rates have played a significant role in keeping the cost of borrowing low and driving down monthly mortgage payments. But lending criteria have been strict and inflation has been consistently above the Bank of England's target. Speculation is now growing about when - and by how much - the base rate will be raised to counter inflationary pressures. So, those on tracker mortgage could see their monthly payments start to rise soon.

While buying wins out over renting today according to our latest research, the impact of a rise in interest rates cannot be ignored. If interest rates were to increase by 1% and rents to remain the same, renting would become more cost-effective in 80% of the locations we recently studied.

If you are thinking buying in the current market you must keep in mind how rising interest rates would affect your monthly payments. Fixed rate deals remain the best way for borrowers to protect themselves against this uncertainty, but they don't suit everyone's financial situation.

So, because we don't know your personal circumstances it would be hard to say you should rent or buy. So instead, here are some reasons to consider when looking to rent or buy:

Buying

1. You're investing in your future

If you own your home and have a repayment mortgage, rather than interest only mortgage, you are investing in your future and creating a valuable asset. Your monthly repayments aren't going to a landlord and creating 'dead money' for you. However whilst the value of your property may go up as well as down, at the end of the term of the mortgage you will own the property outright.

2. Freedom

If you own your home you can do what you like to it (within the planning regulations). You can make it a home for your family or simply move in and carry on. You'll also be in direct control of any problems with the property and won't have to deal with agents or Landlords.

3. Discipline and experience

The house buying process can be a daunting one, but when you have done it once, the process is very similar for future purchases. If you're a first time buyer, owning your first home [h1] can be a great way to kick-start financial planning for your future and help you to create a household budget to manage the costs of running a home.

4. Community

An often overlooked advantage of buying your property is that you're also becoming part of an existing community that makes up the local school, church or shops and create lifelong friends and support.

Renting

1. Flexibility

Renting allows you to choose pretty much where you like to live. In most cases you can break a rental contract after 6 months, allowing you to move to a new location or try a new location perhaps as a test before you decide to commit and buy in the area.

2. Free from financial responsibility

As a renter you are not going to fall foul of any housing market related conditions. You will of course have to pay rent but you're not tied into monthly repayments on a bigger loan and therefore cannot fall into negative equity.

3. No maintenance costs

As a tenant it is the responsibility of your landlord to maintain the property, pay for decoration and its upkeep.

About Cherries

There is something hard to resist about cherries. The small red fruit is a popular seasonal food around the world. In northern areas, cherry trees are just beginning to produce flowers.

The cherry is a member of the same family of plants as the rose. It is closely related to the plum. Like cherry trees, plum trees also flower in early spring.

Cherries are thought to be native to western Asia. There are two major kinds of cherries harvested in the world: sweet and sour.

Sour cherries are not eaten fresh because they contain little sugar. Instead, they are processed to make prepared foods like jellies and pies and to make alcoholic drinks. The United States is a major producer of sour cherries. Among the states, Michigan is the top producer.

Russia, Poland and Turkey are other important cherry-producing nations.

Sweet cherries contain much more sugar than their sour relatives and are usually eaten fresh. Washington state is the biggest American producer, followed by California and Oregon.

The United States, Iran and Turkey are major producers of sweet cherries. In the United States, production fell by twenty percent last year after a record harvest in two thousand four.

Fresh cherries do not store well. They must reach market as soon as possible. So they cost more than many other kinds of fresh fruit.

Farmers produce different kinds of cherries through the process of grafting. They take cuttings from existing trees and join them to related trees, known as root stock. The cuttings, called scions [SY-uhnz], grow into the root stock, so the two kinds of trees grow as one.

Cherry trees are also valued for their springtime blossoms.

Cherry blossoms are popular in many parts of Asia and Europe. But Washington, D.C., has some of the most famous cherry trees in the world. Japan gave the United States three thousand cherry trees in nineteen twelve as a gift of friendship. There were twelve different kinds of cherry trees, but most were a kind called Yoshino.

Years later Japan gave another gift of three thousand eight hundred trees. In the early nineteen eighties, the United States provided Japan with cuttings from the Yoshino trees in Washington. These cuttings helped replace Japanese trees lost in a flood.

Coffee and the Coffee Culture in the US

At La Colombe coffee shop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, you can enjoy a tasty cup of coffee as you read the newspaper or meet with friends. The shop is very busy and lively.

The people who work there can quickly make excellent espresso or drip coffee drinks. La Colombe is a good example of how important coffee culture has become in the United States. Join us as we explore the culture, history and business of one of the world's favorite drinks.

In the United States, the number of specialty coffee shops has increased greatly over the years. In nineteen ninety-five there were an estimated five thousand shops and sellers specializing in coffee. By two thousand six, there were almost twenty-four thousand. It is hard to walk down a street in an American city without coming across a coffee shop. And, chances are, that coffee shop might be a Starbucks.

The Starbucks company started in the West Coast city of Seattle, Washington, in nineteen seventy-one. Today, there are more than twelve thousand Starbucks around the world. Starbucks has helped make coffee culture a popular part of people's daily lives. The stores sell all kinds of coffee. They sell special hot and cold coffee drinks like Frappuccinos and White Chocolate Mocha. They also sell food, music and books. Starbucks has helped educate people about the world of coffee.

But there is much more to making and enjoying coffee than Starbucks. In fact, many people criticize the aggressive expansion of Starbucks and its impersonal coffee shops. The company has made business difficult for smaller, independent coffee shops. But these coffee shops have a strong and loyal following. There is a certain pride in the coffee industry among the smaller, more personal coffee sellers.

The Specialty Coffee Association of America holds a yearly competition for the people who prepare coffee drinks, known as baristas. The best baristas from different areas of the country gather to make three coffee drinks. A group of coffee experts judges them. The baristas take their job very seriously. They have fifteen minutes to make three kinds of coffee drinks: an espresso, a cappuccino, and a specialty drink of their own invention.

"A big round of applause for Melanie's espressos!"

The best baristas in the country then compete for the national award. There is even a World Barista Championship. This year it will be held in Tokyo, Japan.

Doug Wolfe recently competed in the Mid-Atlantic area barista competition. But to really see him work his coffee magic, you must visit him where he works, at La Colombe.

DOUG WOLFE:

"My name is Doug Wolfe, and I am from Philadelphia. I am with La Colombe Torrefaction. I'm going to be making an espresso and cappuccino for you guys."

To make an espresso, Doug packs freshly ground coffee into a filter that attaches to a shiny La San Marco espresso machine from Italy. The machine forces heated water at high pressure through the coffee. The resulting espresso has a strong, smooth and flavorful taste. He makes a cappuccino by adding perfectly heated milk to an espresso. This may sound easy. But making a perfect espresso requires several things: the right amount of fresh coffee and expert control of water temperature, pressure and timing. La Colombe roasts its own special coffee mixtures at a factory nearby. This way it can control the high quality and freshness of its product.

You might enjoy a cup of coffee at your local coffee shop. But coffee is part of an international industry. Research shows that as many as one-third of the people in the world drink coffee. Some people drink coffee for its rich smell and taste. Others like the awakening effect of caffeine, a chemical in coffee. But not everyone may know the story of coffee and how it is produced.

One popular story about the discovery of coffee long ago is about Kaldi, a keeper of goats. Kaldi was taking care of his goats in the highlands of Ethiopia where coffee trees have grown for centuries. He noticed that his goats became very excited and active after eating small fruits from a tree.

Kaldi reported this discovery to a group of religious workers. When they made a drink out of the fruit, the religious workers realized they could stay awake for long hours of prayer. This knowledge about coffee soon spread all over the world.

Coffee trees are native to eastern Africa and areas of the Arabian Peninsula. Coffee was first grown and traded in the fifteenth century. Most coffee came from what is now Yemen. Soon, coffee was in high demand all over the Middle East. By the seventeenth century coffee had been introduced to Europe. European traders started bringing coffee plants to other parts of the world. The Dutch brought coffee to the islands of Indonesia. And by the twentieth century, most of the world's production came from Central and South America. Today, Brazil is the largest producer of coffee in the world.

Most people know what a coffee bean looks like, but what about the plant? Coffee trees can grow up to nine meters high, but they are cut short for production. These trees have shiny dark green leaves that grow on opposite sides of each other on a stem. The plant produces a fruit that is called a coffee cherry.

When the coffee cherries are ripe and ready to pick, they are bright, red and firm. Inside the fruits are the green coffee beans. After these beans are roasted at high temperatures they are ready to be made into a drink.

The two most important kinds of coffee plants are the arabica and the canephora, which is commonly known as robusta. Arabica coffee makes up about seventy percent of the world's production. These trees produce a fine and mild coffee with a rich smell.

Robusta has a more caffeine than arabica. It is usually mixed with other coffee beans or used for instant coffee. Most of the world's robusta is grown in Central and Western Africa. It can also be found in parts of Southeast Asia and Brazil. Robusta is less costly to grow because it is more resistant to diseases than the arabica plant. Also, robusta plants can survive in a warmer climate.

There may only be two main kinds of coffee plants. But geography and climate differences have a big effect on the many different ways coffee can taste. For example, coffee grown in Ethiopia is known for its lively, sharp taste and its flowery smell. Coffee from the island of Sumatra has a full body with an earthy and intense taste. Coffee roasters combine beans from different areas to make coffees with different tastes and qualities.

Coffee is the second most heavily traded product in the world after oil. A coffee bean goes from a series of producers, exporters, importers, roasters and sellers. This long chain of production has major social and political effects. For example, some coffee producers and drinkers are concerned about the Fair Trade movement. The aim of this movement is to make sure that coffee farmers around the world get a fair price for their harvest. Poor farmers are organized into groups called cooperatives. They are guaranteed money under this system. Even if the market price for coffee drops, these farmers can earn enough money to live.

Critics of the movement say coffee farmers still do not receive a fair amount of money for their work. And some economists argue that Fair Trade creates too large a supply of coffee.

There are also environmental concerns within the coffee industry. Industrial coffee production can have a bad effect on nature. The chemicals used on large coffee farms can hurt soil and water sources. These large farms also cut down many trees to make room for coffee plants. This threatens native plants and birds.

Environmental organizations have worked to create rules for producing coffee in environmentally friendly ways. Many coffee drinkers buy this coffee to support their efforts.

About Wine - Part 1

Since ancient times, people have grown grapes to produce wine. Join us as we tell about the history of wine and how it is made. We will also visit a vineyard in the United States and meet a winemaker.

It is hard to say how long people have been drinking wine. Wine is far older than recorded history. Some experts say it is as old as civilization itself.

The first wine ever made was probably an accident. People in ancient times might have picked ripe grapes. Some juicy grapes at the bottom of the container were crushed together. As the grapes broke open, yeasts on the skins went to work turning sugar from the fruit into alcohol. This is the fermentation process that turns grape juice into wine.

Winemaking probably began in the ancient Near East and Egypt. Burial places in ancient Egypt provide information about wine and its importance in Egyptian culture.

Egyptian rulers were buried with wine offerings to help them in the afterlife. Archeological evidence also suggests that some of the earliest known wine producers were in Georgia and Iran thousands of years ago.

North Africa, Spain, France and Italy had their first vineyards during the Greek and Phoenician empires. The ancient Romans greatly expanded the winemaking industry. By the end of the Roman Empire, almost all of the major wine producing areas still in production today had been established in western Europe.

During the period of the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church owned many of the great vineyards of Europe. Wine also played an important part in the church's religious ceremonies.

Wine was not just about having an enjoyable drink. It could be stored for future use. And, it was nutritious and often much safer to drink than water during early times, especially in cities.

Some experts say that up until the the sixteen hundreds in Europe, wine was one of the only prepared drinks. After that, wine had competition from beer, coffee and tea.

One thing was very important for the start of the modern wine industry. Wine needed a better storage method. In the mid sixteen hundreds people began making glass wine bottles that were stronger and low cost. Before that, wine was transported in containers made out of wood, clay or leather.

Glass bottles and the tight seal of a cork permitted wine to last longer in storage. It became clear that wine aged well and tasted even better over time. These developments led to a whole new kind of wine culture.

Today, the top wine producing countries in the world are Italy, France and Spain, followed by the United States.

Although Europe is still important in the wine industry, many other countries around the world are making top wines. These include Argentina, Chile, South Africa and Australia. Wine production is even increasing in countries like India and China.

Before we discuss how wine is made, we tell about several kinds of grapes. Some grapes are grown internationally. Chardonnay is probably the best known white grape. sauvignon blanc and riesling are other well known white grapes. Grapes for making red wine include pinot noir, syrah, merlot and cabernet sauvignon.

Other kinds of grapes are special in certain areas. For example, albarino and tempranillo are grown in Spain while Italian grapes include vermentino and nebbiolo. Other more local examples include Austria's gruner veltliner grape and Hungary's kadarka.

Grapes contain water, sugar, acidity and tannin. These four elements are influenced by the kind of grape and the soil and climate of the vineyard. Wine growers can also affect the taste of their wine using other methods.

The French have a special name for the importance of the place where a grape is grown and its effect on the taste of a wine. "Terroir" is the word used to describe how a vineyard's soil and climate give a wine special qualities. For example, a chardonnay wine grown in France will taste very different from one grown in California.

Now that we know about grapes and geography, we have some important tools for understanding the label on a bottle of wine. Some vineyards define their wine by the kind of grapes used in making the wine. Others define their wine based on where it is produced, such as wine made in France.

A bottle of wine may cost several dollars or hundreds of dollars. The cost of a wine usually has to do with how it was produced. Some wines are mass produced by companies with well known brand names. Other wines are made in very small quantities and require a great deal of time and effort to produce.

How grapes become wine begins with the harvest. A winemaker must make an important decision about the best time to pick the grapes. Next, the grapes must be prepared for fermentation. The grapes are closely examined and sorted. Diseased or overly ripe grapes are thrown away.

Some winemakers choose to keep the stems of the grapes, while others remove them. The grapes are then crushed by machines. In the past, people crushed the grapes with their feet inside large containers. Some winemakers today still use this method. The grapes and their liquid are then stored in large containers where fermentation takes place.

The juice of white grapes is separated from the skins before fermentation. The skins of red grapes stay with the juice during fermentation. The skins give the wine its red color and much of its taste.

During fermentation, sweet grape juice slowly turns into a dryer and more complex tasting wine. During this stage, yeasts are changing sugar into alcohol, heat and carbon dioxide. Next, the wine is pressed so that solids are removed from the liquid.

Wine is often then stored in wooden containers called barrels. Aging the wine in barrels permits the flavors to come together. The oak wood can also give the wine a special taste. After the wine has aged for an extended period of time it is put into bottles. The wine is now ready to drink.

Our description of winemaking is very general, but it gives you an idea of the process. In the United States, California is the most famous and top producing state for wine. But most people do not know that there are wineries in all fifty American states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

In nineteen forty-five, there was just one vineyard in the state of Maryland. Today, there are about forty vineyards in the state and that number is growing.

Earlier this month, we visited Black Ankle Vineyards in Maryland to learn more about wine production. Ed Boyce and Sarah O'Herron are a husband and wife team who own this fifty-nine hectare farm.

During our visit, many of the grapes were being harvested. Ms. O'Herron took us to check on the remaining grapes.

SARAH O'HERRON: "So this is Cabernet Sauvignon, that's still on the vines. So they're coming along."

REPORTER: "So when will these be ready?"

SARAH O'HERRON: "Two weeks maybe? They're getting close, though."

Ms. O'Herron tastes a grape and looks at its seeds.

SARAH O’HERRON: “And then these skins are still a little bit crunchy still. A little tannic, but not so much. It’s getting, these guys are getting close, which is good.”

Ms. O’Herron shows us containers of newly picked pinot noir grapes. These grapes are now going through the wine process we talked about earlier.

Ed Boyce and Sarah O’Herron once worked as business professionals. But they spent a great deal of time travelling around the world and researching wine and the wine industry.

They decided to change careers and make wine their life’s work. They bought the farm that would become Black Ankle Vineyards in two thousand two. Their first full harvest was in two thousand six.

We asked Ms. O’Herron about the difficulties of being a winemaker.

SARAH O’HERRON: “First and foremost, it’s farming. We grow everything here right on this farm, so you are very much beholden to the weather, just like any other kind of farming. This year has been mostly a hot dry year, that’s generally good for us. But we can have a big rain storm, we just had a bunch of rain, and that will make an impact.”

Ms. O’Herron says their vineyard is getting increasing attention for the quality of their wine. She says this is partly because people do not expect such great wine to be produced in a state that is relatively unknown for its wine traditions.

Black Ankle Vineyards is a good example of how local winemakers are adding to the culture of wine production in the United States.

About Wine - Part 2

If you know how to study a glass of wine, it can tell you about its history. Studying a wine involves using several senses, not just taste.

First, pour the wine into a glass and look at it. It might help to put a piece of white paper behind the glass so you can see the color clearly. Color can tell a lot about the kind of grapes, where the wine is from and its age. Look at the clarity, thickness and color of the wine.

A white wine might be almost colorless, or it could have a deep golden color. White wines go darker with age. White wine made from grapes grown in a cool climate is often paler, with a higher amount of acid. A white wine from grapes grown in a warmer climate is often yellower, with less acid, though there are exceptions to this rule.

The color of red wine can be purplish red to brick red. Red wines often become paler with age. Red wines grown in warmer climates often have deeper color than those grown in cooler climates.

Next, turn the glass so that the wine moves around inside. This brings air into the wine, so that it releases its smell. Smell the wine deeply. A wine’s smell is actually more telling than its taste. To use a wine term, what can you learn about the wine from its “nose”? Is the wine fruity? Does it smell like oak? Do you smell grass or maybe honey? Maybe the smell is like butter or a mineral. It may be complex or intense.

Now it is time to taste the wine. Move it around in your mouth. You may recognize some tastes because you identified them while smelling the wine. You can also consider the wine's sweetness and its sharpness, or acidity. You may note the taste of tannin. Tannins are chemicals that are found in the skin and seeds of grapes. They are also found in tea. Tannins taste bitter and seem to coat your mouth. To make a good wine requires a balance between sugar, acidity, tannin and alcohol.

Professional wine tasters have many special words to describe wines. Some adjectives might be surprising. For example, a wine that feels smooth might be described as "velvety" or "silky." A wine that does not have enough acidity is "flabby" or "fat." A wine with a strong tannin taste could be "chewy." And white wines with a lively taste could be described as "crisp", "zesty" or "steely."

Many wine experts can identify the kind of wine without ever seeing the label on the bottle. This is because they know the qualities of the look, smell and taste of a wine.

One famous wine-tasting helped change the history of the wine industry in the United States. The Paris Wine-Tasting of nineteen seventy-six is also known as the Judgment of Paris. A British wine expert organized a wine-tasting in France. He invited producers of California wines to take part in the competition against the most famous producers of French wines. At the time, France was known for producing the best wines in the world. California wine was relatively unknown outside the United States.

The top food and wine experts from France were the judges. They did a "blind" tasting, meaning they did not know what wines they were drinking. The winners for both the red and white wine categories were California wines from Napa Valley. Many wine experts were shocked. This event helped change opinions about wine produced in the United States.

The wine industry has changed a great deal since the nineteen seventies. The United States is now the fourth largest producer of wine in the world. California produces about ninety percent of the wine in the United States, followed by the states of New York, Washington and Oregon.

Americans are also drinking more wine than ever before. Industry studies show that the amount of wine drunk in the United States has been steadily increasing for the past sixteen years. In fact, Americans now spend more money on wine than any other country in the world. Industry experts say the United States will soon pass France and Italy as the top consumer of wine by volume.

Even the recent economic recession has not stopped Americans from drinking wine. Reports say Americans are buying more wines in stores rather than ordering them in restaurants. Other experts say the recession has made Americans explore and discover wines that are less costly.

We talked with wine expert Steven Kolpan about his thoughts on the wine industry. Mr. Kolpan is a writer and a professor of wine studies at the Culinary Institute of America. We asked Mr. Kolpan what areas of the world are producing interesting wines these days.

STEVEN KOLPAN: “Canada is producing some excellent wines. Greece is now producing some really interesting wines. I think we have an association with Greek wines that’s not all that positive, but the new Greek wines are really great.”

Steven Kolpan also discussed another emerging country in the wine industry. In two thousand eight, China was listed as the seventh top wine-producing country in the world.

STEVEN KOLPAN: “China is positioning itself to be a very strong player in both the import market in their own country but also their domestic market. And I think they would like to have a presence in the export market as well.”

He says it might not be long before China is producing top quality wines.

One major trend in the wine industry today is the growing effort by producers to make wine in a way that does not harm the environment. Many producers are making organic wines, or wines that are “sustainably” grown. Efforts to be more “green” include using water more responsibly, reducing chemicals used to kill insects and rethinking the wine bottle.

Even one of the most traditional wine areas in the world is making some major changes in an effort to be more green. The Champagne area of France is famous for its sparkling wine. Producers there are working to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions spent transporting wine around the world. One way they have done this is to make wine bottles lighter so they require less energy to transport.

The newer Champagne bottle only weighs about sixty-five fewer grams than the traditional nine hundred gram bottle. But this small change could make a big difference in the future. The Champagne industry says carbon pollution could be cut by eight thousand metric tons a year once all producers use the lighter bottle.

Another concern linked to the environment is the effect of climate change on wine-producing areas. Steven Kolpan says the immediate effect of climate change in some areas has been helpful. In cooler climates, warmer weather has helped grapes ripen more fully. But he says that warmer wine producing areas around the world will suffer.

STEVEN KOLPAN: “We are going to see a huge shift in the wine market due to climate change. And, I think California is going to be deeply affected by it because the climate models for the immediate and long term future in California are not at all promising for wine.”

To face climate change, producers might have to move their vineyards to cooler areas. Or, they might have to grow a kind of grape that can survive in higher temperatures.

In the future, rising temperatures may open up possibilities to countries that otherwise could never compete in the wine industry.

Steven Kolpan has been working with wine for more than thirty years. But he says he is still surprised by its qualities. He reminds us that a glass of wine is made up of water, alcohol and a small percentage of chemical substances. And yet he says:

STEVEN KOLPAN: “Think of it for a second. When you have a glass of wine in front of you and you smell it. And let’s say it’s a glass of red wine. And you smell cherries and blackberries. And you smell leather and you smell earth and you smell all

these things, none of them are in there. That's what's so amazing about it. It's this magical potion."

About Broccoli and Cauliflower

Some people say broccoli looks like small trees, and cauliflower like gathered clouds. They think broccoli is only green and cauliflower is only white. But these nutritious vegetables also come in more colorful versions. One kind of cauliflower, for example, is orange, and broccoli can be purple.

Broccoli and cauliflower are among the most nutritious vegetables. They are high in Vitamin C, fiber and other nutrients. And they contain substances that are believed to fight cancer. They belong to the cabbage or cole family. Other members include cabbage, collards, Brussels sprouts, kale and kohlrabi.

Agriculture experts at the Ohio State University Extension say broccoli and cauliflower grow best in cooler climates. They suggest planting them where the average daily temperature is between eighteen and twenty-six degrees Celsius.

Both crops grow best in sunshine and fertile, moist soil. But water should not be standing on the soil. Using mulch helps keep the ground moist and cool. Mulch also helps feed the soil and controls weeds. Broccoli and cauliflower can grow outdoors from seed or as small plants. Vincent Fritz of the University of Minnesota Extension suggests that results are far better with small plants. He says the vegetables should be planted so that they can be harvested before the hottest weather.

Experts differ about how to space the plantings in the ground. One suggestion is to plant them in rows about three quarters of a meter to nearly one meter apart.

Then place broccoli plants about twenty to thirty centimeters apart in the rows. Set cauliflower plants thirty-eight to about forty-six centimeters from each other in the rows.

As it grows, a cauliflower plant will start to form a head. The head contains flower buds that are tightly closed and at least two leaves wrapping it. Gather and tie the leaves over the head, and do not wait for the buds to separate before harvesting.

Harvest the center flower-bud cluster of broccoli when it reaches the size you want and while the buds are still tightly together. Cut the main stem about twelve to fifteen centimeters below the head.

You can eat broccoli and cauliflower raw. Or you can steam them in a small amount of water or stir fry them in a small amount of oil. The less time they cook, the better.

Getting a US Education From Home

Finding the right online program requires research, just like a traditional education. Talking to advisers and recruiters can help. Keep in mind, though, that they might have a financial interest to direct you to certain programs.

Avoid a diploma mill. Diploma mills, also known as degree mills, are nothing more than businesses. The education is poor quality, if they even require any class work to get a degree.

The Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognizes a group in Washington, D.C., to accredit schools that offer distance learning. One hundred ten programs in the United States and six other countries are accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council.

We asked the executive director, Michael Lambert, for advice on choosing a distance learning program. He says the first thing is to go on the CHEA Web site to find if a school is accredited. The address is c-h-e-a dot o-r-g.

Next, make sure the school offers what you need. Do you need a degree, or will a certificate or license be enough?

Another consideration is cost. Often the published price does not include all the costs -- like books. Technology requirements can also add to the costs. Will you need to get new software or a high-speed Internet connection or even a new computer to take the classes you want?

Also, consider the level of interaction that an online program offers. You might never meet the teacher or other students in person. You need to be able to work without the supervision that you might find in a traditional class.

Admissions Tests

Many American colleges and universities require applications for the fall term to be completed by January first. But some have deadlines of December first. So this was a fitting week for a research group in California to release its latest "national report card on higher education." The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education calls it "Measuring Up."

The report says the price of college has increased more than four hundred percent since nineteen eighty-two. Costs have climbed much faster than other prices -- as well as the wages of average families.

The group warns that a continuation of these trends would put higher education beyond the reach of most Americans. And it would mean greater debt for those who do go to college.

The report also expresses concern that the United States is losing its leadership in sending young people to college. Earlier progress can be seen in the percentage of Americans age thirty-five and older who have a college degree. In a comparison of twenty-nine countries, the United States is second, after Canada.

But today other countries are making progress more quickly. The United States is tenth in the percentage of college-educated adults age twenty-five to thirty-four. And it is seventh in the percentage of eighteen to twenty-four year olds in college.

Also, a lot of students drop out. The report says college completion "has never been a strength" of American higher education. Among the twenty-nine countries, the United States is fifteenth in college completion rates.

Completing college first requires getting admitted. This week in our Foreign Student Series, we begin a discussion of entrance tests.

Advisers say a student's high school record is the most important consideration. But most American schools require one of the two major college-entrance tests.

The SAT measures reasoning skills in math and language and includes an essay question.

The four-hour test costs forty-five dollars. The international processing charge is twenty-six -- plus an extra twenty-three dollars in India and Pakistan.

Four Kinds of Financial Aid

Mizzou has a grant program for international students. The Curator's Grant-in-Aid program is for those who get good grades and take part in university activities. Graduate students who receive a grant get nine free credits to take courses. Undergraduates receive between one thousand and five thousand dollars in support.

Students must have attended Mizzou for a year before they can receive a grant. And they must reapply for the awards each semester.

Some grants are called scholarships or fellowships. Scholarships are for undergraduates; fellowships are for graduate students. Awards may be based on financial need or on grades, talents or other requirements. The Global Heritage Scholarship at Mizzou, for example, is only for international undergraduates whose mother or father graduated from there.

The scholarship pays seven thousand five hundred dollars a year for tuition. Full tuition is currently almost nineteen thousand dollars.

Tuition is about the same at another public university, the University of Arizona in Tucson. It offers an undergraduate scholarship for international students who earned high marks in high school. The program is open to all foreign students who have been admitted to the university. Winners receive between two thousand and ten thousand dollars a year to help pay tuition.

Seventy international students are currently receiving the scholarship. The University of Arizona has more than two thousand international students this academic year. The school had close to forty thousand students during the fall term.

Assistantships are jobs paid with money or free classes. Graduate assistants help professors for about twenty hours a week. They may teach undergraduates, grade papers and tests, and assist with research.

Helping Foreign Students Feel at Home

Being a new student in school can be a little scary. Being a new student in a new country can be even scarier.

A college or university's international student office is a good place to start getting to know the school and the country. This week in our Foreign Student Series, we talk about support services for international students in the United States.

Our example is the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. U.S.C. has had the most international students of any American college or university for the past seven years. So says the Institution of International Education in New York.

U.S.C.'s Office of International Services says the number of students this year is about seven thousand five hundred. The University of Southern California has more than thirty-five thousand students total.

The Office of International Services helps explain student life at the university. It also organizes programs to help foreign students feel more at ease in their new surroundings. For example, there are trips to explore the Los Angeles area.

Most American colleges and universities have a similar office that helps international students. These offices look for ways to get students involved in school life and make American friends. Their job is not always easy. International students often want to spend their free time with friends from their own country or group.

India, China, South Korea, Japan and Canada sent the most students to the United States during the last school year. Next came Taiwan, Mexico, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

The office at U.S.C. also assists family members who come to the United States with international students. The family members can take English classes and go on trips to places like museums.

The Office of International Services also organizes other activities. For example, a State of the World Seminar takes place each semester. A group of international students and a professor discuss current social and political issues and take questions from the audience. The most recent seminar, held earlier this month, dealt with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

About Street Art

Street art can be found on buildings, sidewalks, street signs and even trashcans from Tokyo to Paris to New York City. This special kind of art can take the form of paintings, sculptures, cloth or even stickers.

Its international presence is supported by Web sites, artist communities, books and magazines. Street art has become part of a global visual culture. Now, even art museums and galleries are collecting the work of street artists.

It is not easy to provide an exact history of the street art movement. This kind of art has developed in many kinds of ways in places all over the world. Also, street artists usually work secretly because it is illegal to paint public and private property without permission.

This secretive nature of street art and its countless forms make it hard to define exactly. And people have different opinions about the movement. Some think street art is a crime and destroys property. But others see this art as a rich form of nontraditional cultural expression.

Many experts say the movement began in New York City in the nineteen sixties. Young adults would use paint in special cans to spray their “tag” on walls and train cars around the city.

This tag was a name they created to identify themselves and their artwork. This colorful style of writing is also called graffiti. It is visually exciting and energetic. Some graffiti paintings were signs marking the territories of city gangs or illegal crime groups.

Graffiti also became a separate movement expressing the street culture of young people living in big cities. Graffiti art represented social and political rebellion. This art rejected the accepted rules of culture and power.

These artists could travel around areas of the city making creative paintings for everyone to see. The artists could become famous without being officially recognized. Sometimes this street art created a dispute between artists and city officials. Graffiti artists created their images and city officials quickly painted over them.

During the nineteen eighties two New York painters who began as street artists became very famous. Keith Haring and Jean Michel Basquiat started creating their paintings on the streets. But soon they began showing their work in art galleries and museums. This is when street art started to become part of the popular culture.

Street art today takes many forms. One well known New York City street artist goes by the name of Swoon. Swoon creates detailed paper cutouts of people that she observes around her. She places these life-size images on walls in different areas of New York.

For example, one of her artworks is of a little boy playing. He is turning his smiling face and seems to be running into the distance. The lines of Swoon’s drawing give energy and movement to the picture. She placed the picture of the boy next to other large graffiti images. It looks like he is running around between the different pieces of artwork.

Swoon did not start her career making street art. She studied fine art at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. But she says she lost interest in the official workings of art galleries. She soon started taking her art into the streets.

Swoon likes how her work changes slowly after it is outside for a while. The art slowly disappears because of the effects of time, sun and rain. She also enjoys the freedom of expression which street art permits. And people enjoy Swoon’s strong and imaginative pictures. In fact, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City has bought several of her works.

Many street corners in Paris, France show the work of an artist known as Space Invader. Space Invader was the name of a video game that was very popular in the nineteen eighties. This French artist uses small colorful squares of glass to make an image of a space creature.

He then places these creations on buildings all around Paris. He has been arrested several times. But this does not stop him from working. He says that he is leaving a gift to the city with his art.

On Space Invader’s website, you can see the many other cities where he has placed his art. Space Invader has traveled to places like Dhaka, Bangladesh; Mombasa, Kenya, and Istanbul, Turkey.

The streets of Sao Paulo, Brazil are also rich with artwork. For example, you can find the work of two brothers who go by the name Os Gemeos. They paint images of funny flat-faced people with orange-yellow skin. Their imaginative characters have many different forms and expressions. Art galleries all over the world have shown the artwork of Os Gemeos.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, visitors can take a street art tour organized by the company Graffitimundo. The tour guides help visitors explore many kinds of exciting street art in different areas of the city.

The street art movement in this city was influenced by the economic collapse in Argentina in two thousand one. Many artists went into the streets and began making playful and colorful art to lift the spirits of people in the city.

Street artists have different reasons for choosing this special kind of creative act. Some artists do not approve of the profit-making business of galleries and museums. They think that these organizations disconnect art from everyday life. They also like the fact that street art stays part of the city environment.

Other artists express their political beliefs with their art. Some see street art as protesting the culture of big business and corporations. They do not like the city walls covered with advertisements that sell products. These artists see these advertisements as examples of corporate aggression. They think that if an advertisement can be on a wall, so can their art. Still other artists like the excitement of working in the streets and trying not to get caught.

But some people pay a price for making street art. Shepard Fairey is a street artist who became famous for his image of Barack Obama that became popular during the last presidential campaign.

But Fairey has been arrested several times for making his art. In two thousand nine, Fairey was arrested as he arrived at a party to celebrate an exhibit of his work at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.

Police arrested him on several graffiti charges. Fairey said he was being punished for suggesting that public space should be filled with more than just advertising for companies.

Shepard Fairey has also been involved in legal action with the Associated Press. The AP accused him of using one of its photographs of Barack Obama without permission. He used it to create his famous campaign poster in two thousand eight. Fairey says he used the AP photograph as a reference, but then changed it greatly for his own idealized and colorful picture of the future president.

Last week, Fairey and the AP reached a settlement. Fairey agreed to share profits from the poster and other objects with his image of Barack Obama. And he agreed not to use another AP photo without permission. Fairey and the AP agreed to work on a series of images that the artist will create based on other AP photos.

A movie about street art called "Exit Through the Gift Shop" was released in two thousand ten. The movie tells about a French-born shopkeeper in Los Angeles, California. Thierry Guetta loves street art and becomes friends with its artists.

He films the artists as they work. He meets the famous and secretive street artist who goes by the name Banksy. Banksy takes the many hours of film created by Guetta and makes this movie.

Guetta later becomes an artist who shows his work at a very successful gallery exhibit. Critics have questioned whether parts of the movie are true. But the movie gives an interesting view of the world of street art.

The Internet has had a big influence on street art. Street artists can show their work to people all over the world. Web sites like Streetsy.com and WoosterCollective.com have thousands of pictures of street art from all over the world. Also, artists and fans can communicate with each other and exchange ideas.

However, people say the Internet is not a replacement for the experience of seeing street art live. To really understand this art you have to see it in its environment. The street art movement depends on the energy and life of the city. And like cities, this imaginative and exciting art will continue to change and grow.

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