

# The United States

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Hi, everyone! Welcome back to another English Extravaganza! This week, I'm going to tell you about the English-speaking country of the United States of America.

As an American, there's so much I want to tell you! Let's start with the basics. 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska, unite together to make the United States. The US is big, taking up a third of North America, and is diverse (多様な) in many ways. The landscape, for example, varies across the country, from tropical beaches in Florida to peaks (頂上) in the Rocky Mountains, from prairies (大草原) and deserts in the west to forests in the north. There's the Great Lakes (五大湖), the Grand Canyon, Yosemite Valley, and the Mississippi river. There's something for everyone!

Americans love food and use food-related phrases (食べ物に関連した言い回し) when describing itself. America used to be called a "melting pot" because people blend together. Recently, it is called a "salad", because each group stays unique but together they make something great! Americans also like to say "as American as apple pie", to describe something typically (典型として) American.

For example, baseball is as American as apple pie. This means that baseball is a very American thing. Do you like baseball? It's one of America's favorite sports, along with (～に加えて) football and basketball. Have you heard of the New York Yankees? Well, a Yankee is an American person. So, the New York Yankees is like saying the New York Americans!

One of the biggest American holidays happened on July 4<sup>th</sup>. It's America's Independence Day, the day when the United States separated from Great Britain over 200 years ago. It's celebrated with parades, picnics and barbecues, and of course fireworks. Do you think you will visit the United States in the future? Well, that's all for this time. I hope you have a great summer vacation!