

What 5 Things Do You Miss About the U.S.?

Trevor: Hey Real Life English, what's happenin'? My name is Trevor and I'm here with Josh—

Josh: Yo, yo, yo what's up guys?

Trevor: And we're going to do a podcast for you about five things that we miss about the U.S... So Josh here, he just got back from his trip from the U.S. He was there for what, four months?

Josh: Yeah I was there for four months. I just got back last week and yeah, there's a lot of things—there's some things that I miss about the U.S., there's some things I don't miss about the U.S. Most of the things I do miss about the U.S. are food related. You know?

Trevor: Totally.

Josh: Yeah, there's the food culture there is very diverse, there's a lot of different foods from all over the world. Since the U.S. is a melting pot culture, there are so many different people from everywhere—from Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, even Antarctica. And they bring their cuisine to the U.S. and so there's just a really rich and diverse offerings of food.

Trevor: Yeah, the U.S. definitely has great international food there. People ask me, "What's your favorite American food?" And I say, "Mexican food." The Mexican food there is amazing. It's different than Mexico, but it's more my style. The burritos they have are amazing. ~~They have.~~ When you make a burrito, you have a tortilla wrapped around beans and rice and other veggies and it's just bad ass. You can take it anywhere, it's very easy to transport, it fits in your hands—you don't need any forks or spoons or knives—you just eat it. It's awesome.

Josh: One of my favorite American foods is Vietnamese food. There's this dish called pho—that's spelled p-h-o—and it's totally off the hook. It's a noodle-based soup. It's really hot and they slice thinly sliced pieces of meat and put that into it. And the soup cooks the meat and so it's really tender... mmm... it's just my mouth is watering thinking about it right now.

Another one of my favorite foods is hummus. It's a Middle Eastern food made with garbanzo beans [also called chick peas], tahini—which is sesame seeds ground up into a paste kind of like peanut butter—garlic, and olive oil and some spices. And there's a lot of people from the Middle East living in Southern California so there's just a bunch of different places you can go to find hummus. And it's one of my favorite foods.

Trevor: Yes, and since Josh has been back he brought, I think, six containers of tahini?

Josh: Yeah, I only brought four which I hope it's enough for the next two months. I like to eat hummus almost every day.

Trevor: Yeah Josh made some hummus last night, and the night before and I think he'll make some more tonight. And it's really good. You can add it to—we've tried it with pasta, it was really good. We eat it with bread...

Josh: Yeah it's a really good food. Okay, we gotta stop talking about food man, lunch is coming up and I'm getting hungry.

Trevor: Yeah I was supposed to I was actually making food to before this podcast and Josh was in a hurry so the food is waiting so... yeah, enough talking about food because I'm hungry, too. Alright so next up, what else do you miss about the U.S. Josh?

Josh: Well, another thing that I miss about the U.S. is how easy it is to get stuff. I mean...

Trevor: Yes, we all need more stuff!

Josh: Right, so it's not just stuff, it's really specialized stuff!

Trevor: For sure.

Josh: Any interest you have, anything you're looking for there's a product that was designed especially for you and your need. Like if, I like to drink juice so it's really easy to get these high quality efficient juicers that get a lot of juice out of, you know, vegetables. Vegetables that you wouldn't think have juice.

Trevor: So, we started talking about food again.

Josh: I can't help it, it's a big part of our lives. Right?

Trevor: Yeah.

Josh: Something else... that's not food... that I miss... like Walmart! I miss Walmart!

Trevor: Yeah so that's a very politically incorrect thing to miss in some ways. A lot of people in America will get mad that you actually miss Walmart since some people think it's evil. So why do you miss Walmart, Josh?

Josh: One of the great things about Walmart is they have just a such a wide range of products all under one roof. They've done a real bitchin' job of assembling... organizing their supply chain so that there's... anything you want you can get it there for a cheaper price than you can get anywhere else.

Trevor: Definitely.

Josh: So whether you're looking for camping supplies, a new bicycle, medical supplies, groceries, electronics, clothing, a new blender... if you want to eat McDonalds they usually have a McDonalds inside.

Trevor: I think you can even adopt children there now? Is that true?

Josh: I've heard that, yeah. So you can do just about anything in Walmart. But I'd stay away from that McDonalds. McDonalds is crap.

Trevor: Yeah so, besides Walmart there's just so much stuff you can get in America, we have really cheap rates to import things so we get electronics and stuff from China for just really cheap and a lot of people go to the U.S. just to buy stuff and take it back to their country. And every time we do visit, we make sure to pick up a bunch of sick stuff

and take it back with us to Brazil. And it's, uh yeah

Josh: Yeah, like one thing I brought back for my iPhone is this charger. It's like a little portable charger that it can fit it in your pocket or your purse. And it's like, you know, iPhone batteries die really quickly so you plug this in to your iPhone and it'll charge it again. It's totally legit.

Trevor: So, hold on. It's like a two in one battery? Is that how, it like? It makes your battery last twice as long? Or how does that work?

Josh: It's basically just a portable charger. You charge it before, as you would charge your iPhone and then you bring it with you and it charges your iPhone. You know what I mean?

Trevor: Gotcha, gotcha. Yeah that's really cool so... yeah... I wanna get one of those. That's especially good for long trips where you don't have anything to charge your accessories with.

Josh: I'll sell you one. I brought back extra.

Trevor: Did you? Okay, yeah so another thing is American's are very entrepreneurial. And Alright so next will talk about some... What do you like about the culture in America, what stands out for you there? Or what do you miss about the culture in America?

Josh: Well, for me, American culture is really world culture. The U.S. has done a very good job of attracting people from all over the world and integrating that into the fabric of American culture. So a lot of people say that America doesn't have it's own culture, but really...

Trevor: Yeah, I've heard that as well. Some people tell me that America doesn't really have a culture.

Josh: But yeah, what American culture is is bringing all these other cultures together. That is our culture. ~~Our~~ We're very tolerant and open to other cultures and so you'll, like I'll be walking around South Coast Plaza which is this big mall in Orange County, California. And you know, within five minutes, I'll here someone speaking Spanish, someone speaking Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin. Haven't heard Portuguese unfortunately.

Trevor: Yeah, it's not as common. But I do have some Brazilian friends in California as well. Me and Josh are actually from the same city so...

Josh: Yeah, so there's like also a really big Indian population, Vietnamese population. Just any ethnicity, any country there's someone, there's a pocket of these people living in... especially Southern California—or just California in general and maybe New York and other really metropolitan cities.

Trevor: So another thing that we really like about American culture is the internet culture. The way the internet has influenced the every day life there. So for example, anything you want to know you can find out about it on the internet. For example you're looking for a Mexican restaurant and you can type into google, "Mexican restaurant," and it'll find a bunch of Mexican restaurants near your house [or wherever you are] and it'll give you different ratings. People review all these different restaurants and you can try new places.

And you can do that for yoga studios for [rock] climbing stuff, any hobby you have that has a physical location, you can find it and find reviews about it on the internet.

Josh: And what's really cool is that a lot of these places that Trevor's mentioning, they're gonna have Wi-Fi there. So you can go there with your computer and chill out at the place, just hang out. Enjoy some really sweet tunes [songs] that they have playing and you can just sit there for hours and no one's going to bother you or especially at Starbucks. I really, really like Starbucks. Because I can go there, enjoy their air conditioning, their comfortable chairs, free Wi-Fi, free water...

Trevor: Definitely.

Josh: And I can stay there for 16 hours at a time and no one's going to tell me to leave.

Trevor: Yeah, so one thing about American culture with the internet and it's kinda individualistic so we tend to let each other have their own space. So it can be a bad thing, but it's good if you want to go to Starbucks and not have anyone ask you to buy anything. You just wanna sit there, drink their water, go on the internet.

Yeah so, another good thing about the U.S. is that we have a ton of workshops, conferences, seminars, any interest you have, whatever your profession is you can find people in the same boat as you.

Josh: What does that mean? "In the same boat?"

Trevor: So, "in the same boat" means that you share interests together, you're fighting the same fight, you're doing the same thing. So you have a lot in common.

So, workshops that I've gone to that I really enjoy are personal development workshops, so that's stuff that just improves your habits, improves your mind, improves your health. And the people you meet there are just amazing wonderful people. So these workshops you can meet people just like you. And sometimes you'll think, wow I didn't realize there were people just like me out there! I thought, these people don't exist or they're really hard to find. So it's a really good social event to go to these workshops and stuff. And you learn a lot, totally worth the money. And some of them are even free.

You can get some that are donation-based like this one in Phoenix, Arizona. If you're interested in going there it's called Omega Vector. You can see it at omegavector.org. We'll have the link in the transcript. It's a personal development, self-realization workshop and me and Josh have both been to it and both had really good experiences there. And they don't charge you. You can pay as much as you want at the end, you learn a lot about yourself, you learn to connect better with other people, and it's just a really great experience there.

And so the U.S. has lots of opportunities like that with workshops and seminars. And so when I travel to the U.S. I always plan my trip around these types of workshops, in yoga retreats, workshops like Omega Vector. And actually my next trip to the U.S. I'm planning to go so that I can go to Omega Vector 4. So they have different levels and I'm going to 4 next.

So, workshops are awesome. If you're going to the U.S. time it with a workshop or some concert, music festival, whatever you're interested in and it's going to make your trip a lot better.

Josh: Yeah, Omega Vector really changed my life, definitely recommend that program. The kind of workshops that I like to go to, I like to meet up with other entrepreneurs, other people who have internet businesses and work online. And I got to meet up with some really cool people when I was in the U.S. this time who do similar things. And it's being able to hang around people who are doing the exact same thing as you is really powerful to help you improve and grow as a person.

Trevor: For sure.

Josh: Yeah.

Trevor: Alright, so that about wraps it up for today. Again so our five top things that we liked about the U.S. is all food, the food is just amazing there. All the stuff you can buy. Americans like stuff, nice cheap stuff—anything you could want really. The culture, the multi-cultural influence we have in the U.S. where it's just a melting pot of the world.

Josh: What does melting pot mean?

Trevor: Okay so, melting pot is when you have a whole bunch of metals and you bring them all into one container and it all melts into this one strong metal. So they're all stronger than they would've been if they were all separate.

And so another thing that we talked about is the internet. How you can just find anything on the internet, even real life stuff you can... find people who have meetups at [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) you can find people who share the same interests as you. Whether it's yoga or psychic powers or raw food or slacklining, rock climbing, hiking, walking—I'm pretty sure they have some old people that have walking groups.

Josh: Yeah, I've seen that.

Trevor: Running. Just anything, really. [we forgot to mention they have language learning meetups as well!]. And also the workshops, music festivals, conferences, seminars, lots of stuff to plan your trip around and meet like-minded people. Is there anything else you wanna add?

Josh: Well, the U.S. is a great country, in a lot of ways. It's got its faults. We could do a podcast about what we don't like about the U.S., but we're gonna keep it positive.

Trevor: That might be a lot longer as well. We could go on a few tangents about that. So we don't want you to think that we think the U.S. is the best country in the world. Neither of us live there so, if that tells you anything.

Josh: Right. Yeah, there So yeah well we'll just keep it positive this time around. Maybe some other time we'll open up the discussion to that side of the discussion.

Trevor: So yeah, just wanna thank you Josh for being a part of this podcast.

Josh: Thanks Trevor, it's fun being here with you.

Trevor: Alright and thanks for listening guys. Thanks for sending in your requests for podcasts. We'll be doing more, we really like doing podcasts, but we haven't done much of them lately, but we'll get more to you. So Real Life English, we'll see you later.

Josh: Peace out guys.

Trevor: Alright, thanks again.