

LESSON 1

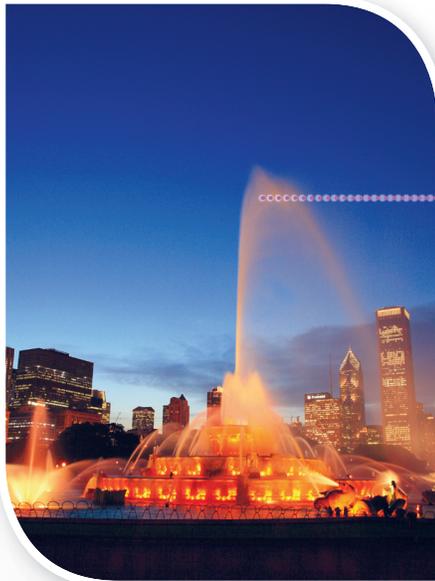
for your information

FYI



Buckingham Fountain is a famous fountain in Chicago, a big city in the state of Illinois. The fountain, in Grant Park, is one of the largest fountains in the world. Buckingham Fountain was a gift to

the city of Chicago from Kate Buckingham (1858-1937), an American art collector and philanthropist. Buckingham Fountain was officially opened in 1927.



From 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (in good weather), the fountain marks every hour with a 150-foot (45.7 m) spout of water.

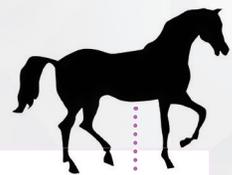
In the evening, people can enjoy a beautiful water show with music and lights.



The people who designed Buckingham Fountain wanted it to symbolize Lake Michigan, an important lake in the U.S. The beautiful sculpted sea horses* in the pool around the central fountain represent the four states around Lake Michigan (Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin).



For residents of Chicago, this gorgeous fountain is one of their favorite places in the city, and of course it is visited by lots of tourists every year.



* sea horse—a mythical marine animal that is part horse and part fish

LESSON 8

FYI

Going to a baseball game in the U.S. isn't just for people who love the game. It's a fun activity for the whole family. American teams play baseball from April until October when the weather in the States is usually nice. So people like to go to the ballpark to enjoy a nice evening with a crowd and root for their city's team. And one of the things they like to do while they're watching the game is to eat.



Traditional ballpark food is generally not very healthy—hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn, pretzels, **soft drinks**, and **beer** are some of the things you see at every park. To make it easier for fans, vendors walk around the seats in the stadium selling these snacks and drinks, but there are also counters around the stadium that sell food and beverages.



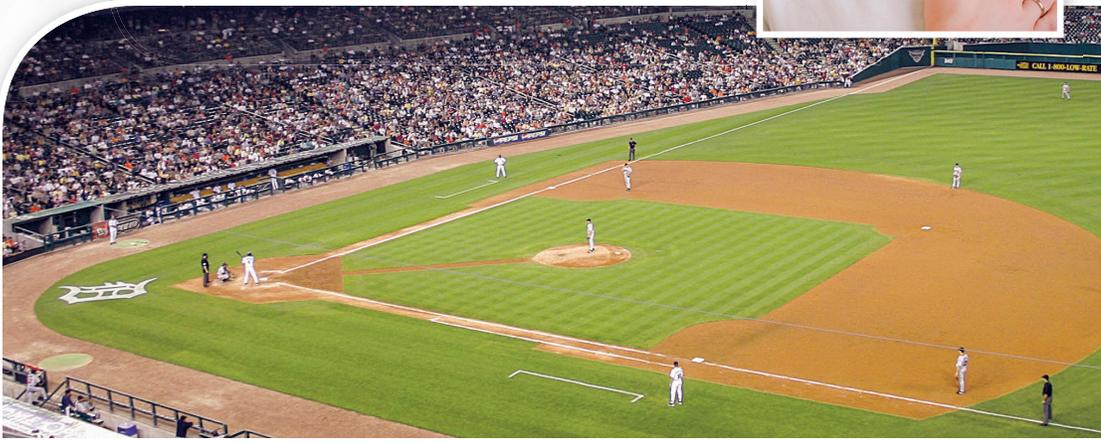
Lately, though, ballparks have started to sell better food. There are 30 professional baseball teams in 27 different cities, and ballparks in every city now have restaurants that sell food that is typical of that city or part of the country. You can get barbecued ribs, fish sandwiches, pizza, **nachos**, and lots of other special treats at parks in the U.S.



So if you travel to the States, don't be afraid to go to a baseball game because you don't understand the sport—a trip to the park is fun even if you aren't a fan.



At baseball games in the U.S., it's a tradition to sing the national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, before the game starts. Everyone stands and lots of folks put their right hand over their heart when they do this. So make sure your hands and mouth aren't full of food and join in.



Another patriotic song, *America the Beautiful*, is so popular that it's like a second national anthem, and people often sing this song before baseball games instead of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Lots of Americans say they prefer it because it's easier to sing, easier to understand, and has a prettier melody.