



U.S. Law, Rights, and Responsibilities

Personal Safety in Your New Community

45 minutes

Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- ✓ identify ways to stay safe in the community
- ✓ compare American laws to the laws in their home countries



Materials

- ☐ “Safety Dominoes” (“Small Group Version” and “Large Group Version” included)
- ☐ “Safety Dominoes Answer Key” (“Small Group Version” and “Large Group Version” included)
- ☐ Flipchart or board
- ☐ Writing implement for flipchart or board



Key English Vocabulary

stay safe	prevent
documentation	neighborhood
witness	

Note to Trainer

Determine the approximate number of participants that will be attending the session. If there will be 12 or less participants, consider using the recommended “Safety Dominoes: Small Group Version,” or creating a smaller version for your group. If there will be less than 28 participants, consider removing some of the “Safety Dominoes: Large Group Version.” When removing “Safety Dominoes,” ensure that common safety concerns of clients in your area are addressed.

Pre-Session Preparation

In large letters, write on a flipchart or board: “When you _____, you should _____.”

Facilitator’s Introduction of Session to Participants

As you know, in addition to U.S. laws, rights, and responsibilities, there are also steps you can take to keep you and your family safe. We will continue discussing some of these safety measures during this session.

Introductory Exercise

Briefly review the Key English Vocabulary for this plan. Highlight the words as they come up throughout the session. *[If 8-10 minutes can be added, utilize the Teaching English Vocabulary section found at the end of this activity plan to enhance participant understanding of the key vocabulary words.]*

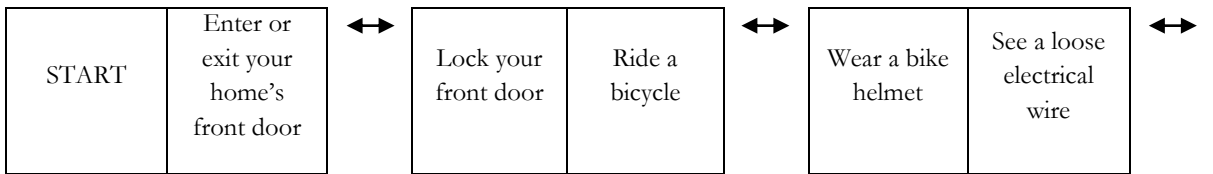
Conduct a “think-pair-share” exercise by asking participants to think about what they already do

to stay safe in their community. Participants pair with a partner and share their thoughts about keeping safe.

Activity

Distribute “Safety Dominoes” to participants. If participants are not familiar with the information on their card, they can switch with another participant.

As a full group, participants line up in the correct order of their “Safety Dominoes.” The participant with the domino that says “Start” stands at one side of the training space. The participant holding the domino that says “End” stands at the other side of the training space. The rest of the participants find the matches to both sides of their “Safety Dominoes” and form a line between “Start” and “End” with their cards to show the safety issue and a way to maintain safety in that situation. For example:



When participants have correctly lined up, show participants the sentence stem on the board. Participants go down the line from “Start” to “End” and read or describe their cards by using the sentence stem. For example: *When you cross the street, you should look both ways.*

As a full group, debrief the activity by asking the questions below.

Debriefing Questions to Ask Participants

- ☺ Why are safety measures useful?
- ☺ What safety measures do you and your family already take?
- ☺ What are some additional safety measures you will start to use?

Variations or Considerations

When working with an individual or a few participants, the “Safety Dominoes” can be completed as a puzzle on a table or the floor as a full group.

When working with a larger group, divide participants into two or more smaller groups and use one set of “Safety Dominoes” for each smaller group. Debrief as a full group.



Teaching English Vocabulary

8-10 minutes

The following list begins with the words most easily understood and goes through more complex terms. Use the terms most accessible to your participants.

Introduce the words with the definition and contextual sentence. Omit words if participants already know them. Partner talks are meant to be a brief two minutes and do not have to include all the words. Encourage conversation and interaction, and focus on what participants already know about the word based on your introduction.

<i>Vocabulary Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Partner Talk</i>
stay safe	To <i>stay safe</i> is to keep away from danger.	Ibrahim tells his son to <i>stay safe</i> when he walks to school. Abakar wears a helmet to <i>stay safe</i> when he rides his bike.	What are some ways you <i>stay safe</i> ?
prevent	To <i>prevent</i> is to keep or stop from happening.	Wearing a seatbelt <i>prevents</i> you from getting hurt in an accident. Hla wears a winter hat to <i>prevent</i> himself from getting cold.	What can you do to try to <i>prevent</i> a fire?
documentation	<i>Documentation</i> is official documents, identity cards, or paperwork used to prove that something is true or correct.	Yente carries identification <i>documentation</i> with her when she travels. The school asks to see <i>documentation</i> before Yaccoub can start school.	What <i>documentation</i> do you have?
neighborhood	A <i>neighborhood</i> is a small area in a city, town, or other place that is different from other areas.	Peter knows all the people in his <i>neighborhood</i> . Luis and Yahya move to a new neighborhood.	Does your <i>neighborhood</i> have a name?
witness	To <i>witness</i> is to see or experience something directly. A person who sees something happen is a <i>witness</i> .	Dinesh <i>witnesses</i> the fight and tells the teacher.	When can you <i>witness</i> the full moon?

Safety Dominoes: Large Group Version

START



Enter or exit your home's front door



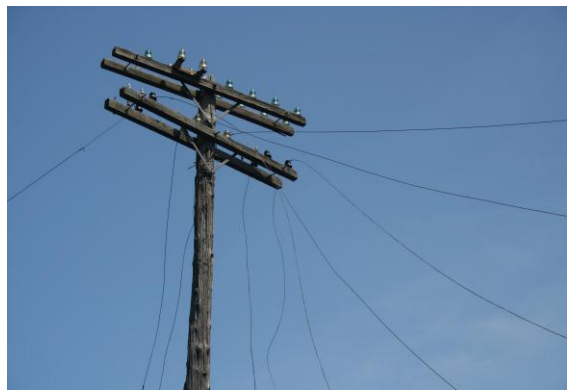
Lock your front door



Ride a bicycle



Wear a bike helmet



See a loose electrical wire



Avoid the electrical wire and report it



Cross the street



Look both ways



Ride in a car



Buckle your safety belt



Walk somewhere in the dark



Not walk alone



Have a fire in the fireplace



Have a fire extinguisher available



Are seriously injured



Call 9-1-1



Finish using the oven or stove



Make sure it is turned off



Are stopped by a police officer



Provide documentation if asked



Have a smoke detector at home



Make sure the batteries are charged



Ride a bicycle



Obey traffic signs



Have trash to throw away



Put it in a proper trash bin



Are outside in cold weather



Wear appropriate clothing for the weather



You are offered a ride by a stranger



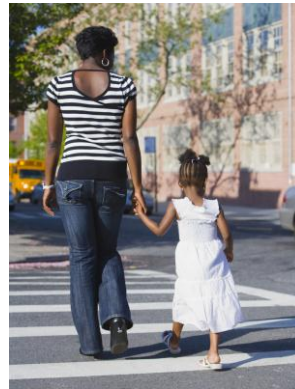
Not accept the ride



Have slippery steps in cold weather



Put salt or sand on the ice



Cross the street



Use a crosswalk



Are offered alcohol



Not drink too much and stay in control



See something on fire



Call 9-1-1



Have been drinking alcohol



Not drive a motor vehicle



Are feeling frustrated



Take a deep breath and try to remain calm



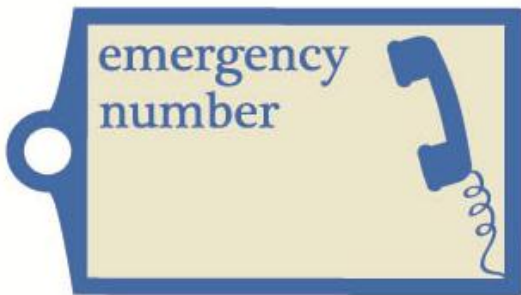
Witness a crime



Call 9-1-1



Move to a new community



Know the emergency phone numbers for that community



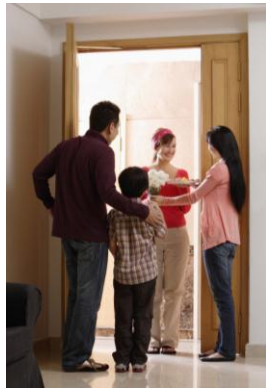
Are traveling



Inform a family member or friend of your travel plans



Move to a new neighborhood



Get to know your neighbors



See a stranger knocking at your door



Not invite the stranger inside



See suspicious people loitering in your neighborhood



Call the police to report the activity

END

Safety Dominoes: Small Group Version

START



Enter or exit your home's front door



Lock your front door



Ride a bicycle



Wear a bike helmet



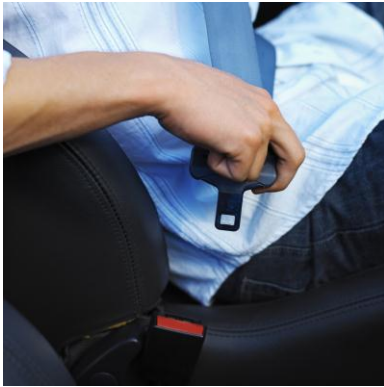
Cross the street



Look both ways



Ride in a car



Buckle your safety belt



Are stopped by a police officer



Provide documentation if asked



Have trash to throw away



Put it in a proper trash bin



Are outside in cold weather



Wear appropriate clothing for the weather



Are offered alcohol



Not drink too much and remain in control



Are feeling frustrated



Take a deep breath and try to remain calm



Witness a crime



Call 9-1-1



Move to a new neighborhood



Get to know your neighbors

END

Safety Dominoes Answer Key: Large Group Version

START	Enter or exit your home's front door	↔	Lock your front door	Ride a bicycle
Wear a bike helmet	See a loose electrical wire	↔	Avoid the electrical wire and report it	Cross the street
Look both ways	Ride in a car	↔	Buckle your safety belt	Walk somewhere in the dark
Not walk alone	Have a fire in the fireplace	↔	Have a fire extinguisher available	Are seriously injured
Call 9-1-1	Finish using the oven or stove	↔	Make sure it is turned off	Are stopped by a police officer
Provide documentation if asked	Have a smoke detector at home	↔	Make sure the batteries are charged	Ride a bicycle
Obey traffic signs	Have trash to throw away	↔	Put it in a proper trash bin	Are outside in cold weather
Wear appropriate clothing for the weather	You are offered a ride by a stranger	↔	Not accept the ride	Have slippery steps in cold weather

Put salt or sand on the ice	Cross the street	↔	Use a crosswalk	Are offered alcohol
Not drink too much and remain in control	See something on fire	↔	Call 9-1-1	Have been drinking alcohol
Not drive a motor vehicle	Are feeling frustrated	↔	Take a deep breath and try to remain calm	Witness a crime
Call 9-1-1	Move to a new community	↔	Know the emergency phone numbers for that community	Are traveling
Inform a family member or friend of your travel plans	Move to a new neighborhood	↔	Get to know your neighbors	See a stranger knocking at your door
Not invite the stranger inside	See suspicious people loitering in your neighborhood	↔	Call the police to report the activity	END

Safety Dominoes Answer Key: Small Group Version

START	Enter or exit your home's front door	↔	Lock your front door	Ride a bicycle
Wear a bike helmet	Cross the street	↔	Look both ways	Ride in a car
Buckle your safety belt	Are stopped by a police officer	↔	Provide documentation if asked	Have trash to throw away
Put it in a proper trash bin	Are outside in cold weather	↔	Wear appropriate clothing for the weather	Are offered alcohol
Not drink too much and remain in control	Are feeling frustrated	↔	Take a deep breath and try to remain calm	Witness a crime
Call 9-1-1	Move to a new neighborhood	↔	Get to know your neighbors	END



U.S. Laws, Rights and Responsibilities

Local Laws and Customs

40 minutes



Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- ✓ share one or two local laws and customs with the group
- ✓ discuss the implications of abiding by local laws
- ✓ increase understanding of local customs

Materials

- ☐ Board or wall
- ☐ Tape or tacks (to hang paper on the board or wall)
- ☐ Paper, 1-2 pieces per participant
- ☐ Drawing implements



Key English Vocabulary

law	customs
legal	illegal
local	

Pre-Session Preparation

Instruct participants to talk to their case manager, neighbors, or other community members about laws and customs. This could include but is not limited to:

- the age required for public school
- child labor laws
- car seat requirements
- drug tolerance
- recycling
- landlord-tenant relationships
- zoning laws
- tolerance of jaywalking
- leash laws
- fire codes

Participants choose one or two laws or customs to present to the group.

Identify a board or wall for permanent display. Divide it into two sides, labeled *laws* and *customs*.

Facilitator's Introduction of Session to Participants

You have already learned about some U.S. laws and customs. During this session, we will share some of the laws and customs we have learned and develop a resource for others to learn from us.

Introductory Exercise

Briefly review the Key English Vocabulary for this plan. Highlight the words as they come up throughout the session. *[If 8-10 minutes can be added, utilize the Teaching English Vocabulary section found at the end of this activity plan to enhance participant understanding of the key vocabulary words.]*

Activity

Divide participants into groups of 4-5. Distribute paper and drawing implements to groups.

Within their groups, participants take turns sharing a local law or custom they learned about. Groups then write or draw laws and customs on paper.

Bring the full group together in front of the board or wall. Small groups briefly present the laws and customs to the full group, and tape/tack the papers under *law* or *custom*.

Have this wall or board available for other clients.

Debriefing Questions to Ask Participants

- ☺ What laws did you learn about today?
- ☺ What are some new customs you will consider trying?
- ☺ Why is it important to know the laws?
- ☺ How can learning local customs be helpful for your situation?

Variations or Considerations

This activity could also be done with legal versus illegal activities, new versus similar to previous experiences, etc.

Use this board with future clients for further discussion, to revise or add to the board, or as talking points when discussing U.S. laws and customs.

When working with an individual or a small group, ask participants to come up with 2-3 laws or customs. Conduct the “Activity” as a full group.



Teaching English Vocabulary

8-10 minutes

The following list begins with the words most easily understood and goes through more complex terms. Use the terms most accessible to your participants.

Introduce the words with the definition and contextual sentence. Omit words if participants already know them. Partner talks are meant to be a brief two minutes and do not have to include all the words. Encourage conversation and interaction, and focus on what participants already know about the word based on your introduction.

<i>Vocabulary Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Partner Talk</i>
law	A <i>law</i> is a rule that people in a community must follow.	Wearing a seatbelt is the <i>law</i> when you are in a moving car.	What U.S. <i>laws</i> do you already know?
customs	<i>Customs</i> are ways of acting that are usual for a person or social group.	When you meet someone in the U.S., shaking hands is the <i>custom</i> .	What American <i>customs</i> do you know?
legal	<i>Legal</i> means that it is allowed by the law.	In some states, it is <i>legal</i> to turn right when the traffic light is red and it is safe. There is no traffic coming through.	Finish the sentence: In the United States it is <i>legal</i> to...
illegal	<i>Illegal</i> means that it is not allowed by the law.	It is <i>illegal</i> to throw trash on the grass in the park.	Finish the sentence: In the United States it is <i>illegal</i> to...
local	<i>Local</i> means about a specific place, such as a town or neighborhood.	Mya's brings her daughter to the <i>local</i> school. Then she shops at the <i>local</i> grocery store.	Can you walk to the <i>local</i> grocery store?