



Learn English
for free.

Sonam's Mom

Study Guide



SEASON 2

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Sonam's Mom



What do you think it is?

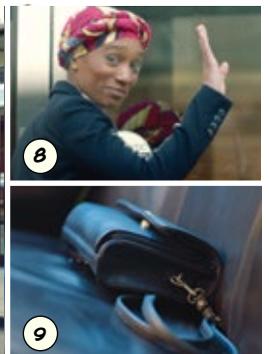
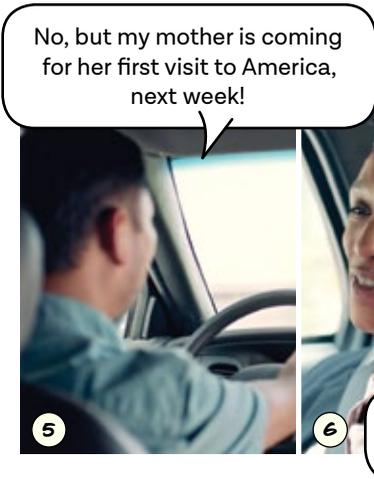
Meet Sonam

Sonam is a taxi driver. He has an interesting passenger this morning.



Sonam's mom is coming to America soon.

He drops the lawyer off. *But what did she leave on the backseat?!*



Sonam's Mom Is Here

But where is Sonam?



Sonam's mom gets a taxi. Her name is Samten. The driver's name is Osman.



Osman takes Samten to her son's address.
On the way, she recognizes something.



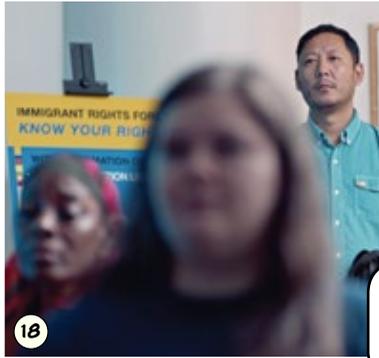
Sonam Returns

Sonam's passenger, the lawyer, is giving a presentation.



17

That is my IDNYC card.



18



The IDNYC card is for everyone 10 years or older who lives in NYC, with or without immigration papers.

The lawyer sees Sonam in the back of the room. He has a surprise for her.



20

You are the driver who brought me here!



Yes. You left your purse in my car.



21

My purse!
I didn't know I lost it.
Thank you, sir!



Sonam has something on his mind. Maybe the lawyer can help.

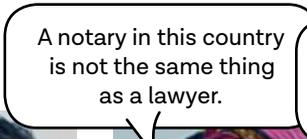


22

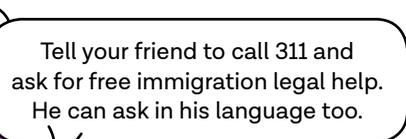
Of course.

Can I ask you a question?

I have a friend who is paying a notary a lot of money to do paperwork to sponsor his family to come to America. I don't think the notary is a real lawyer. What do you think?



A notary in this country is not the same thing as a lawyer.



Tell your friend to call 311 and ask for free immigration legal help. He can ask in his language too.



23

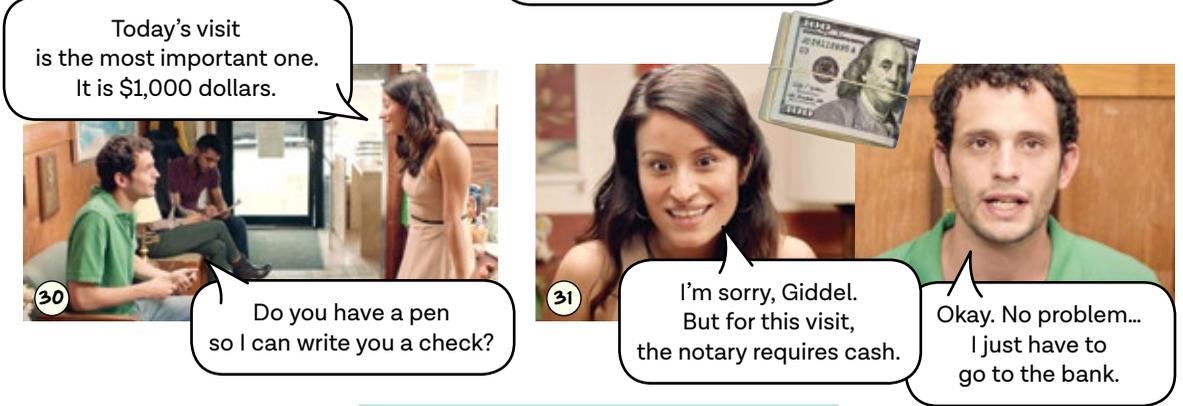
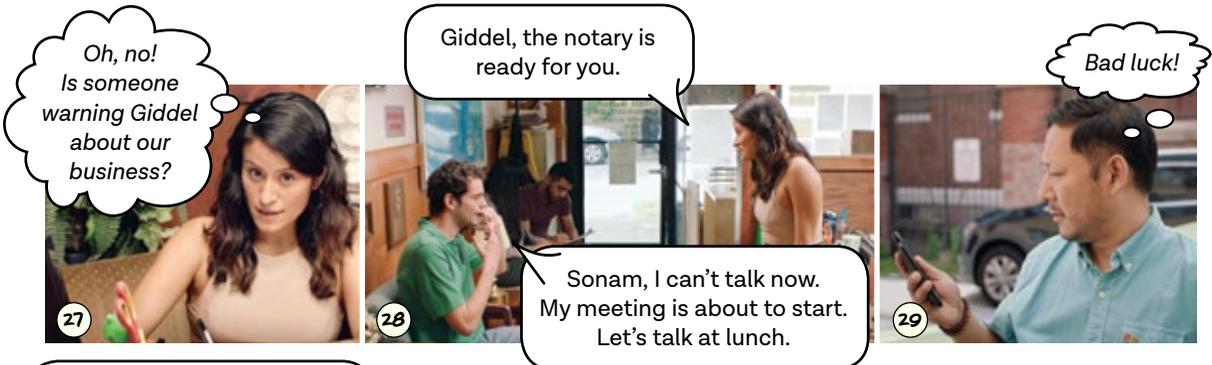
Thank you.

Sonam Calls His Friend, Giddel

He thinks Giddel is getting ripped off.



The secretary listens and jumps into action. Giddel gets off the phone.



Giddel steps outside to go to the bank. Sonam calls again and stops him.



The Ride to Sonam's Home

Samten and Osman talk about Sonam.

Do you know my son?
His name is Sonam.
He's a taxi driver too, like you.

Why didn't your son
go to the airport?
Why didn't he meet you?

So he doesn't know
you are here?

I don't think I know him.
It's a big city.
There are a lot of taxi drivers
from all over the world.

I told him I'm arriving
next week.

They arrive at Sonam's building.

No! I want to
su...per...
vise him...

Yes, that is the word.
I want to *surprise* him.

Happy birthday!
There it is...
Your son's building.

I think you mean,
you want to *surprise* him!

Today is his
birthday!

Big house!

Samten pays Osman and they say goodbye.

Keep the change.

Thank you
so much.

I hope to meet you again
some time.

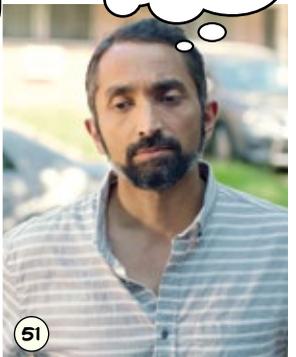
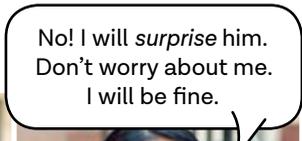
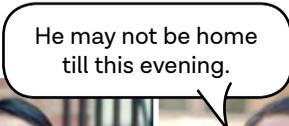
Me too.

Osman Returns

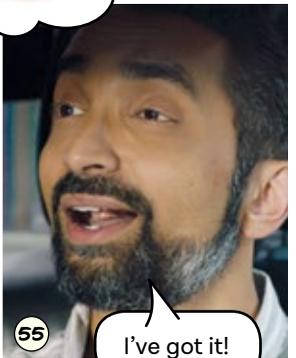
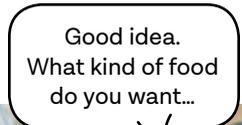
Osman is concerned about Samten. He goes around the block.



Osman doesn't want to leave Samten alone.



Samten has an idea.



Lunch Time for Sonam and Giddel

Sonam picks up lunch for him and Giddel.



He meets Giddel in the park. But there is a new surprise.



Sonam goes back to the restaurant for his missing food.



Samten Makes New Friends

Osman takes Samten for lunch at a diner popular with taxi drivers. It's the same diner! She meets people and shows them a picture of her son.

62

63

64

These are some of my taxi driver friends.

Nice to meet you.

65

I took her to her son's address, but he wasn't there.

66

67

My son is a taxi driver too.

What's his name?

68

69

70

71

Sonam. Do you know him?

I have never met him.

I don't think so.

I don't.



Sonam enters the diner. He doesn't see his mom.

72

73

I ordered a pad thai and a cubano, but I'm missing the pad thai.

I'm sorry. What's your name?

Sonam.

Wait here. I'll check the kitchen.

The American Dream

While Sonam waits for his food, Samten asks about the American Dream.



What is the American Dream?

That's a big question, Samten! What do you think, guys?



The American Dream is a car and a big house.



The American Dream is freedom.



The American Dream is the immigrant dream.

She wants the American Dream.

No, no... Samten is talking about the menu.



The American Dream is a Cheeseburger Deluxe with fries.



I want the American Dream.



Me too.



Me too.



Delicious dream.

Guess Who's Here?

Giddel can't wait to share some big news. He shows up at the diner.



Giddel picks up a piece of paper that falls upside down on the floor. It's the picture of Sonam on the other side. But Giddel doesn't see the picture.



Osman looks at the front of the restaurant.



Surprise!

They call out Sonam's name.



Reunited



Who We Are

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

lawyer • Osman • secretary • ~~Sonam~~
Giddel • Samten • Ariana, Alex and Jamal



1. **My name is** Sonam. I am a taxi driver.
I am originally from Tibet, but I grew up in India.
I came to the U.S. as a refugee. I left everything behind—
my home, my family. I can't wait to see my mom.

2. **My name is** _____. I am Sonam's mom.
I'm so excited to be in New York. I'm at a diner with
new friends. I'm having the American Dream. I can't wait
to see my son. I will surprise him!



3. **My name is** _____. I'm waiting with
Sonam's mom at the diner. I took her to her son's
address, but he wasn't there. But don't worry,
I'll make sure they meet.

refugee = someone who left her or his homeland
because of persecution or political repression

can't wait = very excited about something

4. **We are** _____

We're taxi drivers too. Samten asks us, "What is the American Dream?" That's a big question. What do *you* think it is?



5. My name is Aisha. **I am a** _____. I was a passenger in Sonam's taxi. It was my lucky day! He found my purse and returned it to me.

6. I am Sonam's friend. **My name is** _____.

Sonam helps me find free immigration legal help. He's my hero. He saved me a thousand dollars!



7. **I am a** _____ in a notary's office. I ask Giddel to pay cash. He can get free legal help if he calls 311, but my boss doesn't want him to know.

What Happens?

Complete the sentences. Follow the examples.

legal • purse • ripped off • information • returns • ~~passenger~~ • lawyer

1. Sonam is a taxi driver. One day, a passenger in his car forgets her _____ in the back seat. Sonam finds it and _____ it to her.
2. The owner of the purse is a _____. Her name is Aisha. She gives important _____ to immigrants about IDNYC and free immigration legal help in New York.
3. Sonam asks the lawyer for advice for his friend. Sonam thinks that his friend, Giddel, is getting _____ by a notary. He wants to learn where Giddel can get free immigration _____ help.

diner • missing • surprise • picture • American Dream • ~~arrives~~ • building

4. At the same time, Sonam's mom arrives at JFK airport. Her name is Samten. Samten wants to _____ Sonam. She arrives a week early.
5. Samten takes a taxi. The driver's name is Osman. He takes her to her son's _____, but Sonam isn't home. Samten is hungry, so Osman takes her to a diner. She wants a hamburger.
6. At the _____, Samten meets Osman's friends. They are all taxi drivers. Samten asks them if they know her son. She shows them Sonam's _____.
7. At that time, Sonam meets Giddel in the park. He brings a bag with their food, but Sonam's food is _____ from the bag. He goes back to the diner where he got the food.
8. Sonam enters the diner. It's the same restaurant where his mom is! She is talking with her new friends about the _____.



manager • hug • calls out • shocked • thousand • ~~waiting~~

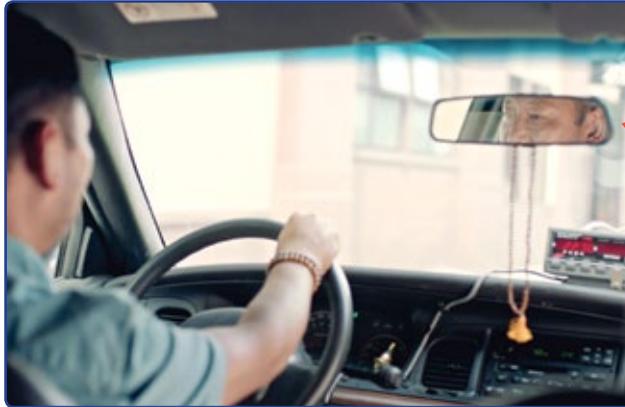
9. Sonam is waiting for the missing food in the front of the diner. Samten is eating with her new friends in the back of the diner. They don't see each other.
10. Giddel appears. He tells Sonam the good news. He called 311 and saved a _____ dollars!
11. Osman looks at the front of the diner. He looks back at the photo of Sonam again. He thinks he sees Sonam. He _____ Sonam's name. At the same time, the restaurant _____ appears with the missing food. She calls out "Sonam." Now, everyone calls out, "Sonam!"
12. Sonam sees his mom. He is _____. "Amala!" he says. It means "Mom" in Tibetan. They _____ each other. It's a surprise party and a beautiful reunion.

reunion = when people come together after a long time apart

Where Is It?

Find these things in the story.

Write the page number(s). Follow the example.



rear view mirror

1. rear view mirror page 1
2. purse pages
3. Empire State Building page
4. IDNYC card page
5. notary's office page
6. cash pages
7. hamburger page
8. photo of Sonam pages
9. menu page
10. No Smoking sign page

Talking about Free Immigration Legal Help

Definitions

Find the meaning. Follow the examples.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1. lawyer | _____ | related to the law; allowed by law |
| 2. legal | _____ | an identification card for all residents of New York City 10 years or older |
| 3. free immigration legal help | _____ | a casual restaurant in NYC, often long and narrow in shape |
| 4. IDNYC | _____ ¹ | an attorney; a trained and licensed legal professional who can give advice and represent you in legal matters |
| 5. diner | _____ | no-cost assistance provided by a lawyer or a qualified representative * with immigration questions or problems |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. notary public | _____ | paper money (not credit card or check) |
| 7. sponsor someone | _____ | when you take someone's money, overcharge or defraud someone |
| 8. cash | _____ | when you sign an official document guaranteeing to provide financial support to help someone obtain an immigration benefit |
| 9. rip off | _____ | worried about |
| 10. concerned about | _____ ⁶ | a person who does some official functions, such as validating signatures, but is not the same as a lawyer and is not authorized to give immigration legal advice or to represent you as a lawyer |

*A **qualified representative** is a person who works for a nonprofit organization, has received training in immigration law, is supervised by an attorney, and has been accredited by the federal government to provide immigration legal advice and representation.

Talking about Free Immigration Legal Help Dialogue



Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

language • legal • 311 • ~~question~~ • real • sponsor • notary

Sonam: Can I ask you a (1) question ?

Lawyer: Of course...

Sonam: I have a friend who is paying a notary a lot of money to do paperwork to (2) _____ his family to come to America. I don't think the notary is a (3) _____ lawyer. What do you think?

Lawyer: That doesn't sound good. A (4) _____ in this country is not the same thing as a lawyer. Please, tell your friend to call (5) _____ and ask for free immigration (6) _____ help. He can ask in his (7) _____ too.

Talking about Free Immigration Legal Help

What will happen? Complete the sentences.

Choose from the box at the bottom of the page. Follow the example.

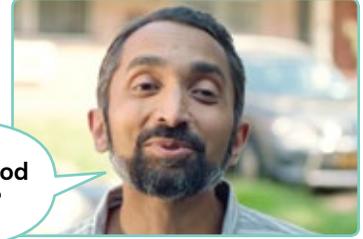


1. If Sonam asks the lawyer for advice, he will get information to help Giddel.
2. If Giddel gives the secretary \$1,000 dollars in cash, _____
3. If Giddel meets Sonam in the park, _____
4. If Giddel calls 311 and says "ActionNYC," _____

- **311 will tell him how to get free immigration legal help.**
 - **he will lose his money.**
 - ~~he will get information to help Giddel.~~
- **he will get his sandwich and will learn about calling 311.**

Talking about Food

There are pictures of six dishes below.
 What are they called on the menu?
 Find their names in the box at the bottom. Follow the example.



1. Biryani Masala

2. _____

3. _____



4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

INTERNATIONAL DISHES	
KAENG THAI	Green or Red Thai curry with tofu, vegetables & rice\$8.99
PAD THAI	Noodles with shrimp, vegetables & peanuts.....\$9.99
BIRYANI MASALA	Basmati rice with chicken and a variety of herbs.....\$9.99
INDIAN PANEER	Cooked in tikka masala sauce with basmati rice.....\$8.99
CHINATOWN TASTE	Fried rice with brocoli, peanuts and beef..... \$8.99
LITTLE ITALY	Vegetarian lasagna with tomato, cheese and basil.....\$9.99
AMERICAN DREAM	Cheeseburger deluxe, with fries\$9.99
TOKYO TIME	Ramen noodle soup with miso, vegetables and pork belly\$8.99
SEOUL MOMENT	Whole grilled fish (catch of the day) served with Kimchi\$7.99
CUBANO	Pork, Ham, pickles and mustard pressed sandwich.....\$8.99
ENCHILADA PLATTER	Chicken, Bistec and Pastor enchiladas with Guacamole.....\$8.99
JOLLOF RICE	Beef or Chicken with steamed vegetables.....\$9.99

Talking about the American Dream

Samten asks her friends a big question. What do they think?
Choose their answers from the story and fill in the bubbles.
Follow Alex's example.



- The American Dream is freedom.
- ~~The American Dream is a car and a big house.~~
- The American Dream is a cheeseburger deluxe with fries.
- The American Dream is the immigrant dream.

1. Alex says:



The American Dream is a car and a big house.

2. Osman says:



Empty response bubble for Osman.

3. Jamal says:



Empty response bubble for Jamal.

4. Ariana says:

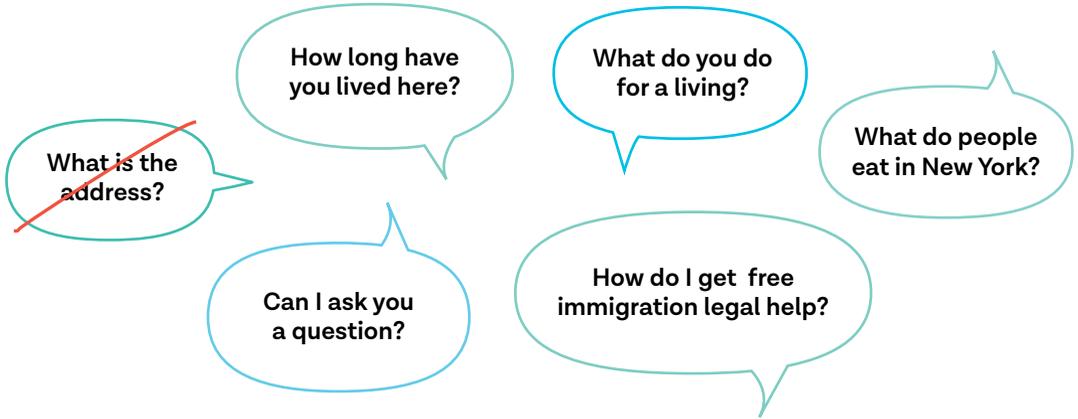


Empty response bubble for Ariana.

What do you think?

Good Question!

Choose a good question. Follow the example.



1. You are **Osman**. Ask your passenger where she wants to go.

What is the address?

2. You are **Sonam**. Ask a passenger about her work.
-

3. You are **Giddel**. Ask 311 for the help you need.
-

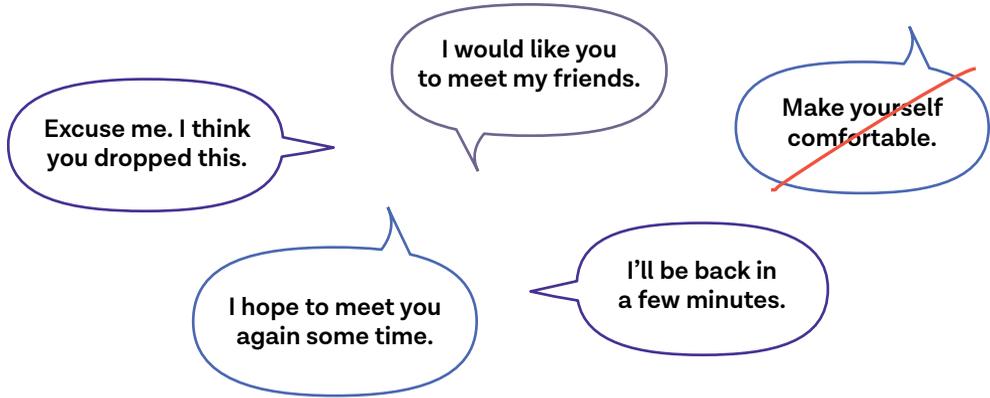
4. You are the lawyer, **Aisha**. Ask when Sonam came to the U.S.
-

5. You are **Sonam**. Ask Aisha if it is okay to ask her a question.
-

6. You are **Samten**. Ask about the kind of food people eat in New York.
-

What Can You Say?

Choose the best words. Follow the example.



1. You are **Osman**. Tell your passenger that you want her to relax.

Make yourself comfortable.

2. You are **Samten**. Tell Osman that you hope to have a chance to see him in the future.
-

3. You are **Sonam**. Tell Giddel you will return very soon.
-

4. You are **Giddel**. Tell a stranger that you found something of his on the floor.
-

5. You are **Samten**. Tell your son you would like to introduce your friends to him.
-

What Can You Do?

Match the problem with the best solution. Follow the example.

Problem

1. You want to learn about your rights and services available to you.
2. You want to learn about the benefits of the IDNYC card and you want to get one. However, you don't know where to get the information or to sign up.
3. You paid a notary cash for immigration help and you are not getting the help you need. You think you are getting ripped off.
4. Your friend needs immigration legal assistance. He doesn't have a lot of money and he doesn't speak English.

Solution

- A You do not need to speak English to get free and safe immigration legal help! Tell your friend to call **311** and say "ActionNYC" for free, safe, confidential legal assistance. He will get an interpreter.
- B Call the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs hotline at **(212) 788-7654** to find out about rights and services. You can get confidential assistance in your language.
- C You need to find a lawyer immediately. *In this country, a notary is not the same as a lawyer.* Call **311** to report fraud and say "ActionNYC" for free, safe, confidential legal help.
- D Go to the IDNYC website to find out where you can get an IDNYC and make an appointment. The IDNYC website is www.nyc.gov/idnyc. You can also call **311** and say IDNYC.

Watch the Show

Who says it?

Watch **Sonam's Mom**. Listen carefully.
Find out who says these lines.



Sonam



Samten



Osman



Ariana

Aisha
(the lawyer)

Who says it?

1. "The information comes in different languages.
If you want it in your language, please ask a volunteer." _____
2. "34th Street at the corner of 5th Avenue in Brooklyn?" _____
3. "At first, Giddel was not sure. He did not believe me." _____
4. "Then I'm going to Baruch College. I'm studying
business." _____
5. "Ariana drives a yellow car. Jamal drives a green car.
And Alex drives a black car." _____
6. "I want to see Sonam's face when you meet him." _____
7. "No, but I have seen them in the movies." _____

Watch the Show

What's going on?

What do you think is going on in these pictures?



Watch **We Speak NYC • Sonam's Mom**
to find out what is going on.
Go to www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC

Dictionary: Translations of Key Words

English	Español	中文
1. 311	311 es un número telefónico que proporciona acceso rápido y fácil a todos los servicios públicos de la ciudad de Nueva York.	311 热线 (用于获取纽约市服务信息的 免费电话号码)
2. fraud	fraude	诈骗
3. free immigration legal help	ayuda legal gratuita sobre inmigración	免费移民法律帮助
4. IDNYC	Documento de Identidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York (IDNYC, según sus siglas en inglés)	纽约市民卡 (IDNYC)
5. immigrant rights	derechos de los inmigrantes	移民权利
6. lawyer	abogado	律师
7. Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)	Oficina del Alcalde para Asuntos de Inmigrantes (MOIA, según sus siglas en inglés)	市长移民事务办公室 (MOIA)
8. notary	notario	公证人
9. refugee	refugiado	难民
10. ripped off	estafado	欺诈
11. sponsor	patrocinador	赞助，赞助商
12. the American Dream	el Sueño Americano	美国梦

Go to www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC to learn more.

Русский	বাংলা	العربية
311 – бесплатный номер информационно-справочной службы Нью-Йорка	311 (311 হল পরিষেবাগুলির বিষয়ে তথ্যের জন্য বিনামূল্যের একটি NYC ফোন নম্বর)	311 (رقم هاتف مجاني للحصول على معلومات عن الخدمات المتوفرة في نيويورك)
мошенничество	জালিয়াতি	الاحتيال
бесплатная иммиграционная юридическая помощь	বিনামূল্যে অভিবাসন সংক্রান্ত আইনি সাহায্য	مساعدة قانونية مجانية للمهاجرين
карта IDNYC (удостоверение жителя Нью-Йорка)	IDNYC	بطاقة الهوية الشخصية لمدينة نيويورك
права иммигрантов	অভিবাসীদের অধিকার	حقوق المهاجرين
юрист, адвокат	আইনজীবী	محامي
Управление по делам иммигрантов мэрии Нью-Йорка (MOIA)	মেয়রের অভিবাসী বিষয়ক অফিস (Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, MOIA)	مكتب العمدة لشؤون المهاجرين (MOIA)
нотариус	নোটারি	الموثق
беженец	শরণার্থী	لاجئ
ограбленный	প্রতারিত	سرقة
спонсор, оплачивать	স্পনসর	راعي ، كفيل
«американская мечта»	আমেরিকান স্বপ্ন	الحلم الأمريكي

What You Can Do To Find Free Legal Assistance

Sonam

ActionNYC is free, safe immigration legal help. To make an appointment, **call 311** and say “ActionNYC.”



Osman

NYCitizenship provides free legal help with citizenship applications and financial counseling at public library branches. You can meet with a free, trusted lawyer or qualified representative. To make an appointment, **call 311** and say “citizenship appointment.”



Aisha

Beware of unlicensed immigration service providers. Get legal help only from a

trusted, licensed attorney or qualified representative. If you have questions about immigration fraud, call the New Americans Hotline at **1-800-566-7636**.



Ariana

Go to the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) website (**www.nyc.gov/immigrants**) or call MOIA at **(212) 788-7654** to find out where you can go to an immigrant rights forum. Learn about your rights and the rights of your family!



Giddel

If you have a problem with a business, you can file a complaint with DCA at **www.nyc.gov/consumers** or by calling 311. You do not have to give your immigration status to file a complaint. And if you want to go to DCA in person, you don’t need an appointment.



Samten

The NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs has a resource and referral guide for newly arrived immigrants in 11 languages. Get your free guide online for more information about your rights and about services that you may be eligible for.



Answers

Who We Are

1. Sonam
2. Samten
3. Osman
4. Ariana, Alex and Jamal
5. lawyer
6. Giddel
7. secretary

What Happens?

1. passenger, purse, returns
2. lawyer, information
3. ripped off, legal
4. arrives, surprise
5. building
6. diner, picture
7. missing
8. American Dream
9. waiting
10. thousand
11. calls out, manager
12. shocked, hug

Where Is It?

1. page 1
2. pages 1, 3
3. page 2
4. page 3
5. page 4
6. pages 4, 5
7. page 6
8. pages 8, 10
9. page 9
10. page 11

Talking about Free Immigration Legal Help: Definitions

1. an attorney; a trained and licensed legal professional who can give advice and represent you in legal matters
2. related to the law; allowed by law
3. no-cost assistance provided by a lawyer or a qualified representative with immigration questions or problems
4. an identification card for all residents of New York City 10 years or older
5. a casual restaurant in NYC, often long and narrow in shape

6. a person who does some official functions, such as validating signatures, but is not the same as a lawyer and is not authorized to give immigration legal advice or to represent you as a lawyer
7. when you sign an official document guaranteeing to provide financial support to help someone obtain an immigration benefit
8. paper money (not credit card or check)
9. when you take someone's money, overcharge or defraud someone
10. worried about

Talking about Free Immigration Legal Help: Dialogue

1. question
2. sponsor
3. real
4. notary
5. 311
6. legal
7. language

Talking about Free Immigration Legal Help: If...

1. he will get information to help Giddel.
2. he will lose his money.
3. he will get his sandwich and will learn about calling 311.
4. 311 will tell him how to get free immigration legal help.

Talking about Food

1. Biryani Masala
2. Cubano
3. Tokyo Time
4. Enchilada Platter
5. Pad Thai
6. American Dream

Talking about the American Dream

1. *Alex says:* The American Dream is a car and a big house.
2. *Osman says:* The American Dream is a cheeseburger deluxe with fries.

3. *Jamal says:* The American Dream is freedom.
4. *Ariana says:* The American Dream is the immigrant dream.

Good Question!

1. What is the address?
2. What do you do for a living?
3. How do I get free immigration legal help?
4. How long have you lived here?
5. Can I ask you a question?
6. What do people eat in New York?

What Can You Say?

1. Make yourself comfortable.
2. I hope to meet you again some time.
3. I'll be back in a few minutes.
4. Excuse me. I think you dropped this.
5. I would like you to meet my friends.

What Can You Do?

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A

Watch the Show: Who says it?

1. Aisha (the lawyer)
2. Sonam
3. Sonam
4. Osman
5. Osman
6. Ariana
7. Samten

Tell the Story

1. free immigration legal help
2. secretary
3. purse
4. pad thai
5. American Dream (Cheeseburger Deluxe)

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