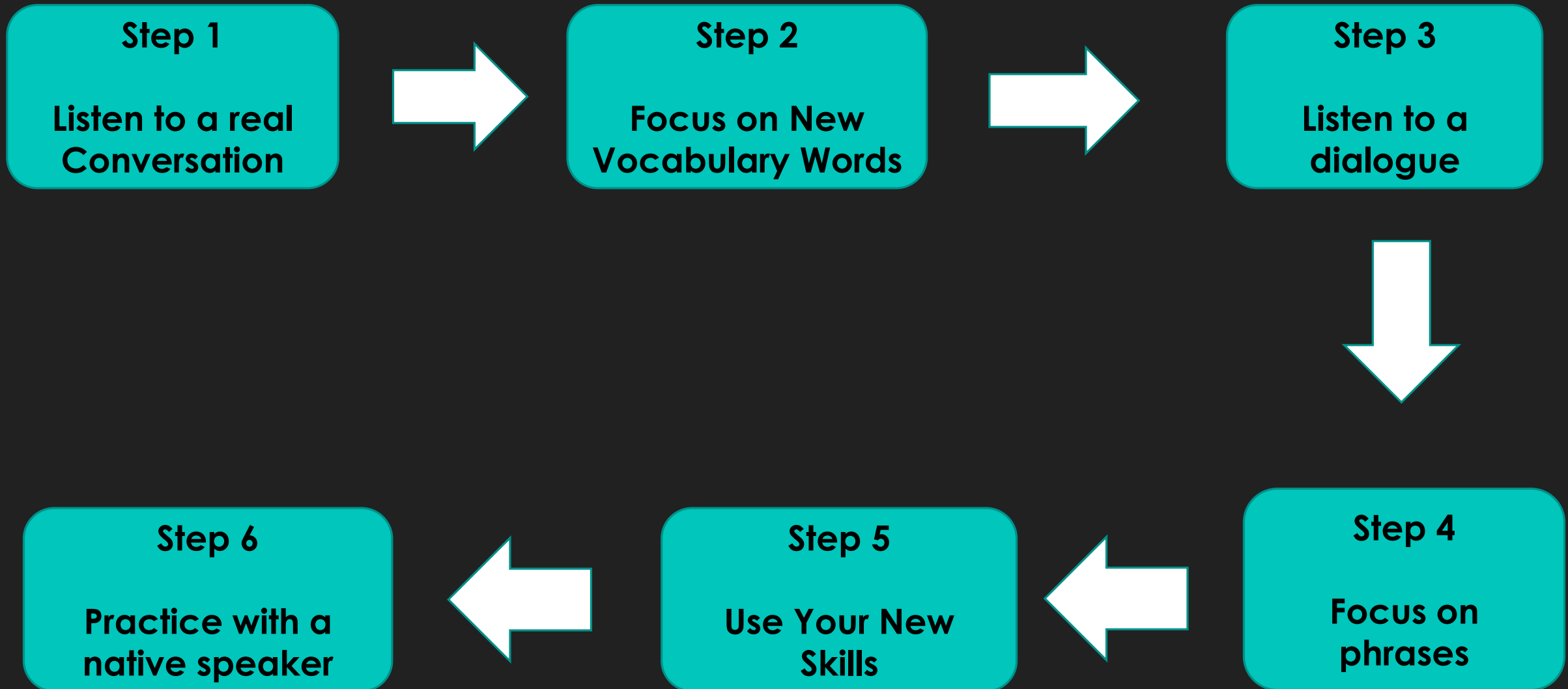




# 3 Myths About American Culture that You Learned from Hollywood

## A Vocabulary Lesson

# Our Method



# Step 1: 3 Myths About American Culture



Please listen to  
Audio Step 1:  
Three Myths about  
American Culture



What are 3 of the biggest myths about American culture that people learn when they watch Hollywood movies? Can these myths be true in some cases? Listen to the conversation between Denise and Lindsay to find out!

**Please open Transcript Step 1: Three Myths about American Culture**

## Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**Stereotype**

**To hang  
out**

**Point of  
view**

**People  
of color**

**Rags to  
riches**

**Myth**

**Drive-  
through**

**Stumble  
upon**

**Burger  
joint**

**Idealized**



# Stereotype

noun



**Meaning: The belief that all people with the same characteristic (nationality, skin color) are the same in other ways**

*It's a stereotype that Americans love to shop*

# Myth

noun



**Meaning: A story or idea that is not true even though many people believe it**

***It is a myth that the Bush family is a Texan family***

To go from  
rags to riches

idiom



Meaning: To move from a lower economic status to a higher one

*Some people in the US go from rags to riches, but many don't.*

**Idealized**

verb



**Meaning: Looked at as great, perfect, better**

***Hollywood movies present an idealized version of American culture.***



# Drive-through

noun

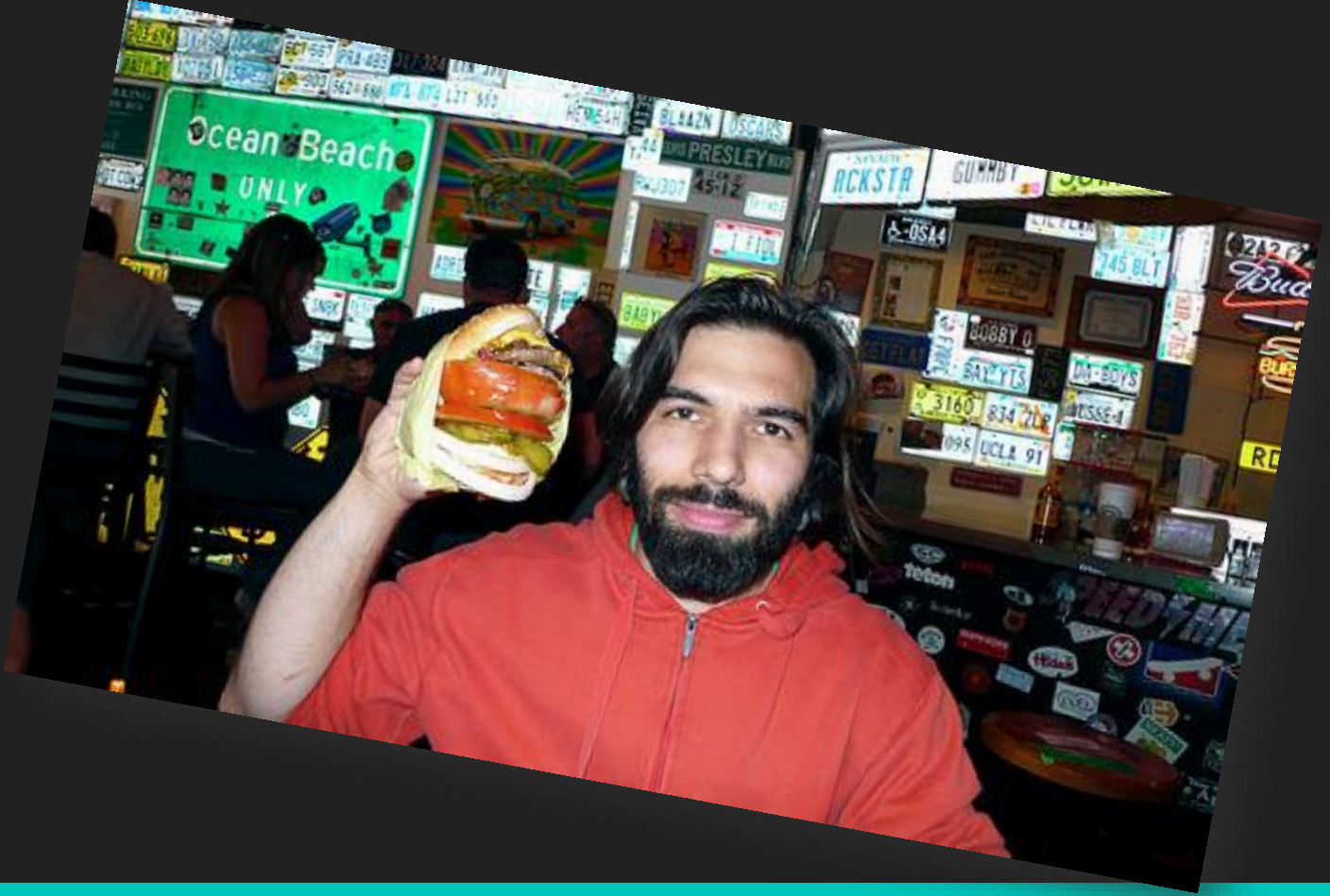


**Meaning:** In fast food restaurants, the way to get your food without getting out of your car

*Most people get their food at McDonald's by using the drive-through.*

# Burger joint

noun

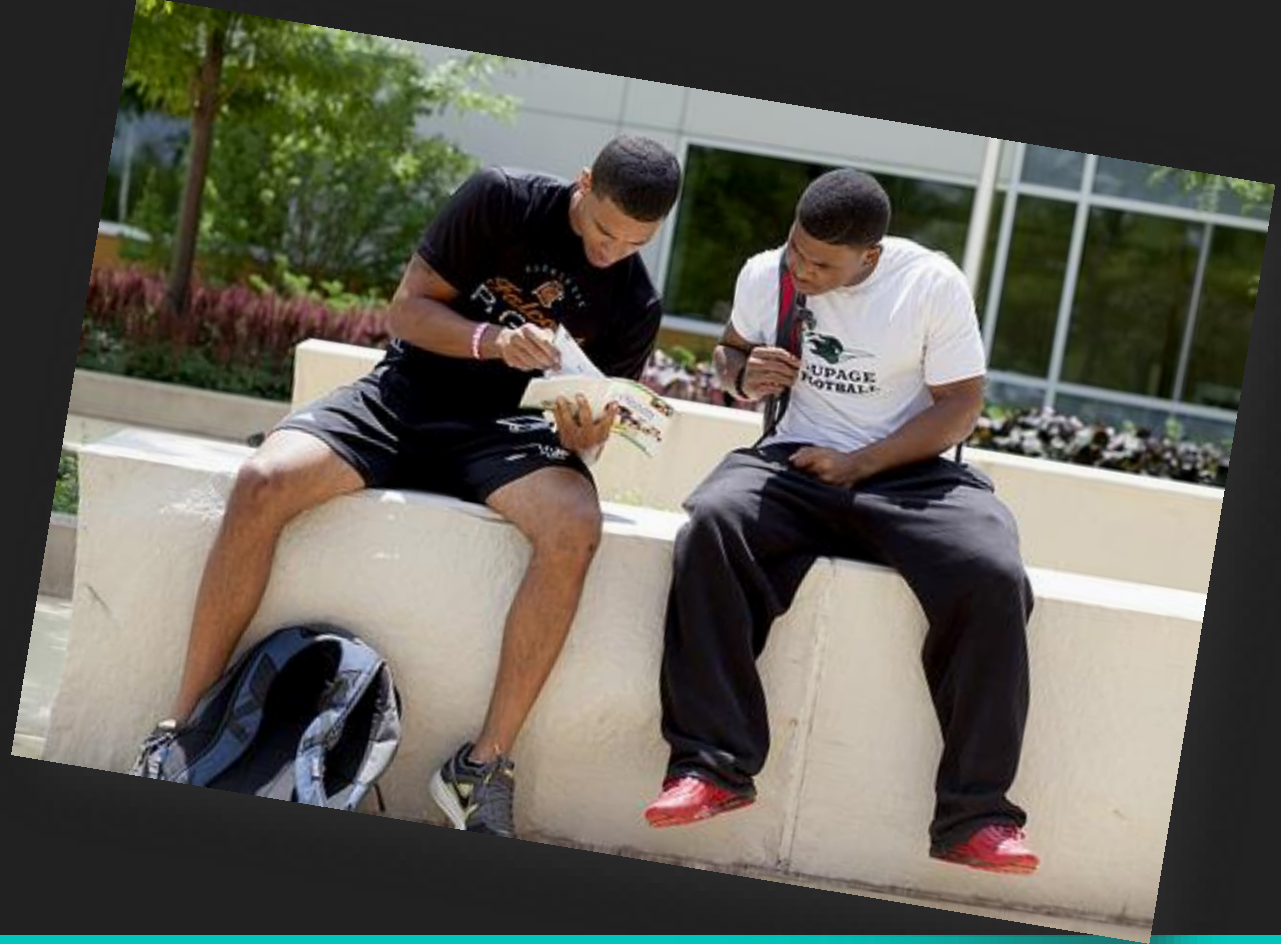


Meaning: A casual restaurant that serves burgers and other types of fast food

*Burger joints were more popular in the nineties than they are today.*

# People of color

noun



**Meaning:** A polite term used to describe people who are non-white, most frequently used to describe African-Americans

*There is a club for students of color on the college campus.*



# To hang out

Phrasal verb



Meaning: To spend time with someone (a casual term)

*Let's hang out this weekend and maybe we can catch a movie.*



# Point of view

noun



**Meaning: Perspective, way of seeing**

*From my point of view, that belief is a myth.*

# Stumble on (or stumble upon)

Phrasal verb



Meaning: To encounter something without expecting to see it

*We stumbled on a cute little restaurant downtown.*

## Step 3: A Friend Visits New York

What myths and stereotypes do people have in mind when they first visit the United States?

In this conversation, listen to one American guy talk about what happened when his friend visited New York for the first time.

**Please listen to Audio Steps and 4- A Friend Visits New York**





## Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

**Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4- A Friend Visits New York**

- “We had a great time and hung out a lot”
- “I took him to a burger joint”
- “He had certain stereotypes in mind”
- “We stumbled on some seedy sections.”
- “The most respectful way is to say ‘people of color’”
- “Hollywood has fed him the ‘rags to riches’ story”
- “...the idealized story about wealthy people not working much”
- “...it’s definitely a myth”



# Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

Click on the file **"Say It Another Way- 3 Myths from Hollywood"**



## Step 5: Use Your New Skills

**Idealized**

**Point of view**

**Stumble on**

**Myth**

**Burger joint**

**Hang out**

1. What is your \_\_\_\_\_ on climate change? (opinion)
2. Do you want to \_\_\_\_\_ this weekend? Let's have a coffee (spend time together)
3. While I was walking around downtown, I \_\_\_\_\_ a cute little card shop (found)
4. Why does Hollywood create such an \_\_\_\_\_ view of American life? (perfect)
5. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ that everyone in the US wants to drive a car and live in the suburbs (commonly accepted story)
6. Do you want to grab some food? There is a \_\_\_\_\_ down the street. Let's go there. (grill, casual restaurant)

# Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards



People of color

Idealized



To go from rags to riches



To hang out

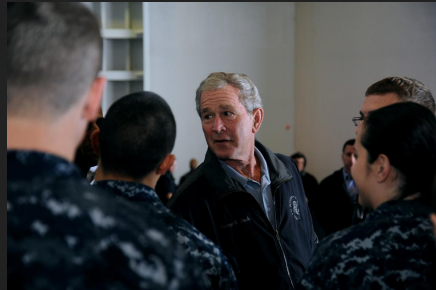
Drive-through



Stereotype



Myth





# Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards Continued...



**Burger joint**

**Point of view**



**Stumble on**



# Step 6: Practice with a Native Speaker

- What **stereotypes** do you (did you) have about the US? Where did you pick up these stereotypes? If you have been to the US, how were your stereotypes different from reality?
- What **stereotypes** do other people have about your country?
- Give an example of a **myth** that is passed down from generation to generation in your culture?
- In what Hollywood movies have you seen the '**rags to riches**' myth? Talk about your reaction to that myth and how it's portrayed in the movie. Is there a similar myth or story about money in your culture? In what ways does this myth disregard the struggles of women and minority groups?

# Step 6: Practice with a Native Continued...

- Can you name any movies or TV shows that present an **idealized** version of daily life in the US? (*Friends?* *Sex and the City?*)
- Have you ever been to a **burger joint** in the US? Describe your experience?
- Is it common to **stumble on burger joints** and **drive-throughs** in your country? How is the “fast-food culture” different in your country?
- In what way does your country struggle with discrimination against **people of color**? Can you describe the current situation? How has it changed over the years?

# Part 6: Practice with a Native Continued...

- What is your **point of view** on gun control in the United States?
- Name your 3 favorite movies – why do you like them? What did you learn from them?
- Do you think there is too much violence in Hollywood movies? Whose job is it to limit kids' exposure to violent movies – the film makers or the parents? Why? What role does Hollywood play in the culture of gun violence in the US?
- Why do people hold stereotypes? What can be done to break down stereotypes?

# Credits

- Forrest Gump: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jimsphtoworld/>
- Sex and the city: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/pimkie\\_fotos/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/pimkie_fotos/)
- Fast and furious: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/esharkj/>
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- Students of color: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/codnewsroom/>
- Hang out: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/meralcrifasi/>
- Point of view- telescope <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ny156uk/>
- Burger Joint: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lifeontheedge/>
- Stumble upon <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mysudbury-ouisudbury/>
- New York streets: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/johnji/>
- Say it another way: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kimba/>

1. point of view
2. hang out
3. stumbled on
4. idealized
5. Myth
6. burger joint