

# WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

## Amish Paradise

The Amish population, known for their traditional lifestyle, is estimated to be around 350,000 individuals primarily residing in rural areas of the United States, particularly in states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.



The Amish are a religious community known for their simple lifestyle and strong sense of community. They originated from Swiss **Anabaptist** roots in the 16th century and follow a strict interpretation of the Bible, emphasizing humility, adult baptism, and **nonresistance**.

Living separately from the modern world, the Amish prioritize simplicity and self-sufficiency. They typically reside in rural areas, farming the land using traditional methods and relying on manual labor instead of machinery. Transportation is mainly by horse-drawn **buggies**, reflecting their commitment to a simpler way of life.

Family and community play vital roles in Amish life. They live in **close-knit** communities, following a set of unwritten rules known as the **Ordnung**, which regulates their behavior, dress, and interactions. Education ends after eighth grade, focusing on practical skills and values within their community.

While they seek separation from the secular world, the Amish engage in commerce with non-Amish businesses when necessary. However, they limit interactions with the government to avoid compromising their beliefs.

Despite challenges like urbanization and pressure to conform, the Amish population continues to grow, primarily in states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Their resilience and commitment to their beliefs reflect their **enduring** strength in a changing world, preserving their faith, tradition, and community.



by ECP coach  
**Jarrod Olman**

## Word list

- **1. \*\*Anabaptist\*\*:** A member of a Protestant sect that believes in the necessity of baptism for adults and not infants and is committed to nonviolence and the separation of church and state.
- **2. \*\*Nonresistance\*\*:** The practice or principle of not resisting authority, violence, or coercion, often associated with pacifism.
- **3. \*\*Self-sufficiency\*\*:** The ability to fulfill one's own needs without external assistance or reliance on others.
- **4. \*\*Buggies\*\*:** A light carriage pulled by horses, often used for transportation by the Amish.
- **5. \*\*Close-knit\*\*:** Describes a group of people who are closely united or bound together, often referring to strong relationships within a community.
- **6. \*\*Ordnung\*\*:** An unwritten set of rules or guidelines governing Amish life, regulating behavior, dress, and interactions within the community.
- **7. \*\*Enduring\*\*:** Persisting over a long period of time; continuing or lasting.

## Let's chat about that!

1. Why do the Amish avoid using modern technology, and how do other religious groups handle technology differently based on their beliefs?
2. How do Amish kids' schooling, which usually ends after eighth grade, compare with schooling in other religious groups?
3. What are some other religious communities? How do they differ from the Amish?
4. How does religion influence the concept of morality and ethical decision-making within society, and how do different religious traditions approach and interpret moral principles?
5. Do you consider yourself a religious person?

## Some minority religious communities similar to the Amish found around the world:

1. Hutterites (primarily in Canada and the United States)
2. Mennonites (found globally, with significant populations in North and South America, Europe, and Africa)
3. Bruderhof Communities (primarily in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia)
4. Old Order Mennonites (concentrated in North America, particularly in the United States and Canada).
5. Old Believers (found in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and other countries with historical ties to the Russian Orthodox Church)
6. Doukhobors (primarily in Canada, with smaller communities in Russia and other countries)
7. Shakers (primarily in the United States)
8. Menno Simons Communities (found globally, with notable populations in Indonesia, Belize, and Paraguay)
9. Exclusive Brethren (found in various countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States)
10. Plymouth Brethren (found in multiple countries, with significant populations in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and India)

These communities share similarities with the Amish in terms of their emphasis on traditional living, religious adherence, and separation from mainstream society. However, each group also has its unique beliefs, practices, and cultural nuances.