

NEW YORK, NEW YORK !

Word	meaning	sentence
To grill	someone who is pretending that they are better than they really are	
Brick	to stare at someone for a long period of time in an unrelenting way	
Kid/Son	For local New Yorkers, the island of Manhattan is called	
Frontin'	A slice of pizza	
The City	weather outside is icy and slushy =freezing	
Deadass	A compliment !It means they see you as a close friend!	
Pie	means they're completely and totally serious about something.	
Thirsty	to describe someone who is acting desperate.	
Tight	Something cool	
Regular Coffee	coffee is made with a large helping of cream and sugar!	
Sus	something that looks or feels "suspect"	



NEW YORK, NEW YORK !



Jonathan Safran Foer was born in 1977 in Washington, D.C. *Everything is Illuminated* (2002), his first novel, won several literary prizes. Foer's second novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, was published in 2005. Set in New York City, it revolves around events since September 11, 2001. Foer lives in Brooklyn, New York City.

New York City, September 10th, 2001. Bedtime. Nine-year-old Oskar, the narrator, has just asked his father to tell him a story.

The moment before he started was my favorite moment.

"Once upon a time, New York City had a sixth borough." "What's a borough?" (...) "It's like a neighborhood¹. Or a collection of neighborhoods." "So if there was once a sixth borough, then what are the five boroughs?" "Manhattan, obviously, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx." "Have I ever been to any of the other boroughs?" "Here we go."
 10 "I just want to know." "We went to the Bronx Zoo once, a few years ago. Remember that?" "No." "And we've been to Brooklyn to see the roses at the Botanic Garden." "Have I been to Queens?" "I don't think so."

"Have I been to Staten Island?" "No." "Was there really
 15 a sixth borough?" "I've been trying to tell you." "No more interruptions. I promise."

When the story finished, we turned the radio back on and found someone speaking French. That was especially nice, because it reminded me of the vacation² we just came back from, which I wish never ended³. After a while, Dad asked me if I was awake. I told him no, because I knew that he didn't like to leave until I had fallen asleep, and I didn't want him to be tired for work in the morning. He kissed my forehead and
 25 said good night, and then he was at the door.

"Dad?" "Yeah, buddy?" "Nothing."

Jonathan Safran Foer,
Extremely loud and incredibly close, 2005

1. **neighborhood**: district

2. **vacation**: holiday

3. **which I wished never ended**: which I wanted to go on for ever

Understanding the facts

- In the introduction, spot the place and the date. Say what the date suggests to you.
- Make sure you understand who says what.
- Classify the boroughs of New York City into two categories: those Oskar has already been to / those he has never been to.
- Once upon a time New York had a sixth borough.* (l.3). What sort of stories do you associate this expression with? What does it suggest about the sixth borough?
- Pick out the elements that give us some information about the relationship between the characters: their habits (= *habitudes*) / their feelings ...