

# The New Normal

By Diamante Cameron



For the past year, we have all been on lockdown, anxious to go back to normal life. The country and world is at a crossroads, do we try to go back to the life that used to exist or do we embrace this chance for a better world, for a new normal?

I am sure everyone has heard the term “new normal” tossed around, but what exactly does it mean? Well, the term was coined to describe how an economy or society settles after a crisis. New normal was first used during World War I by newspapers to try and predict what life would be like after such a devastating war. It has been used again with the attacks of September 11, the financial crisis of 2008, the aftermath of the 2008-2012 global recession, and of course the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now let us talk about a country that is seeing its new normal. At the time of writing this, New Zealand is several months free from any

Covid cases. It was definitely one of the more proactive countries, for as soon as the numbers started spiking, the prime minister Jacinda Ardern put the country into a strict lockdown. New Zealand is now at a level 1 Covid alert, for reference the United States is at a level 4, the highest of the 4 level system. In New Zealand, you can travel freely within the country, go to shops, bars and restaurants (there are only 100 patrons allowed though), and gather in smaller groups. Even though there aren't any Covid cases it is mandated that you stay 1 meter (about 3 feet) away from anyone outside your household, and that you wear a face covering at all times.

From countries like New Zealand, we can see that some sort of normalcy is possible. So, what would it look like in the United States? Well in truth no one knows. Experts, like Anthony Fauci, have suspicions of what it will look like after we have beaten Covid-19. One of the main things that will be worse, at least for a while, is traveling. There are tons of countries that have closed their borders, especially to Americans. Also, the unemployment rates have been skyrocketing, and even in the places that are better, businesses have been stingy about hiring people.



There is a lot of good that will come out of a new normal as well. School and work could become more accessible for people that can't come in person. It has shaken up how we look at the world and made us value the smaller things in life, and the people around us. Also, it has strengthened/instilled trust in science and the people who are leading in those fields.

Taking everything into account, it is ok to be worried about what life will be like. It is human nature to be terrified of the unknown, but unfortunately, it is the only way to make real change.

#### Sources:

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Here's why”

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# The History of April Fools' Day

By Sam Fickett

The exact origin of April Fools is still somewhat unknown, although we know it has been around for many centuries, and in many cultures. Historians have theorized that April Fools' Day originated in 1582 when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. In the Julian calendar, the new year began on the Spring Equinox which was around April 1st, and in the Gregorian calendar, the calendar we use now, the start of the new year is January 1st. People who were slow to change to the new system, and still celebrated the new year in April, were called “April Fools”. Sometimes, they would be pranked, and have paper fish stuck to their backs. This symbolized the “April fish,” an easily caught, “gullible” fish.

Another theory of how April Fools' Day originated is that it is linked to the holiday Hilaria, celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March by members of the cult Cybele. The members of Cybele would mock citizens and civil officers, and dress up in disguises. More speculation has said April Fools' might be tied to the Spring Equinox, because Mother Nature fooled people with the changing weather. In the 1700s, April Fools' Day became widespread in Britain. It was a two-day event in Scotland, where people were sent on fake errands.

During modern times, April Fools' Day is still celebrated. TV channels, radio stations, newscasters, and the public often play elaborate pranks on each other to celebrate the event. Cases of these pranks include in 1957 when the BBC reported that farmers were harvesting noodles from trees. In 1996, Taco Bell pranked peo-

ple that they had purchased the Liberty Bell, and intended on naming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Google has played pranks on its users every year, the prank varying each time.

In France, the day is called “Poisson d'Avril”. In England, “fools” are also called “noddys” and “gobbys”. In Scotland, the day is called “Hunting the Gowk.” In Portugal, the holiday is celebrated by friends throwing flour into each other's faces. In Brazil, the day is called dia de mentira, which is “day of the lie” in Portuguese. In Greece, it is believed that if you trick someone on April Fools' Day, you will have good luck all year long. In Ireland, the pranks are expected to end at noon. In Sweden, they say “April, April, din dumma sill, jag kan lura dig vart jag vill!”, which translates to “April, April, you stupid herring, I can trick you whenever I want!”



Looking for pranks to play on your own loved ones? Tape a plastic insect inside a lampshade, so it looks like there is a giant bug in the lamp. Tape a bunch of balloons to a window on a door, so it looks like when you open the door, the room behind the door is stuffed with balloons. Caramelize onions, and tell your loved one that they're caramelized apples. There're many more creative pranks you can come up with on your own! It's always fun to keep an age-old tradition alive.

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