

Defining the American Dream

The video was taken in 2009, during the financial crisis that led to a global economic recession. Many banks went bankrupt and many people lost their homes in America.

The video is about the American Dream and how people define it. Journalists asked people in the street about their personal vision. It raises many questions: how can you reach or achieve the AD? Is there only one definition? Has the definition evolved through time? Is it still available? Is the Dream still alive?

Usually, it has to do with upward mobility and hard-work, which means that people are able to improve their living conditions if they are determined to do so. Sometimes it requires a little bit of luck (as one says in the video), but the American Dream can be achieved by everyone, no matter where you come from and no matter where you start. Indeed, America is still attracting many people from around the world.

However, according to some people being interviewed, the American Dream is not available anymore. Some think that it used to be easier in the past and now it has become much more difficult, probably due to the crisis but not only. Indeed, there are fewer opportunities today and less money. It's not as easy as it used to be. (Fewer + countable \neq less + uncountable)

The video also shows that young people tend to be more optimistic about this dream.

The interesting point about the poll is that it shows how people adapt to difficult situations and find a more realistic definition of the AD. In spite of the recession, more people say that they have already achieved their dream, compared to four years before. The reason is that their dream is "less about material success and more about values such as freedom and opportunity". People don't expect to become millionaires, they just want to be happy with enough means to be able to live decently. It seems that when times are hard people become realistic, or at least they limit / reduce / lower their expectations.

So, obviously there are different definitions of the AD. It depends on people's minds and their personal stories and it can also change over time.