



Discuss

- 1) How often do you go to the post office? Mail letters?
- 2) Where do you normally send letters, within the US or to another country?
- 3) How much does it cost to send a letter within the US? To another country?
- 4) Is mailing a letter more or less expensive in your country?
- 5) What is a first-class letter?

New stamp prices go into effect Monday

By Andrea V. Hernandez, May 12, 2007

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First-class stamp, 2005

US Postal Service customers will soon need more than just a 39-cent stamp to send a first-class letter. Effective Monday, the Postal Service is **hiking** stamp prices by 2 cents to 41 cents.

The last time stamp prices increased was in January 2006. The stamp went from 37 cents to 39 cents.

Not all postage prices are going up, however. Mailing a 2-ounce, first-class mail letter, for example, will cost 58 cents. That's 5 cents less than the previous rate of 63 cents.



First-class stamp, 2006

Customers can buy a new kind of stamp to save themselves from future stamp increases: Forever Stamps. They can buy them at the new 41-cent first-class mail letter price, and they are good forever on first-class, one-ounce letters, even if prices go up again.



Forever Stamp

Review

- 1) What is a first-class letter?
- 2) What does “hike” mean?
- 3) How much did it cost to send a first-class letter in 2005?
- 4) How much did it cost in 2006?
- 5) How much did it cost last week?
- 6) How much does it cost today?
- 7) How much was the rate hiked?
- 8) What postal price has gone down?
- 9) What is a Forever Stamp? How much does one cost?



Discuss

- 1) Why do you think the rate was hiked?
- 2) The cost of sending a letter to another country is also higher. How much do you think it is now?
- 3) Does the hike affect you? How?
- 4) Who else does the hike affect? How?
- 5) Why do you think the price of mailing a 2-ounce letter has gone down?
- 6) What do you think of the Forever Stamp? Who is it good for? Do you have a stamp like that in your country?
- 7) How often are postal rates increased in your country?

