

# Washington Expert

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*In the following text some words are missing. Write ONE word in each gap. In order to get a point, the word you write should be grammatically correct and make sense in the text.*



There is a certain atmosphere surrounding somebody who lives in Washington. I don't know why but, for some strange reason, everybody seems to think that you know more \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> what is going on than they do, and a fellow who makes his home in the nation's capital can look forward \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> being invited to lots of parties. As a matter of fact he can eat and drink for nothing in many parts of the country just \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> he happens to live in Washington.

I discovered this when I went up to New York recently and to my surprise was \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> to a series of dinner parties. Everyone was most interested in learning about \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> was going on in Washington and, to begin with, I was quite honest and admitted I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> no idea. Not only did this disappoint the people I was dining with, it also \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> them angry. They couldn't believe that I didn't know and assumed I wasn't \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> the truth.



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At the first dinner party the hostess told me when I was leaving, “We didn’t expect you to tell us everything, but I see no reason why you have to protect the Administration.” I decided then and there I would \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> to come up with some inside information, or else I would have to pay for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> own meals in New York.

So the next morning I went through all the morning papers and also took time to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> TV for the latest news. When I arrived at the dinner party, I was well prepared to discuss almost \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> . “What do they say about taxes in Washington?” a distinguished lawyer \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> to know, as I picked up my first drink.

“I’ve heard that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> will probably be a tax cut next year,” I said as I popped an olive into my mouth.

“Can you tell us what the President \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup> to do about Latin America?”

“I’m sorry!” I said. “There are some things the President discusses with me that I just can’t \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16</sup> about in public.”

“Quite true,” the lawyer agreed. “There’s no point in revealing everything. You’ve probably told us more than you should \_\_\_\_\_<sup>17</sup> done anyway.”

For the next three days I had more \_\_\_\_\_<sup>18</sup> to dinner parties than I could accept. But it has \_\_\_\_\_<sup>19</sup> quite a strain. I have to go on reading so many newspapers and watching so many TV shows from Washington that sometimes I wonder if it’s \_\_\_\_\_<sup>20</sup> the trouble.

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