

Student and Tutor Newsletter



Tutoring Resource Web Sites

There are literally thousands of web sites about ESL. Here are three resources which you tutors may find useful. You will want to bookmark all three for future reference. The first is very practical. You can find Picture Stories for Adult ESL Health Literacy at http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/Health/healthindex.html. There are several picture stories of common health situations. The stories can be used for discussion and vocabulary development as well as writing.

The second is a resource for teaching ideas. Go to www.cal.org/caela which is a great web site full of information for teachers of adult ESL. One particular publication is the "Practitioner Toolkit". To find it,

click on "Instructional Tools" then on "Practitioner Toolkit". It opens as a pdf file. Yes, there are 238 pages but by using the table of contents, you can find suggestions on teaching any aspect of ESL. While it is designed for teachers rather than tutors, it is written in a very accessible style.

The third resource is for those teaching low literacy learners. It is called "Making it Real" and was written for tutors in the state of Washington who work with non-literate students. Again it is a long document but can be accessed little by little. Here is the web address:

<http://www.literacynow.info/resources/index.html#real>.

If you have web sites to share, please let Mary Hassinger know!

TAKE NOTE THIS QUARTER:

- ◆ *4th of July...July 4, 2007... (KCLC Office Closed)*
- ◆ *Prospective Tutor Orientations...July 10, 26, August 1, 6, and September 13, 25*
- ◆ *New Tutor Training...July 9, 11, 16, 18 (M, W)*
- ◆ *Maternity Leave for Angela...begins July 20*
- ◆ *Group Testing...August 15, 16, 20, 21*
- ◆ *KCLC Summer Picnic...August 30*
- ◆ *Labor Day...September 3 (KCLC Office Closed)*

GOAL SETTING STRATEGIES

It is so important that every once in a while we look at our student's goals and see how they are coming along. Here is a good set of guides as you help look at old goals and set new ones.

- **Positive Statements:** Express your goals positively.
- **Be precise:** By setting an exact goal and date by which to achieve it, a timeline can be made and successes can be tracked more easily.
- **Set priorities:** If your student has several goals, list them in order and focus attention on the most important goals first.
- **Record it:** Write goals down to avoid confusion and give them more force.
- **Keep goals small:** Make your student's most immediate goals small and achievable.

◦ **Set performance goals, not outcomes:** Set realistic goals. Setting goals that are too broad or too high will only frustrate you and your student.

◦ **About setting goals too low:** Make goals realistic, but not too easy. Your student will progress further and gain a sense of accomplishment by working towards realistic but challenging goals.

Remember this mnemonic device to make **SMART** goals:

- S = specific
- M = measurable
- A = attainable
- R = realistic
- T = timely

Word Fun

1. What runs but can't walk?
2. Why are teddy bears never hungry?
3. The more of them you take, the more of them you leave behind. What are they?
4. Have you heard the saying, "What goes up, must come down?" Well, what goes up and never comes down?
5. What word looks the same upside down and backwards?

Answers

1. *Your nose*
2. *Because they're stuffed*
3. *Footsteps*
4. *Your age*
5. *Swims*

Student and Tutor of the Quarter, June 2007



We are happy to highlight our first Student and Tutor of the Quarter.

Aura Lopez and Cynthia DeYoung were matched in December of 2003. They are real veterans and a great learning team. Cynthia

came to Kent County Literacy Council in 2002. She had one student before she met with Aura.

Aura is originally from Guatemala. She has been in the United States for more than 10 years. She taught herself English by watching television when she first came here.

Now, Aura has three children and she reads with them and to them often, which is great practice as her skills increase. She and Cynthia meet very

regularly and work hard together. They are working on Aura's writing skills and her efforts are really showing. She shares one of her writings with us in this newsletter! Aura is a talented student and writer and I know that Cynthia is very proud of her successes as she keeps on learning.

We are proud to know these two great people and happy to share their story with you!



Aura's World by Aura Lopez

My name is Aura Lopez. I am from Guatemala. I am learning English from my tutor Cynthia DeYoung. She is a very nice person. She always brings me good things and I am so excited for all she teaches to me.



I am so glad to have her helping me learn English as a second language, because my language is Spanish. Now I can help each day with my kids reading books or writing.

Now I want to say how we celebrate the July 4th. First we go to the beach, have fun with water, make a picnic. We like guacamole, meat, hot dogs, etc. Next we go downtown for the fireworks.

My hobbies in the summertime are: I like to play basketball, ride my bike with my girls to the park, play reading or writing, make a basket of food to take

to the park. Sometimes we go to the swimming pool too.

I hope you enjoy my story!

Have a good summertime!

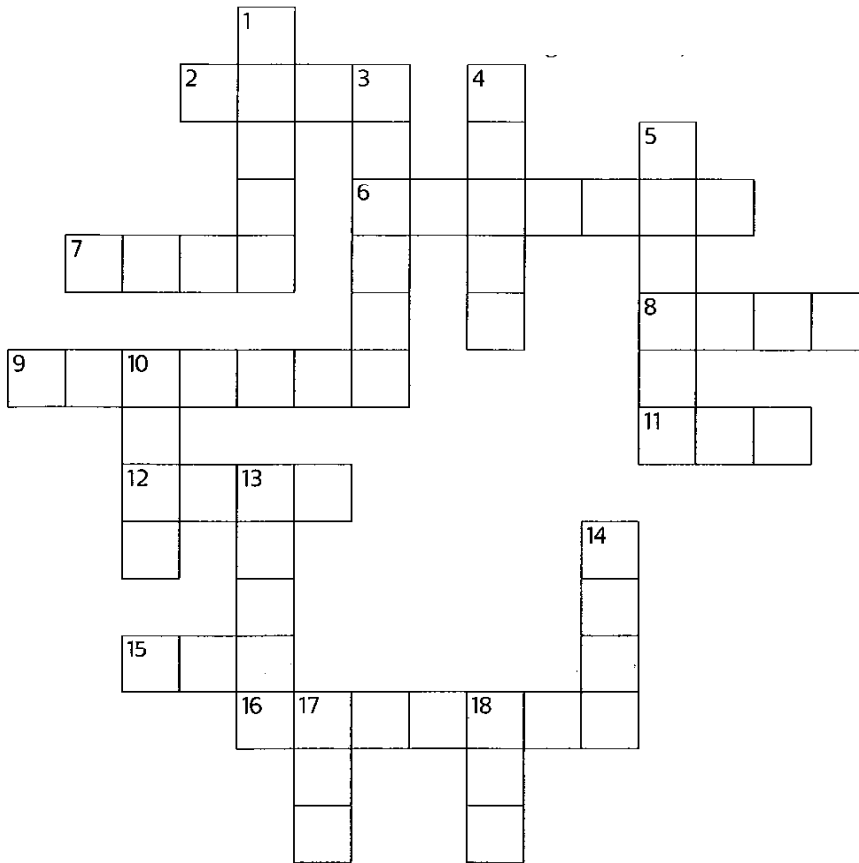


The Power of Words

The things that we say to our students affect the way they feel about themselves and the learning that they are doing with us. Be sure to use words that build up your student and let them know you are proud of their accomplishments. Here are a few well-chosen words that you can be sure to use. And be sure to share this list with your students that are parents! Their children will love to be cheered on as well!

- ◆ I am proud of you.
- ◆ I know you can do it!
- ◆ Keep up the great work.
- ◆ Do you want to tell me about it?
- ◆ You are good at that!
- ◆ I'm glad you are my student.
- ◆ Thank you.
- ◆ You are special!
- ◆ You have come so far.
- ◆ You did it.
- ◆ Never give up!
- ◆ I am impressed.

Grammar grab-bag: Verbs puzzle



Word list (use the past tense form of these verbs)

come
do
find
get
grow
have
help
leave
lose
pay
sell
spend
study
think
visit
wash
win
write

Across clues

2. My nephew _____ two inches taller! Now he needs new clothes.
6. I _____ English for 3 years in my home country before I came here.
7. My friends _____ to my house on Sunday.
8. Sam got _____ on Friday so he has plenty of money.
9. We _____ my uncle's house on Saturday. There was a big party there.
11. _____ you finish your homework?
12. I _____ my car keys! I can't find them anywhere.
15. Did you hear about those people who _____ the lottery?
16. I _____ that I saw you at the mall, but it was somebody else.

Down clues

1. He _____ a letter to his parents.
3. They _____ all the dishes after dinner.
4. I _____ somebody's hat on the sidewalk.
5. My sister _____ me with my homework.
10. My brother _____ his old car for \$200.
13. We _____ a lot of money on groceries this month.
14. Bob _____ work at 5:00 to go home.
17. We _____ a birthday party last week for my youngest son. He is now 2 years old.
18. My husband _____ a new job. He's very happy about it.



Kent County Literacy Council
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

“Building a literate community and transforming lives by strengthening reading and language skills.”

Visit our web site at www.kentliteracy.org

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Visit our web site at
www.kentliteracy.org



Be An Author! Attention both tutors and students: if you are interested in writing a poem, story, or other selection for the Tutor/Student Newsletter, please submit your creation to:

Mary Hassinger
 111 Library Street NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

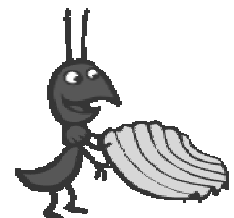
Kent County Literacy Council Summer Picnic

We have been putting together plans for a **summer picnic** this year. The date has been set for **Thursday, August 30, 2007** from **6:00-7:30 pm**. It will be held at the MacKay/JC Park on Kalamazoo and 28th Streets. Look in your mail for



the official invitation and all of the information that you will need.

We are really encouraging you to bring a dish to pass that is perhaps from your ethnic background! It is an adventure to be able to taste and share some unique and fun foods as you share friendship and conversation! One staff member plans on bringing a dish to pass that her mother taught her to make, and she was Lithuanian! So we



hope that all of you think about sharing something special if possible too!

Hope for good weather and come hungry for hot dogs, special foods from around the world, and good friends!