

Diversity

The Intensive English Program Newsletter

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From the Editor:

Diversity: The Intensive English Program Newsletter, as its name suggests, is filled with stories of a diverse group of people with many things in common. Among these common traits are a passion for learning, a love for peace and harmony, and a great interest in other cultures. In their writings, these students invite us to their home countries, tell us about their struggles as immigrants and international students in the US, and give us a taste of their cultures and traditions. If you see them on campus, please let them know you have read their stories in the newsletter and welcome them to our college.

—Masoud Shafiei

Learning English as a Second Language

By An-Yi Lee, Taiwan, Reading & Vocabulary IV

If you are not living near Kingwood College, how do you get to school every day? Drive? Someone take you to school? Ride a bike? Or just raise your thumb up on the street? Though I have the driving permission and I had tried to look for a used car, I still decided not to purchase a car for the next five months in the US. After all, it's too expensive for such a short time. Then, how do I get to school without a car? This is a very good chance to express my appreciation to each one who has ever helped me.

I want to say Thank you to my dear sister. Thanks to her for taking me to school and picking me up everyday as long as she is home. I have promised her if I decide to stay here longer, I will get a car.. Also, there is a Thank you to May, a girl from Hong Kong. Thanks to her for calling me to tell me that she was willing to take me to school. She gave me a good start to begin my school life. Because she helped for the first two weeks, I had time to look for some other ways to get to school. It's really interesting that we are from the same country, but we can only communicate with each other in English.

I'm not going to forget about Martha, who studied with me in Listening and Speaking II. The daycare where her daughter is in is close to my house, so I can ride my bike to meet her in the daycare every day. I loved this way because I was able to exercise every morning and afternoon until we were not in the same class anymore. During these four weeks, we got to know each other better.

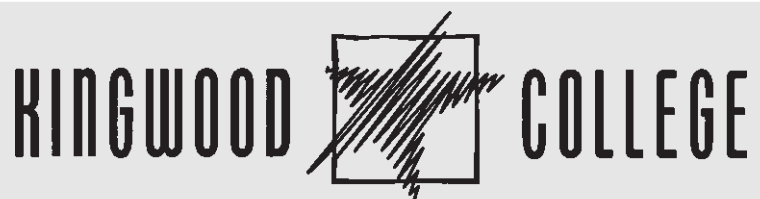
There is another person that I'm just so thankful to, and that is Mrs. Lynn. She was my teacher in Listening and Speaking II. Since she started teaching me, she has known my biggest problem of not having a car. After we had a wonderful breakfast at our friend's house, she gave me a ride home. Later on, she had offered me that she could take me to school and home every day. I couldn't believe how lucky I am! Although I'm not taking Listening and Speaking course, I still am practicing English with Mrs. Lynn every day during the little ride between school and home. Life is wonderful!

Last but not least, I also want to say Thank you to each one of you who had ever helped me out. The nice guy -Luis and Luis's aunt; beautiful Monica; good friend- Nga and Nga's neighbor, Ann! Thank you all! You have all been so kind to me and have helped me out in all different ways. In addition, I want to thank myself. I won't forget that day I rode my bike to school. How brave I was! It was very exciting and too scary for me. I think I won't do that again.

I'm very appreciative to all of you. If you need my help at anytime, I would love to do everything I could for you, except for giving you a ride!

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A NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Learning English as a Second Language

Vlada Nikolaeva, Russia, Reading & Vocabulary IV

Many different nationalities arrive to the US every day. Almost everybody who doesn't know English is at a disadvantage. People are forced to find a job to support themselves. If they don't know English, many of the job available to them are, of course, are mental or physical. For new arrivals it is very necessary to take ESL classes because in a short period of time they can adapt and adjust completely. The first reason why I am taking ESL classes is because I want to be able to communicate with native people, have a better life in the US and live as a complete person. The second reason is that I want to find a well-deserving job where people would respect me, and accordingly, I could be proud of myself. It is important to have ESL classes, because without knowing English, the life would be miserable and boring.

Rosa Pena, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

I'm taking ESL classes because in this country the native language is English, and the other important reason is that in my country I was a teacher and I would like to teach Spanish to children (Pre-K, Kindergarten or Elementary School). My big dream is to "speak English." I would like to learn English because I like the life in the school very much. I've always dreamed of teaching Spanish in this country. And I chose this college because some friends told me Kingwood College is a very good place to learn English.

Ludy Serrano, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

The reason for my coming to the United States is for the future of my son and myself. After I came here I discovered that it was hard to learn a different language. I feel hopeless when I go to the stores and to my son's school and I can't speak with American people and when I can't find a better job because I say, "I don't speak English." All opportunities are gone. I want to live in this country and it's important to learn English.

By Luis Carrera, Venezuela, Reading & Vocabulary IV

Many people are learning English around the world. One of the most important reasons is the communication. In the world today being bilingual is really important. If you want to have a good job, it is necessary to know English. In my opinion English is the most important language in the world today. Now I'm living in United States and I have to learn English. It is really different when you cannot understand anything. The communication is one of the most important things for human beings.

Matt Gaddis, USA, Reading & Vocabulary III

The reason why I am in ESL is because of my goal. My goal is to improve my writing and grammar. I am hard of hearing so I am having a hard time understanding what is proper for writing and how to use grammar to make what I am trying to write sound and look better. Therefore, I am starting at the beginning and slowly working my way up. As I move up toward my goal, hopefully my writing and grammar will improve and soon I will be able to write the proper way. For now I am at the beginning, so I am not quite there yet.

Ana Bocanegra, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary III

My experiences in Kingwood College have been fantastic and terrible. Before I came to the United States I didn't speak English; only I knew grammar. Then when I came to live here and for the first time I listened to people speak, I only heard incoherent sounds. I felt nervous if the people talked with me. My first experience in this college was discouraging, because I didn't understand the teacher and I only wrote the exercises. That was hard for me and I didn't come to the college anymore. But the necessity to speak English well was the reason that I decided to study. Now I take ESL classes and I think if I learn English, I can be anything that I want to be.

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By Gursharan Kaur, India, Reading & Vocabulary V

The United States of America is known as a country of immigrants. People from different countries live here. Everyone has his/her native language. When they meet other people from their country they prefer to talk in their native language. It is a challenge to learn any other language with which you are not familiar. Some languages, such as Asian languages, have different alphabets. English is confusing for those who do not even know a bit. For example one word has different meanings. Words are also used differently in different sentences. One has to guess from a sentence what this particular word means. For example, the word "comprehensive" means "completely" in some sentences and in other sentences it means "understandable."

Students usually get confused with prepositions. They don't know where and how to write a correct preposition. So I think it is a really big challenge to learn English as a Second Language for those who are not familiar with this language.

Greg Land, USA, Reading & Vocabulary III

ESL is a class that you learn a new language to improve your skills. I'm taking this class to learn new words. This class is good for international students that don't know English very well. ESL is very good class and it's fun learning new words.

Nelly Sorto, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

I'm taking ESL classes because it is necessary for my life. I need the communication skills. I hope I will improve. The more I learn, the better I will get. I would like to read good books and I will be able to go any place without any problems and to speak with other people. One day I will do it.

Luissana Amario Garrido, Venezuela, Reading & Vocabulary IV

Everybody knows the big value of learning English, because it is one of the most important languages in the entire world. I am from Venezuela, so Spanish is my first language. This could be an advantage for me because English will be my second language. I think that I must be bilingual to survive in the new world.

Now, I am living in U.S. Therefore, I need to learn its culture and it is very hard if I do not know English. I need to understand every thing, the movies, the songs, the news, and so on if I don't speak English I can feel like "I came from another planet". I could lose the opportunity to meet interesting places, histories and people. I have never liked the idea to be dumb in front of others and lose good opportunities in my life.

I have a very hard intention to improve my education while I develop my career in business administration. One of my goals is to obtain a master's degree in information systems. To achieve this goal I need to learn English well.

I think that in the near future only the people who speak two or more languages could be successful. For all these reasons I am learning English as my second language.

Manuel Tavares, Venezuela, Grammar & Writing IV

English is the language most people use every day. No matter where you are on this planet, you always will have the necessity of English. English is an international language. People who live in the USA probably do not notice because English is their native language, but when you are in another country, almost every piece of equipment in the house, in the office, or in your car has instructions written in English. If you are a foreigner living in the USA and you do not speak English, you will probably never have the same lifestyle as an American with the same educational level as you. If you want to learn English in the USA, you have a few choices. You could take ESL classes, which are less expensive, or you could pay a lot to have private classes.

Moises Zamora, Mexico, Listening and Speaking IV

My name is Moises Zamora. I am 29 years old. I was born in Houston, Texas, and raised in Monterrey, Mexico. I came back to the United States when I was 16 years old to pursue my dream of joining the U.S. Army. I could not pursue my dream though because I was in the U.S. by myself, so I had to work full time to support myself. Back in those days it was hard for a young guy like me to find a job because I could not speak the language and was too young, so when I went to apply for a job people would tell me I should be in school. Finally, I found a job in a car dealership selling cars. Yeah right! I was washing cars. I worked there for about two weeks until I found another job as a helper of installing central air conditioners. I started working there for \$30 a day from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for nine months straight. I did not have another option but to work like that because I did not have anyone to support me, so school was not an option for me at that time.

A whole year had passed by, and I still didn't speak a word of English. Learning English was one of my goals when I first got here. Finally, I got tired of working for \$30 a day, so I decided to go on my own. I decided to buy a truck for work. Once I had the truck, I went to apply to a company as a subcontractor. I got the job, but I was a little scared because I did not have any experience and zero English. Since I started working in that company, my life started to change because I started to pick up English very fast by talking to all kinds of people there; that's how I learned the English that I now know. After working there for eleven years, I left the company to do jobs on my own with other connections. With all the experience that I have obtained, my next step is to get my state license, and that is the reason that I am taking extensive English classes.

Joel Mendoza, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary III

The ESL program at the Kingwood College is an excellent tool to help the people who do not speak English as their first language. The people that enter in the ESL program have their own reasons why they are taking those classes. In my case, I basically have three important reasons that I will be explaining.

The most important reason is because I need to improve my English. In the United States of America, English is the official language, and it is very important and necessary to speak, to read, and to write the English language to have good communication. The ESL program gives me the opportunity to achieve my goal. Another reason why I am taking ESL classes is because I want to continue my education. When I finish the ESL classes, Kingwood Community College gives me the opportunity to continue my education on the same campus. I would like to study computer programs. Finally, I am taking ESL classes because I have two children. They were born in this country and many times they need my help in their classes. If I improve my knowledge in English I will be prepared to help them.

In short, I know that to be at Kingwood Community College taking ESL classes has been an important decision in my life and I want to make use of this program to improve my English, to continue my education, and to help my children in their homework.

Susi Robalino, Ecuador, Grammar and Writing VI

ESL classes are especially designed to help foreign language speakers improve their skills in English. I am taking ESL Classes because I need to improve my English to enter into the Nursing Program. ESL classes will show me how a formal paper has to be done. During this course, I have learned the importance of knowing another language. Nowadays being bilingual will let me have more opportunities to find a better job. This multicultural country is going to need bilingual employees everywhere in the near future, so I am preparing for it. Learning English is not easy, but it is something that I won't regret.

William (Bill) Pond

Born in Michigan, I was raised in Texas. Both of my parents were public school teachers as well as my aunt. My father and aunt taught English which inspired me to do the same. The value of education runs deep in our family.

I am a product of the Humble school system, having lettered in high school football. After a stint in the Marines, I attended Sam Houston State University on the G.I Bill and earned a bachelor's teaching degree in English and Communications. My classroom experience includes teaching in the middle and high school levels in the inner city and suburban school districts with different socio-economic climates. Early in my career, I had the golden and rare opportunity to help coach a high school football team that won the state title. It is unforgettable.

I have been teaching ESL at North Harris Montgomery Community College District for eight years, two of which have been with Kingwood College. I have taught all levels in the Continuing Education Division, and grammar and writing, listening and speaking with the Intensive English Program. The students' cultures always fascinate me with their contributions and grasp of the learning process. It is energizing, and I enjoy being a part of their success since a lot of the students who return to their countries take with them the experience, skills, and attitudes learned here in America. Reading an e-mail in English sent to me from one of my former students living in Hungary, Hong Kong, or another country is one of many rewards. Kingwood College is small enough to know the students, and yet large enough to serve them.

In my leisure time, I read, run, and play chess. I also attend Second Baptist Church in Houston, and still live in the same house that I grew up in! I am grateful and honored for the privilege to make a positive difference in the lives of our students, and thanks to my colleagues.



Recipes

Aroz con Guandules *(Green Pigeon Peas with Rice)*

Lisselotte Ortiz, Dominican Republic, Listen & Speak IV

Ingredients: (Serves 8)

2 slices bacon or 1/2 cup ham, chopped	1/2 cup tomato sauce
1/2 cup green pepper, chopped	3 cups water
2 cloves garlic, minced	2 cups rice
1 15 oz. can green pigeon peas, undrained	1/2 cup onion, chopped
1 packet Sazon Goya w/ cilantro & achiote	

Heat large skillet over medium heat. Add bacon, onions, and peppers; cook 3 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook 2 minutes longer. Add remaining ingredients, except rice. Bring to a boil. Stir in rice; cover; reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes or until rice is tender. The Caribbean's best loved, Arroz con guandules!

My Life in the United States

My New Home!

Scarlet Mendoza, Mexico, Grammar & Writing IV

I lived in a small but very nice house in Santa Cruse for 28 years. Then one day I met a wonderful man and I fell in love with him. After nine months we got married! We decided to live in Houston because of his job. AT the beginning we were living in an apartment here. We weren't happy there because the place was crowded and always noisy, and the manager didn't want to fix anything. So I suggested to my husband that we look for another place, and he agreed. We started to look for another apartment. But most available apartments in that area were worse. And the rent was higher. So we decided to look for a house to buy.

It was very difficult to find a house! Quiet homes with beautiful neighborhoods were too expensive. We found a few inexpensive houses, but the areas were dangerous. Prices in all areas seemed to go up everyday, and we needed to find a place fast. For these reasons we were beginning to get nervous.

Finally my husband and I found a small house in a good neighborhood. The problem was the house itself. The house was ugly. It needed paint and many other repairs (porch, roof and floor). The wallpaper was horrible. The carpet was in terrible condition, and it was orange! The garden had a few half dead plants with insects all over them. It seemed like in 50 years nobody had lived there. When my daughter saw the house and especially her room, she was scared. She thought monsters lived in the house, and she started to cry. She was afraid and she wanted to go back to Santa Cruz. Then I wanted to cry too.

We started to work very hard to make this house a nice place to live. We cleaned the yard and painted the house. We fixed the porch, the roof and the floor. We removed the ugly wallpaper and the orange carpet. We planted trees and grass. Day by day this horrible house was changing and was becoming a beautiful new house. Now I am so happy living here. I enjoy living here everyday. I have a perfect, beautiful, comfortable house. I love my new home. And the most important thing, I feel as happy as when I was living in Santa Cruz!!

Cowboys in Texas

Yuichi Nagata, Japan, Listening & Speaking IV

I had asked Japanese friends of mine about Texas. Everybody said, "Cowboys!" I thought so. But I also thought that is only an old image of Texas, and they don't have "cowboys" anymore, like a "samurai" in Japan. We don't have real "samurais" anymore. But "cowboys" do exist in Texas! I can see them everywhere. They really wear cowboy clothes. That is surprising to me!

The Battleship Texas

Rosa Santana, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

An interesting place to visit is the Battleship Texas near Baytown. When I visited this place last year with my family, we were very surprised. We had never seen a big battleship before. This ship was used in the Second World War and went out of service in 1945. At that time there were three thousand sailors, and we saw a lot of beds inside. The ship has three levels. They had everything such as a kitchen, dentist, doctor, maintenance room, electric power room, weapons, showers, cafeteria, gymnasium, library, training rooms, and a barber. Many of these places conserve antique items that were used at that time such as clothes, uniforms, weapons, chairs, desks, shoes, caps, different kinds of rope, beds, machinery, books, notes, and photos. This ship is a big museum and everything there is real. When you arrive there, you can read its history on a big sign near the ship, and there are some pictures about it from that epoch.

Foreign Land

Patricia Forrest, Philippines, Grammar & Writing IV

I remember the day I set my foot in the USA. I was so excited and at the same time anxious because I didn't know what to expect. I was so happy to see my husband again. He picked me up at Hobby Airport in Houston. As he was driving, I noticed quite familiar sights like the tall buildings with great architecture designs. And I was stunned by how wide the roads are; there are multiple lanes on the freeway and you hardly notice the traffic. I had never seen that before personally, but of course I had seen it in some American movies in the past. As we got closer to the home of my mother-in-law where I was going to stay, I became more nervous because that was the first time I was going to meet her. And then, we reached my mother-in-law's house. As I was opening the door, a pretty woman was coming towards me, and she gave me a great welcome hug. I felt so good after that. Knowing that I was very welcome in my mother-in-law's life, I felt relief.

Easy Living

Henry Galarza, Ecuador, Grammar & Writing III

Living in the United States is very easy. In this country the laws are very clear, and everybody can observe them. The place where one works is often far away, but it is easy to buy a car. Children attend good schools, and their parents see a very good future for them. The stores offer goods at low prices, and there is always a good opportunity to buy something. For all of the above, I believe life in the United States is attractive.

Recipes

Aji de Gallina (Chicken with creamy sauce)

Adriana Chunga, Peru, Listening & Speaking IV

Ingredients:

3lbs chicken breast boiled and shredded (no salt)	1 can evaporated milk, opt.
4 C of chicken broth (from the chicken above)	1C Parmesan cheese
4 slices of white bread	1 C onion, finely chopped
1 C shelled walnuts	1 T crushed garlic
1 C evaporated milk	vegetable oil
	"blended aji"*
	salt, pepper

To serve and decorate:

- 2 boiled eggs, sliced
- 3 boiled Yukon Gold potatoes, sliced (1/2 inch thick)
- chopped Italian parsley

"Aji" is found in several Mexican markets and is found frozen or already blended.

1. Blend white bread, walnuts and 1 can evaporated milk to make a fine cream, set aside.
2. Heat oil in a medium sized pot, add chopped onions, garlic, blended aji (according to taste), salt and pepper and cumin. Cook until golden brown.
3. Add the creamy mix from step 1, bring to a boil, and cook for 5 minutes (low heat), stirring constantly.
4. Add shredded chicken, chicken broth and Parmesan cheese to get a soft creamy consistency. Only if needed, you may add more evaporated milk. Cook over low heat another 5-10 mins.
5. Serve with white rice and decorate with eggs and chopped parsley. Place the potatoes on a serving dish next to the "Aji de Gallina."

The Houston Zoo

Rabih Chamseddine, Lebanon, Grammar & Writing IV

The Houston Zoo is a very good place to learn more about animals. Just by walking for a few hours at the zoo, you can see, hear, and smell animals like the lions and the tigers, the bears and the wolves, the elephants and the giraffes. You can get a brochure that tells you about each animal, explaining to you about their habits, what they eat, and how they sleep. By visiting the Houston Zoo, kids will be more interested in learning about these animals; they will remember this information better than when they read about it. The Houston Zoo is a good center for increasing knowledge about animals for people visiting or residing in Houston.

Challenges and Success

Marlon V. Garcia, Nicaragua, Grammar & Writing V

I came to this country without the knowledge of the language like many people. It was very difficult to settle down without knowing how to communicate. In a short time, I found that those who know English are in a better position than those who don't know English, so I began to learn little by little.

Fortunately, I found a job that gave me the opportunity of growing in a different way. My boss who grew up here and also spoke English trained me like an English teacher at my job. Everything was free. This changed my life dramatically as a worker. I learned how to work and also started to learn English. I worked for some years until unfortunately I injured my back.

Since then I have entered a state program for injured workers. My doctor recommended that I be a candidate to enter another program of re-training to find another job. This is the beginning of a new training since I have discovered that my English is not completely good. I believe that this is the beginning to learn what is an unknown world to me. Although I spoke and communicated in

English, I never knew what pronouns, sentences or other grammatical things were. What is most important is that I am making an effort to learn a new language and to obtain my certificate in human resources. This will be my new job to support my family.

Adapting to a New Life

Sandra Gutierrez, Mexico, Grammar & Writing IV

I like living in Mexico because it is the place where I was born and where I lived for fourteen years. Houston is a great place to live, too, but I miss my hometown so much. I have been living here for three years with my family. Life is so different here because it is another style of living. I think the United States is a place where most of the people want to live for the great opportunities that this country has. I have heard a lot of commentaries about this country. People say, "It is easy to live in the United States." That sounds too good, but I think that it is not very easy. It is difficult for people like me because when I first came here I didn't speak the same language and I couldn't understand what the people were saying around me. I think that it is the biggest problem for the people who come from other countries and decide to live here.

It is good to have schools to provide the opportunity to learn English. I started to learn English in high school, but I decided to study more because it is a form of communication and so I could do things like write better, understand better and help my family if they needed it. It is exciting when I hear people from my country talking with me in English. That makes me proud of them and me.

Also, in my family my dad has a good job and we have a stable life. However, the lifestyle is different because I need to adapt to things I never did before. For example, when I came here I didn't know how to drive a car, so I needed to learn. On the other hand, if you know how to drive and don't have a car you still have a problem and it is horrible to wait for things that you need at that moment. So I learned how to drive and now I can take my mom wherever she wants to go. It is exciting because I never imagined me driving a car.

Finally, I have adapted to a new life with a different style of living and a pretty country with my family, but I still miss my hometown in Mexico so much.

Life in the US Is Easy and Difficult

Yazmin White, Mexico, Grammar & Writing IV

Life in the United States can be easy and difficult at the same time. There are many things that I like and some things I don't like. When I arrived in the U.S., I was surprised at the opportunities that I saw. I liked the opportunity for education and jobs. Education is the formula to be successful in this country. Children in this country are educated for free for 12 years. After high school you can get a job that pays okay. To get a very good job you have to go to a university. But it is very difficult to have a job that pays your bills and can pay for school, too. The opportunity is there, but in reality it is very difficult. There are many intelligent people from my country that cannot get a good job and also go to school. These people can only work to pay rent and buy food and clothes. A person that cannot pay for school cannot be successful in life. If you don't have an education and a good job you can't enjoy the opportunities that are available in the United States. The only thing you can do is to try to provide a better life for your children and make sure they can get an education. Your children can then have the opportunity to go to a university and get a good job. In these ways life in the United States is easy and difficult at the same time.

Fish of Tikin-Chi

Aracely Cruz, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

Ingredients:

One medium size fish for each person	5 tsp. Vinegar 1/4 box of achote A pinch of salt
1 sp. Olive oil	Banana leaves

In one cup mix vinegar, achote and salt. Clean the fish, and brush the mix on the fish. Put the fish on the banana leaf, and wrap. Put the wrap on the middle rack of the oven for 30-45 minutes.

Carrot Balls

Emrah Aktepe, Turkey, Listening & Speaking III

Ingredients:

2 pounds Carrot	2 Packages of Cookies
1 pound Sugar	(plain, sweet)
1/3 pound Pecans	1 pound Coconut

First, grate about 2 pounds of carrots into a pan, then add about a pound of sugar. Second, put it on the stove and let it cook for 5-6 minutes and mix it while cooking it. Then take it off and let it cool. Next crush the cookies like powder and add them into the pan. Also, add chopped pecans, then mix it all up and put it into the refrigerator for 15 minutes. Take it out of the refrigerator and roll them up in balls and put them on a dish. Last, sprinkle coconut on them. Put it in the refrigerator and let it chill for 30 minutes.

My Life in the United States

Lake Shores Villas

Breyda Alfano, Venezuela, Grammar & Writing III

The Lake Shores Villas apartment complex is a wonderful place to live. The apartments are new and beautiful. The complex has a lot of things to enjoy: swimming pool, hot Jacuzzi, gym, business office, walkway, lake, pier, volleyball court, and a lot of recreational activities every week. My family and I are happy to live there. We go to the gym two times a week. We ride bicycles and play volleyball every weekend. In spring time, we are going to put the boat in the lake. It's very good to live in a place so beautiful and interesting like this. That's why I know that Lake Shores Villas is a wonderful place to live.

Living in America is the Experience of a Lifetime

Patricia Luco, Venezuela, Grammar & Writing IV

When I arrived here four months ago, I thought that the Americans in general were really nice because it is like they are always concerned to see if you feel comfortable or if you need something. This doesn't mean that in my country people aren't nice. It is that they don't give as much attention to these things but while you are there they are friendly with everyone and try to make you have fun while you stay. Being in the USA has shown me that there are a lot of different styles of thinking, and that if you are really mature you can handle the differences and enjoy the contrast.

The second thing that shocked me was the food. Here in USA all you eat is junk food and is impossible to stay thin and not get fat, because all you eat is hamburgers and pizza. Sometimes I like this kind of food but sometimes I wish to have that food that we have in my country such as arepas, chicken, meat and rice, and healthy food. I'm still not used to the food here, and sometimes I get tired of it and I get desperate because I can't go back to Venezuela to eat my normal food.

The third thing that was really a big change were the streets. It may sound weird and not important, but when I got here I noticed that the streets and highways were really big with trees everywhere, and I noticed that there were not as many homeless people at the stop signs as in my country. Right now in Venezuela you can find homeless people at every stop sign, which is really sad. I love living here surrounded by trees. It is really relaxing, and every time I wake up I can feel the smell of nature. I love it. That is one of the things that I really like about living here.

The fourth aspect, was the weather. In US there are four seasons - winter, fall, spring and summer but in my country there is only one season, which is summer, and sometimes it is windy. There are beaches everywhere. So it is really hard for me to live here in the winter. I know that sooner or later I will get used to it but in my mind and my heart I will always remember the beautiful beaches.

Becoming a New Yorker, Christian, & American

Annie Castro, Colombia, Grammar & Writing III

When I moved from Colombia to the United States, I was so young. The first place I lived was New York. The weather and the fashions there were very different from my country. In Manhattan I saw a lot of people from different countries and tasted many different kinds of food. I was interested in studying English, but in New York more than 65% of the community speaks Spanish. I worked in a dental center with a person from my country. Another experience made me proud and happy. When I received Jesus Christ in my

heart, he changed my life. When I received my American citizenship, that also made me proud and happy. Although my English was very bad, I passed the test to become a US citizen.

Building a Dream

Rebab Ebeid, Egypt, Grammar & Writing IV

When you live in U.S.A., you live in a multicultural country. From everywhere in the world people come to US to live here. They live together and it doesn't matter where they are from or what they do. Here in the U.S. everyone is the same and everyone is independent.

There is a very big difference between the US and my country, Egypt. There are differences in culture, food, buildings, and almost everything else. To come and live in the US was my big dream. When I was a little girl I always watched American movies and shows, and because of these movies I dreamed to come and live here and my dream came true.

I felt like a stranger when I arrived in the US because I didn't know how to speak or to write or read in English. After I learned English, I felt more comfortable, and I started building my dream here. I started my career here too. The only thing that makes me sad is when I remember my sister. I am really missing her a lot.

I'm Here, I'm Happy

Adriana Cunga-Astete, Peru, Grammar & Writing IV

The other day I saw a bumper sticker that read "I was not born in Texas but I got here as soon as I could." I started thinking about my life here in Texas. I really miss Peru and my friends there, but in Texas I have learned about new cultures, have had the chance to study and practice my career of choice, and above all, I can be with my mother.

My mother left Peru a few years ago and I missed her very much. She and I are very close and it was hard not having her around. We would write and talk to each other, but it just wasn't enough. I realize I had to go to Texas and be with her.

I thought Texas would be a big desert with oil wells, ranchers, and 'cowboys', like in the movies. But now I know that Texas has a lot of people from all over the world. I have been introduced to new ideas and traditions. I have not only learned how people live in Texas, but in other countries as well.

In Peru I studied to be a dentist, but it is very difficult to practice there. Here I have access to many universities and libraries where I can study. When I finish my studies I will have the latest technology available and plenty of job opportunities. I will be able to help people as I have always wanted to and make a good living.

Celebrating Freedom

Rolando Garcia, Mexico, Grammar & Writing IV

In the US, we have lots of opportunities. We have the right to freedom of speech, the right to vote, and to have an education. In some countries you don't have rights at all. For us here we can be whatever we want to and do whatever we want, and enjoy life.

The freedom of speech is the right to say whatever we want at anytime. Having freedom of education, we can go to school and learn anything we want. With the freedom to vote we can vote for any president, state governor or state representatives, and mayors we want in office.

In the USA. we have wonderful foods to eat. We have a lot of different kinds of foods that are all American. We have hot dogs,

popcorn, sandwiches, soup, and different kinds of sodas and everybody's favorite, Cool-Aid. We have lots of restaurants from different cultures.

This is why they say that we live in the melting pot. Why? Because there is a variety of people in the United States. We all come from different countries, we should enjoy the fact that we get to live freely and do as we please. This is all about living in the U.S.A.

The Grand Canyon

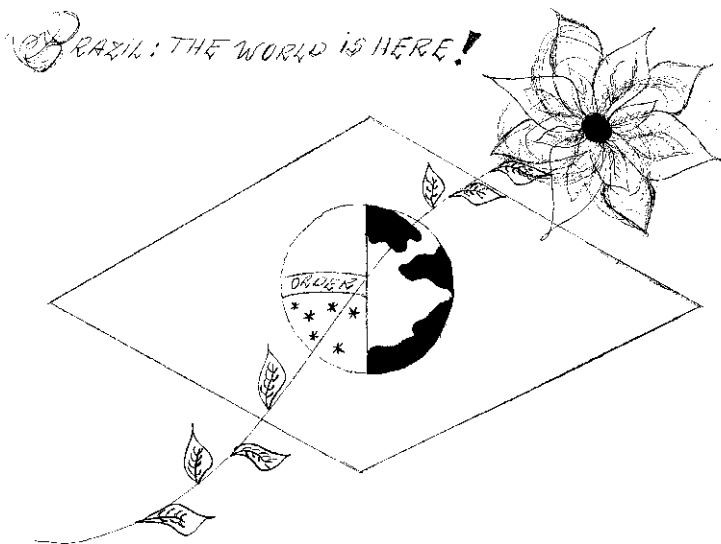
Jose Mireles, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

One of the most interesting places you can visit is the Grand Canyon is New Mexico. This is one of the prettiest places in the world. It's called one of the natural wonders of the world. You can meet a lot of tourists from all over the world. People can learn about the history of Grand Canyon. You can explore this place by driving, walking, riding a horse or even flying if you prefer and have a little more money. It is a big place that can be seen from space. That sounds ridiculous, but that's what astronauts say. People can camp there and visit any time of the year.

The U.S.A. is a Multicultural Country

Martha G. Rojas, Mexico, Listening & Speaking IV

I came to the United States through my company in Mexico that has business in U.S. The transfer I took is an opportunity to know about other cultures and to make the most opportunity for my daughter. She will have a better chance of success in this country, which is not enough to convince me to move my residence with all the difficulties of language and culture, but now that is history. Now after two years here, I see in this country an opportunity much bigger than I thought. In a few years I have learned to respect and care for it more like other citizens, and this change has been important to me now that I have decided to become a citizen. I feel so proud to have taken the decision to come here and to have the opportunity to learn about a new culture. Now it is my culture.



By Fernanda Scaletshy, Brazil, Reading & Vocabulary IV

Some Nice and Shocking Experiences

Eva Krueger, Germany, Listening & Speaking IV

Six months ago, my husband got the opportunity to work for his company in the U.S. for two or three years. We discussed a lot about the pros and cons, but finally we decided to go. For the first 8 weeks we lived in a furnished apartment in Kingwood. These were very exciting weeks. My husband worked the whole day, so Philip and I were on our own, and we had time to discover America. But of course this means only that we found out where to buy our food and where to go to swim and play.

The first couple of days I was a little bit nervous to go shopping because the cashiers always asked a question, which I didn't understand, "Hiyoudoing!" Then I nodded my head and didn't say anything. Later, I could understand them saying, "Hi, how are you doing?" Then, I answer them with, "Fine, thanks."

Why do I mention this? Because in Germany it's not common that somebody asks you at the checkout how are you doing. They don't care. They are friendly, but not like this. They are more reserved. Here I'm feeling like a private customer. I know the cashiers are trained to be like this, and they use only meaningless phrases, but I like it.

My first time at the post office is a nice story. On Monday morning, we, Philip and I, drove to the post office to get some stamps for my postcards to Germany. When we entered the lobby I was surprised. There was a long line of waiting people. "Oh sh...." I thought. "I only need a few stamps, maybe I can get them at the stamp machine," I hoped. But there was no information about how much to put on a postcard to Germany. Too bad. So I added myself to the end of the line of waiting people. I thought perhaps the lady standing in front of me might know it, so I asked her, but she didn't know, either. However, she was interested to talk with me because she wanted to know more about Germany, so we had a very nice talk with each other.

We were still standing in that line when I heard a child's voice. I looked around and saw a little girl sitting in a stroller behind me. I drew Philip's attention to the girl, and then the mother of the girl said, "She is German, too." There was a murmur in the post office room, and then I noticed that everybody in the line must have listened to our conversation because nobody else was talking. It seemed to be very funny for them to see how two German mothers meet at the post office. We introduced ourselves, and now we are very good friends. That was a successful day. I thought a couple more events like this, and it would be a wonderful time to be in the United States.

In the summer we found a nice house for rent. It is an older house, but inside almost everything is new (except the kitchen, which is very old), and we didn't have to do much work on the house before we moved in. We have enough room for our stuff, and that's very much.

At first it was strange to order the pest control every three months. When you have to order the pest control for your home in Germany, people wouldn't visit you any longer. When you have bugs in Germany, you have flies; in a case of emergency, some ants; and when the house is older, mice in the cellar. Here, we got used to having half-dead cockroaches in the house and little lizards at the windows and sometimes in the bedroom, too. I'm so happy that there is an institution called "pest control"!

I like being here. But anyway, someday we will go back to Germany. I'm sure we will have good memories of the U.S. This is a great adventure, and it will be an unforgettable experience in my life.

My Life in the United States

A Learning Experience

Gregorio Limon, Mexico, Listening and Speaking IV

The story I am going to tell you about was a real story that happened to me at work. (I can say that I am not the only one.)

I have been working for the same company for more than 13 years. I consider myself to be a very friendly person who is dedicated to my work. I never had a problem with any of my coworkers and supervisors; however, things changed when a new supervisor came aboard. He is from a foreign country, just as I am, but we are not from the same one. It was very difficult to get along with my supervisor. I reported my problems with the supervisor to the management, but after several meetings, things did not change. Instead, things turned worse.

At that time I felt very depressed, and I started to give up. I became lazier and lost any interest to go to work. Then my wife's brother-in-law gave me a book as a gift, entitled *The Four Agreements*. The book talks about four rules that anyone can put into practice when we are confronted with someone's very bad opinions about us. One of the agreements (the second one) it is called "Never take things too personal." Not even when somebody tells you nasty things about you because everyone was educated (raised) with different beliefs, and those are different than yours.

Well, I started to put into practice the second agreement that the book talked about, and things in my work changed. I realized that when you don't take any good or bad opinion about you too personally, nothing is going to bother you and life is more easy. You can relate more easily to all persons, and, what is more important, you respect their opinions without making an argument.

If you read this, you may think, "Dude, where is the funny or interesting part of this story?" And my answer will be that there is a lesson to learn on any type of human relationship (friend, work, marriage, love), and the first thing to do before any argument is to "NOT TAKE THINGS TOO PERSONALLY."

About My Native Country In Brief

Dzhon Cherkez, Ukraine, Listening & Speaking III

Ukraine is the largest but one of the least-known countries within Europe. With great natural beauty, a rich culture, and warm and hospitable people, it's a wonderful country to visit. However, many visitors to this newly independent, developing country come for business, educational and medical exchanges, charitable works and missionary activities rather than for sightseeing.

Ukrainian became the official language only in 1990, replacing Russian. Most of the population in eastern Ukraine and in Kiev speak Russian as their first language, while Ukrainian is the first language in western Ukraine. Although in the political world and the local media both languages are used, official documents are now in Ukrainian. Unfortunately, not much English is spoken in Ukraine.

Among the total population of Ukraine, 80% are Ukrainians; others include Russians, Belo Russians, Jews, Crimean Tatars, Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, and Bulgarians.

My Dream Life

Aaron Almanza, Mexico, Listening & Speaking IV

Coming to the United States was one of the best things that happened to me. This is because thanks to that, I had many good experiences in my life. I got my first job here, I had my wedding day here, and my three daughters were each born here. One of the best moments was when I became an American citizen. There are many other dreams I have in mind that I hope someday come true. I have to give many thanks to this wonderful nation.

My First Days in the United States

Quynh Lam, Vietnam, Listening & Speaking IV

I want to tell you about my first days in the U.S.A. Before I came to America, I had seen a lot of pictures and films about America and Americans, but on the first day I was in the Los Angeles airport, I just knew how America was. This is a very big and rich country.

One thing that I am very careful about is the traffic. Everybody drives a car to work, to study, to everywhere, and a car becomes a thing that all people need to use. It is so difficult for me to adapt in this new environment because I have never driven a car by myself. After I finished high school I only stayed at home. I guess I have to learn to drive in the near future.

I see that the Americans are so pleasant. They are polite and dedicated to help people. It sounds great because I need others' help very much at this moment. One thing that I am concerned about is English if I want to develop my life in the U.S., so I take an ESL class at Kingwood College. It's the biggest school that I have studied at. The first day in this college, I was very tired because I couldn't find where my class was. Finally, I followed someone's map and I found my class. I felt relief! I hope I will finish my ESL classes as soon as possible because I want to get a higher education and I want to work. I think my ESL class is fun. Everybody comes from different countries so that we can share our local information with each other. That's very helpful. My teacher looks so good and teaches well. Everything will be OK. I will always love the U. S. because it has a lot of chances for success.

Football in Houston

The Super Bowl Effects

Corina Flores, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

Reliant Stadium was built in 2002. The total cost was \$449,000,000 to make the huge stadium. Reliant is the world's first NFL stadium with a retractable roof. It opens and closes in 10 minutes. The NFL commission chose Reliant Stadium because it's the number one Stadium in technology right now. The last Super Bowl in Houston was in 1974.

In February 2004 the Super Bowl came to Houston. This helped the economy of Houston to grow. The Super Bowl was estimated to make more than \$330 million for Houston. Also the city attracted about 90,000 people to Houston. The people visiting Houston spent about \$1,500 or more per person while in Houston. The city got about \$1.2 million in sales tax from visitors. Many businesses such as restaurants, clubs, and stores made a profit. For example, a bar called Drink charged \$100 for entrance when it usually costs \$15. A ticket for the game was \$2,000 when it usually costs \$50.00.

Another good thing about the Super Bowl was that many celebrities came to Houston. This brought fame to a city at the same time. Houston demonstrated to be an important city that can host a huge party and help the economy for the city.

My Culture

Shahin Amini, Iran, Grammar & Writing III

My country is Iran and the language is Farsi. Iran has different cities and they have different cultures. We can't say that this culture is good and that one is bad because each one is special in its own way. Iranian foods are kebab, ghormeh sabzi, dolehm, and others. In Iran, the New Year is the 23rd of March, which is also the first day of Spring. For the new year, Iranians have thirteen days of holidays, and the people go from one city to another and have a lot fun with other people. Iranian people are friendly and they have good communication.

By Clinton Cox, USA, Reading & Voc. III



Super Bowl in Houston

Vania Villa, Bolivia, Grammar & Writing IV

Seven months ago I arrived in Houston from Bolivia. I didn't know anything about American football. During the last week of January I came to realize how popular and important American football is in this country. Because of the Super Bowl, I have seen a major change in the city of Houston.

This is the best that Houston has looked since I arrived here. During Super Bowl week I had the opportunity to visit downtown Houston and saw a different Houston. The city was clean, there were flower arrangements in several locations, and there were several lights installed at corners of Main Street and concert stages in several locations.

This Super Bowl brought thousands of people to the city and showed a beautiful Houston to the world. I am particularly proud of all the people that had something to do in organizing such a magnificent event. I did not realize how a single sporting event can change a city. Thanks to football and the Super Bowl I saw the Houston community come together and show the world a beautiful Houston.

Let's see when the next Super Bowl will be in Houston. Hopefully it will be soon!

My Country's Traditional Food

By Cesar Blanco, Spain, Listening & Speaking II

I was born in Madrid, the capital of Spain. My family and I are a typical Spanish family, and we enjoy Mediterranean food. The number one ingredient in our foods is olive oil. Also we like good wines. It is typical for my family to have paella in the first Sunday of each month. This dish is made with rice, seafood, chicken, vegetables, and a lot of condiments. This is a family tradition and I am very proud of it.

Food and Beverages in Germany and the US

Janina Berndt, Germany, Grammar & Writing IV

Food and beverages in Germany are healthier than in the US. Many products in the US include a lot more sugar and fat than in Germany. For example, starting the day with cereals: Most Germans prefer natural cereals with whole corn and fresh fruits instead of brands like Kellogg or Cheerios. For lunch in America, people have some kind of snack. Lunch in Germany is a hot meal with many vegetables. For dinner in Germany, it isn't usual to eat a hot meal. Instead, Germans just have some bread with meat and vegetables like tomatoes or cucumbers. A lot of scientists have shown that it is healthier to eat less in the evenings. Also, there are differences in beverages. In America, there are a lot of drinks which include artificial sweetness such as Coke, Pepsi, and Dr. Pepper. In Germany you get more juices without added sugar like apple juice or orange juice mixed with water. All these differences make food and beverage in Germany healthier for you.

Life in Peru and America

Emma Cabanillas, Peru, Grammar & Writing IV

Life in my country is not stressful like it is in America. In America it looks like people are running all the time against the clock. There is so much pressure to work to pay the bills. I think in America there is less time to be with the family. Also, in my country the man usually works outside the home and the woman works in the house taking care of the children. In America it is common to see both parents working and the children going to daycare. In my country there aren't too many daycares because the majority of women who have to work leave their children with their families.

There are a lot of people who don't go to school because they do not have the funds to study and prepare for the future. There are lots of kids who have to work to sustain their families. In America it is a priority that the children go to school to study for the future.

In conclusion, I think life in America is better than life in my country because in America there are a lot of opportunities for a better life, English is the most spoken language in the world, and it is the most educated society.

Family Traditions

By Javier Gorza, Mexico, Listening & Speaking II

I was born in Mexico on February 18, 1985. I have only one brother. On December the 31st my family likes to get together and to have a big party for the New Year's Eve. As a family tradition, we like to bake and cook a lot of food for that special dinner. When everything is done, we take the food to the place where the party is going to be. When everybody arrives to the party, the music starts and everybody starts dancing. My cousins and I wait to pop the firecrackers at twelve o'clock. That is how we celebrate the New Year's Eve.

Countries & Cultures

Mother's Day in Ecuador

By Elizabeth Cardenas, Ecuador, Listening & Speaking II

I was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador. My family and I have many traditions, most of them related to the Catholic religion. One of the most important celebrations is Mother's Day. In Ecuador, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. This is a day when every member of the family gets together to honor the mother, the grandmother or the great grandmother. The celebration includes music, dancing, games, and gifts. On this day, the children are in charge of the party while the mother is the Queen of the Day.

Mexico

Nelly Saldana, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

I am from Mexico, which is a very large country. The capital of Mexico is Mexico City. Mexico city is a very noisy place. It is a big city of 22 million people. There are three major cities in Mexico: Mexico City, Monterrey, and Guadalajara. Monterrey is the second largest city located in the north of Mexico. Guadalajara is the third largest city in Mexico located on the west coast. I really love and enjoy my country and I will always be proud of it.

Teotihuaron in Mexico

Perla Aguilera, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

One of the most important days in my country Mexico is March 21st. This day a lot of people go to the ceremonial center called Teotihuaron. The place is located in the central part of Mexico. Here there is a historic city with pyramids of the Aztec civilization.

On this day the people go to Teotihuaron and wear only white or yellow. The people think that the colors can charge their energy. Next the people climb the impressive and really big pyramid of the sun. This pyramid has 500 steps and when they reach the summit they touch a little rock with their index finger. This needs to occur at 12:00 p.m.

Another important and incredible success occurs in the same place. When the sun sets over the pyramid, it casts a shadow with the form of a snake called Quetzalcoatl. This is the name that the Aztecs gave to it because they believed it was a god of war because it looked like a snake with feathers.

Pornographic???

Maritza Leiva, El Salvador, Grammar & Writing IV

When I was in the 6th grade I was twelve years old. One day I was in social studies and my teacher asked if we watched pornographic movies. I just noticed the second word "Movies." I'm a fanatic of movies and I didn't know the meaning of 'pornographic'. So the teacher asked one by one if we watched pornographic movies. The majority said, "No!" but I said, "Yes!" I was the only girl that said yes. After asking everyone, he made some comments. He said that that kind of movie is rubbish. The word echoed through my mind. I asked myself, "Why was this rubbish?" I had forgotten the first word. Everybody kept staring at me. One of my classmates asked me, "Who do you watch them with?" And I innocently answered, "With my brothers, because I'm the only girl in my family." My classmate was surprised. And I asked one of my classmates if she had ever watched them and she said yes, but she wasn't going to admit it. And I still was doubtful about its meaning. When I arrived at home I asked my mother. She explained to me what it meant and I felt really stupid, but I didn't say anything at school.

A Beautiful Place

Rocio Galarza, Ecuador, Listening & Speaking I

A beautiful place in Machala, our city in Ecuador, is an attractive beach called Jambeli, where everybody goes to enjoy the water and the sun. In Machala, the traditional food is "cheviche". It is a food that has shrimps in it. My relatives eat "cheviche" at least once a week. In September Machala elects the Banana's World Queen. There are 25 "queens" that participate at this event (each from every country that produces bananas).

Easter Fire

Beate Axnick, Germany, Listening & Speaking II

We Germans have a lot of traditions. One of them is the Easter Fire. Most of the German people are Christians. The Easter Fire starts with the flame of one candle, called the Easter candle. This candle stays in the church for the rest of the year. The fire is fired up in the Easter weekend and represents the symbol of the sun. The sun is welcomed at the dawn by the fire. The sun is the center of our life and it is considered as the source of fertility, the growth and the harvest. Germans sit around the table illuminated by the fire of the Easter candle and celebrate the Easter feast.

Recipes

Ukrainian Borsch

Neliana Cherkez, Ukraine, Listening & Speaking III (cabbage, beetroot & tomato soup)

Ingredients:

1 big onion	3 or 4 large potatoes
1 beetroot	200g of cabbage
1 large or 2 small carrots	bay leaf
50g of pork fat	salt, pepper
half a lemon	100g or 200g of meat with rib bones (preferably beef)
1-2 tbsp of tomato paste	

When talking about Ukrainian cuisine, the borsch is the first dish to mention. It's the most widespread Ukrainian dish. It is cooked in each household in Ukraine, but each hostess cooks it in her own special way. Here is one of many recipes.

Boil the meat for the stock. Chop the onion. Grate or shred the beetroot. Grate carrots. Melt some fat on a frying pan. Cut the pork fat into very small pieces and fry it until it becomes golden in color. Add onions to the frying pan and fry it until they get golden. Add carrots and cook until soft, then add beetroot. Sprinkle juice of half a lemon onto the mixture. Add tomato paste to the frying pan. Fry the mixture for a while. Add a little stock, pepper, and bay leaf. Set the heat to the minimum, cover with a lid, and simmer for a while.

Put the beef out of stock. Pour the stock into a big pot. Put into the pot the peeled potatoes, cut into big pieces. Shred the cabbage. When the stock with potatoes boils, put the cabbage into the pot. Add salt. Separate the meat from the bones and put it back to the pot. When the potatoes are ready (i.e. soft, boiled), turn off the frying pan and put its contents into the pot. Add a bay leaf and black pepper. Turn off the heat. When serving, put some sour cream and crushed garlic into a plate. "Smachnogo"! Enjoy it!

Tortilla Soup

Vanessa Salazar, Mexico, Listening & Speaking IV

Ingredients: (Serves 6)
 1/2 onion, finely chopped
 3 medium cloves garlic, finely chopped
 3 tablespoons corn oil
 6 chiles guajillos, chopped
 3 chiles anchos, roughly chopped

3 quarts water
 chicken stock cubes, to taste
 1 sprig epazote
 salt to taste
 12 tortillas, cut in strips, fried until golden, drained on paper towels

Side dishes:

Chopped avocado

Shredded fresh cheese

Fry the onion and garlic in 2 tablespoons of hot oil, add the chiles, and fry for a minute.

Add the tomato and allow the flavor to blend, add 1 1/2 cups of water and simmer until the mixture thickens. Set aside to cool and strain. Add the water, crumbled chicken stock cube and epazote to the strained mixture and simmer for approximately 10 minutes. Add the tortilla just before serving and hand the side dishes around.

Fesenjan

Shahin Amini, Iran, Listening & Speaking IV

Ingredients: (Serves 6)
 1 1/2 teaspoons cardamom powder
 juice of 1 or 2 lemons (optional)
 1/2 pound walnut meat, coarsely chopped
 1 large onion, minced
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 teaspoon turmeric

tablespoon butter or cooking oil
 1 pound meat, small duck, or partridge
 1 tablespoon flour
 1/3 cup hot water
 1 1/2 cups pomegranate juice*
 salt to taste
 1 small eggplant
 cooking oil

Saute the onion with the pepper and turmeric in the butter or the oil until well browned. Remove onions and drain. If ground meat is used, make small balls and brown slightly in the oil remaining in the pan. If birds are used, brown them on all sides.

Sprinkle meat or birds with the flour and the chopped walnuts and saute for a few minutes longer. Add water, pomegranate juice and salt to taste. If you like a sourer dish, add lemon juice. Cover and simmer over low heat for 30 minutes.

Peel eggplant, cut lengthwise into 6 or 8 pieces, sprinkle each piece with salt and stack one on top of the other for a few minutes to drain. Then rinse in cold water, dry and saute in hot oil until lightly browned on both sides. Arrange the eggplant on top of the meat or poultry, partially cover, and simmer over low heat until the eggplant is tender and a rich brown gravy rises to the top. Add powdered cardamom, stir well, but gently and cook about 5 minutes longer. Serve with chalo (white rice).

Note: 1 pound white fish or salmon may be used instead of meat or poultry. In this case, the cooking time will be about 15 minutes less. Also, either of the following vegetables may be substituted for the eggplant: one pound of fresh pumpkin meat, minced and sauted, or one pound of Italian squash, halved and sauted.

*Sometimes we use lemon or lime juice, brown sugar, and 1/2 cup tomato juice when pomegranate juice is not available.

Story

"The Legend of Olt and Mures"

Gina Pop, Romania, Listening & Speaking V

Here is a beautiful legend from my country, named The Legend of Olt and Mures

Once upon a time, when the stories were reality, on the top of the Eastern Carpathians, there was a fortress with two towers. A prince and princess had a twin boys. The boys were alike; only their faces were, not their nature. They were always fighting over nothing. The boys grew up. One day, the prince went to a battle and did not return. The princess sent messages to find her husband. The truth was that the prince was dead, but the princess did not know this. "What am I going to do with the boys?" she said. "They are fighting and fighting all over again. I built for them two different towers. In the northern one lives Mures, and in the southeast lives Olt. Soon they will have to marry, but they still do not understand each other."

"Olt, my brother," Mures said, "Mother is still crying after our dad. What are we going to do?"

"Mures, my brother," Olt said, "Let's forget our arguments and let's go find the prince. Maybe he is somewhere in some prison and he needs our help to rescue him."

The twins went to their mother and spoke to her about their decision. When she heard that, she burst into tears. She was weeping because her sons became wiser, but she was afraid of losing them.

"Okay, my boys," the princes said, "Go and find your dad. I advise

you to stay together like horses and carriage." And the boys left. But as soon as they came out of the fortress, they were already arguing which way to go.

"Let's go to the north," Mures said.

"No, Let's go to the south." Olt said. And like in their childhood, they started fighting

"Because I grew up in to northern tower, I will go in this direction," Mures said.

"And I will go to the south," Olt said, "because I grew up in the southern one."

Like this, they separated from each other. After a while, Mures was thinking, With all our arguments, we still love each other. Also, our mother asked us not to separate. Can I find my brother? In a valley, he turned to the south, but Olt was not anywhere. Mures was lost and went to the west through plains that were so beautiful, he forgot his brother.

The princess found out what had happened, and angrily ran to return her sons home, but she never caught up with them because they were running as fast as their legs carried them. She was praying then, "Dear God, please take care of my sons. Make them immortal." God heard her and transformed her sons into two immortal rivers. And the rivers are mentioning their names even today: Mures and Olt. Nowadays, in Romania, all the children know the tale of the Olt and Mures Rivers, being proud to have such a wonderful place.

Sauerbraten

Arnhild Heidlas, Germany, Listening & Speaking IV

Ingredients:

3 cups of water (ca. 750 ml)	3 pepper seeds (unbroken, black)
Salt	1-2 cloves
1/2 to 1 cup of vinegar	1-2 bay leaves
1 carrot/celery root	4-6 Juniper berry
pimento	red wine

Principle of preparation:

The selected meat (outlined in Part B) is pickled in a special marinade (outlined in Part B) over several days to develop its characteristic taste and flavor. All ingredients are given for a meal of 4 persons.

Part A: Marinade/Pickle:

Preparation:

All ingredients (except cream and red wine) are put in a pot and cooked for about 5 minutes. Let it cool down.

Part B: The "Sauerbraten" Meat:

Selection of meat:

1 1/2 lbs. Ox shoulder (alternative: pork shoulder)

Preparation of meat:

a) Pickling of the meat:

The meat is washed with tap water and excess water removed by paper towels. The meat is transferred into the marinade (see above), and completely submerged. Put a lid on the pot and allow it to stand for 3-4 days in a cool place (the refrigerator.) Keep the marinade for the subsequent procedures!

b) Preparation of meat:

Ingredients:

Oil or shortening (1-2 oz)
2 cups of marinade (you may dilute with water to reduce the sour taste)
1/2 slice of dark bread
1/2 apple

Continuation of meat preparation from above: After this period of time, the meat is taken out of the marinade. Excess marinade is removed by a paper towel. Ox meat is larded with fat bacon (otherwise the meat will become dry, not necessary for pork meat).

Salt the meat moderately, and pot-roast it in hot oil (or shortening). Brown it on all sides and add the other ingredients (you may add the marinade portion-wide) and transfer it into the oven: 400F for 1 1/2-2 hours. The "roast sauce" is subsequently used in sauce

Part C: Preparation of the sauce:

Ingredients:

Oil or shortening (1-2 oz.)
1 teaspoon of sugar
2 spoons of flour the "roast sauce" Optionally, up to 2 cups of marinade (you may dilute with water to reduce the sour taste)
1 small onion (optional)

Add sugar to the heated oil and allow it to become a yellow color. Add flour and onion and roast moderately (while stirring) until the color is light brown (golden).

Add the "roast sauce" and allow it to cook for 10 minutes.

Pour the sauce through a sieve to remove onion and etc.

Add red wine to season individually.

Enjoy it! Guten Apetit!

Intensive English Program Spring 2004 (2nd Term) — Classes Start on March 15

Course	Credit No.	CE No.	Time	Room
Listening & Speaking I	ENGL. 0331, 21802, 28912	CCOMG 2100031, 35669	M-TH. 8:30-10:50	TBA
Listening & Speaking II	ENGL. 0332, 21802, 28927	CCOMG 2100032, 35691	M-TH. 8:30-10:50	SCI 115
Listening & Speaking III	ENGL. 0333, 21802, 28929	CCOMG 2100133, 36860	M-TH. 8:30-10:50	LRC 201
Listening & Speaking IV	ENGL. 0334, 21802, 28936	CCOMG 2100134, 36864	M-TH. 8:30-10:50	LRC 203
Listening & Speaking V	ENGL. 0335, 21802, 28940	CCOMG 2100435, 35753	M-TH. 8:30-10:50	SFA 204
Grammar & Writing I	ENGL. 0321, 21802, 28884	CCOMG 2100041, 35583	M-TH. 11:00-1:20	TBA
Grammar & Writing II	ENGL. 0322, 21802, 28888	CCOMG 2100142, 35609	M-TH. 11:00-1:20	SCI 115
Grammar & Writing III	ENGL. 0323, 21802, 28897	CCOMG 2100143, 36857	M-TH. 11:00-1:20	LRC 203
Grammar & Writing IV	ENGL. 0324, 21802, 28903	CCOMG 2100444, 35640	M-TH. 11:00-1:20	LRC 203
Grammar & Writing V	ENGL. 0325, 21802, 28908	CCOMG 2100455, 35658	M-TH. 11:00-1:20	SFA 204
Grammar & Writing VI	ENGL. 0326, 21802, 31374	CCOMG 2100546, 35667	M-TH. 11:00-1:20	TBA
Reading & Vocabulary III	ENGL. 0313, 21802, 32992	CCOMG 2100146, 36867	M-TH. 2:00-3:20	LRC 203
Reading & Vocabulary IV	ENGL. 0314, 21802, 28744	CCOMG 2100147, 36870	M-TH. 2:00-3:20	LRC 201
Reading & Vocabulary V	ENGL. 0315, 28747	CCOMG 2100404, 35565	M-TH. 2:00-3:20	SFA 204
Reading & Vocabulary VI	ENGL. 0316, 28749	CCOMG 2100557, 35573	M-TH. 2:00-3:20	SCI 115