

Diversity

The Intensive English Program Newsletter

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Editor's Note:

Kingwood College Intensive English Program (IEP) was founded in August 2001 to help immigrant and international students learn and improve their English. In its fifth year, the IEP has now over 250 students from about 50 countries. One of the goals of the IEP has been to promote intercultural understanding and diversity on campus and in the community. *Diversity: The Kingwood College ESL Student Newsletter* plays an important role towards this goal.

Natural Disasters

Unpredictable and Uncontrollable

Karlen Palyan, Armenia, Grammar & Writing V

Unpredictable and uncontrollable mother nature is one of the biggest secrets of all times. A lot of scientists have tried to open mother nature's secrets but they do not always succeed. Natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, volcanic explosions, and other natural phenomena take thousands of people's lives every year. In 1988 in Armenia a major natural disaster, an earthquake, happened. This earthquake left thousands of people crying about their family members' losses; it left a lot of people without a roof over their head and caused a major economic downswing in Armenia. According to www.johnmartin.com, in that earthquake 25,000 people were killed, 15,000 were injured and 517,000 people were made homeless. We lost people in my family too. My grandfather's sister-in-law died in that earthquake. My grandfather's sister's daughter was also a victim of that earthquake. She was a teenage girl, a school student. She was coming back from school when it happened and she was witnessing how all those buildings were coming down, how people were jumping from 4 story buildings hoping to save their lives. By being an eyewitness of that nightmare she got some kind of disease and after several years in 1997 she eventually died. People's death was not the only damage that earthquake did to Armenia. It also brought a huge economic problem. The earthquake hit an area of 80 km (55 m) diameter hitting towns like Leninakan, Spitak, and Kirovakan. According to www.johnmartin.com, direct economic losses were \$14.2 billion. A large number of medical facilities were destroyed killing 80% of the medical professionals. Most of the factories were crushed and shut down because of the damages caused by the earthquake. Joblessness increased extremely and it caused increasing crime in Armenia.

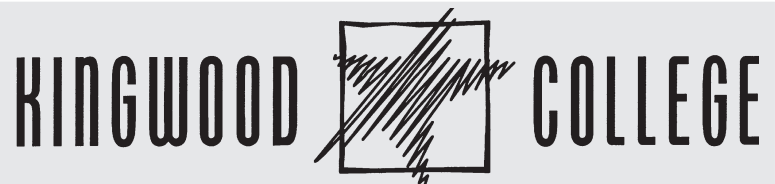
Roberto Solis, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

When I saw the images on the TV about hurricane "Katrina" and its destruction, memories of "Pauline" came back to me. It occurred on October 9th, 1997. Apparently, it was a normal day. The newscasters reported that a hurricane was going to arrive in Acapulco and its category was being elevated. It started as a category 3, but at 6:00 P.M. it changed to category 4, and later, a category 5, the most disastrous of all. Unfortunately, the Port of Acapulco did not heed the advice of the National Meteorology Association. Nobody expected the destruction that would be done. I had a normal day in the housing development. I left the construction office at 7:30 P.M. and arrived home at 8:00 P.M. I asked my wife if she knew anything about the hurricane. She knew very little because the government did not advise or advertise about the changes in the hurricane and the danger that was coming to Acapulco. We lived in a 2-story house. My wife, sons, and I slept on the second floor, and my in-laws slept on

(Continued on page 2)

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A NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Continued from page 1) the first floor. I was very anxious and could not sleep well, so I woke up at 5:35 A.M. At that time, the eye of the storm landed in Acapulco. I could hear the thunder, feel the winds, and see the rain. There was a lot of rain and water. I woke up my sons. We went down to the first floor where their grandparents were. They were very scared. At 6:10 A.M. in the morning, I was surprised to see a lot of water running along the street and it was carried a lot of things as well as sand. The water at that time was 0.90 cm (1 yard) high and it had not yet seeped into the house. The water level was rising quickly. I advised my family that it was possible that the water was going to get into the house. At 6:30 P.M. my youngest son said, "Look Dad, the water is coming into the house" and then, he shouted "Water is coming into the house from the window!" That was the worst moment for him because he was standing right next to the window. He was 3 years old and was going to celebrate his birthday on October 12th. We had a pinata for his party. I decided that we would all move things to the second floor, but it was impossible. The water was coming in too fast. The water had risen to 1.5 cm (5 feet) high. We tried to get the entire family upstairs at that point. My father-in-law and I tried to get some food and drinks for everyone. The food was floating and we could not save anything. We tried to get out of the house. At that moment the water was 1.60 meters (5' 8") high in the house. My father-in-law cut his right foot so he could not walk. We were very discouraged and the shouts of my wife encouraged me. I was able to get my father-in-law upstairs. He was in a lot of pain. The level of the water was then at 1.9 meters (6' 8"), which is 7 centimeters higher than my height. The rain continued on until 4:00 P.M. We had very little water and only three bananas to eat. We went downstairs at 5:30 P.M. and we saw that our home was flooded. Our furniture was floating around and so were our clothes. Our cars were flooded, too. I saw all the destruction that "Pauline" had left. The hurricane had destroyed some of the homes in our area and much of the Acapulco area. The death toll came to 152 people and 2000 people were missing. When I heard about "Katrina", it reminded me of my experience.

Amrita Banskota, Nepal, Grammar & Writing VI

We live in a city which is below the sea level, and that is why it is always scary when hurricane season comes. After the devastating incident of Hurricane Katrina, people must start to think if something happens to our area what we are going to do. If somebody tells me we have to evacuate the place with only three items that we can take with us at the time of evacuation, I prefer to take legal documents, family pictures, and a blanket.

However, that decision makes me sad because everything in my possession is valuable to me, but nothing is in my hand at the time of a natural disaster. First of all, I would take all my legal documents, such as my passport, INS documents, driver's license, bank cards, social security card, car registration, etc. The reason I thought about these is if bad things happened, I would need to submit proof of my legal identity to concerning authorities.

The next thing I would take with me is my family pictures. If my family becomes scattered or loses contact, I need to show something to the authorities to find them. If I have nothing to show proof of my lost family, how are they going to search for them? And I also do not want to lose precious memories of my family. So, I want to take pictures of my family. The final item I am going to take is one blanket, which I can use to cover my body if I feel cold or I can put on the

floor where I can lie down if I get exhausted. Besides these things, I do not need anything.

Aurora Salajan, Romania, Grammar & Writing VI

When hurricane season comes, any of the cities located on the Gulf Coast can be a target. If it would happen to be my hometown, Houston, my family and I have two options: either to leave our home due to an approaching hurricane or stay and take a risk. But knowing me, I'd take my family and leave trying to stay safe. Leaving home, besides personal papers and identity, I'd take with me three important items: cell phone, baby wipes and water. In my opinion, these items are indispensable. My family and I can not go without them. The first item, the cell phone, will be needed to stay in touch with family, friends, and to be able to find any information that may be needed on our trip. Moreover, going into a different place and not being sure for how many days or weeks, it is good to have a known phone number where others can call you. The second item I would choose to take with us on this trip will be the wipes. The wipes are an easy way when we travel to keep hands clean, stay away from bacteria and not get sick. I always say, "Clean hands keep our body healthy." The third item, but not the least important, is water. Water is more important than food. Going for a long time without water can become a problem for our body. I encourage everybody to drink a lot of water. In these emergency conditions we do not know if we will be able to find any stores open or if we have to travel for a longer time than we assume.

If leaving home without these three items: cell phone, baby wipes and water, my life would be a disaster during evacuation in hurricane season. What items would you take?

Degang Chen, China, Grammar & Writing VI

Hurricane Katrina just passed through New Orleans. This disaster destroyed almost everything in that area. Houses, furniture and clothes are all soaked in flooding water. Before the hurricane Katrina came, millions of people evacuated their homes. People took the most important items with them because they knew that anything left in their home would be damaged in a hurricane disaster. In a hurricane emergency, I would take my laptop computer, my radio, and my credit card with me because they are very important to my life. My laptop computer is a part of my life. I use the computer everyday.

I send e-mails and do my homework with my computer. I cannot imagine how my life would be without the computer. In my computer, I saved all my school papers I wrote for the classes. I cannot afford to lose those papers, so the first item I will take with me in an emergency is the laptop computer. Another important item for me is my radio, which has a clock. I bought the radio in my country in 1997. Then I brought it to the United States. During my school years in the United States, I listened to the radio to learn English. I also used the radio as an alarm to wake me up. I never missed any classes because of it. The radio still works well. The laptop computer and the radio are important; moreover, credit cards are always with me. As everyone else, I use credit cards to pay for everything. Carrying a credit card is better than carrying cash. It is convenient and safe. No doubt, in an emergency, I will take my credit cards with me. No matter where I evacuate to, I can use credit cards to pay for hotels, restaurants and gasoline. In an emergency evacuation, people have to decide which items they should take and which items to give up. I believe it will be very hard. No matter what items people take with them, those items are for their future life. For myself, I will never give up my computer,

Natural Disasters

Rodolfo Martinez, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

Have you ever been in a flood or hurricane? Being close to any natural disaster is a difficult situation in which most of the time people make wrong decisions. Most of the time in dangerous situations, people do not think logically. If I had to leave home due to an approaching hurricane and I could take three items, I would take my laptop, my mountain bike and some of my clothes. My laptop is the most important tangible thing I would like to take with me. I like to spend some of my free time in front of it watching videos and surfing the net. Also, I have important information such as driver's license, credit cards, passport, visa, and housing papers. Having all of this information with me can help me to recover more easily. My mountain bike is the second item I would like to take with me. After the devastation, the bicycle could be a way of transportation. Although I cannot travel long distances in comparison with a car, the bicycle would take me to other areas than a car can. For example, in areas where the asphalt is too damaged or in areas where I can not find gasoline, the bicycle could be a way of transportation. Even though the asphalt is deteriorated, I think I can ride the bicycle the same way I ride on the trails. The last item I would take with me could be some of my clothes. During my life I have been traveling in many countries and I have bought many clothes which make me feel cozy. For example, last year when I was in Peru, I bought a shirt which is really restful; consequently, I always wear that shirt for sleep. Also, my father bought me some pants in Brazil which are excellent for kayaking. In the winter time, I wear those pants all the time. They help keep my body at an excellent temperature when I am riding my mountain bike. Having my favorite clothes with me makes me feel comfortable, so I would keep them with me.

Cristian Lyttle, The Dominican Republic, Grammar & Writing VI

What if my family and I had to leave our home due to an approaching hurricane and we could only take three items with us? Well, considering that we are a family of five, this could be a very challenging decision; however, the three items we would take with us would be: personal identification documents including credit cards, extra clothing, and finally non-perishable foods. During and after a hurricane we may be asked for proof of identity when seeking shelter, help or claiming compensation for the loss of personal belongings such as home, cars, business, etc. This and a number of other reasons is why I consider personal documents to be one of the essential items I

would take in case of an evacuation. Being a mother of three young children has taught me to always travel with extra clothing in case of a spill or rain showers. Finally, we would have to take non-perishable foods to help us feed our family for at least the first two days.

Having these three items we would be better prepared to assist our family during this frightening experience. In conclusion, I believe that having important documents, clothes, and non-perishable foods could make it easier for our family to go through such a natural disaster; however, there are no substitutes for the calm and comfort that comes from knowing your family is safe and together.

Alfonso Casado, Venezuela, Grammar & Writing VI

A mandatory evacuation has been issued due to an approaching hurricane. We have no choice but to leave home since this storm will strike the entire city. We have to save some of our belongings; therefore, the three items we will take with us are clothes, money, and important documents. Once the mandatory evacuation is issued, we must act quickly and go home to collect these articles as soon as possible. First, we will take as many clothes as we can. We will pick the most important articles based on the time we have remaining to leave the city and the strength of the storm. The category of the hurricane should give us a rough idea of how many days we could be away from home.

Secondly, we will take all the money available at home. This item will be important in order to cover our expenses at different locations such as hotels, restaurants, and gas stations. It is important to consider our credit cards too, just in case we run out of cash.

Third, we will take all our important documents since the storm may leave behind a path of destruction. All of our documents must be included in our luggage: ID cards, certificates of studies, photographs, diplomas, just to mention a few of them. Documents that we leave behind may not be seen again. Once we are advised about the approaching hurricane, these items would be the most important in my opinion.

Martha Rodriguez, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

How would you react if your family and you had to leave your home due to an approaching hurricane and you could only take three items with you? Thinking about what recently happened on the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, where a lot of people were not prepared with supplies for an evacuation when the hurricane Katrina hit them, I would answer this question with the following sentence. If faced with an approaching hurricane, *(Continued on page 13)*

Some friends are forever

Viviana Barreto, Columbia, Reading & Vocabulary II

Sometimes in life
You find a special friend
Someone who changes your life
By being a part of it.

Someone who makes you laugh
Until you can't stop
Someone who makes you believe
That there really is good in this world.

Someone who convinces you
That there is an unlocked door
Just waiting for you to open it.

This is forever friendship.

When you're down
And the world seems dark and empty
Your forever friend lifts you in spirit
And makes that dark and empty world
Suddenly seem dark and full.

Your forever friend gets you through
The hard times, and the sad times
And the confused times.

If you turn and walk away
Your forever friend follows
If you lose your way,
Your forever friend guides you
And cheers you on.

Your forever friend holds your hand
And tells you that
Everything is going to be okay

And when you find such a friend,
You'll feel happy and complete
Because you need not worry.

You have a forever friend for life
And forever has no end.

Marcia Arevalo, Guatemala, Listening & Speaking III

I have always been amazed with children's capacity to believe in big dreams. They can close their eyes and imagine becoming a champion, an artist, or simply the happiest child in the world. Children don't know what is true or false, they only have the confidence in themselves that they can do what they want to do. I think that adults have to think like children when they want a big dream to come true. It is necessary to remind us that our limitations are only in our mind. We can do whatever we wish in our hearts. However, we have to be careful with dream killers; those negative people who use phrases like: You can't, you won't, that's too difficult for you, nobody has done that before and you won't be the first, and are you crazy? With these kinds of phrases you must always turn a deaf ear. Once you have decided to make your dream come true you have to work very hard at it. You should know that nothing comes easy, but what matters is that you try as many times as necessary. Don't forget that little things in life like a sunset, a full moon, a smile or a hug will keep your dreams alive. Finally, love life, enjoy every minute, and dream big!

You have a choice

Elidou Gonzalez, Venezuela, Reading & Vocabulary IV

Maybe it is time to stop and think what you are doing with your life and what you really want to do, is it possible? Is it realistic?. Life is short and we need to get all the best we can get from our family and our community. We can not change the world but we can make our lives more pleasant and happy. You have the choice: to be alone or to share time or a talent with people that you can reach. You have the choice: to make your family happy or to make them sad. You have the choice: to get the good opportunities that life presents to you or to reject them. Whatever you do, remember always you have a choice.

Shabir Amini, Iran, Grammar & Writing V

To be free to drive a car with high speed depends on each country and their police officers. In the U.S we are not allowed to drive at speeds of more than 75 miles an hour. If we do it, we can get in trouble with a police officer. It is not the same in all countries. For example, in Europe they are free to drive whatever high speed they would like on the highway. The interesting thing I saw there is that people who would like to drive fast, always drive in the high speed lane (in each highway there are five lanes, and the last lane is the free lane to speed). People who drive slowly have to drive in other lanes to keep from having an accident. In the U.S, it is not like that. People drive fast or slow in each line they take. We need to have a specific lane for each kind of driver. Another thing I never understand is that when we have specific

high speed on highway and it is just 75 miles an hour, why do they make a fast car? Have you ever thought about it? We could have a fast car the highway and drive like 160 miles per hour, but we cannot do it. Wow! I feel it is not interesting and impressive to have a fast car in the U.S. because we just pay more money and gas but do not get to show their stuff on the highway. It is unbelievable in Europe and some countries in Asia. There are organized highways where people have the opportunity to drive at high speeds whenever they would like to do it. Also, they always respect the lane rules and never drive slowly in a fast lane or fast in a slow lane. The U.S. needs to take some lessons from some other countries!

The Unforgettable Trip

Jenny Interiano, El Salvador, Listening & Speaking II

I have a good friend whose name is Makram and four months ago he had a good idea about taking a trip to Progreso, Cozumel and Belize City. He prepared everything for the trip because he had experience planning for this type of trip. Two months later we set the exact date to leave and we began to prepare for the time off and getting ready for our vacation. On August 28, the first day of our trip, we went to the Port of Galveston to get on the ship. When I saw the ship I was surprised because it was so big! When we went inside the ship it looked like a hotel. It had a lot of places like restaurants, discotheque, bar, theater, jewelry store, casino, pools, jacuzzi and a gym. The first and second days the ship was at sea my friend showed me the ship and all of its amenities. The third day we arrived in Progreso. This place had a beautiful beach. We walked in the sand and enjoyed the landscape. The fourth day we went to Cozumel and it also had beautiful beaches. In Cozumel my friend taught me to snorkel and it was a beautiful experience for me because it was my first time. Afterwards we had to return to the ship. On the fifth day we went to Belize City and here we walked around the shopping center and souvenir stores. After that we walked along the wall next to sea, but the beaches there are twenty minutes away by car. On the sixth and seventh days we were at sea because the ship was returning to the Port of Galveston. We enjoyed every moment of this vacation. We felt totally relaxed and enjoyed each other's company.

Love at First Sight

Glenys L. Martinez, Honduras, Listening & Speaking II

Many people don't believe in love at first sight, but I believe in this because it happened to me. In August 2000 I met my husband when I was returning to my country (Continued on page 5)

Recípe

Chicken Enchiladas

Yazmin White, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary II

1 T. oleo	1/4 c. chopped pecans
1 T. milk	1 3-oz. package of softened cream cheese
1/4 tsp. ground cumin	2 cups chopped cooked chicken
6-8 flour tortillas	1 can cream of chicken soup
1 cup milk	1 8-oz. carton of sour cream
2 T. chopped jalapenos	
2 T. chopped pecans	1 c. shredded cheddar or Monterrey Jack cheese

Cook pecans in oleo until onions are tender and pecans are toasted. In a bowl, combine cream cheese, milk, and cumin. Add nut mixture and chicken. Stir together. Spoon about 1/3 cup of this on each tortilla near the edge and roll up. Place with the seam down on a greased baking dish. In a bowl, combine soup, sour cream, 1 cup of milk, and pickled jalapenos. Pour the soup over the tortillas. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove foil and sprinkle on cheese and pecans. Bake 4-5 minutes more or until cheese is melted.

Reflections on Life

(Continued from page 4) from Virginia after three months of vacationing with my sister. On this day I flew from Washington to Houston and Houston to Tegucigalpa. On my flight from Houston to Tegucigalpa I sat in first class. Richard and I were seated together and we talked a little about things in general. He was going to Tegucigalpa for business for two days. He works for Continental Airlines. After the flight ended he gave me a business card and I wrote my phone number on a little piece of paper. One month later he called me and we spoke for about five minutes. In May 2001 he called again and said he would be in Honduras the following week. He said, "Can I see you'll I said, "Of course!" After this time Richard visited me in Tegucigalpa almost every month. We started to grow in love through letters we wrote every week and talking on the phone everyday. In August 2003 he asked me if I would marry him and on November 30, 2003 we married in Tegucigalpa.

Ernesto A. Castrudes, Philippines, Grammar and Writing V

College students have an objective in life, to finish their studies and to get a dignified job in their chosen field. Each student has his own

courses and his own style of studying to pass a class. The reasons why students don't pass their courses fall into several categories: lack of punctuality, performance and participation. The most important reason of not passing class is punctuality. Punctuality is determined by when the students come to class. I have been a student for almost half of my life, and I have experienced a lot of my classmates' excuses. The second important reason for not passing the class is diligence. The student should show effort to do something in their classes. The measure of performance is not how intelligent you are but how creative and industrious you are. Lastly, the students' class participation is crucial. All the professors always evaluate the students on how they perform in the class. Some teachers' grading is based on how a student participates in class and some grading is based on how diligent the students are. There are, therefore, a lot of reasons why students don't pass their classes. Some always come late to class. Some do not do the tasks given by the professor. Still others need to improve class interaction. For these reasons, the student should be responsible in their studies. Let it be a challenge to us all. •••

Challenges of Learning English as a Second Language

Silvia Condado, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary II

Every day you are in my mind,
Never will I forget you,
Great will be if I can remember you perfectly,
Long had been your way
Ignorant about you, I feel day by day,
So, I know, that patience will be my best friend
However, I never drop my English class.

Constancy and perseverance into my mind ever will be
Let my English class down, NEVER.
Advantage you can find, if you
Seal just English in your mind, and
Search everything that you want.

When I came to Houston, I felt so excited that I wanted to learn English as soon as possible. My reality was different. I could not take English classes as soon as I wanted. I needed to think of my children, my husband, and my house. However, everyday I kept in mind that anything that I really wanted to do I was able to do. Although sometimes it looks very complicated, in the end you will not think that it was very hard. In the end you will forget how hard it was.

Chunjing Cui, China, Reading & Vocabulary III

This spring, I attended the ESL class in Kingwood College to begin to learn English. It was not an easy decision for me. I need to deal with many difficulties. First, I have to overcome many problems. I am 40 years old, and I think English is too hard to learn for my age, especially because English is a completely different language compared to my native language, Chinese. Second, I am a mother and a wife. I have a whole bunch of housework to do, like laundry, cleaning, cooking, gardening, etc. Third, it is hard to find a course to fit in with my schedule because I need to drop my kids off and pick them up from school every day, and I also give them rides to music class, dancing class, and sports sometimes. Next, many things jam-pack into my head, so I cannot purify my brain to study English. I often take much time to memorize some English words and grammar and then I forget them all completely. It is really discouraging. Another difficulty to learn English for me is the hearing and speaking. Sometimes I can't

understand what my teacher says, and sometimes I don't know how to answer my teacher's questions in English. Although there are many difficulties that affect my learning English, I want to learn it. And I believe that if I study hard, I can make progress every day.

Shu Yen Lu, Japan, Grammar & Writing II

I was born in Taiwan, but I lived 25 years in Japan. I came in Texas for the first time nine years ago, when my son Hiro was 3 and my daughter Chizu was one year old. We stayed for two months and at that time we had a lot of fun visiting NASA, Orlando, Florida ñ Disney Land, and going shopping, etc. This time, my husband asked me to come here with my children so they could learn English well. Hiro is now 12 and Chizu is 10 years old. If my kids learn English proficiently, they will be accepted by a good college in Japan. I was worried to come here without my husband and now it is difficult for me and for my children. My husband had to stay in Japan so he could keep his job. Even though my children don't have their father here with them, they are still good kids. They don't have many friends here. Also, the food is different here. We just need more time to fit into this culture (the American style). I need to stay here with my kids so they can be successful in their lives. I know that after many years, I will be proud of my kids.

Coming to Kingwood College every day makes me feel better. I have nice classmates and excellent teachers. They all talk to me and for a moment I put my worries out-of-the-way. I want to thank my teachers for being nice to me and I also want to thank Ms. Ursula for helping me with the registration papers and for listening to me.

Scarlet Mendoza, Grammar & Writing VI

I did not have any difficult experiences learning English until I got to the United States. However, learning the English language has probably been the hardest obstacle to overcome for me here. It has caused me to struggle in my job, with people and especially in my private life. I have had trouble understanding what others said, making it hard to communicate. Although learning English has been a big obstacle, it has not really been a burden to me. I am glad that I did it. Learning English has made life easier as I am able to communicate more fluently. Thank you, all ESL teachers! •••

My Country, My Culture, My Family

Yashmina Wiggins, Nicaragua, Listening & Speaking I

I am from Leon, Nicaragua. My country is located in Central America. You can get there by airplane. It is the fastest way. From Houston to Nicaragua in an airplane is over three hours. You will see mountains and plenty of green trees. The weather is hot during the summer. The people are wonderful and most people speak Spanish. Most of the activities are outside. I can boat on the river or play at my father's ranch.

Silvia Anguiano, Mexico, Listening & Speaking I

I am from Mexico, city of Michoacan. In a plane it takes four hours to get there. In a car it takes over 24 hours. There are museums and beaches. The weather is hot in the summer, cool in the winter, and in the spring it is sunny and dry. The people are friendly there. The language is Spanish. The food is spicy.

Aldo Concha, Mexico, Listening & Speaking I

I am from Merida, Yucatan in Mexico. It is East of Cancun. You can get there by airplane, car, bus or boat. The fastest way to get there is by airplane. From Cozumel it is a one hour flight. To drive from Cozumel it takes over five hours! The weather is hot during the summer and hot and rainy during the fall and winter. The language most people speak is Spanish. There are a lot of fun things to do in Merida. You can visit the pyramid of Chichen Itza or the other pyramids. The beaches are wonderful. There you can surf, fish, or swim because of the great weather.

Erika Vizcarra, Mexico, Listening & Speaking I

I am from Chihuahua, Mexico. It is a city in Northern Chihuahua. You can get there by airplane, car, and bus but not train or boat. Chihuahua is beautiful. It is hot during the summer and cool during the winter. Chihuahua has different areas: sierra, tropical, and desert. The language that people speak is Spanish. The food is delicious, but the food is spicy and beer is a popular drink.

Antonio Ajucum, Guatemala, Listening & Speaking I

I am from Guatemala City, Guatemala. It is in Central America. The language they speak there is Spanish. It is between the oceans and there is a lot of fishing. The food there is Mexican, Guatemalan, and Honduran and there are Italian and Chinese restaurants.

Luis Munoz Diaz, Colombia, Listening & Speaking I

I am from Bogota, Colombia. It is in South America. You can get there only by airplane or sea. From Houston the flight is four and a half hours. The weather is cool all year. The language most people speak is Spanish. You can travel, walk, swim, sail, water ski, or take pictures of the beautiful scenery. The food is good. Typical choices are tamales, sancocho, fish, and arepas. Bogota City is a fun place to visit.

Two Important Eids

Shaista Tirmizi, Pakistan, Grammar & Writing III

In the world many people celebrate their occasions like Christmas, Halloween and so on. In our religion, Islam, we celebrate two main occasions, called Eids. We celebrate two Eids every year. One is EID-UL-FITIR and the second is EID-UL-AZHA.

EID-UL-FITIR comes after the holy month of Ramadan. In Ramadan we fast for a month from sunrise to sunset everyday. Fasting is one of the basic pillars of Islam and fasting is very good for our health. Then after this month, the first day of Eid we thank Allah that he gave us patience for keeping fast. We offer prayers in the morning then men hug each other in rejoice for the successful completion of Ramadan and women do the same. On this occasion women and children wear bangles and lots of jewelry and men wear traditional clothes. The second Eid we celebrate is EID-UL-AZHA. We celebrate this Eid following the tradition of our father prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) When he was asked by Allah to sacrifice his son as a token of his devotion to the commands of Allah. When Ibrahim (A.S.) went to sacrifice his son, Allah replaced his son, Ismail, with a lamb. Therefore we follow the same tradition of Prophet Ibrahim as a submission to the will of Allah.

Christmas Time in Germany

Eva Krueger, Germany, Reading & Vocabulary V

As in the United States, the first time you will be remind of Christmas in Germany is in September. The summer clothes and beach supplies are replaced by fake Christmas trees and head-high snowmen. But the spirit of Christmas simply doesn't want to turn up in our minds at this time. That begins on December 1st with the Advent

Love is... by Viviana Barret, Colombia, Listening & Speaking II

Love is

Being happy for the other person when they are happy

Being sad for the other person when they are sad

Being together in good times

Love is the source of strength

Love is

Being honest with yourself at all times

Being honest with the other person

at all times

Telling, listening, respecting the truth

And never pretending

Love is the source of reality

Love is

An understanding that is so complete that

You feel as if you are a part of the other person

Accepting the other person

just the way they are

And not trying to change them

to be something else

Love is the source of unity

Love is

The freedom to pursue your own desires

While sharing your experiences

with the other person

The growth of one individual

alongside of

And together with the growth

of another individual

Love is

The excitement of

planning things together

The excitement of doing things together

Love is the source of the future

Love is

Giving and taking in a daily situation

Being patient with each other's

needs and desires

Love is the source of sharing

Love is

Knowing that the other person

Will always be with you

regardless of what happens

Missing the other person

when they are away

But remaining near in heart at all times

Love is the source of security

Love is the source of life

My Country, My Culture, My Family

season. Public places are decorated with shining Christmas trees. Very common is the Advent calendar. It has 24 little doors and every day from Dec. 1st on until the day of Christmas Eve, Children are anxious to open one. Behind these doors, there are hidden delicious little chocolate sweets. Another traditional part of this time is the Advent wreath. It's a straw ring wrapped with fir twigs. This green ring now is decorated with 4 big candles. The candles will be lighted, one after the other, on the last 4 Sundays before Christmas. During this Advent season, the cities change into a sea of lights. There are Christmas fairs all over the country. On these fairs you can buy all kinds of Christmas decorations. Some of them are rubbish but some are handmade and very traditional. There are stands where you can enjoy your mulled wine. This wine tastes really good when it's really cold outside.

When you get hungry, you can buy potato fritter, a kind of pancake made of potatoes and fried in oil. The greasier they are the better they taste. Everywhere there are music boxes with Christmas songs accompanied by a scent of cinnamon and ginger in the air and you can feel that this is a really special time. Just before the "big day" Christmas Eve approaches, people become aware of things like: I haven't had all presents yet. ñ or - Where can I get the best and cheapest Christmas trees. But when these things are taken care of, the Christmas celebration can begin. Many people set up and decorate their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. This is part of the celebration and in many families very traditional. Parents do that without the children. So the living room is locked up. In the late afternoon people might go to church. Everything is so peaceful at that point. After that, the whole family meets for dinner. This is usually a simple dinner. The "feast" is held on the next day - the "First Christmas Day." And after Dinner on Christmas Eve the beautifully decorated Christmas tree will be lighted up and its time for all the presents. In Germany we have two additional Christmas Days right after Christmas Eve. They are called the First and Second Christmas Day. As already mentioned, the three-course-meal (or more) is served on the first day of Christmas for lunch. This day is usually used to have all the family around. And more presents will be exchanged. On the second day of Christmas people do both, either to see more relatives and friends or spend the last Christmas hours on their own. In Germany we have the chance to have "white Christmas." That makes the whole Christmas time even more romantic. It's really a wonderful time.

Mom and Dad

Mariana Gonzalez, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

Two years ago today, my mother passed away. She had cancer. She got sick two years after my dad died. It is so terrible for my brothers and me, but now we have a lot of wonderful memories of them. I had never imagined my life without them—How my life has changed. I remember them always with every word or with everything that I see. We passed a lot of time together and it is impossible to forget them, but the things that most remind me of them are when I go to Mexico. There are more things and people that make me remember them. Just when I go to my home, when I go in and smell the aroma that my home has, I feel melancholy because I always miss them (but most of all when I go to Mexico). One thing that I have from my dad and I wont forget is the last time that I saw him. He gave me a chain with a little cross and he said "Never take it off because when you have it, it is like I am with you." I wondered why he said that and then two weeks later he died. He had a heart attack; he was 47 years old when that happened. I had a wonderful relationship with him—he was my father and my friend. The other thing that I will never forget, and it makes me happy when I remember is when I was in high school. I was in a boarding school in Monterrey because we lived in a little city near Monterrey. It was a Catholic school, and one weekend I stayed there because we had something for the church. I slept there all weekend, and when our church program was finished our families were supposed to come to us up. I was sad because I thought, "Nobody will come to pick me up" because it was in Monterrey and my Mom didn't drive in there. I was sitting inside the church in the first chair and the doors of the church were closed. The music was on because it was to start and when I looked back to the door, it was opening. The first person that I saw was my Mom. I felt very happy when I saw her and I went with her. She hugged me and she started crying, and I said "I thought that you wouldn't come." She said I know this is important to you and I am always going to stay with you when you need me." In that moment, I was so happy that I cried with her. Now I know that she is with me, even though she died. I can't see her and I can't touch her, but I can feel that she is with me. •••

Translation of "La Gente me gusta" (The people that I like)

Monica Perez, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

A year ago someone very special to me read me this poem. I felt so special. Since that day I try to read it very often. I just love it! Now I want to share it with you, especially to all the international students, classmates and the ESL teachers, because you are the people that I like!

Translation of "La gente que me gusta" (The people that I like)
by Mario Benedetti

First of all I like the people who vibrate.
The people who don't need to be pushed.
The people that don't need to be told what to do.
The people that know what to do and they do it.
I like the people that have the capacity to measure the consequences of their own acts. The people that don't leave the solutions to the destiny.
I like the people who can be honest to themselves and to other people,
But who can still see that we are human and make mistakes.

I like the people who think that working as a team has a better outcome than working as an individual.

I like the people who know the importance of happiness.

I like sincere and honest people who can be reasonable when arguing with a boss.

I like people who can think for themselves and not be afraid of admitting they don't know something.

I like people who can learn from their mistakes so they won't make them again.

I like the people who can critique me in a constructive way; Those are the people I call my friends.

I like faithful, persistent people who work hard to get to their goals.

I like the people who work to get results.

With those people I commit myself to anything.

And with having those people by my side

I can say that it was worth it.

Why I am taking ESL Classes

Azuma Ishibe, Japan, Grammar & Writing I

I came to the United States four times in the past to fish because I like fishing very much. After graduating from high school, I worked until now to save money to come back. I had faced a wall with my English and wanted to come back to learn. There were many hard things to consider and going by myself felt quite unpleasant. I can study English in Japan, too, but I also wanted to study American culture and live with an American family. So I worked for one year to save money and here I am now. I heard about the ESL program from a friend and decided on Kingwood College. I can speak a little English now and with this program I can study only language and learn a lot. I want to learn my English with this system and use it to make my dream come true. I want to become a professional Bass fisherman.

Sivakorn Kornkasem, Thailand, Grammar & Writing II

There are three major reasons why I decided to improve my English. To begin with, I need to step up my skills such as reading, vocabulary, speaking, listening, grammar and writing because English skills can provide me more opportunities to get into a better university. If you get a higher score on the TOEFL, you may apply to a great university.

Another significant reason why I am taking ESL classes is that I would like to further my education with a master's degree and go back to my country to run my own business. That is my dream. The third reason of studying in ESL is a new chance to make friends, see new places and learn about new cultures. Many people in my country do not have the opportunities to come to the United States. I am lucky. In conclusion, it is my dream to increase my opportunities to get new things in my life.

Trang Nguyen, Vietnam, Reading & Vocabulary IV

There are many reasons why I'm taking English as a Second Language and two main reasons are I want to communicate with people and go to college. Communication is very important for us to be able to live here. When I first came here, I just could speak a few words of English but actually nobody could understand me. Since I have been a student at Kingwood College, my English has improved. I can go shopping, talking with my neighbors without another one's help about language. Besides, I really want to go to college here. To get a good job is not easy if I don't have a college degree or higher degree. The only way I can do that is by learning English. I have always dreamed to be able to work as an accountant here. This is the job I used to do in my country and I really like it. So learning ESL at Kingwood College can help my dream come true.

Sara Gonzalez, Guatemala, Grammar & Writing II

I will live in Kingwood, Texas for three to five more years. I have two children and their progress in school is incredible, and I want to keep up with them. I am conscious that English is important in being successful. I am taking ESL classes at the Kingwood College because it is the best way to learn English through a correct method. I enjoy it and I feel that in just a short time my English has improved a lot. At the beginning, my main problem was to understand what the people said to me and to express what I needed. By studying English every day this problem seems to diminish. People must fight to reach their dreams, great or small. We must live every day to the maximum potential, taking advantage of every moment. It does not matter the age that one has. Every day we can learn something new.

Daniel S. Sajche, Guatemala, Grammar & Writing II

I am taking ESL classes because I want to communicate with my American friends. I need to learn English to be able to get a job. I know that if I learn English, I will have a lot of opportunities. English is very difficult for me, but I am sure I will learn it. I will keep studying and someday I will tell others that once I studied at Kingwood College and I will feel very proud of that.

Erika Vizcara Ruiz, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary II

I have many reasons for taking ESL classes. First, I need to speak English because in college I need to know English. Second, English is the universal language. It's important to understand English so I can talk if I travel to China, Japan, or Russia. It is easier to find more people that speak English than speak Spanish. I like to travel on vacation to cities in the U.S. but since I do not speak English, I can't go to parties and communicate with other people. I am taking ESL because I live in the U.S. now, and all people speak English here. When I go to the mall it is difficult to buy something because the people do not know what I want. I like music, the movies, and the news, but I cannot understand them because they are in English, too. I am also taking ESL because in my country, Mexico, you have more opportunities to work. I am taking ESL because I also like to speak different languages.

Sandra Herrera, Colombia, Reading & Vocabulary II

The most important reason that I am taking ESL classes is to have more power to communicate with other people in this country. Also, I want to be able to continue with my profession. I have to be able to practice English in this city so I can have a better quality of life. It will allow me to do what I like in my job. Also, I want to know more people and be able to offer ideas and to talk about interesting subjects.

Efrain Torres, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary II

It took me 5 years to make the decision to take ESL classes. I know that this is a very important step in my life now that I am living in the United States. I waited for the appropriate time. I tried before and it was a big mistake. I have a responsibility to my family first. The first time I tried I didn't have the money to support my family, so I had to quit my classes. I was able to save some money in 2005, so now I can take classes again. I am very proud of myself when I learn English. Sometimes it is hard and I encourage myself. I'm looking for a better way to support my family. ESL classes are extremely good.

Rafael Yanuaria, Philippines, Listening & Speaking III

I came from the Philippines and arrived in Texas just a few months ago. I am taking ESL courses because I want to go to college and finish my studies in The United States. I graduated from High School in the Philippines in March 2004 and went to college in June of that year. I spent one year studying Nursing until March of this year. June is the beginning of the semester in my country and last May, one month before the beginning of the semester, when I was planning on enrolling in my second year of Nursing, my mother called my sister and me with her plans for us. My parents told me to move to Texas to live with them and the one question on my mind was "What am I going to do about my studies?" This is the question I asked my parents when they told me to come here. My *(Continued on page 15)*

A Letter to a Friend

Diomi Burgin, Venezuela, Reading & Vocabulary IV

I have been living in the USA for two years and six months. I used to work for a home builder in my country before I moved here. The first thing that attracted my attention here was the way houses are built. So, after that impression I decide to write to my former boss and friend in Venezuela. This is part from the letter I wrote to him:

Dear Luis:

How are you and your family? Here everything is fine. We're still staying at a hotel and haven't decided yet which of the houses we will buy. Let me tell you that home construction here is very different than the one there. First, they only use concrete in the slab. The rest of the house is built with wood, even the two story ones. The entire house frame is pure wood. It's very impressive to see a house while they are building. It looks like an architect model or a doll's house but in a big scale. Then, the walls are built with sheetrock — that is a kind of hard thick paper laminate and chalk. To me It's an artistic work the way they do that. If you didn't see how they built a house from the beginning you would never figure it out. Because after it's done you can't tell. It's so perfect.

Anyway, I hope you can see that one day, and maybe who knows, you can apply one of these construction techniques over there.

Luz E. Barboza, Mexico, Grammar & Writing III

Dear Araceli,

Hi! How are you? Hope you understand this letter because I am practicing my English. Let me tell you some things that I do in this country. Now, I am studying English in Kingwood College. It's very close to my house. I moved to Humble last July. I am 30 minutes from the downtown. Do you know that sometime I am very shy and quiet, but I have a few friends. I am not working now, but I am searching for a job as a nurse. Well, I don't know when I'll go back to visit Mexico, maybe this December and I hope to see you. Please tell me about you and say hi to your family.

Liliana Tise, Bolivia, Reading & Vocabulary II

Dear Aleida,

I miss you so much and I miss my family, too. I live in Humble, Texas now. My life is very interesting. I like American people. Life here is somewhat hard, too. Did you know that lunch is the big meal in our country, but here in the United States, dinner is the big meal? I am going to Kingwood College and taking English classes. I want to learn to speak English so I can continue to be a teacher. Everyday I wake up early and take Coralyn to school. Then I take Christopher to his school, too. Finally, I have to go to my college. It is very hard for me because English is a very difficult language to learn. I always have a lot of homework and I take care of my children and my house. Once again, I miss you all and hope to see you soon.

Good bye, Liliana

Nelly Saldana, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary II

Hello Maru,

How are you? I hope you and your family is doing well. Maru, I miss you a lot. My family and I are O.K. Danny is in the 8th grade and he goes to Riverwood Middle School. Luis is in the 6th grade at the same school. They are happy because they have a lot of friends at their school. My little daughter is beginning 1st grade. She is happy also because she has new friends. We moved to a new house. It was very difficult for Stephy at first, but then she was fine. My husband continues to travel a lot, as you know, so I am alone 3 weeks out of the

month. I started to study English because I had the time. Stephy is at school from 8:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. I go to school from 8:30–10:00 a.m. My teacher is very good. She is very patient with all of us and she is very smart. After school I go to the gym with a friend. I really enjoy the classes at the gym because I have made very good friends and I can stay in shape.

Greetings, Nelly

Blanco Rincon, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

Dear Patty,

Something very interesting has happened to me since I arrived here. I have met people from different countries and I am also learning about other cultures and traditions. I have a friend from Korea and I have to talk to her in English and that is very hard for me. You know my English is terrible and my pronunciation is really bad, too. People talk so fast and I get lost. The good news is that I am actually studying English at Kingwood College, which is close to my house. I have more things to tell you but I can't today. I'll write again soon and hope to see you soon.

Your friend, Blanco

Eber Serrano, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

Dear Maria,

It's me, Eber. I'm writing this letter to tell you that I miss you very much. It's been a long time since I came to The United States and I haven't seen you for a long time. What have you been doing over there? I've been doing a lot and I'm going to tell you everything. Well, as you know, my three children, Elizabeth, Jennifer, and Jose, are going to school. I get stressed out because it is a big responsibility to send them to school. You know that my husband is a hard worker and he doesn't have much time to spend with the children and me. When he does, he helps me with everything. Everyday, I help them with their homework because I have to make sure that they do it right. I like when they get good grades. Elizabeth and Jenny do well in school, but Jose is a little devil. When they are done with their homework, I send them to take a shower. They go to bed at 10:00 P.M. Now, let me tell you something that my husband and I are very proud of. I am studying cosmetology at Victoria's Beauty College. I already went to Austin to get my license and I passed. I haven't started working yet because I want to learn English first. That is why at this time I am taking ESL at Kingwood College. I am taking 3 courses, Reading and Vocabulary, Grammar & Writing, & and Listening & Speaking.

I can't hide the fact that it is very difficult to learn to speak English, but grammar is the hardest course for me. Well, Maria, that's all. Write back to me whenever you can. Tell me everything about yourself, too. I'll be waiting for your letter.

Love, Eber

A letter to my best friend in Colombia.

Libia Alexandra Gonzalez, Colombia, Grammar & Writing III

Dear Maria Eugenia,

I hope you and your family are doing very well. We have not spoken in 2 months. Have you listened to the news about hurricane Rita? Last month, approximately on September 19, I began to hear in the news about it. Hurricane Rita was moving from the Gulf of Mexico toward Texas. It had reached category 5. *(Continued on page 15)*

Juan Ventura, Venezuela, Reading & Vocabulary II

Houston is a large city. The life in Houston is pretty good. Houston has some of the best technology to offer to students like me. I have been in Houston for two months. I moved here because my dad works here. I miss my friends and family, but I can live in Houston for a long time because there are so many opportunities for me here. Most people in Houston are friendly and happy. There are many Latin people in this city, so it makes it easier for someone like me to live here. When I came to The United States I thought it was hard because I didn't know the language, culture, or customs, but it is getting easier.

Auri Black, Peru, Grammar Writing IV

The USA is very lovely for me. I have been living in the USA since 1986. I have lived in Missouri and Houston, but now my house is in Porter. The first time I came to the USA it was difficult for me to understand the people because they spoke English. My husband talked to me in Spanish more at the beginning, but now he speaks more in English. There are other differences from my country, Peru. The culture, habits, costumes are very different for me. For example, if I have an appointment with the doctor around 3 pm, I may wait an hour before seeing the doctor. I have had to change or redo my life. However, I have two children and a husband who are from here. In other words, I have to live in the United States.

Tai Ma, Vietnam, Grammar Writing IV

What a boring life if I didn't have many friends in the USA! I used to wonder what the advantage for me is to have friends. Now I realize that it's very important because they can make me feel happy and help me practice English. In our ESL classes students are from all around the world. We have to speak English and it's the only way to communicate together. When speaking English, I can improve and learn some new words in English. Moreover, I can understand English with different accents from every country. It will be good for me in the future because I am going to have to communicate with a lot of people in my future company. In addition, no one wants to be lonely, and making friends is one of the best ways to get over it. When talking to my friends in the ESL class, I feel very happy and relaxed after studying. We can also share food, drinks, and knowledge together. We can confide in sadness in order to decrease the stress of life. So, making friends is necessary and helpful for your soul, your body and your studies.

Maria Arreguin, Mexico, Grammar Writing IV

America is the country that many people choose to live in. That's because America gives us better opportunities than our countries. Education and work are some of those opportunities. We came to this country looking for prosperity. My dad has been working in this country for years. Living in the US was an important decision for us because we knew that it would be hard in the beginning, but we hoped that everything would be better. I will never forget the first day in this country. The language, people, and school were all new for me. The first day of school was the worst day in my life. To find my classes was a problem for me because nobody in the school spoke the same language as I did so I couldn't ask where my classroom was. I had to walk for a long time look for the classroom. I did not have friends at the time; I was alone. Can you imagine how the first week in school was? Well let me tell you, it was terrible. Then I met my best friend. She was friendly. We studied together in the same school

for approximately two years, but I had to move to another school. That was a hard decision for me because that was my last year in high school and if I moved I couldn't graduate with my friends. Finally, we had to move to Humble and there I met many new friends at school. I passed my Taas test and I received my diploma, which was very exciting for me because that was my dream come true. Now, I am studying at Kingwood College, a great school. I'm taking ESL classes. I really like this class because I've met people with different cultures, which is amazing. Living in the US has changed my life in a positive way. I hope to realize my "American Dream". Everyone who comes here has a goal to realize. This country gives us the opportunity to have a better life.

Arving Navarette, Nicaragua, Grammar Writing IV

ESL courses have become one of the best experiences in my life because I've gotten to know people from all over the world, people I never imagined I was going to know. Now I know a little bit of every culture, and I can tell they have many differences with my culture; however, these differences are not important because we have become very good friends. I can teach them something I know, and they can teach me something they know. I love to have new friends and I think ESL classes are good because I can learn English and at the same time I can have a great social life.

Dyan Yanuaria, The Phillipines, Grammar Writing IV

I've been living in the USA for three months and I've made a lot of adjustments trying to adapt to life here. America is a great place where there are lots of places to visit, has good schools, and people in America are so independent. I had planned just to have a vacation in this country because I wanted to peruse my education back in my country, but I was convinced by my parents and relatives to continue my studies in this country. They told me the advantages of having an education in America, which convinced me. In my first month in this country I just traveled and visited different places in America, especially in the state of California. Aside from education and places, another thing that makes me like America is the people. I am amazed how independent they are and how they follow the rule of law. They are friendly and respect each other. I know that I made a lot of sacrifices in choosing to live in America. But sacrifices are made to further a given situation or experience to make an outcome better than it was before. I consider my living in the USA as an adventure for having a new way of life, new place to live, and new people to be my friends and part of my life.

Franciska Orozco, Colombia, Grammar & Writing IV

I came to Houston eight months ago, and I thought that everything was going to be different, but it wasn't different. When I was in Colombia, I used to go dancing every weekend. I used to hang out with my friends and things like that. When I came here it was really hard because I didn't have friends. I didn't speak English, I didn't understand when somebody spoke, and I didn't have a car so I couldn't go places. Furthermore, I missed my family, my food, my friends, my pillow, my bed, everything. I cried everyday and I wanted to go back to my country, but I wanted to learn English perfectly.

Yang Chen, China, Grammar Writing IV

It was three months ago, but I still remember the first day I came to the United States. It was a sunny day when the flight arrived at the LA airport. I made a call to my parents in China. It was midnight

in China, but they were still waiting for my call. That's why we call them Dad and Mum. It takes a long time to get into the United States through customs. The officers had a lot of questions to ask, and some of them were hard to answer. After I picked up my luggage, I walked through a long hallway. On the way another officer called me. They wanted to check my luggage. Because it was my first time here there were many things in my luggage. They took everything out and opened all of the small bags. When they finished they put everything on my bag and I had to arrange them by myself, which was more difficult than the work they did. When I walked out of the airport I saw lots of trees, cars, people, and the lovely sun. I smiled. I came and no matter what I would meet, I was here. Now I need to focus on my goals. I need to create my new life because in a new place I am becoming a new man.

Effrain Torres, Mexico, Grammar Writing IV

My brother has been living in Houston for twenty years. I came here six years ago to live near him. I started to work a few hours a week with a low income. After two years the income has improved. I exchanged my old car for a new car, my old furniture for new furniture, my old clothes for new clothes, and the old apartment for my new house. When I came I talked to God. I had to get a better income. I'm grateful to God that my financial life has changed.

Daniel Gonzalez, Mexico, Grammar Writing IV

When I came to the USA my first impression was that I like this place. It was so beautiful and the people were amazing. I came in the summer and the first week was good because my brother and I spent all the time at the pool with our friends. When I started school it was hard because I didn't know anybody and some of the students were not friendly. In my first week of school I had trouble with some guys that didn't like me. They would make up excuses to fight me because I had no friends. Later I started making friends and the guys stopped fighting with me. The teachers were very nice to me. My ESL teacher helped me a lot and the counselor, too. Now I still love this country and the opportunity that it gave me to come to college.

Fatima Garcia, Mexico, Grammar Writing IV

When I arrived in Houston it was very difficult for me because all of my mom's side of the family spoke English very well and lived here. My family and I didn't speak English, so for us it was trouble because we couldn't understand all the people. However, my brothers and I took English classes in Mexico, so we could help our parents. When we arrived with my uncle he wanted me to stay with him because he wanted me to study English. So for me personally the first day in USA was terrible.

Juletta Palyan, Armenia, Grammar Writing IV

I was raised in a country called Armenia, where women lacked freedom and independence. I heard a lot about freedom in the US, so I started to think about moving to this amazing country. My dreams came true on December 20, 2004. After living in the US for about 9 months, I have done many things to feel that challenging freedom. What I like here the most is that almost all of the people do what they want. The busy life makes your daily routine more interesting and full. You are able to behave naturally instead of behaving how your environment requests. The most important change is that people respect you not for money but for your being interesting and intelligent. I also learned from the people of the US how wonderful it is to help people who need your help, and just by being religious and kind you will feel happiness. Thank you, God, for bring me to America.

Monica Almeida, Nigeria, Grammar Writing IV

I came to the USA because of my husband's job. When I decided to come, my first thought was that it would be very easy because I knew how to speak English. Once here, it was completely different; the accent from Texas is so different from the English I was used to. You can imagine how hard it was. I didn't have anyone to talk to because I didn't have any friends here in the USA I used to stay home all day without talking. When my husband would get home, I started talking and talking until I went to bed. It is difficult to live in a country without knowing anyone and also when you can't speak their language. But now I'm happy I can speak English, and I've made so many friends from different countries that I feel like I'm home.

Thiago Pereira, Brazil, Listening & Speaking II

The first time that I came here to the U.S.A. was in the year 1995. I was feeling very bad because I didn't have friends. I didn't know anybody, so I was feeling very bad. I was here in Houston, but I didn't want to do anything. I didn't go to school, and I didn't want to look for new friends, so I wanted to go back to my country, Brazil. So I went back. When I was there in Brazil again, I was feeling very bad again because I lost something very big, very important—the U.S.A. This is a country of opportunities. I wanted to come back again to the U.S.A. to study, to go to college, and to work. I'm here again in the U.S.A, and I'm studying at Kingwood College in a Listening and Speaking II class. Now I want to be someone in life by helping people and by helping myself, too.

Joann Chang, Taiwan (Taipei), Grammar & Writing III

I am from Taiwan (Taipei). I am a new immigrant. I moved to US last December. I live with my little brother without my mother's care that was a challenge. I need to cook, wash clothes, clean the house, and work all by myself and also I need to take care of my brother, but I can't even take care of myself. I try very hard to do my best. I like to live in the US. In Taiwan everywhere is very crowded and annoying. Here the roads are wide, trees are everywhere and people are very kind and friendly. The air is fresh and at night it is peaceful and serene. I am happy that I moved here and I want to stay here forever.

Oneyda Arqueta, El Salvador, Grammar & Writing III

My life in Houston is very busy. I have lived in Houston since 2001. I am working all the time and have been cleaning the house. I have also helped my kids with their homework and I have been going to school to learn English in Kingwood College, so I feel tired. Also, time it is going fast here, but Houston is very beautiful. I love the weather because it is the same as the weather in my country. The people are friendly and you can see different cultures and languages. I think Houston is a good place to live in with my family and friends, but I want to have more free time with my family because the life in Houston is very busy.

Angelica Torres, Colombia, Listening & Speaking II

I have lived in this country for ten years. My family consists of seven people. Three of my children were born in Colombia and two were born in the U.S. There are four girls and one boy. Regarding my life in the beginning, I was studying English ten years ago, but it was the first level. After my husband and I began a new business, I helped him at work for a long time. English is very important at our company. The children are now grown. My older girl is a teen now, and my second daughter is, too. All of my children are in school, so I have time to start again with this class. (Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11) I'm happy because I'm learning. I'm doing this to help my children and myself. I'm living in America, so it is important to speak with other people.

Claudia Pelegri, Argentina, Listening & Speaking II

I have a lot of experiences in moving because my husband is an engineer at Baker Hughes Oil Company. I moved 20 times in 27 years, but this is the first time to move to another country. Argentina is similar to Europe in the food, language and history. My grandparents were Italian, and I love the Latin culture. This country and its language are new for me, but it is the greatest experience. Now I read about its history, cities, foods, and music. I am writing about moving here because in the beginning, I stayed in my house every day. I had a fear to speak with other people. I read books every day and wished that my family would return home. I decided to take classes in the library, and my tutor was an angel for me. Her name is Trish, and she taught me English and was a best friend to me. Trish helped me and picked me up from the mall, flower shop, and other stores, and she walked with me for exercise. I stopped the class, but I still keep in touch with Trish by e-mail. She replies to my letters with corrections. We also continue walking once a week together and speak about our families.

Roberto Covarrubias, Chile Listening & Speaking II

I arrived in Houston on April 17, 2001. I lived with my brother Gabriel for six months. Next, I rented my apartment in Kingwood, where I have lived for three years. I'm working with my brother in our company, Lan Cargo Airline. Our company transports cargo to South America & Central America. My experiences in U.S are wonderful, and I like Houston. It is very nice and has beautiful areas. In my country, I have my two daughters. Their names are Daniela and Catalina. They will come next Christmas day.

Maricela Rodriguez, Mexico, Listening & Speaking II

I have lived in the U.S. for ten years. I have my husband and three children—two boys and one daughter. My husband Jose is a truck driver and is self-employed. My son Aldo is in the Military and is a student training to become a mechanical specialist in airplanes. My other son Omar is a supervisor for DHL Company, and my daughter Belinda is working as a customer service representative. I'm a student in Kingwood College. This is a good opportunity for me because I speak very little English.

Alexandra Contreras, Honduras, Listening & Speaking II

I have lived in the U.S. for only three months. I came here in June of 2005, as an international student, and began my first classes in the summer. This is my first time here. It is very nice to study in Kingwood College. I like it here so much because this is an agreeable place. I feel comfortable in my class, and I'm learning English more and more every day. I hope to speak the English language to communicate better in this country and to obtain a second language. It is a nice experience to know people of other countries and learn about other cultures because they are interesting.

Chloé Gosteli, Switzerland, Grammar & Writing IV

Three weeks ago, I left Switzerland. It was almost cold and cloudy. I was afraid of what I would discover in Texas; will I enjoy my trip? After twelve hours on a plane, I finally arrived in Houston. When we got out of the plane, the heat fell on us, and with my two sweaters; I began to sweat. I was of course afraid of the customs, but everything happened quiet well. Two friends picked me up at the airport, and we went to my apartment in Kingwood. My first impression was that I have already seen that. No mountains, a lot of green everywhere, the cut lawn, gulfs, cute school busses; it was like in the movies. I was excited of being there. Four days later was the beginning of the school. I was a little bit afraid. I am a very shy person, and I didn't know how my classmates would be, if I would have friends, etc. I had never expected such a nice welcome. My classmates were and are very nice with me and help me to feel less alone. I really thank them a lot. I can say that my first impression was very good; everybody is so friendly, and even if it is still tough for me to live here, I have begun to enjoy my stay. I have only word to say, thank you!

Betsy Barker, Mexico, Listening & Speaking III

People who leave their countries in order to find a better life can experience bad moments, but all their dreams can eventually come true. They have to sacrifice many things such as their family, sons, and their home. They become "illegals" because they enter the country without permission. They have to work hard and they can't have any fun. The cost of living is so expensive. Just to buy a cup of coffee, a car, or pay for an apartment to share with other people cost a lot of money. They don't know what a party is, a nice club, or a good restaurant. They cannot get a good education because they are illegal. Also, they cannot travel freely in the country because they could have problems with immigration. Furthermore, they cannot apply for any good jobs because they do not have documents. They are sad and frustrated, but at the same time, they are happy to have a better economic situation. And they will give their family what they could not give them before. Finally, illegal people may not have everything they want in the short run, but if they work hard they will eventually be compensated with the fruits of their own efforts.

Hong Kong and Houston

Candy Chan, Hong Kong, Grammar & Writing VI

I'm a resident of Hong Kong but I am now living in Houston. In Hong Kong, every morning from my apartment window I can hear the sound of people and buses. From my bedroom in Houston, I can't hear the neighbor's car leave the house or people going to work. I feel there is a big difference between Hong Kong and Houston. The three main differences between Hong Kong and Houston are living, population, and language.

Hong Kong is a small area with seven million people. Usually, people go outside to the public areas such

(Continued on page 15)

Love

Magdalena Ayar, Mexico, Listening & Speaking II

Who knows if love exists
Who knows what love is
Maybe it is just a feeling
Maybe it is a thought

Then whisper into my ears
Like the wind between the trees,
Playing between the branches.

Same as me, inside of my soul
Because who knows in what part of me
I find the love.

(Continued from page 3) I would take some non-perishable food, a battery-powered radio, and cash. First of all, nobody can live without food; therefore, my family and I would take some non-perishable food. Many people during the Katrina devastation had to get into stores and other houses to steal food because stores were closed and they were starving or had babies who had not eaten for two days. This would be a nightmare for my family, and I do not want to take any chances. The second item we would take with us would be a battery-powered radio to listen to the news and be prepared in case of an evacuation. Utilities were interrupted when the hurricane Katrina hit the coast of Louisiana. The storm knocked over telephone and electric poles, creating a power outage that cut off communication. Because many people had not received warnings to evacuate, they stayed in their homes thinking that this would be just another storm. Unfortunately, they were wrong. Even those who had prepared for possible emergencies by stocking up on food, water, and other provisions could not save their homes or, in some cases, their lives. Staying tuned to a storm center or a local radio station for advice and instruction about emergency medical aid, food and housing availability, and other forms of assistance would be one of the priorities for my family and me. The last thing we would take with us in case of an evacuation would be cash. One of the problems many Louisiana families are still facing is the inability to access funds at their banks back home. The rooms they are paying for by night are not inexpensive and they are afraid of running out of money before they can find a more permanent solution. They are looking for temporary work and housing to get money and they found no help when they tried to call the Red Cross; all lines, they said, were busy. By stocking up on these three supplies, non-perishable food, a battery-powered radio, and cash, my family and I would be more prepared in case of an evacuation due to an approaching hurricane.

Jose Mireles, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

If a hurricane was fast approaching the city where my family and I live, the first thought would be to evacuate. Now the choice has to be made as to what three items we would take. The three items I would take to help my family and me survive would be money, my car and my briefcase. The first item I would choose is money, including bank cards, credit cards and international checks. Money will be very helpful because I can purchase a lot of things, for example gasoline, food, medicine if needed, clothes, personal articles, and everything else that is needed to continue a normal life. Also having money in that situation is a great advantage because it will help my family and me not to depend on assistance from anyone for survival. I would not have to depend on the government, and my family and I would be able to make any decision that would help better us. The second item I would choose is my automobile, because having an automobile is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Having a car, truck, van or any other method of transportation is very necessary in our everyday life. Without a car it would really be difficult to get anywhere, and walking would really be a problem since there would be debris and trash left all over the place. With the car you can go anywhere you want to go without having to live in shelters. A car can help drive out of the city and look for the closest relatives living in the areas not affected by the hurricane. The third item I would choose is my briefcase. My briefcase consists of the most important documents, such as the title

for my house, all types of insurance cards, birth certificates, and other personal documents that may be needed. It is of great importance to take all my documents with me because if I want to look for a job, I will need my personal documents for identification purposes. I will also need to take the title and proof of insurance for my house in case of damage or total destruction of the property. In many cases these documents are required to file an insurance claim for a full settlement. If we have to leave our home and can only take three items with us, money, and automobile and my briefcase would be the items that would go with us. Taking these items will help make sure that my family and I are safe.

Emilio Sanchez, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

If my family and I had to leave our home due to an approaching hurricane, the three items I would take with me would be my truck, a cell phone and a credit card. They are easy to carry on and, in my point of view, are very necessary to survive this natural disaster.

My truck would be important to evacuate my family to a safe place and to meet with the rest of the family. It would also be important to have transportation in case my family and I need to move from one place to another. It is an advantage to have transportation in this situation, and also can be used to assist other people in need. The next item will be my cell phone; it would be very important to have it to communicate with my family and friends, and in case of an emergency, to reach for help. Also a cell phone can be very helpful to find a shelter and places that are helping evacuees. As well, it can be used to keep me informed about the weather conditions and to get information to drive in the right direction. The last item would be a credit card. It is important to have a way to pay any expenses that my family and I would have during this natural disaster. In the aftermath, we would need to pay for a place to stay until everything gets back to normal and we can go back home. Also we would need to buy food, clothing, medicines, etc. It would also be important to have a credit card to buy gasoline in case we need to move from one city to another one. These are the three items I would take with me to provide care to my family, friends and others in case of a hurricane.

Monica Figueroa, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

In the case a hurricane will be approaching the area where I live, it could be necessary to leave my home. In this emergency situation, I would like to take some things with me. It is hard to try to decide what to leave and what to bring with me. If I have to choose just three items, I know what they will be. Identity documents and money are two items my husband will never let me forget, and the third item will be my cell phone. The first thing will be my identify papers. Because I am a resident of this country, I always have to carry my Green Card with me to be able to come back home. This is very important for me because now my home is the United States; I do not want to lose the privilege to be able to go in and out of this country with no restrictions. The second thing my husband and I think is important to bring with us is money, or at least credit cards because having these, people have the ability to buy other tangible items like food, clothes, etc. And finally, the third item I would take with me would be my cell phone. That way I can keep in touch with people who care about us, and we can let them know that we are fine.

Anyway, I do not have to worry about remembering what I need to take with me in an emergency because *(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13) I know that my husband will be asking me every minute if I already got my papers and money. So, probably the only thing I have to be sure to take with me is my husband!

Nita Sharma, Nepal, Grammar & Writing VI

Hurricanes are very strong and they destroy everything in their path. Hurricanes have both strong wind and heavy rainfall, and they are categorized from one to five. One is less and five the most. If I happen to live in an area where a hurricane strikes, I will try to move out of that area before the hurricane strikes. If my family and I had to leave my home due to an approaching hurricane, I would take three items with me. My first item would be personal identification documents, some cash, and a health insurance card because I need to present those papers where I go. I would need cash for living and traveling, for example motels, food, and gas. The second item would be my car so I can save money by not renting a rental car or public transportation. It is useful for me to travel from place to place. And I can carry my stuff with me. Equally, I will be able to save my car from hurricane damage. After the hurricane, I can return to my home with my car. The third items will be some canned food, drinking water, medicine, baby diapers, blankets, some stuffed animals, and a flash light so that these items will help me to pacify my kids during our stay away from home. These are three items which I will take when a hurricane is approaching where I live.

Nseobong Etokebe, Nigeria, Grammar & Writing VI

A hurricane is a natural occurrence that comes with wind, thunder and rain. The wind causes a lot of destruction by blowing down trees on the road, destroying beautiful houses, killing many people and flooding cities. Families need some essential things during this period to make lives comfortable. If my family and I had to leave our home due to an approaching hurricane, there are important items we would like to take also. They are warm clothing, a flashlight and a car. The warm clothing would keep us warm because a hurricane is full of blowing wind, rain and cold. A blanket and sweater are enough to keep us warm during the hurricane period. We would like to leave with a flashlight, so that we could see whenever the night falls. A tree could fall on the roadside and cause a road block, but without a flashlight, we couldn't see because a hurricane creates total darkness. We shouldn't forget our car, so that we could drive faster on the road to avoid the hurricane reaching us. Without a car, the journey would not be smooth because everything would not be carried easily. Finally, there are essential things we should not forget as a family if we want to leave our home due to an approaching hurricane. These are warm clothing, a flashlight and a car. These will help us during the hurricane period by making life comfortable and also keeping us throughout this period.

Freddy Mendez, Bolivia, Grammar & Writing VI

How to select items to carry on in case of an emergency, such as the approaching hurricane Rita, is an important, but not an easy task. Making the right decision might be overwhelming for any person since the choices are many; for instance: money, documents, fuel, extra clothes, food and so on. In particular, this is even more difficult if you are limited to just a few items for whatever reason. The items that may make the difference between surviving and perishing can be water, food and matches.

The first item to take into account is water. Surviving is the priority in an emergency. A person cannot take the risk of drinking just any water found in his/her runaway path; this type of water can easily be contaminated; getting sick would just make the situation even worse. The second item to consider is food. Again, the reason is for keeping us alive. Food may not be easy to get in the middle of a blocked road. A good choice may be a type of food rich in proteins, such as chocolate bars; also some canned food could serve this purpose. If the person, in such an emergency, has enough proteins, he/she will have more energy in making his/her escape. The third element to take with us in case of an emergency is matches. They can be used in different ways, such as getting warm on a cold night or making signals for help to alert or guide the rescue team. Part of the surviving task may depend on how fast a person can be found. Remember the main goal in a serious emergency, such as a hurricane, is surviving and this may depend on the right choice of items to take with us; water, food and matches would make the difference.

Yulius Wengenroth, Mexico, Grammar & Writing VI

If a hurricane is approaching and we need to evacuate, I think it will be hard to decide what the most important items to take will be because we will be very nervous thinking about where to take shelter. If I could only take three things, they would be personal documents to identify ourselves, prescription medicines or special medical items in case anybody gets sick, and food. It will be very difficult to find all these items because everybody will be busy trying to evacuate as soon as possible and stores will be closing.

Some of the personal documents taken would be birth certificates, Social Security cards, homeowner documents, and immunization records for the kids. The birth certificates, Social Security cards, and immunization records will be very helpful for the kids in case we need to register them in another school. Homeowner and insurance papers are some things we can not forget, because we will need these papers if the hurricane damages the house. With these papers we will be able to make a claim with the insurance company. The deed will show ownership of our property. This may also help when we are returning after a disaster, to get back into our neighborhood. If you have a serious illness, you need to make sure that you have that medicine with you when you evacuate. Furthermore, it may become difficult to get your medication if you are in an unusual place. You would have to find a doctor to get a prescription, but it may be hard to find that medicine in stock. The over-the-counter medicines I might take would be Imodium, Motrin, Pedialyte, Pepto Bismol, or Robitussen. If the stores are going to be closed, it will be good to be prepared in case you may need it. With children, you never know when they will get sick, and with all of the stress, it will be very possible they will come down with something. The most important food item will be water. Also, canned foods are safer when traveling because you do not have to worry about spoilage. You must remember to bring a can opener; otherwise, you will not be able to get them open. If you do not drink enough water, you can dehydrate and this can cause other health problems. When eating, make sure you wash your hands. All these items I mentioned are very important and it will help to keep all of your documents together in case you need them. This will also help when you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure you have medicines for your medical needs. A good supply of water and food is of great importance. •••

Living in the U.S.

(Continued from page 12) as parks, cinemas, undergrounds, restaurants, ferries, and so on. Sometimes people stand close to you on the street while you are waiting for public transportations. Also, in Hong Kong, people walk very fast just like ants. In addition, Hong Kong has a high population density. Most people live in tall buildings. People live in skyscraper apartments with all family members. For example, one family lives next to my apartment. The family has seven people including the grandfather, grandmother, husband, wife, and three children. They live in a seven hundred square foot apartment which has three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. That apartment is very crowded and I always hear people shouting and yelling. This is one of the problems that people have living in Hong Kong. Moreover, in Hong Kong the native language is Cantonese, but they can also speak English and Mandarin. Before 1997, Great Britain managed Hong Kong. We had to learn their language and culture. So, all students had to study English in school. Also, Hong Kong is close to China. Many business people come from China and their native language is Mandarin. Because Hong Kong people have a lot of business with Chinese people, they have had to

Why I am taking ESL Classes

(Continued from page 8) mother said that she would enroll me in college if I planned to come here. Now I am studying ESL for me to get into college so I can continue my courses in America. Hopefully, I can finish my studies and be a successful man someday.

Claudia Gallegos, Mexico, Reading & Vocabulary II

I have lived in Atascocita, a town near Houston, for twelve years. Atascocita is a quiet community that is 30 minutes from Houston. My neighbors are friendly people. They help me with anything I need. The problem is that I don't speak English very well. For this reason, I am studying English at Kingwood College so I can communicate with my friends and neighbors better. Sometimes I am bored because my children are at school and my relatives live in Mexico. I like living in Atascocita because woods surround it. For example, in my backyard and garden, I have a lot of squirrels and beautiful singing birds. I have a white Persian cat who is my companion in moments of my loneliness. Sometimes on weekends my family and I go out to dinner and shop in the mall in Humble. On weekends, my husband and I clean the yard, and at night we bar-b-queue and drink tequila. •••

Tom Yum Koong

My favorite food in our country that name is TOM YUM KOONG. Preparing ingredients are

1. 10-20 shrimp, medium size
2. soup stock 4-5 cups
3. 2 stalks fresh lemongrass, lightly pounded and cut into 1 inch long segments
4. fish sauce 4 table spoons
5. Sliced fresh galangal 1/3 cup
6. straw mushroom 1/2 cup, halved or whole
7. 6-8 kaffir lime leaves, shredded
8. lime juice 4 tablespoons

learn Mandarin. So, when visitors come to Hong Kong they can hear Hong Kong people speak several languages.

In contrast, Houston has a big area for people to live but that area only has four million people. If Houstonians go outside to work or to shop, they seldom walk fast or stand close to people. Usually, Houstonians have to drive to work because Houston is very big for people to walk. Also, Houston doesn't have much public transportation for people to use. One difference is that there is not a high population density in Houston. Most Houstonians live in a single house, and they have more personal space with other family members. Most Americans do not live with their parents after they become adults. Another difference is their native language. Houston is an American city and Americans speak English. All students use English to study in school and communicate with their friends. Hong Kong and Houston have many differences. While I know many of these differences, these diverse cities still have many interesting things to be discovered. If I live in Houston for more time, I will know more differences between Hong Kong and Houston. •••

A Letter to a Friend

(Continued from page 9) I was really afraid to hear that. I read on the internet that hurricanes are tropical cyclones with wind that exceed 64 knots (74 mi/hour). They are born over the warm waters of tropical oceans. The news got worse every minute. On September 21 most people began to leave Houston. My husband and I decided to travel to Miami and stay at my sister's house. Before we left for Miami, we packed many of our things in waterproof bags to protect them from possible flood damage. We took important documents with us. On September 22, the news said the hurricane was category 3 and the route had deviated some. This was good news for us because it meant that the hurricane would go East of our house, and the wind would be less strong. Finally the hurricane passed by our area and the only damage we had were tree limbs in the yard.

For now, I am studying English Grammar & Writing level III. I hope my English will be better and it will help me to have excellent communication with my husband, friends, read news and find a good job. I hope to hear from you soon. Say hi to your husband and the rest of your family for me please.

Love you, Alexandra •••

9. 6 crushed fresh Thai chile peppers (or more to suit your taste)
10. "prik pao" roasted chile in oil 2 tablespoons
11. Fresh cilantro for garnish

Recipe

Bring soup stock put in the pot and heat until broth to a boil. Add lemongrass, galangal and lime leaves. Bring back to a boil and then add mushroom, fish sauce, prik-pao(chili in oil) and lime juice. Waiting for soup to boil again then add shrimp and fresh chili papers as soon as shrimp turn pink color (cooked through) we should put the shrimp last time this is important and sometime may be slowly stir and put garnished with cilantro finish Ooooh! Delicious!

Intensive English Program – Day Classes (October 24–December 18, 2005)

Course	Credit No.	CE No.	Days	Times		
Reading & Vocabulary II	ENGL. 0312, 21802	73503	CCOMG 2100004	87741	MTWTh	8:30–9:50 am
Reading & Vocabulary III	ENGL. 0313, 21802	73504	CCOMG 2100146	87744	MTWTh	8:30–9:50 am
Reading & Vocabulary IV	ENGL. 0314, 21802	73506	CCOMG 2100147	87747	MTWTh	8:30–9:50 am
Reading & Vocabulary V	ENGL. 0315, 21802	73507	CCOMG 2100404	87750	MTWTh	8:30–9:50 am
Reading & Vocabulary VI	ENGL. 0316, 21802	73508	CCOMG 2100557	87753	MTWTh	8:30–9:50 am
Grammar & Writing I	ENGL. 0321, 21802	73509	CCOMG 2100041	87757	MTWTh	10:00–12:20 pm
Grammar & Writing II	ENGL. 0322, 21802	73511	CCOMG 2100043	87761	MTWTh	10:00–12:20 pm
Grammar & Writing III	ENGL. 0323, 21802	73512	CCOMG 2100143	87764	MTWTh	10:00–12:20 pm
Grammar & Writing IV	ENGL. 0324, 21802	73513	CCOMG 2100444	87768	MTWTh	10:00–12:20 pm
Grammar & Writing V	ENGL. 0325, 21802	73514	CCOMG 2100455	87773	MTWTh	10:00–12:20 pm
Grammar & Writing VI	ENGL. 0326, 21802	73517	CCOMG 2100546	87808	MTWTh	10:00–12:20 pm
Listening & Speaking I	ENGL. 0331, 21802	73518	CCOMG 2100031	87782	MTWTh	1:00–3:20 pm
Listening & Speaking II	ENGL. 0332, 21802	73520	CCOMG 2100032	87786	MTWTh	1:00–3:20 pm
Listening & Speaking III	ENGL. 0333, 21802	73522	CCOMG 2100133	87791	MTWTh	1:00–3:20 pm
Listening & Speaking IV	ENGL. 0334, 21802	73523	CCOMG 2100134	87796	MTWTh	1:00–3:20 pm
Listening & Speaking V	ENGL. 0335, 21802	73524	CCOMG 2100435	87800	MTWTh	1:00–3:20 pm

Register Today!

To register for these classes, please contact:

Ursula Sledge, SFA 116 (281-312-1536) • Ita Jervis (281-312-1792)

Recipes

Chang Angela Cheng-Yin, Taiwan, Grammar / Writing II

I like to cook a lot. I want to introduce to you the traditional Chinese fried noodle. It is delicious and easy to make. I hope everyone will enjoy this. What we need is:

- 12 tael noodles
- 5 tael shredded meat (any)
- 2 stalks of green onions
- 1/2 onion
- 1/3 of a cabbage
- 3 black mushrooms
- 1 small shredded carrot

Ingredients A: 1 tablespoon soy sauce, 1/2 teaspoon corn starch, water

Ingredients B: 1/2 tablespoon soy sauce, 1/2 teaspoon chicken powder, pepper

First, cook the noodles thoroughly and strain. Soak the black mushroom in water and shred them. While you are at it, shred the onions as well. Cut the cabbage and green onions into pieces, too.

Pickle the shredded meat with Ingredients A for 10 min. Heat the oil and fry the black mushrooms, onions, green onions, cabbage, and carrots. Add a little bit of water and allow it to soak in then put the shredded meat and Ingredients B along with the noodles to fry for about 5 min. Afterwards, serve immediately to prevent the noodles to stick together.

I think everybody can do this as it is easy and rather fun to make. If it didn't work for the first time, keep trying!

Salad Rusa

Marta Beatriz Donis, Guatemala, Listening / Speaking II

Steam equal portions of fresh green beans, carrots, potatoes and peas for 10 minutes. Carrots, potatoes and green beans should be cut into small pieces. Drain excess water. Add salt, pepper, and mayonnaise

along with chopped red bell pepper and parsley adjusting to personal taste. Mix well.

Corn and Poblano Pepper Cream

Montserrat Chavez, Mexico, Grammar / Writing V

Ingredients:

- 2 fresh ears of corn
- 2 poblano peppers
- 1 onion
- 2 big white potatoes
- 1/3 gallon of chicken broth
- Parsley leaves
- 1 1/2 stick butter
- salt to taste
- 1 cup of milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Directions:

Cut the grains of the corn and put them in a little bowl. Cut the poblano peppers into slices and extract the little vein inside of it. Cut the onions into small dices; peel the potatoes and slice them, then put them into a bowl with some water to keep them fresh.

Boil the chicken broth with the mint leaves. In another pan sauté the onion with the butter till the onion has a transparent appearance, then add the pepper slices and the potatoes with the water where they were. When they all take a crystalline appearance add the corn. When it starts to boil add the parsley and let it boil for 15 or 20 minutes in low heat. Once the parsley and the mint start to perfume the soup, add the milk. When it starts to boil, finally, add the cream. Let it boil for 10 minutes more and then retire from heat.

Let it cool and then liquefy it.

Serve it warm and decorate with some mint leaves and a swirl of poblano pepper purée.