

Portland Community College: Sylvania Campus

The ESOL Ambassador



Volume 21 No. 1 Fall 2019



The ESOL Ambassador

The ESOL Ambassador is a quarterly publication of the Sylvania ESOL Department. Essays are written by students at all levels of the program and submitted for publication by ESOL instructors.

Subscriptions: The ESOL Ambassador is distributed to various individuals and departments at PCC. If you wish to receive issues regularly, please contact Sarah Bailie at CT 206 or by email at sarah.bailie@pcc.edu.

Editor: Sarah Bailie

Editorial Board: Kate Carney

Graphic Design: Ahmed Ali

Featured Photographer: Jin Wang

Sketches: Sahar Rauf

*Special thanks to all teachers
who contributed
student work.*



ESOL Level 1 Students Write About Their Families

My name is Hamzah. I'm from Baghdad, Iraq, but I live in Tigard now. I live in a house with my friends. In my free time, I like to walk and spend time with my friends. I have four sisters and three brothers. My sister's names are Nagey and Raghad and Rana and Mary. My brother's names are Haider and Abbas and Sajad. I have three married sisters and two married brothers and one divorced brother.

My sister's name is Nagam. She is forty years old. She lives in Baghdad, Iraq. She's a teacher. In her free time, she listens to music. She's funny and kind and hardworking and pretty and smart and active.

Written by: Hamzah Al Rubaie

My name is Lilia Balderas. I am from San Luis, Mexico. I live in Tigard, Oregon now. I speak Spanish and English. I love my family. My favorite brother is Alejandro. He is hardworking.

I want to talk about my little sister. Her name is Victoria. She is 23 years old. She lives in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. She is a student and she is pretty, cute, and smart.

Written by: Lilia Balderas Martinez



My sister's name is Maryuri Yissel. She has a daughter. Her name is Valery. My sister likes to study and spend time with her family. She really likes mangos. She has curly hair and she is very, very pretty. My sister really likes to cook. She works and studies. She is a busy woman. Her birthday is November 18.

Written by: Sindy Acosta Melendez

My name is Christian. I'm from Colombia. My family is Columbian. My mother is a teacher and my sister is a nurse. She works at the children's hospital. Her husband is a mechanic. They have a daughter. Her name is Luciana. She is a student. She is three years old. In my free time, I like to video chat with my family. I also like soccer and I like to walk in the park too, but I don't have a dog.

My favorite person is my mother. Her name is Cristina. My mother is a teacher and she is 46 years old. She lives in Colombia. She is a music student. She is cute, small, interesting, active and creative. I love my hero.

Written by: Christian Pedraza Sua

My name is Graciela. I study English at PCC. I like languages. I live with my youngest daughter in Tigard, Oregon. I like to cook, walk, read, and watch movies or tv shows. I love my daughter's dogs. I speak three languages, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

My youngest daughter's name is Cindy. She is thirty-four years old. She is married, and her husband's name is Andrew. She is a graphic designer. She works at Dark Horse Comics. She lives in Tigard, Oregon. She doesn't have any children.

Written by: Graciela Sausa



ESOL Level 1 & 2 Students Share a Game

<u>Riddles:</u>	<u>Answers:</u>
The house is scary. It is ugly. What is it?	“Trick or Treat”
A boy wears a _____ on his face. The _____ is ugly and has a large nose.	A ghost
A girl wears a tall, white sheet. She has two eyes on her face. Who is she?	A haunted house
People use a knife. The _____ has a scary face or a funny face. It is a Jack-o-	A Jack-o-Lantern
The _____ are happy for Halloween. They have costumes. They go Trick or Treat at the door, house by house.	candy
A black _____ is loud at night. It is bad luck. It scares me!	cat
A _____ has one eye. He sometimes has one hand or one leg. He works on a boat.	children
Halloween is on _____. It is fun!	costumes
Children eat _____ on Halloween. They are very happy.	mask
The children go to all neighbor’s doors and say, _____.	October 31st
The children wear _____. One child is a clown. One child is a bunny.	pirate
A _____ flies on a broom. She has a large, ugly nose. She has a black cat.	pumpkin
It is a pumpkin. The pumpkin has eyes, a nose and a mouth. What is it?	witch

ESOL Level 1 & 2 students, evening @ PCC Sylvania, Fall 2019

<u>ESOL 10 Student contributors:</u>	<u>ESOL 20 Student contributors:</u>
Hernandez; Elizabeth	Ahmed; Khadija
Ismail; Rugaya	Chonay; E. Israel
Laureano Garcia; Mireya	Elmejrebi; Hamza
Najera; Jose	Lopez; Christian
Orozco; Daniel	
Reyes; Telma	
Slaguero-Zepeda; Raul	
Zepeda; Leonzo	
Sanchez Garcia, Estela	

Answers: 1-c, 2-i, 3-b, 4-l, 5-g, 6-f, 7-k, 8-j, 9-e, 10-a, 11-h, 12-m, 13-d

ESOL Level 2 Students Write About Daily Routines

My wife goes to school three times a week. In the morning time, she gets up at 7:00 am when she has a class, but she usually gets up at 9:00 am or 10:00 am. First, she takes a shower and brushes her teeth from 7:00 am to 7:30 am. Then she puts on her make-up and gets dressed. At 8:00 am, she makes a breakfast. Breakfast is very simple. Oats and milk mixed together. She doesn't cook breakfast on school days. So she has breakfast for 20 minutes. At 8:00 am she drives to school. She listens to music while driving. She likes classical music. She takes classes from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the afternoon. She goes to lunch with her husband after class. At 2:30 pm she gets home, and she cleans the house. Next she changes her clothes and goes to the gym. She exercises for one and a half hours and does a sauna for half an hour. At six o'clock, she comes back home. In the evening, she cooks dinner. She doesn't eat out for dinner. She has dinner with her husband. After that, she usually does homework at night. She washes her face and brushes her teeth and goes to bed. And then she watches TV or checks Instagram. She doesn't do Facebook. Finally, she turns off the lights and goes to sleep.

Written by: Yoo Joon Kim

First thing in the morning my mother in law gets up at 6:00 am. She takes a shower and gets dressed about 40 minutes. She eats breakfast at 7:00 am, then she packs her lunch. Next, she goes to work at 8:00 am. She works from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. In the afternoon she eats lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. After that, she goes home. She checks her email at 5:30 PM. In the evening she cooks and eats dinner with her family at 7:00 pm. Then she washes the dishes because she doesn't like a dirty kitchen. She also doesn't drink coffee after dinner. Next, she makes lunch for tomorrow. At night before she goes to bed, she watches her TV shows on YouTube. Then she goes to bed early at 8:45 pm because she doesn't like to be late at work.

Written by: Suchada Vang



ESOL Level 3 Students Write About Their Native Countries

Ao Dai

When people hear about Vietnam, they immediately think about *áo dài* which is the Vietnamese traditional long dress. It is very well-known in our culture and used in many occasions, such as uniforms in high schools, work, flight attendants, weddings, and holidays. The dress is pretty, but wearing it's not very comfortable. The person who wears it can't run or jump because the dress is designed to fit the body tightly. I am a tailor who makes *áo dài* for many people in Vietnam. I'm lucky and very proud about that.

Written by: Thoan Pham

Guatemalan Culture: Families

Guatemalan families are very close. Usually they live in houses near each other. When there is a celebration, they usually get together and have family time. On birthdays they include a piñata with candies for the children. Many families through the years keep the tradition. Guatemala is characterized by celebrating Christmas with the family. They meet at midnight. It is typical to eat tamales (Guatemalan's typical food) at Christmas. Fireworks are also burned when midnight arrives. This is a happy and special day for the families.

Written by: Carolina Davila



Family and Culture

The families in my country Libya are big because we love children. the average family has between 7 and 9 children. Some families have 20 to 30 children because men marry two or even four wives. The average family lives in the same house or the same area. The house has several floors. The father is responsible for his family, like paying all expenses for health, marriage, education, and more. There is a strong bond between family members. There are always family visits between uncles, aunts, and grandparents. Families always support each other. I don't have family here, so I don't have this support, except my husband. He is my primary supporter.

Written by: Muna Ben Nafa

Boxing in the Ukraine

Ukraine has good boxers. Not all of them are the best, but some are really good. Two of the most famous are the Klitschko brothers, Vitali and Wladimir. From 2004 until 2015 they were the dominant world heavyweight champions of their area and the most successful champions in boxing history. This period is known as the “Klitschko Era.” The Klitschko’s are the only heavyweight boxers who reigned as world champions in three different decades. They are not fighting now. Both of them retired. Now Ukraine has a new boxing star. It’s Oleksandr Usyk. He is the first cruiserweight in history who holds all four major world championships – the WBA, WBC, WBO, and IBF titles.

Written by: Hanna Pasichnyk

ESOL Level 3 Students Write About Weddings in Their Countries



First of all, I’m not married yet, but for Thai wedding culture there are many different steps in each region. I live in the central region of Thailand. The weddings are both in the morning and evening. In the morning, there is a ceremony to give food to monks. The groom and bride wear wedding rings. In the evening, there is a ceremony to celebrate the wedding. Generally they are arranged in hotels or large conference rooms. There are many guests attending the event. There are many foods at the event, there is a band, and all guests drink to celebrate the groom and bride. The bride and groom don’t forget to thank the guests at the event.

Written by: Sunisa Kaeothongkham

We have two kinds of weddings in my country Japan: Buddhist weddings and Christian weddings. Why do we have two kinds of weddings? Because most Japanese are atheist. They choose the wedding by which religion they belong to. Most Japanese do Christian weddings. I think most Japanese like the Christianity culture. Some Japanese do Buddhist and Christian weddings, and some Japanese like Disney weddings. I don’t know why, but Disney weddings sound great to me because they sound fun.

Written by: Akihiro Veillet

The last wedding that I went to was wonderful. First, the ceremony was in the park. After that, we ate Mexican food such as tacos, posole, and tamales. The decorations were beautiful and there were a lot of flowers. I went with my parents, brothers, wife and my son. At the party, a Mariachi band played and there was a DJ. I didn't dance. My family, my grandparents, and my cousins come from Mexico. I didn't drink beer because the following day I had to work. The party ended at 11 pm and everyone was drunk.

Written by: Mauricio Gonzalez

Traditional weddings in Russia last two days. The morning before the ceremony, the bride and groom have to receive a blessing from their parents. The bride doesn't buy flowers. The groom buys them and prepares a wedding bouquet. Also, he can send "a gift box" for the bride and her bridesmaids. The groom mustn't see the bride in her dress before the wedding.

And important custom is the "buy-out of bride". This is a fun comic act, where the groom proves to the bride's relatives his right to marry her. After that is a small reception. Next the wedding party goes to the ceremony at the wedding palace.

Written by: Vera Knyazeva



Congratulations to our Work- Study Student Ahmed!

Ahmed Ali has been working in the ESOL program for four years. We have been very grateful for his help providing useful information to students, his expertise in graphic design, and his assistance to instructors. He recently received his citizenship! We hope he and his family will be very happy in the U.S.A.



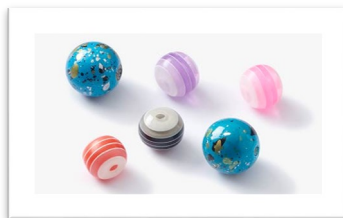
ESOL Level 4 Students Write About Their Hobbies

I love photography. Photography is a true art. I like learning new things about photography. I read blogs of famous photographers. There are a lot of genres in photography. I like to take pictures of nature and people. Why do I like photography? No pictures are the same. You can take pictures of the same person or place, and every time you see something new. Photography teaches us to notice beauty in simple things and see the unusual in everyday things.

Written by: Elena Pachenko

My hobby is to make things from beads. I like to make bears and dolls' clothes. I make them almost every day. It takes me 10 hours to make a bear, and it takes me 8 hours to make a piece of clothing. I like to make different color bears. They are so cute, and I like to make different styles and patterns of clothes, as they look so beautiful. I enjoy this hobby because when I am making them, I think I am a good designer.

Written by: Hong Choi



An ESOL Level 5 Student Writes a Funny Anecdote

A funny day in my life was 17 years ago. It was on October 9th, 2002, one day before my child was born. I will never forget that day. Part of my family, friends and neighbors gathered in my house to play a board game. Some people looked comfortable sitting on the floor while others were very tight on the sofa, but in the middle of the game, somebody farted, and I started to feel the weird smell. We stopped the game and started to blame each other. It was very funny to me when I saw everybody attempting to demonstrate their innocence. That night, I laughed so much, and probably it was a coincidence, but at 3am in the morning, I had to go to the hospital to give birth to my baby. Every year on my child's birthday, we remember that day, and I still have the concern... who was responsible?

Written by: Edilma Tellez

ESOL Level 5 Students Describe People They Admire

My Mother

There are a lot of important people in my life, but my mother is my hero because she did many great things for our family. She raised five girls and two boys in a bad economy in my country (Iraq). For example, one of my sisters is a doctor, and another one is a lawyer and all other children finished college. In 1991, the economy of Iraq was so bad. Almost every person lost their job including my dad. My mom and my dad collected a lot of money by selling vegetables and used it to pay for our school. One of my sisters had a medical problem, so my mom gave her extra attention and took her to the doctor every month. My mom is 60 years old. She is still taking care of us. For example, I am very far from her, but she still calls me every day to talk to me and my children. Finally, I am very lucky to have such a good mom, and I always pray to God for a healthy life for my mother.

Written by: Anonymous



My Dad

When someone asks me who is the person that I admire the most, I think of my dad. First, although he grew up without parents, he learned how to be a good person. My dad grew up alone and nobody taught him to love, but that wasn't a problem because he always showed love to his children. Second, he was responsible for us. I remember that we always went on vacation in the summer even though we were 7 children, and even so, he helped pay the tuition for those who wanted private schools. Third, my dad is the most wonderful person in the world because he taught us how to be better people and how to be happy. If I can describe my dad in word, I can say that my dad is "love."

Written by: Veronica Gutierrez

Level 6

Two Scenarios of Knowledge for Improving Our Quality of Life

In the field of Information Sciences, there are different types of libraries that people usually don't know about. Many of them can come from private funds, others from government investment and others sustained through donations. However, it is through their mission and goals where libraries differ from one another. This report will describe the differences between public and medical libraries.

According to the kind of population and to their needs and wants, libraries could have different types of users or communities. The public library is an open place to everyone regardless of social-economic background, such as children, adolescents, adults, seniors, people with disabilities, students, professionals, and people without formal education. However, a medical library is normally a place more restricted, serving mainly medical staff, medical students, health professionals, and in some cases, patients interested in learning about their illnesses, symptoms, care and prevention.

Library resources, also known as “the collection”, attract the users interested in accessing and using them. The public library can include materials in all areas of knowledge and many formats, such as prints, e-books, movies, music, specialized equipment for people with vision and hearing impairments, multimedia, maps, pictures and more. But in the case of the medical library, the information is more selective. Normally, medical libraries are focused on managing sources of all branches and specialties of medicine and health sciences. For example, many resources are based in specialized medical databases and medical simulation training devices.

On the other hand, the library services are as diversified as many kinds of users there are. The public library develops services with multiple purposes such as studying, literacy, entertainment, and general and specialized research. However, the medical library designs services focused on clinical research, updating medical topics through review of case studies, and offering patient education for learning about their health conditions.

Finally, these libraries have specific cataloging systems which provide information from each resources such as title, author, subject, publication date. For example, the public library usually describes its collections with the use of Dewey Decimal Classification or Library of Congress Classification based on all areas of knowledge. But, the medical library normally adopts the National Library of Medicine system, created in the United States for use in all medical branches.

In conclusion, depending on the purpose of a library or unit of information, between a public library and a medical library, it is possible to identify several differences regarding types of users, collections, services and cataloging system. Many people believe all libraries are the same, however they would be surprised to learn not only their location but what is inside can be completely different. Librar-

-ies are sources of information that improve the quality of life for communities and everyone should learn to use them.

Written by: Alexander Rodríguez-Genovesi



Level 7

Gratitude to Ordinary Life

I have an unforgettable memory even though 15 years have passed. At that time, I was 6. I went to the hospital with my mother and my younger sister because my sister had some health problems. She was only 1 years old at the time. I was sitting in the waiting room while drinking hot chocolate and watching a cartoon. They took a long time with the doctor, so I had a bad feeling and worried about her. Then as I expected, she had cancer. I was shocked, and I also could not understand what was going to happen to her yet. After, I went to pediatrics to see my sister every weekend. And I saw not only her but also many children who had illnesses. Therefore, I realized several things from her cancer journey.

Her symptoms were more serious than I expected. Her hair was falling out little by little and she was getting skinny from the side effects of the medicine. However, she was always cheerful and showed her cute smile while dancing and singing. I thought she was one of the strongest kids in the world. On the other hand, there were days that she did not look well. One day, she moved to a sterilized room which is a special clean room, and I could not go inside, only parents, doctors and nurses were

allowed. I could only see her through a window. She was getting thinner and lying on my father's shoulder. She could not swallow her saliva by herself and looked really exhausted. That scene made feel me saddest I had felt during her entire illness, and I felt so sorry for her because I could do nothing to help her. So, I just cried.

Now my sister has turned 15. She is still dancing and singing next to me. I am grateful for my life with the whole family. I learned it is a gift to have a healthy body, an education and friendships. My sister gave me an opportunity to review my life.

Written by: Tomoko Miyagi

Level 8

You Complete Me

"Bae, what is the perfect partner for you?"

"Like you."

Having an interview between two people in love discussing the definition of "a perfect partner" can be something quite sensitive for some, but for me and my boyfriend, it is an interesting conversation. According to the *Macmillan Dictionary*, the meaning of wife is "a female partner in marriage." My boyfriend's name is Lee Truong, and we have been together for three years. Last Saturday, we grabbed some snacks and blankets and walked around Murrayhill Pond in Beaverton to play with the Canadian geese. With quiet air and chilly weather, I realized that this was the best time to have an interview about his future "perfect wife" in the future. To Lee, a perfect partner should have these qualities: being mature, having mutual respect, and having a sense of humor.

Maturity is the first quality that he would like his wife to have. Because Lee is a serious and ambitious person, he obviously wants his future wife to have this quality. Specifically, he said, "A wife who has mature characteristics knows what she needs to do and how to solve problems efficiently." At this point, he has made me wonder about myself: "Hmm...Have I been mature enough to become his wife?" Also, he believes that his wife will be a person who can accept the imperfect parts of her husband. Because we are human beings, we aren't perfect. I agree with his opinion absolutely. Moreover, my boyfriend said, "My wife should have some life experiences." Lee expects his wife to be a person who has skills to deal with some bad and good situations in her personal life. For example, he thinks his wife could figure out how to manage her monthly expenses, what she should do to improve herself, and how she should avoid any temptations using her previous experiences. Honestly, I'm not confident of being such a perfect wife, but I think that I can make myself better with his suggestions.

It is hard to become a perfect partner without having mutual respect. Respect is similar to “dignity,” but has some differences. Respect acknowledges the standard of behavior while dignity teaches the importance of civility and humanity. To Lee, “Respect is like muscles. If you keep building it, it will become stronger every time you manifest it.” He thinks that respect is all about showing trust, being willing to tell feelings and being responsible to each other, and respecting the personal space and time of the other person. Respect will keep his marriage stable and happy. For instance, when a couple is having an argument, each person tends to hold their own perspective, so this can easily lead to misunderstandings and exhaustion. Moreover, he doesn’t want to be controlled, and vice versa because of having mutual respect. Personally, I think respect is an essential characteristic of a perfect partner, and it’s also a key to have a healthy marriage.

Because my boyfriend is a serious and quiet man, he likes to stay with a woman who has a sense of humor. He explained, “The picture of my life has a lot of boring colors, so I need some fun colors to make it more interesting.” I’m sure that I’m a woman that can create a lot of humor such as sharing jokes and telling funny stories, and I guess Lee won’t feel bored when we are together. Moreover, he said that if his wife had a sense of humor, it could help him relieve stress and ease anxiety. Lee thinks that a humorous woman can be an optimistic person and have positive thinking in her life. In my opinion, having a sense of humor is one of the most joyful parts of a relationship. It not only can solve our mental health issues but also strengthen our relationship and emotional connections.

In short, I have talked about three crucial qualities of Lee’s perfect partner such as being mature, having mutual respect, and having a sense of humor. I absolutely agree with Lee’s opinions. After finishing this interview, I thought about these qualities, and I realized that all these characteristics are indispensable in a healthy marriage. Now, I’m 24 years old, and I want to be well-prepared for myself before marriage. I believe that Lee is the missing piece that I’ve been looking for, and we will have a happy ending someday with a healthy marriage.

Written by: Vy Nguyen

