

Portland Community College: Sylvania

The ESOL Ambassador



Volume 22 No. 1 Fall 2020



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 by email at sarah.bailie@pcc.edu.

Editor: Sarah Bailie

Editorial Board: Kate Carney

Assistant to the Editor: Neda Ahmadzai

Cover Artist: Norah Alqara

Artists: Samila Albuquerque, Chaiti Kundu

Graphic Design: Ahmed Ali

*Special thanks to all
ESOL Instructors
who submitted
student work!*



Level 2 ESOL Students Write About Experiences in 2020

Coronavirus Changed Our Lives

When we came to the United States, I made goals for my husband and me, including opening an Arabic restaurant different from the ones here. But when we arrived, the coronavirus appeared and the whole world stopped because it is a dangerous virus and the world became scary. My family and I became afraid of meeting people and we were scared of going anywhere. Also, our papers are not finished because all places and all government departments are closed. But we did not give up. I made another goal for myself, which was to learn English so that I could speak with others; then I could speak with my neighbor better than before. Now I am a student at PCC, and am very happy because I am learning a lot from my teachers. I also exercise every day with my husband in the gym. After I come home, I cook dinner, and we eat together with our children and play outside the house every day with our neighbors. It is true, I don't have a job now, but I am optimistic by my God that there is something beautiful waiting for us, and my husband and I will achieve all our goals together.

Written by: Muna Mohammad

ESOL Level 2

COVID-19 Unhappiness

I sanitize all of my groceries nowadays, and I was not doing this before COVID-19. I was taking my kids shopping, but now when I go shopping, I do not take them. I also don't take my kids to the playground. Nowadays, I sit a lot with my daughter to do her homework - I became a teacher for her. Therefore, it is taking a lot of my time helping her to do her homework. Before I used to take her only to the school bus and pick her up again from the school bus, but now I am not taking her to the school bus because of COVID-19. There are a lot of changes in my normal life.

Written by: Nargis Latyfi

ESOL Level 2



I Miss My School

I used to play with my friends, but right now I can't play with them and I can't even visit their houses because of COVID-19. I work 8 hours a day, so I work five days in a week and I have 2 days off. When I'm not at work, I'm just staying at home reading books, doing my homework and playing video games. I miss my friends and I miss my teachers. It's better going to school than Zoom classes. I wish we were going to study at school.

Written by: Abdullahi Hassan

ESOL Level 2

A Summary of My Life

My name is Dawood Alqara. I always wake up at 5:30 a.m. to pray. Then, I drink my coffee at 7:00 a.m. After that, I call my parents to check on them. I am studying English now at PCC, and our class is online because of COVID-19. I study 3 days a week. Always, our class is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Later, I go to the gym to exercise for an hour and a half. Always, I eat lunch with my family. Finally, I go to bed to sleep at 8:00 p.m. I am tired of this routine and I hope that after I obtain a work permit, my life will change.

Written by: Dawood Alqara

ESOL Level 2

Immigrant Story

Simon Benson was an immigrant in the United States. He worked and studied English, so that he could progress and earn more money. Later, he moved to the state of Oregon and bought a business, where he became rich. Simon also helped the city of Portland. He helped make drinking fountains for the people, and the fountains are called "Benson Bubblers."

Written by: Yajaira Cardenas

ESOL Level 2



Terrible Day

Yesterday was a terrible day for me. When I had a little free time in the morning, I decided to go shopping to prepare for Halloween at Target. After about 45 minutes walking around to get all my shopping and some clothes for my daughter, I came to check out and I realized that I didn't bring my wallet. I had to call my husband to come help me pay. I wasn't happy because it wasted my time.

Written by: Thi Bich Ngoc Chu

ESOL Level 2

A Level 2 ESOL Student Writes About Their Dream House

My Dream House

Every person has many dreams, perhaps about travel, work, family, a car or a home. Today I will talk about my dream home. When I was young, I had many dreams, including the dream of a beautiful, big and quiet home, and I always imagined how that would look to fulfill my dream. First, I thought of the home location. It should be in a high place. It has a nice view, a large area, large garden, swimming pool, a place for breakfast and a big garage.

As for the home, I dreamed that it was made of wood and consists of two floors. The ground floor contains a large kitchen, a bathroom, a dining room, and a large living room with a fireplace. The living room must have large windows. As for the second floor, I dreamed that it has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a small living room.

In the end, all our dreams are to feel comfortable, calm, happy, and that we have achieved good things in our life and deserve calm and rest. My advice to all: don't stop dreaming because dreams are your goals for the future. Without goals and dreams in your life, you will not amount to anything.

Written by: Sharef Kiztofich

ESOL Level 2



Level 3 ESOL Students Write About Their Hopes for the New Year: 2021



Good Things are Coming in 2021

As you know, 2020 is ending soon. We had many good and bad things in 2020. The worst thing in 2020 was the spread of the coronavirus. It made us fear, worry, and change our lives. It was really horrible for us. Besides that, we have just had a chaotic election in the U.S. Many events happened to affect our lives. The U.S. was in crisis in 2020.

2021 is coming. We have just almost 1 month left to change to the new year. In the next year, I predict the beginning of 2021 will be the same as 2020 because we might not have a vaccine yet. We will still have to wear a mask, and keep 6 feet distance in public areas. Then, the rest of 2021 will be better, and our lives will resume. At that time, I will begin to explore the U.S., and sign up for more classes to learn and practice English. But the most special thing for me is that when 2021 arrives, I will go back to my country to get married, and meet my dog. Keep our faith and pray because 2021 will be better.

Written by: Hoang Phuc Nguyen
ESOL Level 3

New Year 2021

This year is too bad for everyone. I think 2021 will be better. I hope 2020 ends soon and the new year 2021 is started soon because 2020 had COVID-19 which was very bad for us. Everywhere might not be open. We didn't have much money because COVID-19 made us unemployed. I can't go to school, and I can't meet students and teachers. I won't travel during the pandemic time because I have to stay home to stay healthy. 2021 might have the vaccine for everyone. I will travel with my friend after we have the vaccine. I hope in the new year 2021, I will take more classes to help my English, and I might go to college.

Written by: Nhung (Anna) Tran
ESOL Level 3

2021

2021 will be the same as 2020 for half of the year, and then it will get better. In 2021 there will be a new president. I think in 2021 there will be no more posts from the old president. It might be that people may not travel internationally because of COVID-19. I think in 2021, I will be traveling to my country to visit my family in my home country. I will not visit my country if it is not safe because of COVID-19. I might apply for my citizenship in 2021. I think in 2021, all schools will be open. I think in 2021, my job will be open again. I might look for a new job in 2021. I hope all international flights will be open. I might not buy a car for my daughter. I think in 2021, my cousin will visit me. I might look for a house in 2021. I hope everyone will be safe from coronavirus. I hope to see my mother in 2021. I might see my friend in Georgia. I think 2021 will be more difficult than 2020 if I don't have a job. I hope everything comes back to normal in 2021, and I hope everyone goes back to work and to school. I hope everyone will be happy in 2021, and everyone will be healthy. Good luck to everyone in 2021.

Written by: Qasim Ahmed

ESOL Level 3

2021

I believe that in 2021 there won't be many changes because there is no vaccine for the coronavirus. I think the students might continue studying online. The students might not go back into the classroom until summer. I hope I will be wrong. The vaccine won't come soon enough

Written by: Marilu Vada

ESOL Level 3

Making New Plans

In 2021, I have a lot of plans and goals to achieve. I won't repeat the mistakes that I made last year. I might make different mistakes but that is OK because we learn through mistakes. I might not achieve all my goals, but at least I tried. I will educate myself more and try to make myself a happy person.

Written by: Maha Yasir

ESOL Level 3



ESOL Level 6

Before and After COVID-19

How can we live our life to the fullest in this pandemic? The new COVID-19 virus has made a huge impact on humanity all over the world. There is no cure for it yet. Our lives were very different before the pandemic. My life has changed in these ways: shopping, social gathering, and education.

Shopping is a very important aspect of our day to day life, for fulfilling our basic necessities whether it is food, clothes etc. Before the pandemic, in-store shopping was very common; we could touch, feel, and try out things which were very satisfactory. Due to the pandemic, online shopping has become very popular and safe. Some people may like to shop online, but for me it's a hassle. It takes too much time to find things and there are too many choices to choose from. Another drawback for me is that I cannot touch and feel things before buying them. In addition, sometimes the product is not the same as the picture shown.

Social gatherings are a very important part of all cultures. Before COVID-19, people looked forward to weekends to chill and relax. Having potlucks was the best way to enjoy a variety of food and spend time with friends. Another large gathering in my culture is weddings, where hundreds of people come together. Due to the pandemic, weekend parties are almost nil and large gatherings are limited. These days we meet by Zoom for classes and socialization, which is not fun. While meeting in person, there is also a requirement to use a mask and keep the distance of 6 feet from each other. COVID-19 has affected our socialization in many ways.

COVID-19 has drastically changed our education system. Before COVID-19, students went to regular schools and colleges and there was less computer screen time involved. Kids were able to play on playgrounds in a group with their friends and socialize with them. I had to drive kids from one class to another as they had in-person classes, and it was hectic. After COVID-19, online school has started, which has increased computer screen time. All classes are done on Zoom, and technology is playing a big role in learning. Now I don't have to drive my kids from one class to another which saves me a lot of time. I am able to take ESOL classes online in my free time. My kids are socializing on Zoom nowadays with their friends, and I am also spending quality time with my family.

Life was different before the pandemic. We have changed our lifestyles now and we are taking extra precautions. However, one good thing about the pandemic is that I am spending much more time with my family.

Written by: Pratima Dhoot

ESOL Level 6



Drawn By: Samila Albuquerque

Differences Between Cuban and American Cultures

Are American and Cuban people on the same page in communication? During my time in the USA, I have noticed that Americans are very polite people. When you go to the market or the bank, you can find the cashier asking you, “How are you, how is your day?” However, in regular life, when you go to school or your job, sometimes people there are not too talkative. I’m from Cuba, and the people there are very talkative, but not too polite. From my experiences, when I compare the communication between people in Cuba versus the USA, I can see some differences between these two cultures.

First, I can mention that daily interactions are very different in these two countries. In Cuba, people don’t always use please and thank you, but Cubans are very friendly and talkative. Cubans love to talk and give advice spontaneously. Also, they can start talking with you waiting in line, in the supermarket, waiting for the bus, or simply, at a doctor’s appointment. Instead, Americans are very generous and polite people but not talkative people. When Americans are waiting in line in the supermarket, they usually don’t talk with anybody. They love to help and support others, especially if they are doing their jobs, like a cashier, and they can ask how you feel or say good morning but do not initiate a friendly conversation as Cubans do.

Second, the relationships during the school years are very different too. While in Cuba, the people during school years usually build sincere relationships and can be friends for the rest of their life; However, in the USA, it is not too common to build a strong and permanent relationship. For example, my best friends now are the same friends from my elementary school. They are people that I know for sure I can always ask for support or advice, and they will be there. In the USA, I have met some Americans, and I have asked them if they continue their relationship with some of their school friends, and they answer, “oh no, they are not my friends, they are only my classmates.”

Third, I can say that the greetings between people from these two countries are very different. In Cuba, it is very common to kiss someone on their cheeks, even if it is the first time you have met. Also, hugs are more frequent than you can imagine. Hugs are not only used when you haven’t seen each other for a long time. Hugs are given regularly on the same day with the same person. But, in the USA, it is more common for people to say hello, or sometimes just shake hands. Even between friends and families, it is very uncommon to see family members kissing or hugging each other.



In my opinion, for these three points, I can say that Cuban people, as well as people from many Latin American countries, are more expressive than American people. Cuban people love to talk and create friendships. In Cuba, sometimes the neighbors are like your family, but in the USA, they are polite but not too expressive; neighbors are like strangers. In Cuba, the friendships created during school years probably mean that the same person will accompany you for the rest of your life. These long friendships are not very common in American culture. And finally, the culture in Cuba includes a lot of hugs and kisses, but not in the USA. That demonstrates how different these two cultures can be. For me, while living in America, I miss hugging, talking with neighbors, and chatting with strangers at Starbucks.

Written by: Yanina Bermudez Gonzalez

ESOL Level 6



Learning in Online Classes During the Pandemic

Do you like online ESOL classes at PCC? Some of my friends have left ESOL classes since online started, or stopped enrolling in credit classes because of high tuition, even though the courses are taught online. At the beginning of spring term, I was also worried about the online situation. However, I really like online classes now for two reasons: ease of attending classes and ease of learning.

First of all, ease of attending classes is a huge benefit for me, and there are two main kinds of ease in it. The most favorite point of online learning is that I can attend all campus's classes. Before the Corona pandemic started, I had always studied at a nearby campus, but there were only fixed choices for me. I used to choose classes from a few possibilities of the nearby campus, go to the tutoring center in a hurry because of a limited schedule, and attend just one or two free conversation classes which started after core classes if I wanted. Now, I can choose a class from a lot of classes of all campuses, make an appointment for tutoring whenever I need, and attend all free conversation classes in other campuses if I want. I could choose my best from many choices because all of them are online, so I'm very satisfied with my classes now. Also, online classes are actually easy to attend, and I just click Zoom links on time. In face to face situations, I had to go to campus one way 50 minutes on foot, 20 minutes by bike, or 10 minutes by my car. I had to pay for parking if I went by car. Now, I don't need any travel time to go to the class and any extra payment to park my car. I

don't need to waste my important time and money, and I just need to enter Zoom. What an easy way to go to class it is!

Ease of learning, which some of my friends worried about, is another big benefit. I have three recommendations about it. The first is learning from the teacher's face. In the real class, I had to see the teacher from a little distance in the classroom. It gave me opportunities to learn from many things such as the teacher's gestures or writings on the whiteboard, but it was hard to understand correctly more details such as how to move the mouth and tongue. In online learning, it is very easy to catch them because the teacher's face is just in front of me on the screen. It is very helpful for learning pronunciation and listening. Next is learning from the teacher's voice. Sometimes I had trouble in the face to face class because there were many classmates in the room, and voices or sounds that weren't from the teacher occasionally prevented me from focusing on the teacher. Now, we use a mute system, which is a great support for us in the Zoom class. I can hear the teacher clearly and focus on her.

The last reason why learning online is easier than in a real class is comfort asking questions. I'm a little shy, and also we don't have a habit of asking questions to teachers during class time in my country so much. Therefore, asking questions in a real class was very hard for me, especially in front of many classmates. Now, I feel more comfortable asking questions because I can see only a few faces on the screen as there are a lot of classmates who turn off their cameras behind the screen.

Before coronavirus started, we had learned for a long time from good teachers with many friends and classmates at the PCC campus, which includes every facility and spaces of relaxation. Now, we have to keep studying online, and it is completely different from before. However, we can learn more easily and more details from online classes than face to face classes, so let's enjoy the online situation and be positive about it because it may be temporary.

Written by: Tomo Shirata
ESOL Level 6



Photograph by: Chaiti Kundu

See a Doctor in The United States and China

The proverb “An apple a day keeps the doctor away” shows that people want to stay healthy and try not to see doctors. But for some reasons, going to see a doctor is unavoidable in our life such as for physical examination or sickness. I have lived in the US for 3 years. I have had some experiences as an outpatient about going to see a doctor in the US. However, there are some differences in outpatient service between seeing a doctor in the United States and China such as finding a doctor, scheduling an appointment, treatment services, and payment rules.

The first difference is how to find a doctor. In the United States, having an in-network primary care doctor who is covered by insurance companies is a good idea because some specialist doctors do not accept patients without a primary doctor’s referral. From my experience, asking the insurance company to help us to find our in-network primary doctor is the best way for families like my family when we were new here. However, in China, the medical insurance card covers all local clinics, hospitals, and doctors, so patients can choose any doctors they want to visit. People usually go to a hospital close to their home. Because every outpatient doctor's information is clearly shown on the hospital’s website, patients usually find a doctor from their website before they visit, or they can directly ask staff who are at the check-in window to register a doctor when they visit. Although finding a doctor is convenient in both of these two countries, I prefer the US because it is more scientific and efficient, especially when patients want to see a specialist doctor.

The second difference is about the policy of scheduling an appointment in outpatient service. In the United States, scheduling an appointment is necessary before seeing a doctor. People usually call the doctor's office to ask whether the doctor accepts a new patient. If yes, we can schedule an appointment on the phone; if not, we have to find another doctor who accepts new patients. Patients need to wait a few days or even weeks to meet the doctor, depending on the doctor's available time. In China, scheduling an appointment is not necessary but recommended if you want to visit a specialist doctor. Most patients are used to walking in, but there are some specialist doctors who are very popular, so making an appointment can help patients save time. The steps of making an appointment are very simple: go to the hospital’s website, enter the information and register an account, choose the doctor’s available time which fits you, and make an appointment on the website directly. Since the policy of making an appointment is optional in China, it might cause too many people at a time to be at the doctor’s waiting room, and that will really be a big challenge for both doctors and patients. On the contrary, patients and doctors in the US feel more comfortable because they don't have to worry about crowds.

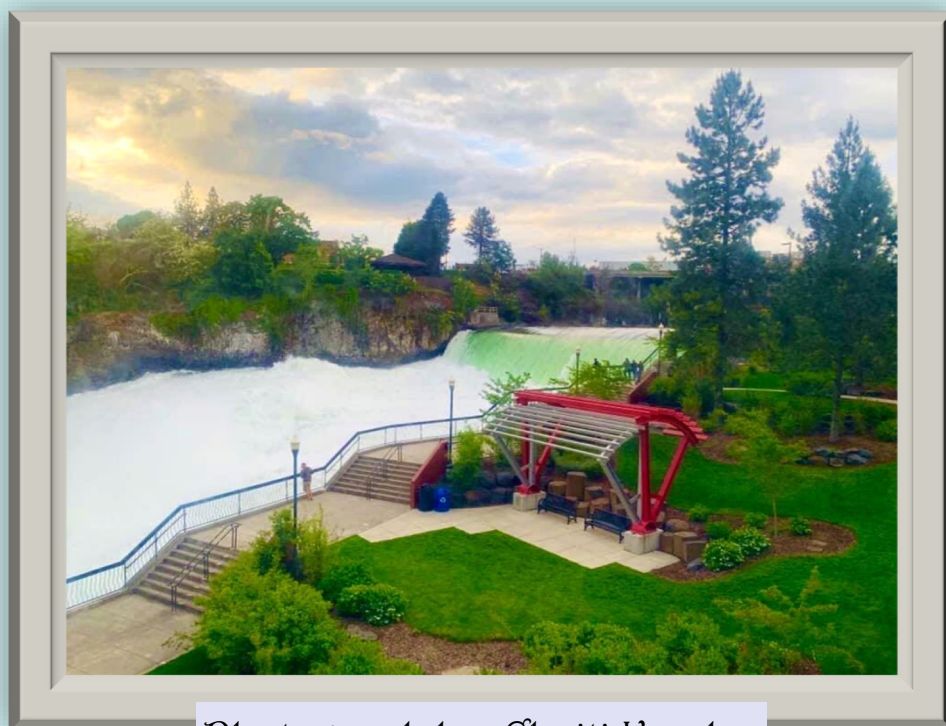
The third difference is about treatment service as an outpatient. In the US, doctors’ offices are separate to the drugstore and laboratory. Patients have to go to the drugstore and laboratory after the doctor sends their prescription. Sometimes it takes a few days to get medication or receive test results. However, it is different in China. Doctor’s offices, drugstores and laboratories are inside the hospital and they belong to the hospital. Patients can get the medication immediately and most test results will be received in 30-60 minutes. The

consequence is convenience and efficiency in China, rather than in the US. That's a great advantage!

The last difference is about the payment rules. In the US, patients usually don't know how much they should pay to the doctor and laboratory when they are engaging in the treatments. I had once asked my primary care doctor for the cost before she sent my test order to the laboratory. She said she had no idea and recommended me to ask my insurance company. When I received the bill later, I felt the bill was far more expensive than I thought. However, in China, patients have to pay first before meeting doctors, getting tests, and receiving medications. When the doctors send the prescription to the drugstore and laboratory, they also give patients a copy. All information such as the name of medication, and the statement of payment which includes copay and insurance covers are clearly shown on the paper. If you feel the cost is too expensive before you pay, you can talk with the doctor if it is possible to change to a cheaper one. Usually it works. In my opinion, I like the payment rules in China because it is simple and clear, like people shopping in the mall. In fact, the medical costs are far cheaper than in the United States. This is also a really nice advantage!

In conclusion, outpatient service in the US and China both have advantages and disadvantages. I hope these two countries will develop their medical system to humanize the process of health care and make people in their country feel more comfortable and satisfied when they see a doctor. I also hope everyone stays healthy to result in seeing doctors less often, especially in this challenging time that we have never had before.

Written by: Xihua (Hannah) Qian
ESOL Level 6



Photograph by: Chaiti Kundu

ESOL Level 7



Benefits of Volunteering

A large number of people volunteer in the United States. According to the latest survey conducted by the Volunteering in America report in 2018, about 77 million adults, which is 30% of the total adult population, volunteered through the organization in 2017. They also reported that their total working time is almost 6.9 billion hours, and the economic value is estimated to be 167 billion dollars. In addition to that, there are many people who are engaged in informal volunteering to support family and friends, so it can be said that even more people work without getting paid. Needless to say, people work with no salary in volunteer work. Nevertheless, they are willing to volunteer in many ways because of three benefits: to connect with new people, to become more mature, and to feel rewarded by helping people directly.

First, volunteers have the opportunity to meet different types of people that they have never met in their daily lives. Doing something with people who have a completely different background than volunteers, instead of their friends of the same generation or family, is a valuable experience. For example, if volunteers clean a park, they will meet many participants of different generations. Conversations with such people could be exciting. Then if someone volunteers to help others, the relationship with them will be also wonderful. Bruce Kerr, who has been helping foreigners with their English for about 15 years, states that it is very worthwhile and interesting because by volunteering he can interact with people who have different values who come from different generations and have different religions.

The second advantage is self-growth by volunteering. If people choose something that is interesting to them, they will become more knowledgeable about it and will feel more engaged working. Jo Ann Walter, who has been volunteering for over 50 years since she was a teenager, and who loves art, says that working at the Portland Art Museum was one of the greatest memories in her volunteer life and recommends that people should choose the volunteer job they love. In contrast, even if they choose something that is completely different from their own hobby, it could be beneficial because they will be able to acquire new knowledge. Finally, they can feel rewarded by helping people who need support directly. For example, volunteer tutors will be interacting one-on-one with their students. If students improve their grades, volunteers can feel a sense of accomplishment by feeling that their support was one factor. In addition, if people volunteer at a food bank,

they will support others' lives, so they will feel satisfied and will be proud of the work that they are doing.

To conclude, volunteer activities allow people to connect with various people that they haven't met in their daily life, expand their knowledge, and feel a sense of accomplishment. Currently, due to the global pandemic, volunteer activities might be limited, but when the world calms down in the future, many people should volunteer again to enrich their own lives and other people's lives.

Written by: Madoka Miyoshi

ESOL Level 7

Little Causes Everywhere

According to College Atlas, those who earn their college degree get paid 35% more salary than those who dropped out of college and do not have a degree. Although most students are aware of the benefit of having a degree, dropping out of college has become a common practice. Some of the leading causes today that are making one in three students to drop out of college are bad habits, poor grades, and financial, mental and relational stress.

One of the main reasons for dropping out of college is bad habits. Some students waste their time watching hours and hours of tv, playing video games, and spending time on the phone socializing instead of studying. All these activities interfere with sleeping habits. In addition, many students begin to experiment with alcohol and drugs which reduce their ability to concentrate on studies. Valli Kona, a sophomore in college, believes that students who spend more time partying without setting boundaries can lose their precious time. All these bad habits affect academics.

Another leading cause of failing to become a college graduate is relational, financial and mental pressures. For one thing, students may have financial problems. Since they need to work for long hours in order to pay for college and needs, they will have less time for studies. Next a student may be unhappy over family problems and lack of friends. Incidents like divorce and staying with a single parent or loss of a closest family member can make a student unhappy. Last of all, Valli Kona, states that depression, anxiety and stress are big issues for some college students to handle, and they also lead to eating and sleeping disorders. These situations make students unhappy and reduce their desire to finish college.

Finally, another reason for failing college is poor grades. When students are unable to attend the courses regularly, they fail. Some never learn to take proper notes, so they struggle to submit homework on time and prepare for the tests. Most of them exhaust themselves with organizing their time according to the work that needs to be done. Few students will also lose interest in their subjects after they start. Some never learn how to study a book, so students choose alternatives like cheating and plagiarizing and often get caught by the teachers. Without time management and proper study skills, their grades are likely to suffer.

In conclusion, wrong choices, challenging life circumstances and failing grades can cause students

to drop out of college. It is important to discuss the problems openly with parents or with trusted people who can guide the students into making the right choices. Pursuing and obtaining a college degree is necessary for a bright future.

Written by: Sravanthi Kona

ESOL Level 7



ESOL Level 8

Blind Dates

These days, the name “leftover girls” in China means a woman who has passed what society generally considers her marriageable age, but she is still unmarried and is a single woman over the age of 30. If you are over 30 years old and still unmarried and without a boyfriend, all your friends, friends of friends, your family and your relatives will rush to introduce you to date many types of men. There are all categories of men you will be introduced to, including men who are divorced and successful, with a child or no child from his first marriage, a rich second generation man, or a poor and unmarried man.

The first category of man you will be introduced to is a divorced successful man with a child or no child from his first marriage. This category of man is picky because his salary is usually high and he normally works in the government as a leader of a department. He will either have a child who is already an adult, or not have any children. As you know, these enterprising men are usually over 45 years old. Of course, many parents like this type of son-in-law. In my case, my friends introduced this category of men twice to me after I finished my first marriage. These men, who worked in the government, were the leaders of departments and one had a daughter studying abroad and the other one was without a child. Their average age was almost 48 years old. Although I didn’t like this kind of blind date, we dated for a while out of courtesy to our friends who thought such men are a rare species and are the envy of most unmarried girls. After a period of time together, I understood that they had a unique leadership style and even wanted to lead their girlfriends. They don’t like unmarried girls because they think unmarried girls are immature. I don’t know what is mature in their eyes, but women with a history of marriage and no child are preferred.

The next category of man you will be introduced to is the rich second generation man. Basically, most of the rich second generation men are playboys, whatever their ages. Very few of them are active entrepreneurs. This category is also a popular one. However, they have many demands. Unmarried girls need to be tall and beautiful and thin, and they’d better be young so that in their circle they receive many



Drawn By: Samila Albuquerque

compliments. They prefer young girls to leftover girls no matter the age. Although many girls like this category, their parents can't accept them. After all, all parents hope for is their children's happiness and parents know more about marriage than we do. However, some unmarried girls will still whimsically hope to be introduced to such boyfriends. Youth will pass away, then beautiful faces will also have an old day because a marriage without love is not reliable.

The last category of man to be introduced is a poor unmarried man. If the unmarried females are "leftover girls", then they should be called leftover men, but we don't call them this because we look more closely at whether women get married or not. Many of them work hard, but opportunities are often given to those who are prepared and capable. They don't have money and may not have a house, and they even may not be able to feed themselves, so most of them have low self-esteem. Most girls don't respond to a guy like that, let alone want to date him. Even if they meet each other once, some girls don't like to

continue to date them. My closest friend, who is a leftover girl, is 37 years old. She explained she neither had a house nor a job, so why would she date a man who had neither a house nor money. Everyone has their own requirements; even if my closest friend is only 5'1", she also wants to find a 6' tall boyfriend. In China, the ratio of leftover men to leftover women is three men to seven women. Although this ratio is quite friendly to men, if there is a poor unmarried man among them, he will lose the chance to be selected because even though most "leftover girls" are older than normal married-age girls, they are more willing to find a boyfriend with good family conditions, and they are even staying single.

In short, if you don't want to be a "leftover girl" and don't want to be asked if you have a boyfriend, you'd better marry before you are 30 years old. Some "leftover girls" think this name is a commendatory word because they think it is a synonym for excellence, and others think this is a derogatory word. I don't like this idea because I feel marriage is not a matter of haste. It is a matter of seriousness. We can't marry for marriage's sake, and we know that marriages need love to last.

Written by: Na Zhao-Exstrom

ESOL Level 262



Photographs by: Chaiti Kundu



Cover Artist: Nora Alqara