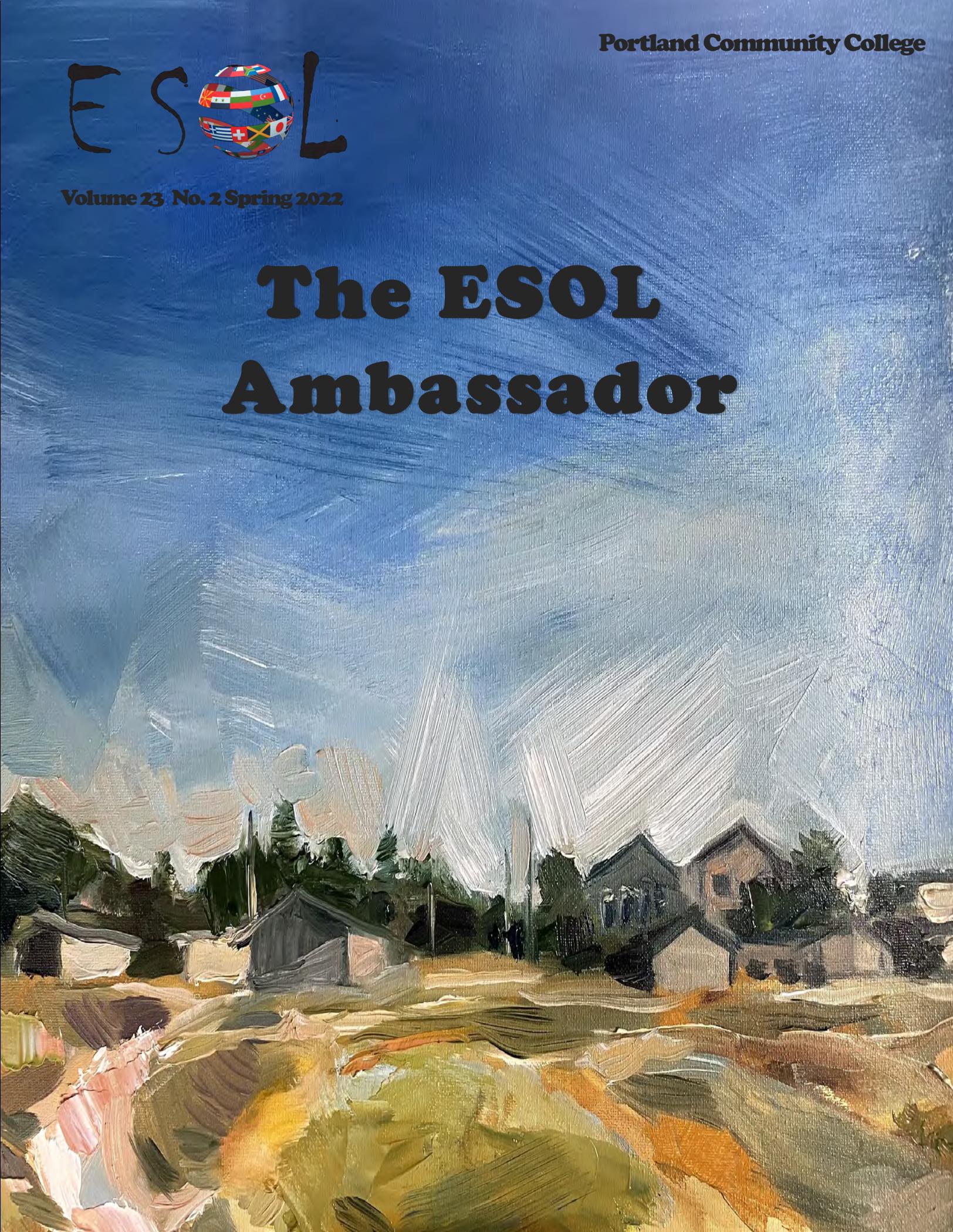


ESOL



Volume 23 No. 2 Spring 2022

The ESOL Ambassador



The ESOL Ambassador

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

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Cover title: To my friend Ryan Coulson. Pacific Beach. Canvas, oil. 50x40 cm. 2022

***Special thanks to these ESOL instructors
for submitting student work:***

*Luciana Diniz, Penny Jahraus,
Heather Kalowsky, Ellora Maitra,
Jennifer Snyder, August Stockton,
Ana Vitale, Kenya Zappa*



Interview with Daniil Veronin: Featured Artist and ESOL Level 2 Student

My name is Daniil Voronin, and I was born and grew up in Russia. Six months ago, together with my wife and daughter, I came to the USA. We moved here to develop our project called artclever.com, which is a creative online education platform. Our mission is to make education from professionals accessible to everyone, all over the world.

I have loved to draw since childhood. As a child, I watched my brother when he was drawing and tried to do the same. Then I went to art school, and after graduation, I went to art college, and then to an art institute.

As a child, I liked to draw horses as I spent all summer in the village and often rode a horse. When I studied at college and university, we often painted still life and people. Now I am more interested in contemporary, modern art, and lately, I have been preparing for my exhibition.

Art is an opportunity to express what you see, to speak your language using a picture, and to express your feelings. After university, I worked in different companies, but still I was more interested in the creative direction. Once I owned a gallery, and then it grew into a cafe gallery, where visitors could not only eat but also buy paintings. After these projects, I worked in marketing for a long time and then my wife and I decided to create an educational project called artclever.com.

All this time I have been dreaming of doing more with my own creativity. I hope now is the time to express my creative potential.

my projects:

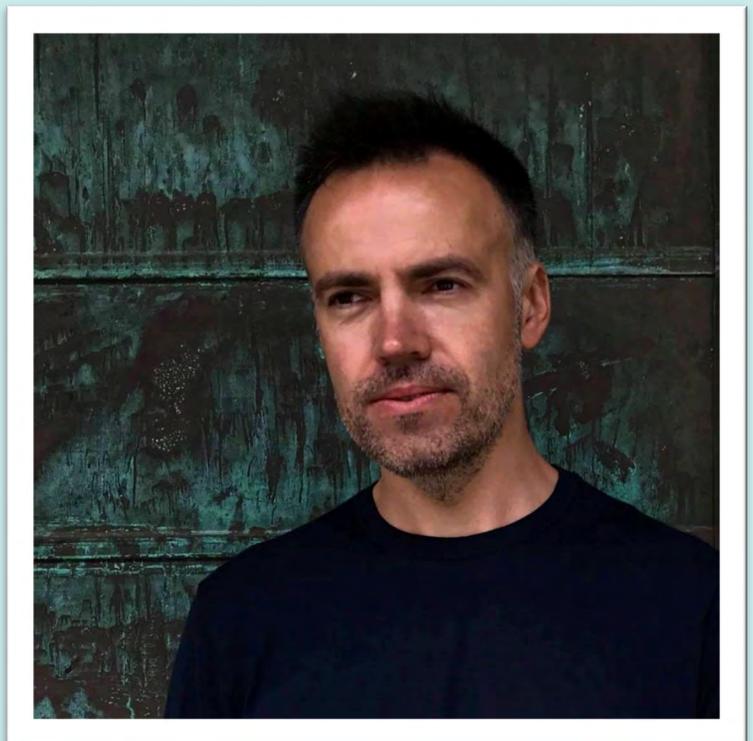
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<http://canvascanvas.ru/en/>

<https://www.instagram.com/daniilcrow/>

https://www.instagram.com/artclever_en/

<https://www.instagram.com/artclever/>



ESOL Level 1 Students Write about their Favorite Person

My Favorite Person

My sister's name is Nadima. She lives in Afghanistan, and she speaks Dari. She is short. She eats eggs and bread for breakfast. She goes to bed at 11pm. She cleans her house on Saturday. I like this person because she is my sister. She is a teacher.

Written by: Tahmina Ibrahim

My Favorite Person

My favorite person is Carol Powers. She lives in Portland, Oregon. She speaks English, and Coral is tall and beautiful. She eats oatmeal and drinks coffee for breakfast. She goes to bed at 10pm on Saturday. She reads the newspaper and visits her family. She is retired. I like Carol Powers because she is my mom.

Written by: Fawad Ahmadzai



ESOL Level 2 Students Write about Other People

Bany's Family

My name is Bany Orozco. I'm 44 years old, I'm married and I have a daughter. I work in landscaping. My wife's name is Katty. She is 30 years old, and she works in a technology company. My daughter's name is Sury. She is 9 years old, and she is in 4th grade at school. I take care of her during the night and my wife in the day. We have a pet. Her name is Luna, she is 10 months old, and she likes to play with our daughter. We live in Tigard Oregon. We love to live in Oregon.

Written by: Bany Orozco

Jackie

Jackie was very busy last week. She studies at PCC. She studied last weekend for an hour and a half. She likes her school. She visited her father-in-law. She watched TV, the True Crime Show, and she listened to oldies music. She called her husband. She doesn't work. She cleaned her daughter's room, and cleaned the kitchen. She ate fettuccine pasta with broccoli and meat.

Written by: Jane Zarate Ayala

My Classmate

My classmate's name is Erika. I talked to her last week because we are in the same English class. Last weekend, she studied English about one hour at home. Then she visited her parents. Also, she watched TV at night. She likes music, so she listened to Adele last weekend. She called her parents last weekend because she didn't work. She used her computer to do her homework and check her email. She cleaned her house 2 or 3 times. She doesn't like cooking, but she cooks pasta sometimes. I was happy to meet her.

Written by: Akhtar Taghizadeh Toosi

The Experience of the Weekend of Samah

Samah is a level 2 English student at the PCC. Her weekend was busy. First Samah studied last weekend. She studied for 3 days. She is a good student. She didn't visit anyone. She watched TV last Friday, and she watched movies in her living room. Samah listened to Arabic music. She called her mom last Friday. She didn't work, but she worked in her house. She used the computer to study English and to send her homework to Kenya. She cooked dinner from Monday to Friday last weekend, but she ate out on Saturday and Sunday. Samah ate Chinese food.

Written by: Yolanda Prieto

ESOL Level 2 Students Write about Important Days

My Vacation

I'm in the Dominican Republic on vacation. It has been a good vacation because I'm with my daughter and family. When she saw me, she was very excited. Her eyes were sparkly big and smiled. I was more excited because I saw her for the first time in two years. When the airplane landed, I knew she was there waiting for me, so I walked fast so that I could see her again. My vacation is almost over, so I'm excited again. I am excited because I'll see my husband again after one month without him. I hope he can join me on my next vacation.

Written by: Raynise Ayers

A Happy Day

A happy day was two years ago, when it was my 21st birthday. I went to live alone and drank a lot of beer because it was already legal in the United States. I was very happy because in two years, I had saved enough money to live alone and buy my first car.

Written by: Scarleth Mejia

My First Day in the US

I'm from Guatemala. I came 10 years ago. On my first day in the United States, I ate a hamburger with French fries. I didn't like the hamburger, but I ate it because I was very hungry - my son and me. It was very difficult for me to get here, to the USA. The language and the weather are very different from my country. In my country, it is very hot, and Oregon is very cold.

I remember when I came to the United States, I only had one sweater for me and one sweater for my son. I was so sad. I came on October 20th, when the cold season begins here in Oregon. I applied for work. Fortunately, after 2 weeks, they called me, and I started working. I cleaned some stores like Safeway, Abertson's, etc. My life was so different in those moments because I worked only 6 hours a day, but I started at 12am and ended at 6am. I took the bus every night to go to work. The last bus passed at 10pm. When I walked to the bus stop, I was very scared. I didn't sleep all night. When I came home, I needed to take care of my son. I made him breakfast and played with him. He was only 4 years old. Unfortunately, I only slept 4 hours a day - from 5pm to 9pm. I lived many adventures, both good and bad. But today, I can say that every sacrifice was worth it, and I feel blessed by God and my family.

Written by: Lesly Rodriguez

A Happy Day

A happy day was 3 years ago, when my mom was surprised that she could enter this country. I went to California with my husband, sister and brothers to welcome her. I felt very happy and excited because we were together. We went to Long Beach. It was the first time my mom saw the beach. She was very happy. We walked all afternoon, and then we ate fish and drank beer and coke.

Written by: Angelica Jardon



Sketch by Alexandra Salas
ESOL Level 2

ESOL Level 2 Students Write about the way their lives have changed since coming to the U.S.

My New Life in Portland

I have been living in the beautiful city for seven months. I love the rain, but not the cold. I feel happy with the change in my life, only I get desperate because I don't know English. That's why I am studying at PCC. I am finally valuing the diversity of this country.

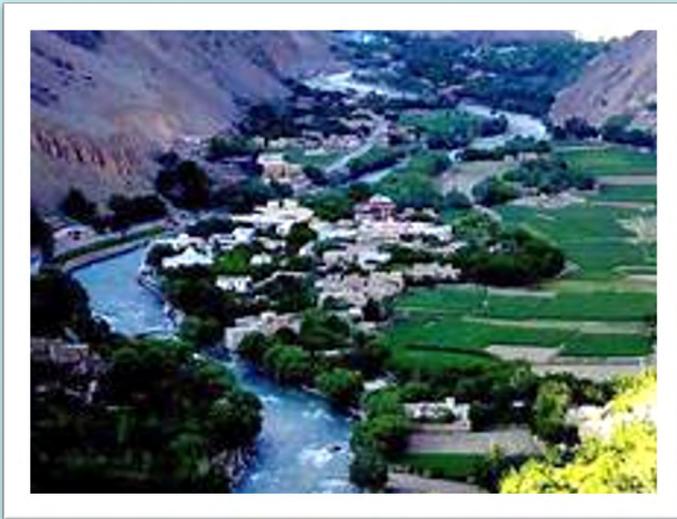
Written by: Dayanara Nunez

My Life in Portland, Oregon

My name is Shukrea, and I moved to the United States from Afghanistan 5 years ago. I have 6 almost 7 children in total. I have 5 daughters and one son, with another one on the way. When I moved to the USA, my entire life changed. I felt like I was starting a new life, which I was, and it was the best day of my life. Now I can't believe so much changed in my life. My husband has a job now and my kids go to school safely. I'm so grateful.

Written by: Shukrea Noori

Shukrea's Pictures of Afghanistan



My Life is Different in the US

I have lived in the US since 2017, and my life is different. I live with my husband and my son in the US. My son lived in the US four years before I arrived here, while I still lived in Brazil with my parents, he lived here with his father. Now I am married, but I was not married in Brazil. I studied Computer Technology at a university in Brazil. Now I don't go to a university anymore, I study English and I also work with house cleaning. I like my new life in the US, because my family is together again, but I miss my parents and friends in Brazil.

Written by: Marta Santos

My Life in the U.S.A.

I came to the US in 2018. I left all my life in Mexico. I'm talking about my parents, my brother, my home and my friends. Today I live in an apartment with my daughters and my dog. I have had a different lifestyle since I got here. I do many things that in my country I did not used to do. I work 5 days a week, I cook, and I clean my house every day. I take care of the expenses of my house and my daughters. In my old life I used to have service and I did exercise. I had time to have fun. I spent time with my family and I had time to sleep. It's sad to think of my country now. Here in the US I don't have time to do exercise and I don't go out to have fun. I see very little of my family because I have a lot of work. Everyday I try to think of a better future for me and my daughters and then although the work and the little time I have, I will try to do and be better everyday.

Written by: Rubi Gomez

First Snow

I am from China, and I lived in Guangdong. Guangdong is in the south of China. So, it doesn't get snow. I and my son came to the US 6 months ago. I live in Portland now, and it snowed last month. We made a snowman in our backyard. This is the first time we did that. We were very happy, because the snow was very nice. I love snow, and my son also loves it. He hoped for snow every day, but it only snowed for a few days. We hoped it would snow again.

Written by: Jieyu Chen

Jieyu's Picture



Many Changes in My Life

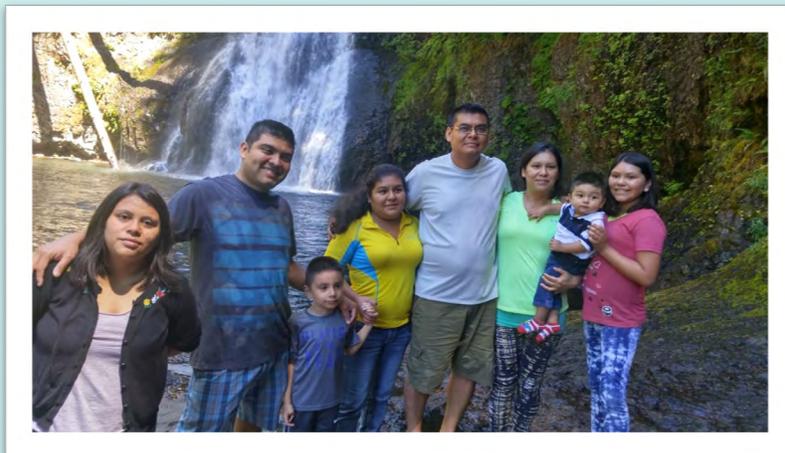
I am grateful to live in this country. For us it is the country of opportunities. I always thought this country was blessed by God. We came looking for a better life, and here there is everything in abundance- a lot of difference from my country. My father died when we were children and for my mother it was not easy. We were three children and sometimes we didn't have anything to eat and we lacked many things. Sometimes I would think to myself and say that when I grow up I'm going to work so I don't live what I lived as a child. It is not easy when you are a single mother and in your country there are no ways to survive.

For this reason we left, but it's hard to let your family start over when everything is different, even the language. When I was 15 years old I had my daughter. Eight years later I decided to come to this country, looking for a better life for my daughter and my siblings. When I got here I worked two jobs and I worked seven days a week. Now I only have one job because my goal is to learn to speak English. I already understood that the most important thing is communication and for that I need to learn the language. Sometimes I get embarrassed when people are talking to me and I can't communicate with them.

Now I am happy in this country because I have a very different life than the one I had. I have my two daughters with me, and my siblings. I am grateful to God for how beautiful it is to live here. Everything was fine, when suddenly one day there was news about the pandemic. I never imagined that this would change my life, but six months later my brother died from the virus. I wanted to die too and I don't accept what happened to my brother. He was a doctor, a teacher and dedicated to work and study. My brother is in the photo next to me. For me there is no future because my brother always studied and worked for a better future but that future did not exist for him. Sometimes I realize that my brother left this world too soon and forever he will live in my mind and heart until I die and see him again.

Written by: Lucia Solano

Lucia's Photo



New Experiences

I am Venezuelan, I am 39 years old, I'm married, I have two children, I have four siblings and my life is different since I arrived in the United States 6 months ago. The first difference is: my job, because I was a dentist and now I have a house-cleaning job. The second difference is that now I study English and I didn't study English since school. At this time I only read and answered questions, but now I also listen and try to speak it a little. Another detail is that now I use the GPS to drive and go from one place to another and before I didn't use the GPS. In my country it is almost always summer. Here I met fall, winter and spring is not far away. I'm still adapting, but I like my new life in the US because I have opportunities to study not only English; there are also opportunities to study as a dentist. Best of all, I have the support of my family, and everything is easier and more beautiful.

Written by: Ligia Acosta de Fuentes

The Sun Shines in Oregon

It's been two years living in Oregon. We are a Chilean family that decided to live the experience of living in another country. We lived in Santiago, a very populated city with a lot of concrete. There are many differences between Santiago and Oregon, starting with the contact with nature. We are happy in Oregon. Here we have more activities, more family time, the people in Oregon are friendlier and without the stress of a big city. Family, friends and our customs remained in Chile. Sometimes we miss them.

Written by: Felipe Simunovic

Felipe's Picture



My New Life in the US

I'm from Vietnam. Before I came to the US, I lived in Vietnam for 22 years. I left my country with sadness and anxiety. I came with my mother and my brother. Time passed by and now I have lived in the US for 2 years. Honestly, I feel everything is too difficult for me. From language, work and place of residence. I used to think that I should give up and go back to my country. Somedays, I was thinking, starting a new life in another country isn't always easy.

When I started studying at PCC, I met friends, I shared difficulties and I realized that we are all the same, and we're all trying to live more positively. Everything takes time, so all difficulties will pass. And I gradually feel a little better and live more positively. Now, I can drive anywhere, I can do my job well, and finally I'm a student at PCC. I hope I will forever work hard and live more positively for my future.

Written by: Hannie Nguyen

Changes in My Life

I'm from Veracruz, Mexico. I lived in Mexico for 22 years. I came to the United States in 2000. I was a student and single while I lived in my country. I had free time to share with my family and friends. I felt free and happy, and I also had much family to visit. I didn't work. Now in the United States my life is different, because I always keep busy. I got married in 2003. I have three children. I work Monday to Friday. Even though I don't have all my family in the United States and enough time, I have my children, and they make me happy.

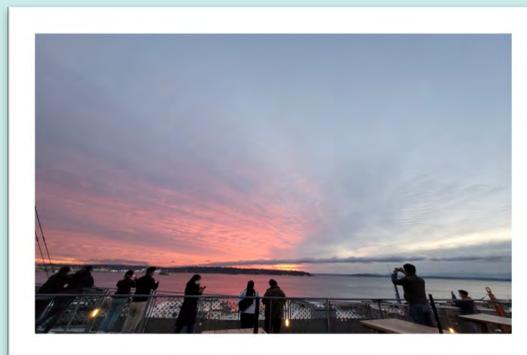
Written by: Fidelina Urbina

Our Lives Change

When I stayed in Japan, my husband and I got married. We did not have enough time to spend with my family, because my husband and I were very busy with work and study. However, we can make more time to spend with family after moving to Oregon. Sometimes our family visits somewhere such as Astoria or Seattle. That's why I feel so happy right now and I love to live here.

Written by: Ta Thi Thu Ha

Thu Ha's Picture



ESOL Level 3 Students Write about Meaningful Days

I Will Never Forget

I will never forget the day I felt pain and happiness at the same time. I have two children. They are very wonderful for me. My older child's birth took 10 hours. I will never forget how strong my son was when I breastfed him for the first time. So loving. My younger child's birth took 4 hours. The first time I held her in my arms when she was born, she opened one eye and looked at me. I will never forget my daughter's pretty eye. Thank you for a great time.

Written by: Naomi Katagata

Special Experience

My special occasion was a free lunch. It was a normal Sunday. When my family went back home from church, we went to buy our lunch from the drive-thru at Burger King and then go back home. When we prepared our bill, the service lady said "He paid your bill!" Wow! What's that mean? Who is he? What happened? This is the first time we met. We felt very excited and surprised. Unimaginable that a stranger paid our bill.

We talked about this special thing in the car, I asked my family, "What do you think?" My son said, "Maybe next time we can pay for other people because that is very fun and joy." Yes! I think that is a good education for children on how to share. It was very special that it happened to be my birthday Jan, 24th, So that is my special occasion.

Written by: Joyce Lin

Life is Not a Game

That afternoon my perspective changed about life. That afternoon my father and I went to the mountain for firewood. My father took branches from the ground to not damage the trees because it wasn't necessary to cut a tree with so many branches in the ground. I didn't help because there were spiders and scorpions, and I have a phobia for arachnids. I only waited and saw the ants, but then I remembered that my cousin gave me a slingshot. I decided to use it like the other people and aim a bird to kill it. My father watched this and decided to explain to me to put my mother in the position of the bird, and if I do, it is not different from killing someone I love. Something else my father taught me is to not let myself be guided by others. With this I understood that everybody has someone who worries for that person and not to damage others because I wouldn't want someone else to do that to my family. When we returned home I burned the slingshot. After this I taught this to my other cousins, but they didn't change.

Written by: Pablo Vidal Guerrero



Olivia and Antonio's Wedding

Our wedding was a very special day. The reception was on December 30, 2008, in Mexico. Many cousins and friends came from other cities. Our whole family was there. More than 250 people were invited, and we were very happy. The food was delicious and a lot. The menu was carnitas, mole with chicken, turkey and rice, and the drinks were beer, tequila, sodas and water. The music played typical band and mariachi. Antonio and I danced to different typical wedding songs such as "La Vivora de la Mar" and one special song with our family and friends. My dress was pretty. I liked that my husband wore a black suit. Everything in the celebration was incredible: decorations, the flowers, the dance, the celebration in the church. The most important was the celebration in the church, and our families shared it with us. Something good was that the next day there was a lot of food from the wedding, and my in-laws gave food to the neighbors. Now we have been married for 13 years.

Written by: Olivia Hernandez

A Trip to Mt. Hood

I had a nice trip to Mt. Hood in winter. I came to the U.S. four years ago, but I didn't go to Mt. Hood in winter. I wanted to see snow on Mt. Hood. So my wife, my son, and I went to Mt. Hood on December 20th, 2021. We wore down jackets, boots, gloves, hats, and sunglasses. We drove to Mt. Hood in the morning. It rained and snowed when we went, but after we arrived at Mt. Hood, the rain stopped and the snow stopped. The snow covered everything. We walked on the snow. We walked through the forest. There were not any flying birds. There were not any jumping animals. It was so quiet. I could hear that the snow sang when I walked. The snow laid soft on the ground. The snow was very thick. We walked on the snow, sometimes it was covered over our knees. It was the first time I saw such thick snow. It was a white world. It was a quiet environment. It was an amazing picture. I will never forget it.

Written by: Qiang Wang



My 15th Birthday

I remember a special occasion that happened 15 years ago. My parents, grandparents, uncles, and cousins organized a party for me. It was a special occasion because all the family was together. My party was near the beach. There was a menu of food and different drinks. I wore a long red dress.

It was a special occasion for me because I didn't expect something like that. It was fun and special that day because we danced and laughed a lot and also because all my loved ones were together on that special day.

Written by: Yajaira Cardenas

The Happiest Day

I have two children, and my children are my happiness. When I gave birth to my first child, I was 30 years old. I was very worried. I had to prepare all things for my baby: baby clothes, towels, diapers, etc. My mom, my sisters, and my mother in-law were worried, too. My husband said: "We will have a little angel, don't worry, my love." I was in the hospital. When my baby came, the doctor said: "It is a girl." I looked at my daughter. She had white skin and some hair on her head. She cried a lot. I no longer felt pain and tiredness. I cried and I was very happy. Everyone in my family was happy, too. Now, my children are adult children, but I will never forget that day. It was the happiest day in my life.

Written by: Minh Hoang

My First Baby Shower

I remember my baby shower was on Saturday, March 29, 2014. This day was very special since we received my daughter Sahily together with my family and friends. We decorated with pink balloons and other white decorations. The party was in a very nice hotel. The guests brought many beautiful gifts for my daughter, such as a stroller, clothes, toys, a bathtub, pajamas, etc. We were very happy that day. We played fun games and danced. Traditionally, baby showers are only attended by women, but mine was different because men attended since I have many male friends. It really was a special moment that I will never forget.

Written by: Carolina Martinez

My Honeymoon

My honeymoon was great and funny. We went to Texas in July. We stayed in a hotel. The weather was hot, but it was nice. We went to a lake and to an amusement park. We had a great time. The food was delicious. We went to a lot of restaurants. The best food we ate was seafood and chicken. We also went shopping and bought clothes and shoes. We liked the shops and the prices were good. We visited a zoo. There were a lot of kinds of animals. We saw rabbits, lions, fish, snakes and other animals. It was a great experience. I hope to visit Texas again.

Written by: Hawraa Alogaidi



Chinese New Year

Last year's Chinese New Year was special to me because it was my first time leaving my country to spend it in the U.S. Chinese people usually call the new year the Spring Festival. During the Chinese New Year, it is a traditional Chinese custom for family members to get together to enjoy the holiday. Due to Covid-19, my husband and I couldn't go back to reunite with our family during the Chinese New Year last year. We were very sad about this. But my husband and his mother spent a pretty good time together at our home in the U.S. The day before Chinese New Year, my husband and I drove to the Portland airport to pick up his mom. On February 1, 2022, the day of Chinese New Year, the three of us went to the supermarket to buy a lot of ingredients, such as red tablecloths, candles, and flowers to get ready for our New Year's Eve dinner. Back in the afternoon, we each had our own tasks. My husband was responsible for tidying up the tablecloth and inserting the flowers into the vase. Mom was in charge of helping me wash the vegetables and prepare the dishes we would use for dinner. I was making all the food and lighting the candles. After everything was done, the New Year's Eve dinner was ready. We took some photos together. Although not in China, we had a happy Chinese New Year.

Written by: Bei Shi



Moving to the U.S.

When I moved to the U.S., I brought a backpack and two suitcases. Also I sent 12 more boxes by ship. There were clothes, shoes, Japanese books, and ceramics. I was raised in Imari City. It is a very famous ceramic city. I like ceramics very much. I collected many ceramics. I brought some of my favorite ones with me. If I miss Japan and my city, I feel like home with my things here. Also, I brought some photos. However, I always look at my phone photos. I came here just myself, but fortunately I don't feel too sad and miss home because this is my new life with my husband. Even if I didn't bring too many things, I'm so happy to be with my husband.

Written by: Chie Kaneko

Tillamook Road

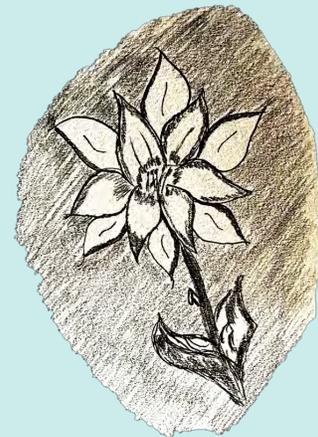
My trip to Tillamook was exciting because I saw beautiful plains and nice views. I saw a lot of ranches. The weather was good. I stopped every time I saw a beautiful river. The road was surrounded by trees. After 2 hours on the road, I came to Rockaway Beach, and I was there until I saw the sun go down. I felt peaceful and enjoyed my short trip.

Written by: Nallely Rodrigues

First Time in a Car Crash in the U.S.

This is my experience with a car crash in the U.S. I just had 1 year in the U.S. I bought my first car here 6 months ago. In Mexico I used to have a car since I was 21 years old. In my country, I had 3 different cars since I started to drive. I remember when my family taught me to drive. It was a beautiful experience because every day a different person came to my home to give me a lesson for one hour per day. They were always worried about security, so we always had car insurance. Now, when I started to drive in the U.S., I bought car insurance. So the other day, in the parking lot, I backed out and another car too, and we had a little car crash. It was scary for me because I was never involved in an accident. But the other had experience with that, so she told me what we have to do. She made me feel comfortable and safe. Both of us had full coverage, so we just did an insurance report, and the insurance companies did the rest.

Written by: Celeste Carillo Granados



Sketch by Alexandra Salas
ESOL Level 2



ESOL Level 3 Students Write about Life in the U.S.

Packing for the USA

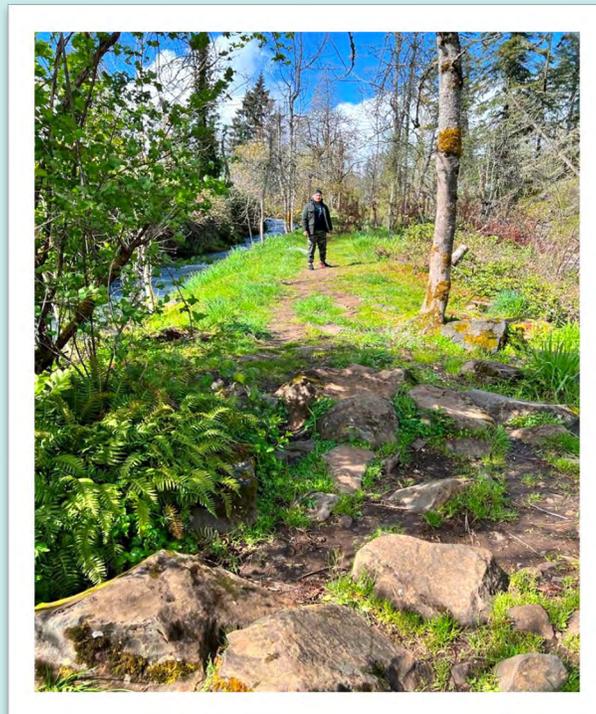
The first time when I came to the U.S., I brought 1 bag. My bag had curry paste, 1 set of clothes, some local food, and a computer. My backpack had documents, my passport, a telephone, and some money. So, I had a light bag because of my husband's advice. When I arrived, he took me to buy new clothes. He told me if I brought clothes from Thailand, I can't wear them in Portland because Portland is very cold, and Thailand is very hot.

You know, I had the most difficult thing to leave in Thailand. This was my children. So, the first year when I came here, my husband and I worked very hard and worked every day to make money. Then the second year, we were able to bring my children to the USA.

Written by: Pornchanok Phithakchatinon

In Portland I really like this place because there are some things that are very beautiful. The mountains are a far away adventure and there are fresh winds. I love to visit Mt Hood and I like to see all the rivers. One time we went driving with my friends and it was a sunny beautiful day. Selvin, Luis and I went to visit the river. The directions weren't good. There was so much snow. The car stopped in the snow. Selvin and I pushed the car. Luis was driving. We were so hungry. Our shoes and pants were wet. We went home and it was a sunny day. We always like to have fun here in Oregon.

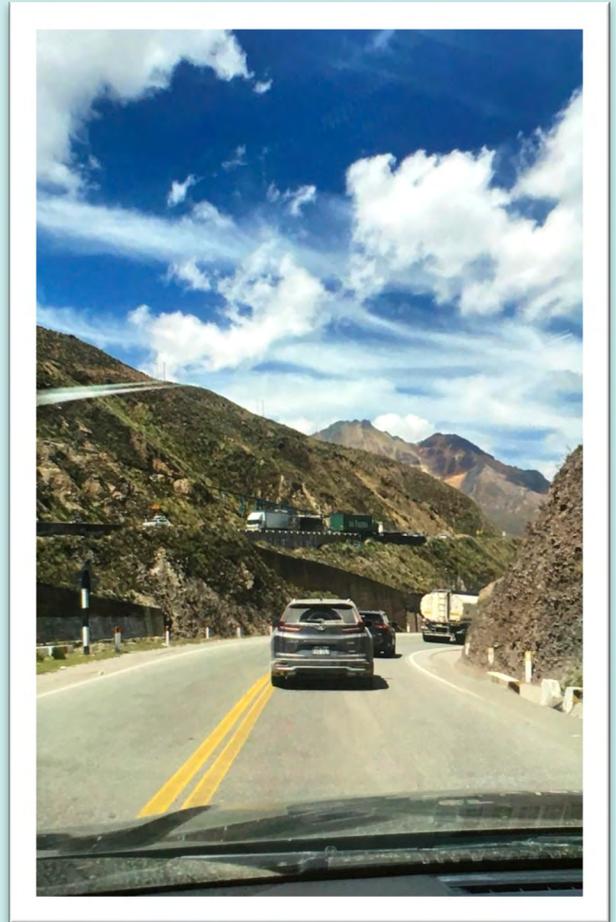
Written by: Juan Panjoj Larez



An ESOL Level 3 Student Writes about the differences between the U.S. and Peru

The culture is different in the United States. The U.S. is very big. In the United States the people are nice, but very reserved. Here the people have a lot of help from the government and lots of opportunities to study. Peru is small, but the people are very welcoming and friendly. People in Peru tend to be more talkative and open than in the United States. They are also more expressive in feelings. They like to share a lot. I don't have help from the government to study. The father or mother have to pay for the study. Some children work every day to help their mother and father. Some children have money to pay. In Peru there are a lot of private universities.

Written by: Lucia Valdez



ESOL Level 3 Students Write about their Favorite Season

We like the summer because we can go to the beach and we can go eat ice cream. We love ice cream. Juan likes vanilla ice cream and Jennifer likes maracuya. We made a picture for you so you can see the maracuya. We like to go hiking in the forest. We don't wear jackets. We like the morning because the sun is up and beautiful.

Written by: Juan Alvarado & Jennifer Barbosa



A Poem by ESOL Level 3 Student: Da Li

To My Wife

How do I love you? Let me count the ways:

I love you more than I can say.

I love you as much as my health.

I love you so much that I cannot breathe.

I love you because you are my wife and you are my sunshine!

This illustration by:
Juan Panjoj Larez ESOL Level 3
Selvin Gutierrez Morales ESOL Level 3
Juan Jose Sop Yac ESOL Level 2
Juan Alvarado Joaquin ESOL Level 2
Maria Juan Bartolome ESOL Level 1



ESOL Level 4

Qualities to Be a Good Teacher

If you want to be a good teacher, here are some things to help you. First and most important is being respectful with all your students. When you are respectful with your students, you get respect too and this is really important to be successful as a teacher. Second, a good teacher always listens to their students, and helps them individually but in class too. Sometimes some students are ashamed in front of other students, so a good teacher knows how to listen in private. Third, good teachers have a lot of patience with all their students and understand when something is wrong. A good teacher is not only a teacher but also is a friend too, so his/her students feel they can trust them. So if you want to be a good teacher, you need to work hard on these qualities. Written by: Tania Gonzalez Martinez

How to Be a Skilled ESOL Student

Have you ever wondered what skills a good ESOL student needs and how hard he has to work to learn a second language? First, in my opinion, the most important thing is to be enthusiastic about learning because you can dedicate all the time you need with no pain and this makes studying easier. Also, to be organized is important too. Organizing your time, your space and your materials helps you with your lessons and your job in class. Next, concentration is necessary to be able to memorize what you are studying. For example, you need to concentrate when you study irregular verbs, and when you do the quiz exercises. In addition, the ability to study is important to apply the study techniques. For example, using studying techniques, like writing the texts and difficult words in your notebook, helps you memorize them. Last, being responsible when you attend classes and when you do your homework is very important. In conclusion, working hard is very important to learn a second language.

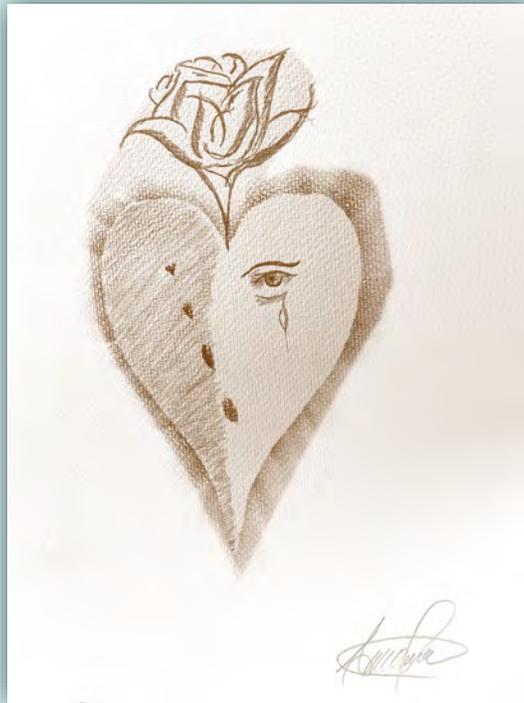
Written by: Juan de Grado



Long Way Home

For me, home is where my family lives. I moved to the U.S because they live here. I am not married, so family is for me: my parents, my older sister with her husband, and nephews. I guess it is important to live near your family especially when your parents are not young. I can take care of them. Retired people need love, and care. I don't have a child, but I have two nephews. I didn't see how they grew up. They have been living in the U.S. for nineteen years. Now I see two young men, but to me they are still little boys. I am happy when I see them. I can share my love with them. Family is a power, it is my wings. In hard times in my life I always knew that I am not alone. Their support made me strong. It took me nineteen years to get home. It's been a long road, but now I'm here.

Written by: Solomca Olga

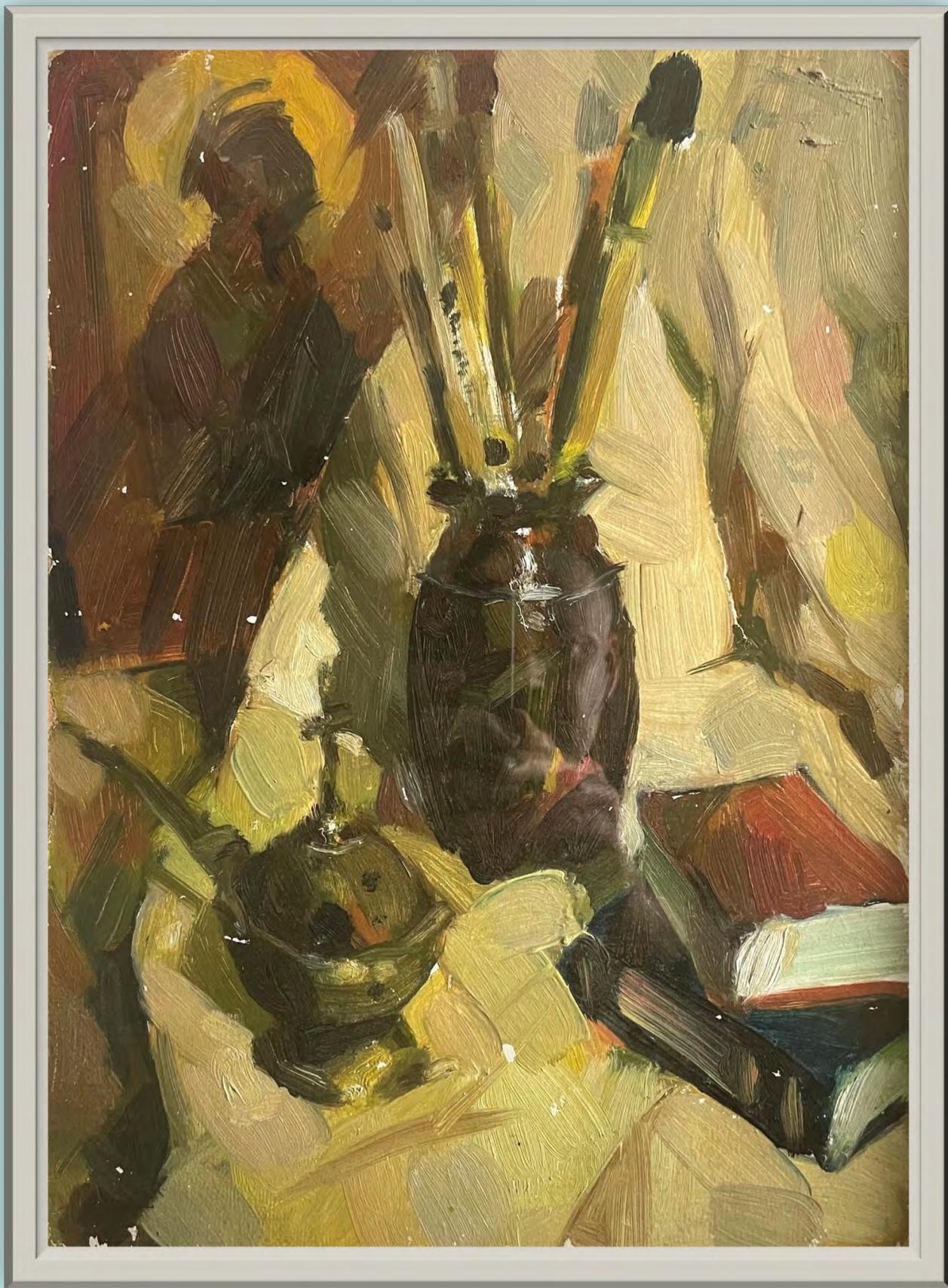


Sketch by Alexandra Salas
ESOL Level 2

My Hometown

Although I came to the United States, I think my hometown Guangzhou is the most special. For example, there are three seasons of summer and one season of rain. There is beautiful scenery at Baiyun Mountain in Guangzhou. There are many places to visit there. For example, you can play extreme sports, you can enjoy the flowers, you can overlook Guangzhou and so on. There are many restaurants, but my favorite is Yum Cha. In conclusion, if you travel to Guangzhou, you can visit Baiyun Mountain.

Written by: Yuting Luo



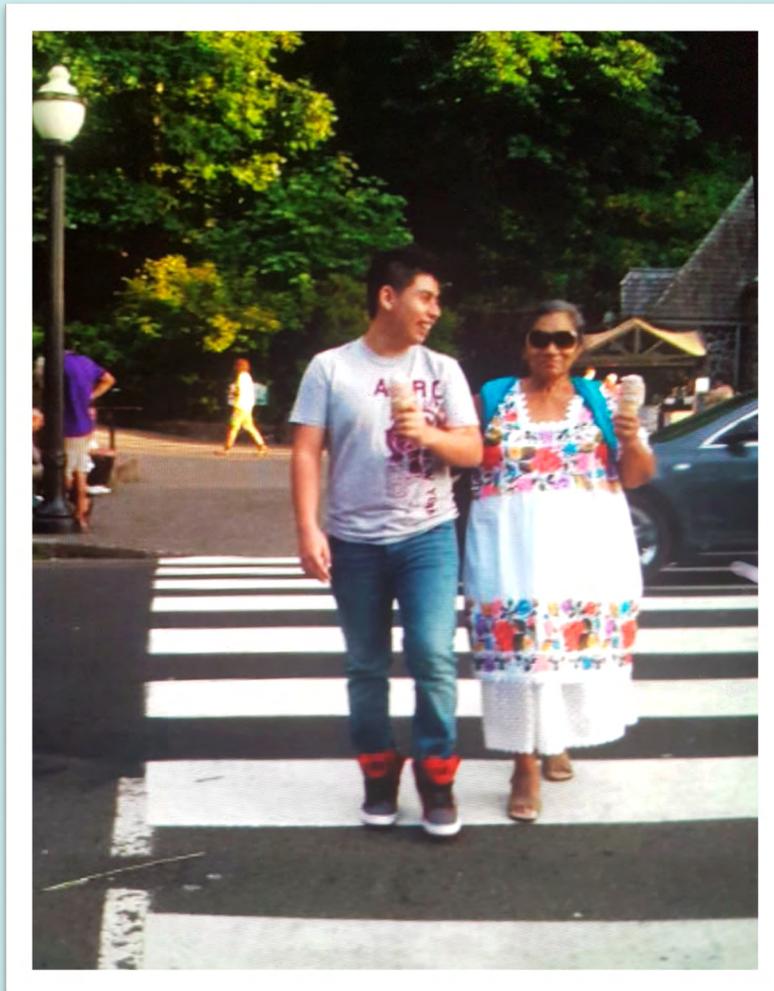
Daniil Voronin: Vintage still life. Cardboard, Oil. 2010 35x25 cm

ESOL Level 5

The Best Gift Ever

When I was 7 years old, I got the best gift ever from my grandma. I remember when she spoke to me and I couldn't understand her. My grandma just spoke Maya and she wanted to teach me her language. In the beginning I was scared because the teacher just spoke Maya and I didn't understand anything and I felt frustrated because I wanted to learn. The vowels are so hard to learn. Every afternoon when the class was finished my grandmother tried to speak with me in Maya, and she helped me every day with my homework. Always she made me feel so comfortable. Little by little I understood a little bit more every day. One year later I understood a lot more Maya, but I couldn't speak like my grandma. Three years later, I can speak, read, write and understand Maya. I felt so satisfied with my hard work. I thought when you are determined to do something like learning a new language, art or anything else, you can do it, if you want. I admired my grandma for giving me the best gift ever. Now I love every language and I focus on learning English like a native person. I love to learn new languages. If I can do it, you can do it.

Written by: Charlie Navarro Guillen



ESOL Level 6

Time Lapse

For most people undoubtedly, childhood was the best time of their life because their main focus is to worry about school, chores, and how to spend their free time, like it was for me. However, childhood is different for my kids now because of the new ways that they are living their childhood compared to my childhood based on school, chores, and free time.

First, school is an important part of every child's life. Elementary school was a journey for me. Especially because I had to walk one mile every single morning to get there because there was no school bus. Second, I had to wear a uniform everyday: some days an official uniform, and other days a PE uniform. Also, there was no cafeteria or free lunch. I had to take a good breakfast before going to school, or bring something with me for lunch time. Finally, there was no computer lab in my school, so I did not have access to technology. However, elementary school now looks really different for my kids starting with the way that they get to school. First, they have access to a school bus. Second, some schools require uniforms, but most of them don't. Third, they have a cafeteria for no cost, or they can have a reduced price for the cafeteria. Finally, my kids have a computer lab and access to technology.

Chores for me were a big adventure. I had to work after school in a sewing factory Monday through Saturday, so as soon as school finished, I always ran home to change my uniform. I always ate something before I went to work. Sunday was my favorite day because there was no school or work, and I could go to the main city to play soccer with my friends. On the other hand, nowadays chores are very simple for my kids. They only need to worry about doing their homework, cleaning their rooms, and taking out the garbage. These are easier tasks for them.

Free time was my favorite time. I did not have a lot of free time because I had to go to school and work, but the way I spent my free time on Sundays was unique. I played soccer in three different teams. One game in the morning, second in the afternoon, and finally the last one at night time. I was the number one on my team. Conversely, the way that my kids have been spending their free time is so different. They have the time to do whatever they want in their free time. Starting with playing Legos, coloring, creations, slime, TV, and last but not least technology.

In conclusion, although childhood is an important part of our life, every kid has a different way in how they live and spend their time in school, chores, and free time. In my opinion, I preferred the childhood that I lived because It has been helping me to have a successful life. About my kid's childhood, I am happy that I can provide them with what they need. The good advantage of technology that they have these days and the support of their schools makes their lives easier.

Written by: Rosario Azpeitia





Learning a New Language is Gucci

Have you ever heard the word Gucci? If you are like me, you probably think about the fashion brand, but it is also used to describe something nice and cool. Similarly, learning a second language can be cool, but I know how it can be a struggle and difficult, especially when it's time to have a conversation with a native speaker. However, I will tell you some tips that could be helpful to improve your speaking skills. There are three types of exercises that you can do, and they don't need to be followed in a specific order.

The first exercise is to use an equal ratio, or in other words speak for the same amount of time you watched or listened to an English program, so you can match your understanding with speaking ability. For example, you can pick a short podcast and listen to it, then try to understand the topic and the main idea, and at the end speak as much as you can trying to summarize and give your opinion.

Another type of practice is to learn and use a new word, concept, or idiom every single day, and make this a habit for learning. Don't just memorize the word and then let it die in your brain. Instead, you should try to use it in a conversation or talking by yourself out loud, and how it can be related to your life. Likewise, at the end of the day you can practice summarizing what you did. In particular, you can think of at least 5 things that you did. Maybe you start to imagine words and sentences in your own languages, but force yourself to switch your ideas in English, and then speak out loud trying to describe and explain everything that you have in your mind.

The last tip I would recommend to you is "shadowing," and don't worry: it is nothing creepy and complicated. It is a simple method that consists of listening to someone speaking and repeating simultaneously what it was said, and it could be used for example while you are watching a video on YouTube. This procedure is focused on improving your pronunciation and intonation because your tongue is also a muscle, and it needs to be trained.

As you can see, these are just simple tips that I hope can help you to improve your speaking abilities. In my own experience: just take your time, don't rush, don't be shy, make mistakes and learn from it. A quote from Voltaire inspired me, which reads "don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

Written by: Mirko Felicioni

Jaw's Aquarium

Nowadays the number of families having pets is increasing because of the COVID-19. Dogs and cats are popular pets, but some people want to have rare creatures. If you want a rare one, I recommend sharks. I believe that they are one of the most rare pets in the world. Now I will tell you how to keep sharks as pets. It has only three steps.

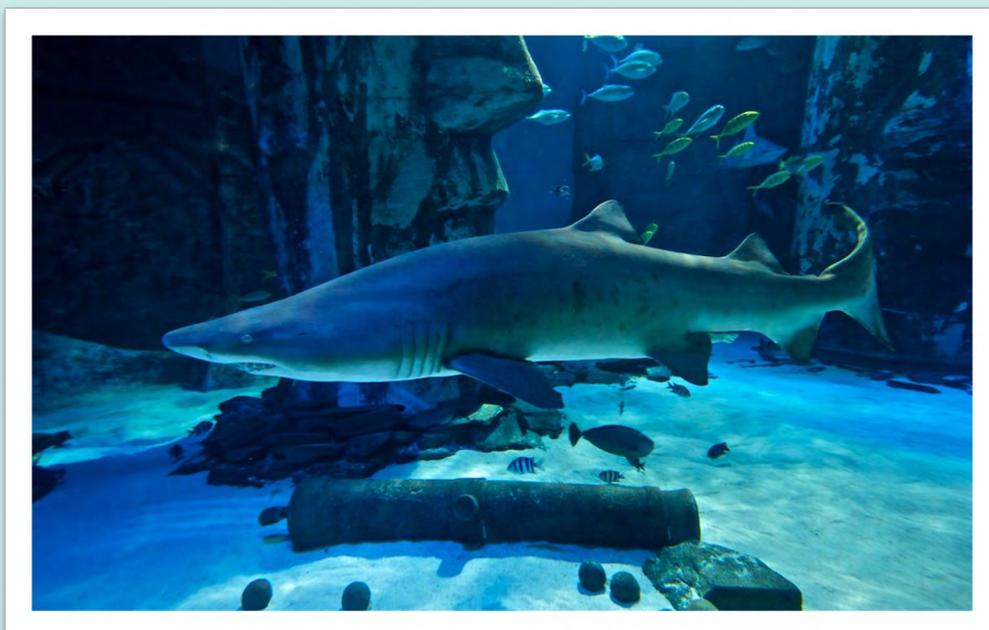
For the first step, you must prepare a big water tank. The bigger, the better for sharks. The tank needs to be kept in a proper temperature, so you should put it inside a house or a garage. You have to take into account the weight of the tank. Otherwise, the floor might fall off. If you are thinking of remodeling your house, it's a good idea to put the water tank under the living room. Then, you can have a happy time with sharks whenever you are in the living room.

The second step is to prepare saltwater. As you know, sharks live in seawater, so you need a huge amount of artificial saltwater. You can use seawater as well if you live near the sea. In either case, be sure to install a filter to the tank because the water must be clean at all times.

Now that you have prepared, let's finally put the sharks in the water tank! There is one thing you should not do at this step. Never put other fish in the same tank. Sharks are willing to eat them. After putting the sharks in, you may feed them. When preparing shark food, you should go to a supermarket instead of a pet shop because most pet shops don't sell shark food. To be honest, they love eating sea lions, but it would be impossible to get them. So instead, you can get raw fish in the supermarket.

To summarize, you can be a shark's owner if you follow these steps. You can see sharks anytime you want without going to the sea or an aquarium. In addition, you may feel like a celebrity. I promise that you can enjoy a home party with your Jaw's aquarium.

Written by: Wakako Yatabe



ESOL Level 7

The Illumination Project: A Summary-Response

The Illumination Project is a theater program at Portland Community College that promotes student leadership, discusses social topics, and more. It is an innovative theater program that enhances social justice. This is a project of the Sylvania Women's Resource Center. "Lady Like" is about a girl whose name is Katherine and experiences sexism. Her father abused her and strangers discriminated against her, attacking her with words.

Sexism is real in society and we can't ignore it, but many people don't realize it. The girl in the play experiences sexism, and her reaction is the same experience that many girls have had. How to view this problem? How to solve this problem? Some classmates who are in my writing class directly refuted sexism and told the person in their own strong language that it was wrong to do so. Some students spoke with softer language to gently remind others. In any case, we are aware of the existence of this sexism, and we are actively looking for ways to solve it. This is a very exciting place.

I enjoyed this show so much, and it made me realize two problems. First, how do you view sexism, and what should we do if we see others suffering from sexism? Second, what should we do if we experience gender discrimination? There are jobs that both men and women can hold, but companies prefer to choose men. Because women go through the process of getting married and becoming pregnant, the company needs to continue to pay them during their maternity leave. Therefore, many companies are reluctant to recruit female employees. In China, some companies ask women when they are recruiting, if they plan to get married and have children in a short period of time, if they plan to get a boyfriend, and so on. If the girl's answer is "Yes", then she will lose the job. In order not to be fired, many women will not get pregnant or have boyfriends. If this happens to me, how do I fix it? My answer is that you must resist, and you must speak out to protect your rights. If you can communicate and solve it yourself, that's great. If you can't, you must find a lawyer to protect your rights. Gender discrimination is a historical issue. It will take a long time for us to completely solve it. For our common interests, we all need to work together.

Written by: Nikki Li



Portland Community College
Spring 2022

The Illumination Project

Interactive Theater Addressing Issues of Sexism and Gender Oppression

Monday, May 9th - 10:00 am - 11:50 am - "Who Decides?"
 Wednesday, May 11th - 11:00 am - 12:50 am - "Is It Working Out?"
 Thursday, May 12th - 2:00 pm - 3:50 pm - "Is It Working Out?"
 Monday, May 16th - 9:00 am - 10:50 am - "Who Decides?"
 Tuesday, May 17th - 9:00 am - 10:50 am - "Lady-Like"
 Tuesday, May 17th - 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm - "Who Decides?"
 Thursday, May 19th - 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm - "Who Decides?"
 Thursday May 19th 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - "Is It Working Out?"
 Monday, May 23rd - 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm - "Lady-Like"
 Tuesday, May 24th - 10:00 am - 11:50 am - "Lady-Like"
 Wednesday, May 25th - 2:00 pm - 3:50 pm - "Is It Working Out?"
 Thursday, May 26th - 3:00 pm - 4:50 pm - "Is It Working Out?"
 Tuesday, May 31st - 11:00 am - 12:50 pm - "Lady-Like"

Change to a New Life or Stay The Same

On a sunny Monday in August 2015, my phone was beeping. I got a new message from the UN saying that my case was accepted, and I had to be ready to move. Could you imagine yourself living in the same house for 9 years with no change in your routine? Do you think it's easy to have a new home with a new life and new skills? For me, it was really difficult to make a decision when I decided to change not only my home but also my country as well. That is what I faced when I decided to move to the United States.

I had a wonderful job when I was in Kuwait, which is why it was difficult for me to decide if I wanted to stay or leave. I was a teacher in a bilingual school, and earned good money from it. My kids were students with me in the same school, and my husband, who was an interpreter, had a great job too. We lived in Kuwait for nine years after we had moved from Iraq, from 2005 to 2015. It seemed that we had a great, perfect life, but in fact it was not. Kuwait was not our country and the Kuwaiti government could have canceled our residence at any time. Moreover, we couldn't visit our family in Iraq because my husband had worked with the U.S. Army during the Gulf War before we moved to Kuwait, and he could have been killed if he entered there by the militia. Having good jobs was not enough to have a perfect life. Moving to the United States would give us hope for a future and a better life for my kids. They could get a good education, we would have insurance and a safe life. We could also visit our country after we became U.S. citizens. The advantages of moving to the United States would be a lot.

On the other hand, we would face a lot of challenges when we moved, like language, the culture, work, etc. We had to decide between the two lives. Should we stay with good jobs and in Arabic culture, or move and start a new different life? My husband and I started thinking about what was most important to our family. Was it the money and living in a country similar to ours without safety, or living in a safe place and gaining the best life and future for our kids with challenges? Then we made a decision: safety is the most important. We left everything behind us and looked forward to a new life and a safe home for our kids. All challenges became easier after a few months.

In closing, that experience was not easy for us. Changing homes and moving to another country was a difficult decision, especially when you have a good life. You have to look for advantages and compare the two lives. At the same time, it was a good lesson for me. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, and you have to make a decision, don't be afraid and always choose the right thing, even if it's difficult.

Written by: Halah Aljumaah

