

Be Ready for More Immigration News!

By Michelle Fernandes

We are revising the immigration law, rules, regulations and interpretations pertaining to F1 (international students). We are also observing the way many schools apply those regulations to comply with the law and better serve the students.

On **November 20th**, 2006 at 5:00PM, Tammie will host an open house to review everything with the students. Make sure you are here. We will be talking about your rights and

obligations as an F1 student, other types of visas, employment, social security, driver's license, etc...

Besides this one-hour workshop, Tammie will be teaching an immigration elective class every Monday at 5:00 PM called "Welcome to the United States – A Guide for New Immigrants." This class is open to all levels. You can find the book (in many languages) for this class online at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/M-618.pdf>.

This course will last two months and we will talk about American culture, values, and obligations as a citizen, and again about the right path to permanent residency. It starts on November 27th and lasts until December 18th, 2006.



Make sure you participate in those events. We are sure you will benefit from them!!

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October 2006 Writing Contest Winners

Topic: A Time You Were Scared.

First Place is the essay by Caldas, Pedro. Unlike all the other essays, this one might have different interpretations. It's a story about a young boy who meets a "black monster". whose strength is superhuman and terrifying yet it has an enigmatic smile. It can be literal or a symbol of a deeper psychological fear or social division. The essay can be read as an account of an actual meeting seen from a child's point of view or pure fiction. Mr. Caldas gives only a brief outline of the action. The reader has to imagine the details.

The second place essay was also unusual in that it doesn't describe a specific event but instead talks about how to change the feeling of being scared into the feeling of meeting a challenge, "all kinds of fears are pretty much the same and I try to see the word fear like the word challenge." Ms. Santos goes on to say that the best feeling in the world is when you overcome a fear which is the same as successfully meeting a challenge.

Third place is a more traditional essay by Ms. Valli. She describes a famous blackout 7 years ago in Brazil which affected a huge part of the country.

1st Place:
Pedro Caldas
(WR100)



2nd Place:
Carolina Santos
(WR400)



3rd Place:
Nadia Valli
(WR400)



Honorable Mentions:

Rosangela Silva,
Myung-Hee Kim,
Claudia Martinez.

Pronunciation - It's Up to You



Of all the aspects of learning English as a Second or Other Language, correct pronunciation is, in my opinion, the one which requires the greatest amount of self-motivation and self-discipline.



To begin there are fewer objective criteria for judging improvement in pronunciation than in most of the other aspects- such as grammar, vocabulary, and spelling.

Additionally, there are few-if any- people outside the Pronunciation class, who will tell you that you are saying a word incorrectly, or a sentence with an ambiguous inflection. There are two reasons for this. First of all, correct pronunciation may not be your largest priority at this point in your learning, in which case focusing on Pronunciation may feel overwhelming. Second, if there are other students in the Approach lobby or people at the Post Office or Supermarket, they may correct your grammar, vocabulary, or tell you a better way to say something, but they will rarely correct your pronunciation or incorrect pronunciation habits- either because they are being polite or tolerant or because they don't have the time!

Finally, you have to take your learning with you outside of Pronunciation class and practice constantly in order to make "corrected pronunciation" not only mentally but also as a "muscular" habit. This means that you not only need to remember what sounds you tend to pronounce incorrectly, but also to know, in your mouth and facial muscles what it feels like to say the sounds correctly. Many students are very capable of saying certain sounds or words 100% correctly in Pronunciation class. But when they walk out of class, they fall back into their old patterns. Correcting this takes a lot

of self-attention and care.

I have created a method, which I've called the C.L.E.A.R.E.R. method, to help you with the critical aspects of improving your pronunciation. This acronym gives you tools which will help you.

C stands for Choosing- choosing to make pronunciation a priority and a practice. You need this motivational part in order for all the other tools to be effective.

L stands for Listening to Yourself. Hear how pronounce your English words as you carry on a casual English conversation. Listen not only when you are starting to learn but also as you improve so you can congratulate yourself!

E stands for emulate. This is another word for imitate. Find someone..... a teacher, an actor/ actress, a TV personality, etc. who speaks American English well, and practice sounding EXACTLY like them. I love doing impersonations, so I know this works. If you can't find someone, ask your teacher for ideas. (Hint: I'd highly recommend NOT choosing Arnold Schwarzenegger or anyone from South Park as your role models!)

A stands for Ask. Ask your teachers, your friends, your classmates, the tutors, your roommates, your spouses and other relatives. Ask them for feedback. Ask them whether they hear a difference when you consciously try to say a word in a new way.

Because the purpose of pronunciation is to provide optimal clarity to listeners, asking listeners what they hear is critical. (Another method of doing this is to record your own voice on a cassette or digital recorder. In this case, when you play back your voice, you become the listener)

R stands for Running List. Keep a Running List of sounds, words or phrases that you may have difficulty saying or that people ask you to repeat when you are speaking to them. This will not only make you more aware of what you are saying, but will give you something practical and concrete to practice at home.

E stands for Exaggerate. This is a favorite technique in my classes- mostly because my students think they or I look really silly making facial contortions in order to say a word correctly. However, exaggerating ensures that you are making muscular adjustments to say a word. These may be muscular "positions" which you never had to use in your native language. A common example is the sound "th" which students from many parts of the world have difficulty with. Even if I "kind of" hear the sound, I will insist that I see their tongue stick out between their teeth!

R stands for Repeat. I can not stress this aspect/tool for pronunciation strongly enough. As I said earlier, to correct your own pronunciation, you need mental and muscle memory of how something sounds and feels. If you have said an English word incorrectly, for example, 100 times, and you say that word correctly in class one or two times, which way is your mind and mouth muscles going to remember? Once you've said that word correctly 101 times, then and only then will you be likelier to say the word correctly!

As a final note, please be aware that there are Accent Reduction CD's in the Self-Study Room. Just ask Alex or the Tutors for them. Good luck and keep talking!





by Brian Smith

A Little Bit of History

Thanksgiving Day

Most people believe that Thanksgiving in North America began in 1621 with the Pilgrims who had landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts the year before. Native Americans had celebrated the Autumn harvesting of vegetables and grains for thousands of years, but in 1578, British navigator



Martin Frobisher held the first documented, formal Thanksgiving feast in what is now known as Newfoundland, Canada. Frobisher had been searching for the

elusive Northwest Passage waterways in northern Canada and the Arctic Ocean to use as a shortcut to India and China. On his way, he established a settlement in Newfoundland, and to express thanks for surviving the long and difficult journey across the Atlantic Ocean (he lost two of his three ships in a storm), held the first in a long tradition of Thanksgiving celebrations.

In 1621, when the Pilgrims had their Thanksgiving festival, it was a three-day feast which they shared with the native Indians who had taught them how to farm and hunt wild game.

Without the help of the Wampanoag Indians, the Pilgrims may not have



survived their first year in the New World. In fact, half of approximately 100 Pilgrims died that first winter. And the food they ate at that time was not exactly the

same as what we're used to eating on Thanksgiving Day today. Deer and other game were eaten as well as wild turkey (slightly different from today's enormous domesticated turkey), and boiled fish. String beans, squash, carrots and onions were some of the vegetables they ate.

But corn was not as good as what we're used to eating now and was probably ground up and eaten as a soup. Potatoes hadn't been cultivated in New England yet, so they didn't have any of those to eat. And they didn't have popcorn, either - that's just a myth. You wouldn't recognize the desserts they ate, if they had any at all, since there was no sugar left over from their voyage, and honey was too difficult to collect and store. Bread, cakes and pies, as we know them, were non-existent since they didn't have ovens to bake them in.

Also, Pilgrims didn't use forks or plates, so their first Thanksgiving meal was eaten right off the table with knives, spoons, and their fingers.

The pilgrims didn't celebrate Thanksgiving regularly, but by the 1650s it had become an annual event throughout the colonies. The dates of the celebration varied from colony



to colony, depending on the time of the harvests. President George Washington proclaimed December Thanksgiving holidays in 1789 and 1795. Presidents Adams and Madison also made proclamations of a Thanksgiving holiday. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving an annual November event as a way to bring unity to the country which was in the middle of the Civil War. But it wasn't until 1941 that the fourth Thursday of November was established as the official date of Thanksgiving. Previously, each state had the right to decide when it would celebrate the holiday.

Thanksgiving, for most people, is one of the most enjoyable and relaxing holidays (except if you're the one doing the cooking). There are no pre-

sents to buy or decorations to put up. The only thing you have to do is



get together with family and friends, acknowledge all that you are thankful for, and eat. Typical food for Thanksgiving dinner is turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, sweet potatoes, yams, cranberry sauce, string beans, ham, and corn bread.

Desserts may consist of pumpkin pie with whipped cream, apple pie, pecan pie, and other various delectable creations. However, many people use this time to help the community by serving free meals to the homeless and the poor, or by visiting lonely seniors. Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday, but most people also get the following Friday off from work or school, so if they live away from their hometowns, they can travel home for a long weekend to be with relatives. If one isn't able to make it home, it is not uncommon to be invited to a friend's house to celebrate Thanksgiving with his or her family. On Thanksgiving morning there are parades throughout the country, the biggest of which is nationally televised and sponsored by Macy's Department Store in New York City. If you like American football, you can watch college and professional games on TV all day long - a couch potato's paradise.

Happy Turkey Day!





Jokes

by Nadia

From www.hicards.com

Catch those teeth

"Grandpa, I'm really proud of you," said the modish young lady.
"What's to be proud of?" asked the old man.

The young lady replied, "I noticed that when you sneeze, you've learned to put your hand in front of your mouth."

"Of course," explained Grandpa. "How else can I catch my teeth???"



She sent email

At the mall a little girl dimbed onto Santa's lap, and he asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "But, but, didn't you get my E-mail?"

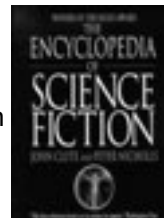
All the books

A judge in his golden years decided that retirement had become too boring. So he volunteered as a librarian at his local library branch. A week later, his supervisor, a stem woman in her sixties, called him into her office.

She deared her throat and said, "You know, I appreciate that when you were a judge you were stern with lawbreakers. And you carry that with you to your new job, which is very commendable. But when someone owes an overdue fine, you can't just -"

"I had to throw the book at him," said the judge.

"I know," said the librarian, "but the Entire Encyclopedia Britannica?"



Just hit enter

My 10 yr old niece says her prayers every night and instead of amen she says: "Hit ENTER"



Poem of the Month

My November

Guest

Robert Frost

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;
She loves the bare, the withered tree;
She walked the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.
She talks and I am fain to list:
She's glad the birds are gone away,
She's glad her simple worsted gray
Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,
The faded earth, the heavy sky,
The beauties she so truly sees,
She thinks I have no eye for these,
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow,
But it were vain to tell her so,
And they are better for her praise.



November Birthdays

- 4 Paula Gallego
- 5 Gamaliel Waney
- 8 Joney Teixeira
- 9 Fernando Lima
- 11 Roman Zadorozhnyy
- 13 Neira Costa
- 14 Angela Wismer
- 14 Olga Rogozin
- 14 Silvia Helena Goulardins
- 15 Eliana Resstel
- 20 Mert Kalafatoglu
- 20 Nuttawoot Boonjunta
- 22 Altieris Santana
- 24 Chia-yu Sung
- 26 Mariko Fukui
- 27 Roma Hwang
- 29 Meng-Ting Chen

<http://www.egreenway.com/months/mnnov.htm>

October Activities Scrapbook



Darth Vader invades the school. Actually, it's Diego at our Halloween Party.



The annual Approach Halloween Parade makes a stop in front of Brooks Pharmacy.



Michael shows off his crazy hat and Kuan Cheng shows off his face paint during our Halloween party.



Winner of the Best Costume prize, Daiane, as Little Bo-Peep, takes home \$50.

“The best part of the activities is to be together with students from all over the world.”



Simla displays her angel wings during International Lunch.



Who is that caped crusader? Zorro? No, it's Michelle at the Bethany Union Halloween Party.



Who is this flying man? It's Carl, the Butterfly Man during a trip to mountains with students.



Young poses for the camera before he is almost run over by the train.



by Luciana Sarra

BBC's 50 Places to Visit Before You Die

Taj Mahal: Located on the Yamuna River in India, it is considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and the finest example of the late style of Indian Islamic architecture. The Mughal emperor Shah Jahan ordered it built after the death of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, in 1629. The building was completed between 1632 and 1638. The entire complex, with gardens, gateway structures, and mosque, was completed in 1643. The Taj Mahal mausoleum stands at one end of the garden adorned with fountains and marble pavements. The garden contains four water channels to echo the four rivers of the Islamic Paradise. The white marble exterior is inlaid with semiprecious stones arranged in Arabic inscriptions, floral designs, and arabesques and the salient features of the interior are accented with agate, jasper, and colored marbles. The tomb chamber, with its two sarcophagi, is an octagonal room in the center of the edifice (the royal couple, however, is buried in an underground vault). The chamber is softly illuminated by the light that passes through double screens of intricately carved marble set high in the walls. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taj_Mahal)



Canadian Rockies: The Canadian Rockies comprise the Canadian segment of the North American Rocky Mountains range. The southern end in Alberta and British Columbia borders Idaho and Montana of the USA. The northern end is at the Liard Plain in British Columbia. Contrary to popular misconception, the Rockies do not extend into the Yukon or Alaska, or into central British Columbia. North of the Liard River, the Mackenzie Mountains, which are not part of the Rockies, form a portion of the border between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Mountains west of the Rocky Mountain Trench are also distinct ranges and not part of the Rockies. The Canadian Pacific Railway was founded to provide a link from the province of British Columbia to the eastern provinces. The main difficulty in providing such a link were the Rockies themselves: treacherous mountain passes, fast rivers and sheer drops made for a difficult railway construction process. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Rockies)



Uluru, Australia: Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is a large sandstone rock formation in central Australia, in the Northern Territory. It is located in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, 440 km southwest of Alice Springs. Uluru is sacred to the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara, the Aboriginal people of the area, and has many springs, waterholes, rock caves and ancient paintings. It is listed as a World Heritage Area for both its cultural and natural values. Uluru is often referred to as a monolith, and for many years it was even listed in record books as the world's largest monolith. However that description is inaccurate, as it is part of a much larger underground rock formation which includes Kata Tjuta (also known as The Olgas). Uluru is notable for appearing to change color as the different light strikes it at different times of the day and year, with sunset a particularly remarkable sight. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uluru>)

Monthly Special - November

by Carl Phillips



November events and holidays:

- In India, Children's Day is celebrated on November 14, birth date of 1st Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- All Saints' Day, a Christian holiday. Observance is on November 1, the day after Halloween. In Sweden the All Saints' official holiday takes place on the first Saturday of November.
- Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is celebrated in Mexico on November 2.
- In Ireland November 1 is regarded as the first day of Winter.
- November 1 is called November Day (Lá Samhna) in Celtic tradition and is thus named in the Irish Calendar, where the month is called Mí na Samhna.

- Veterans' Day is celebrated in the United States on November 11. Remembrance Day is also celebrated on November 11 in the Commonwealth of Nations and various European countries (including France and Belgium) to commemorate World War I and other wars.
- Día de la Revolución, or Revolution Day, is celebrated in Mexico on November 20.
- World Run Day is celebrated on November 5.

Other names for November:

- In the American South, November is known as the "month of the dog". [citation needed]
- In Finnish, November is called marraskuu, meaning "month of the dead".

- In Xhosa, November is called ngeyeNkanga, meaning "month of the small yellow daisies".

Trivia

- November begins on the same day of the week as March every year and also February except in leap years.
- November's flower is the chrysanthemum.
- November's birthstone is the citrine or topaz (yellow).
- November in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to May in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

Retrieved from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November

Tips of the Month from Our Teachers



Reading Recommendation by Alison MacAdams

The Dictionary of Imaginary Places

by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi

If you could visit any imaginary place, where would you go? Dorothy's Oz, located somewhere over the rainbow? How about the island of Avalon, from Arthurian legends? Or perhaps you'd like to pick up some of the gold abundantly available in the South American kingdom of El Dorado? Authors Manguel and Guadalupi have successfully completed the daunting task of compiling a dictionary consisting of some of the most fascinating, magical, and intriguing sites found in literature, myth, and folklore. As you read this dictionary's entries you will find yourself rediscovering familiar legends, such as Atlantis, and wanting to learn more about some new locations!



Activity Tips by Andrew Haynes

HAMLET at the Strand

Actors' Shakespeare Project will open its third season with a production of Hamlet, one of the world's great tragedies, on the stage of the historic Strand Theatre.

Location: Strand Theater, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester

Nearest T Station: JFK UMass

Date: Every day from 10/19/2006 to 11/12/2006

Swan Lake

Following its triumphant 2003 Boston appearance, the Kirov Ballet and Orchestra return to showcase their incomparable production of Swan Lake. With Tchaikovsky's inspired and beloved score, and Marius Petipa's and Lev Ivanov's original choreography, Swan Lake is one of the Kirov's signature works and arguably the world's most beloved full-length ballet.

Location: The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116

Nearest T Station: Green Line: Boylston Street Station

When: Every Sunday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7:30 PM from 11/9/2006 to 11/12/2006

www.cityofboston.gov/calendar



Common Mistake by Luciana Sarra

Majority Are Majority Is

"Majority" is one of those words that can be either singular or plural. If you mean the word to describe a collection of individuals, then the word should be treated as plural: "The majority of e-mail users are upset about the increase in spam." If the word is used to describe a collective group, then consider it singular: "A 90% majority is opposed to scheduling the next meeting at 6:00 A.M." If you are uncertain which you mean, then choose whatever form sounds best to you; it's not likely to bother many people.

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/majority.html>



Movie Review by Brian Smith

Two Marlon Brando Movies

If you're a Marlon Brando fan, you'll love these movies.

On the Waterfront (1954)

Starring: Marlon Brando, Rod Steiger, Lee J. Cobb, Eva Marie Saint

Terry Malloy (Brando), a washed-up prizefighter who regrets giving up his chance for a shot at the championship, gets easy jobs on the docks from his brother Charley (Steiger), a corrupt mob lawyer. After witnessing the brutal murder of the brother of the woman he loves, Terry decides to stand up to the violence and greed of the waterfront union. Intense drama.

A Streetcar named Desire (1951)

Starring: Marlon Brando, Vivien Leigh, Kim Hunter, Karl Malden

In Tennessee Williams' psychological drama, Brando's character, Stanley Kowalski, is a rough, vulgar brute, who makes life miserable for his once well-to-do sister-in-law Blanche DuBois (Leigh) who has come to live with her sister Stella and Stanley. Stella seems to have already accepted her fate, but Blanche is a bit more complicated. Famous line from Brando: Stella!!!

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