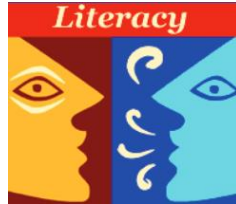


“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

August 3, 2020



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bi-Weekly Bulletin!

Hi everyone,

English Conversation classes - We are very excited to announce that we will have 17 ZOOM Conversation Classes starting in August including some new special class options. See below for more information on the classes. If you have a student who you think could benefit from attending a weekly conversation class please share the new class schedule with them, help them to select an appropriate class, and have them register on our website here:

<https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/conversation-classes/>

New Tutor Survey – we are curious as to how our tutors and conversation class leaders are adapting to COVID-19 protocols and remote tutoring and so we have a new survey for you. Please take the time to complete the survey as it provides us with direction on how best to support our tutor community.

Contact Us – As always you can contact us at:

Fplmail4@minlib.net

508.532.5574

<https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/>

English Conversation Classes

Weekly English Conversation Classes

The following English conversation classes will be held weekly beginning in August and most have space for new students. Tutors, students, and conversation class leads are encouraged to refer students who want to join a class. New students are asked to register on our website here:

<https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/conversation-classes/>

Contact information for registered students will be forwarded to the conversation class leader who will contact new students with ZOOM information and the date of the next class.

Beginner classes	Tuesday 11 - 12noon
	Tuesday 7 - 8pm
	Wednesday 2 - 3:30pm (children welcome!)

Thursday 3 - 4:30pm
Saturday 10-11am - FULL

Intermediate classes: Tuesday 1-2:30pm - FULL
Wednesday 9:30 -11am
Wednesday 10-11am
Wednesday 6-7pm (Focus on idioms);
Wednesday 6:30 - 8pm
Thursday 1 - 2:30pm
Friday 10:30 - 12noon

Advanced classes: Wednesday 7 - 8:30pm
Thursday 6:30 - 8:00pm - FULL

Special classes: Civics Monday 7 - 8:30pm
Book Club* Wednesday 7-8:30pm
Fun with Pronunciation Friday 1 - 2:30pm

* The book will be Seedfolks available online here:

<http://stsimondicroce.blogspot.com/2013/09/novel-study-seedfolks-complete-text.html>

Tutor Meetings

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday August 4th at 2:00 PM

Anne and Karen will explain the TPRS teaching framework (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) they are using in their Beginner English Conversation Class. Although we are using it in a conversation class, it could also be used in one-to-one tutoring.

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday August 11th at 2:00 PM

Laurie Christie will present Culips <https://esl.culips.com/> Culips episodes help students to speak English like native speakers and are designed to teach natural English vocabulary, idioms, expressions, slang, phrasal verbs, pronunciation, and grammar to take students to the next level.

Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Thursday August 6th and August 13th at 7:00 PM

All topics are welcome – it is always an interesting discussion.

Please join us on Thursday nights!

Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

iSL Collective – At our last tutor technology meeting, Laurie Christie walked us through this website. As the name states, it is a shared collective of worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, and lessons provided by tutors and teachers. It is free although you do have to create an account. If you are new to the site, she suggested starting with ESL worksheets searched by proficiency level. The site is UK based and she suggested downloading materials so you can edit them and remove any British usage/spellings that are in some of the materials. You can check out the iSL Collective here <https://en.islcollective.com/>

Here are a few other free websites, or websites that have free components, which Laurie suggested:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/>

<https://busyteacher.org/>

<https://www.teach-this.com/>

Slowing Audio Lesson Playback - One of our tutors asked if the audio lessons in the ESL library can be slowed down. We asked ESL Library and they responded that this function is not currently available on their website but they are considering it. In the meantime under Materials/Lessons/Everyday English/Super Simple Questions, the audio is available in “slow” and “natural” speeds for the 15 Pre-Beg and Beg lessons.

Video playback on YouTube can be slowed down or sped up by clicking on the “gear” icon which is usually in the video tool bar.

Good to Know

Student Assessments

We have an update - All students, including those who regularly attend conversation classes, who were not tested between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 will need to be tested remotely, most likely using the phone. We are currently identifying these students and will be contacting them either through their tutors or directly. This impacts most of our students. Students who were tested on or after July 1, 2019 do not have to be tested until May/June 2021.

Final Thoughts

I attended a MetroWest Nonprofit Network webinar this week about “Managing Volunteer Programs During COVID-19”. Many of the attendees are involved in face-to-face volunteer activities (e.g., food pantries, meal delivery, driving to appointments, etc.) that cannot be replaced by remote activities. Face-to-face interaction presents these programs with many difficult and complicated challenges. Hearing their challenges, I realized how lucky we are that we can continue working with many of our students remotely. I am also happy to report that Literacy Unlimited has implemented many of the suggestions made at the webinar. This week’s survey is based on some of the ideas suggested in the webinar. So please respond to the survey by next Monday, August 10th. We would really like to hear from you and we will share the results in the August 17th Newsy.

Hope everyone is staying healthy and safe and that you had a nice weekend,

