

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

August 17, 2020



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

Hi everyone,

English Conversation classes – Wow...we had an overwhelming response from students. We are thrilled to announce that we have placed 65 students in ZOOM Conversation Classes and many of our 17 weekly classes are wait list only at this time. As expected, based on our student survey, night classes are very popular. We have closed registrations temporarily while we place students and while conversation class leaders have a chance to assimilate new students into their classes.

A HUGE THANK-YOU is in order for all of our new Conversation class leaders who recently volunteered to take on a class and our existing class leaders who have worked through the challenges of remote learning and have offered their help to the new leaders. Your efforts have made these classes wildly popular.

Tutor Survey – Wow...we had 63 responses to the survey – thank-you! We learned that “Newsy” and the Tuesday afternoon Tutor Technology ZOOM meetings are the most positive changes we have made since the physical office closed in March. We also learned that most tutors are meeting less frequently with their students and for shorter periods of time. The most popular digital resource for tutors is ESL Library and the ISL Collective. And while 27% of respondents indicate that they are more engaged with the program, many of you feel less connected with students. We are still reviewing the results and are working on changes that will address the challenges highlighted in the survey. Stay tuned.

If you sent us a specific request in a survey response, please resend it in an email to us. The survey responses are anonymous and in most cases we can't identify who you are.

You can find more results from the survey on our website here

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

Tutor Meetings

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday August 18th at 2:00 PM

Laurie Christie will explore Kami <https://www.kamiapp.com/> with us. Kami is a digital app which can be used to transform an existing document into an interactive learning experience. If there is interest, Laurie will also show us Culips again <https://esl.culips.com/>. Culips podcast 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.

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday August 25th at 2:00 PM

The topic to be determined. If you are interested in a specific technology or digital resource, let us know.

To Join the Technology Zoom Meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/91577639943?pwd=Ykx4dklrUHdGYi84ZjNmSU41Yk51Zz09>

Meeting ID: 915 7763 9943

Password: 175494

If you wish to dial in to the meeting:

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Next meeting is Thursday, August 27th at 7:00 PM

Based on the results of the survey and recent attendance, we are going to host this meeting once a month going forward.

The Agenda is open - all topics are welcome – it is always an interesting discussion. We usually discuss recent happenings at Literacy Unlimited and at the libraries as well as specific tutor challenges.

To join the Virtual Office Hours Tutor meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/98024429241?pwd=RVlyWXJiVFlrVUV6SINpQmFiajlyQT09>

Meeting ID: 980 2442 9241

Password: 866990

If you wish to dial in to the meeting:

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Joining a ZOOM meeting: Click here [Literacy Unlimited/Covid-19 Ideas](#) for ZOOM download instructions for Android and iPhone/iOS devices. If you don't have video capability, you can just call into the meeting. Liehua has helped several tutors, who have called into a meeting, to set up the video at a later date.

Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

Tutor Survey Question:

Could you please send me or direct me to the site that may name the 200 or 300 most used words in the English language that was alluded to during a recent tutor on Zoom session (or send me the list if it exists). Thanks.

Answer: To find these kinds of lists:

1. Google 200 most common words in English

2. When results appear, choose to view “Images” of results

ESL Library - Check out their blog here <https://esllibrary.com/blog> “True Grammar Stories: Designed for Blended Learning” has teaching tips for: blended, one-to-one and traditional paper-based learning. You might find a tip to refresh your tutoring. Don’t forget to login.

Good to Know

Student Assessments

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.

Please assure students that their test results will have no impact on their participation in the program. Testing remotely is going to present challenges and we know that but students should be assured they should just try to do their best.

Final Thoughts

This week it was very interesting to read all of your thoughtful comments in response to the tutor survey. We have some work to do mostly with tutors and Anne, Laurie, and I have begun discussions as to what our next projects will be once the Conversation classes have settled down. As part of the survey, we did ask you to share your thoughts about tutoring. We received several responses and we will share them in future Newsys. This one, in particular, spoke to me to me at this time:

Connecting with my student are some of the best times of my week. We have so much fun learning together, and it was really nice having a scheduled time to talk while we were both staying at home. Anyone considering tutoring should give it a try! You aren't just helping someone reach their professional and personal goals, but also gaining a new perspective in your life from someone with different experiences. Sometimes after a long day at work, I worry I am too tired to tutor- but then after the session I have always laughed and smiled so much that I am glad I made the time!

Thank-you for all of your contributions to this program,

Karen