

Whole Learners, Whole Teachers, and your Learning Assistance Center

Whole Learner

- Has learning style accommodated
- Practices outside of the classroom
- Interacts with both native and non-native speakers
- Seeks to become an independent learner by gaining information competency skills

Whole Teacher

- Focuses on learning more than teaching
- Collaborates, engages in dialogue (*accreditation requirement*)
- Enjoys synergy in sharing resources
- Achieves enhanced results (*ex: SLO 1 and Civic 3033; SLO 2 and Civic 3031*)

Advantages of an open Learning Center environment

- Intrinsically student- and learning-centered
- Involves choice, appealing variety
- Accommodates diverse schedules
- Promotes both independent responsibility and collaboration
- Cost effective
 - Open 75 hours per week
 - No time restrictions
 - Large center; vast collection of on site resources continuously available
 - Help available at all hours from trained student assistants and staff
 - Walk-in and group tutoring

What does the LAC have to offer ESL students?

Materials at all levels, for all skills

- Including a comprehensive collection of books with audio resources (e.g., ESL Readers: 119 titles)
- Software for grammar practice, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and pronunciation
- Trained tutors
- DVD/video resources for pronunciation, listening, cultural awareness, and study skills
- Staff experienced in: teaching ESL (2), counseling (1), computer hardware and technology training (2), tutor training (3), vocational (career and technical) education (1).
- Internet access and useful sites for ESL learners

Recommended Websites (free online resources):

Vocabulary Building

- Very cool vocabulary quiz: www.freerice.com (many subjects available, including English grammar, and students can change level)
- Learning vocabulary can be fun! <http://www.vocabulary.co.il/>
- Phrase finder: <http://www.phrases.org.uk/>
- Academic word lists: www.academicvocabularyexercises.com
- WordMaster: <http://english.enorth.com.cn/bbcenglish/wordmaster/>
- Think in American English with 20 questions: www.20q.net
- Language Guide (picture dictionary): www.languageguide.org

Idioms

- Idiom Connection (Intermediate level): www.idiomconnection.com
- Dictionary of English Idioms: <http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms/>
- Words and their Stories:
http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/words_and_their_stories.cfm

Reading

- ESL Reader: <http://www.esldesk.com/esl-reading/esl-reader.aspx>
- How Stuff Works: www.HowStuffWorks.com
- Reader's Digest: www.rd.com

Spelling

- Spelling rules and practice:
http://www.classzone.com/books/language_of_lit_gr08/page_build.cfm?content=spelling&state=none

Grammar

- Mini grammar tutorials:
<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbtenseintro.html>
- Adjective or adverb?
<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/200/grammar/adjadv1.htm>
- Voice of America quizzes: <http://www.manythings.org/voa/>

TOEFL

- Free daily test questions: <http://www.gettoefl.com/cgi-bin/daily/daily.pl>

Listening

- The BBC Video Archive
http://esl.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ&sdn=esl&cdn=education&tm=24&gps=46_8_980_641&f=11&tt=9&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A//www.bbc.co.uk/videonation/archive/
- Voice of America (VOA) News in Special English:
<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/>

- Recent VOA News Stories with clickable text and podcasts:
<http://www.manythings.org/voa/rss/>

Speaking and Pronunciation

- ESL video lessons (all skills) and podcasts:
www.EnglishMeeting.com/resources.htm
- Real English (street interviews): www.realenglish.com
- Text-to-speech: www.oddcast.com/technologies/tts/
(note: the best American avatars are Kate, Crystal, Mike, and Paul)

Serving our mutual purpose together: how you can support the LAC

- Familiarize yourself with resources / procedures
- Hold students accountable for use of their time (provide direction; have students keep a learning journal or complete a summary sheet of what they learned)
- Recommend materials that you would assign or encourage your students to use
- Promote maximum use of available resources, including floor space
- Check availability before giving assignments with a tight timetable
- Brainstorm and share any ideas you have

Ideas to consider: keeping students on track

- Spend an office hour in the LAC
- Pilot a required lab course (UCSC model: 3 units, all teachers)
 - 1 unit
 - Paired with regular ESL course
 - Confer with students in languages classroom
- Students receive more supervision and more individualized help
- Results further enhanced!

Questions & Discussion: Thank you for joining in the dialogue!

LAC Website

Materials recommendations for every level of ESL, tutoring schedules, referral forms, useful links for ESL students, and a lot of good information!

www.pasadena.edu

"Student Services"

"Learning Assistance Center"

www.pasadena.edu/student-services/lac/

Please keep in touch!

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