



English as a Second Language

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“The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, continue growing as long as we live.”

*Martimer Adler
American Philosopher,
Educator and Editor*

Good News

AUGUST 2011, VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

From the ESL Director...



Welcome to the fall semester at Mt. SAC!

For some people, the fall season seems like the end of the year, yet for me it is more like a time of *beginnings*. I look forward to fall because I know by the end of December I will have had so many new experiences and accomplishments, both personal and professional. Sometimes these achievements are planned, but not always. So, when I look back I am always surprised at how much I completed in so little time! I believe this experience is even more true for you, as an adult immigrant learner.

An ancient Greek philosopher named Plato once said, “The beginning is the most important part of the work.” Then I think you have already started the most important part of your academic journey. You have begun by taking classes in our excellent ESL program.

Often I talk with ESL students who tell me they “don’t speak good English” and that they have a long road ahead when it comes to language learning. That’s when I remind them of the Levels they have *already passed* and the English skills they have *already gained*, so far. If you are a continuing student, all you have to do is look inside your ESL Student Portfolio and you will see the accomplishments you have made, especially if you have more than one writing sample! You can see where you started and how far you have come. Now you just have to project that into the future.

If you are a new student to the program, then you will be impressed with the various ways we make sure that you are learning and advancing your English skills. You will hear such terms as *Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)*, *Oral Evaluations*, *Writing Samples*, *Projects*, *Presentations*, *Student Learning Goals (SLGs)*, *Progress Reports* and much more. Each one of these words or terms represents an accomplishment for you! Each one is one more way of measuring your progress toward your ultimate goal, be it advancing in your current job or your future college and career pathways.

So, congratulations on achieving success with the most important part of your academic journey — the beginning! I wish you the best of luck with your studies. Have a wonderful time in our program!

Dr. Liza Becker
Director, ESL



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

CAREER BRIEFS

Make an appointment with one of the members of the ESL Counseling Team and get the Career Brief of your choice!



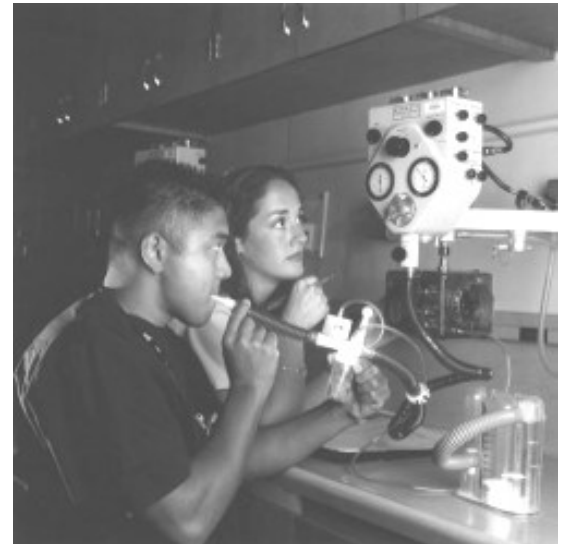
Respiratory Therapists

Also Called: Inhalation Therapists, Respiratory Therapy Technicians and Aides

Respiratory Therapists provide medical care and treatment to patients who have lung problems. They set up, adjust, and operate equipment such as oxygen tents, incubators, iron lungs, resuscitators, mechanical ventilators, aerosol inhalants, and oxygen tanks, with their accompanying hoses and gauges. They also keep patient medical records of treatment and costs, do routine maintenance and minor repairs of equipment, help patients with breathing exercises, and teach patients and their families how to use equipment at home. They also make several visits a month to inspect or clean the equipment and ensure its proper use. They work side by side with Physicians, Nurses, and others on the health care team. Therapists usually have additional supervising and teaching responsibilities.

Personal Characteristics

- Use manual and finger dexterity and motor coordination
- Catch on to things quickly and to understand underlying principles in instructions
- Read and write effectively and legibly
- Communicate with patients
- Use vision, hearing and numbers
- Compile information
- Set up and adjust equipment quickly and accurately
- Picture objects from drawings and descriptions
- See slight differences in objects
- Move often from one task to another using a variety of skills
- Do precise work according to set standards and procedures
- Check for accuracy
- Make decisions based on facts
- Work well with people
- Work under a great deal of stress in emergencies
- Work independently
- Understand patient physical and psychological needs



Current Monthly Wage Data (2010)	Entry/Low	Average	Top
Respiratory Therapists	\$4,738	\$5,514	\$6,294 & up
Respiratory Therapy Technicians	\$4,021	\$4,622	\$5,362 & up

**Would you like to learn more about these careers and their requirements?
Make an appointment to see a member of the ESL Counseling Team.
Ask for Michael Ngo, John Pellitteri or Bertha Rodriguez.**

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Real Estate Broker

Real Estate Brokers manage real estate sales businesses and are often the owner of the business. They may hire Real Estate Agents or use them on a contract or commission basis. They price, advertise, and sell property. They assist in negotiations between buyers and sellers. They write offers and counter-offers to buy property. They continually solicit business from potential buyers and sellers of property. They review the contracts and other work of their employees and agents to make sure that real estate laws and business ethics are being followed. They refer clients to Mortgage Brokers, Loan Officers, Appraisers, Building Inspectors, Construction Managers, and a variety of construction trade workers. They may specialize in selling a certain type of property, such as residential or commercial.

Personal characteristics:

- Learn and understand procedures
- Use words to present information clearly
- Use numbers
- Visualize objects from pictures and descriptions
- Work accurately with details
- Make decisions and judgments based on experience
- Work well with people and influence them
- Be patient and tactful with others
- Use negotiation skills
- Be persistent and self-motivated



Current Monthly Wage Data (2010)		
Entry/Low: \$3,752	Average: \$7,144	Top: \$8,589 & up

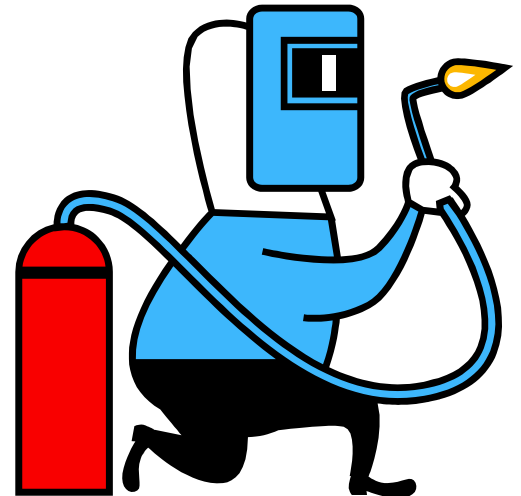
Welder

Also Called: Arc Welders, Combination Welders, Metal Fabricators

Welders join pieces of metal together and make a permanent bond. They use a gas torch or electric arc to heat the metals. They get extra metal for the bond from metal rods. They make a variety of products. Welders use a variety of hand tools and interpret blueprints.

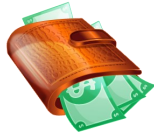
Personal characteristics:

- Be in good physical condition
- Use hands and fingers
- Use eye-hand coordination
- Bend, stoop, reach, and see frequently
- Make decisions based on facts work accurately according to set standards
- Learn and understand procedures
- See slight differences in objects
- Visualize objects from drawings and blueprints
- Do precise work with tools, instruments, or equipment
- Manipulate objects, tools, or machinery
- Use numbers and compile information
- See and focus for close work



Current Monthly Wage Data (2010)	Entry/Low	Average	Top
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, Brazers	\$2,329	\$3,207	\$3,863 & up
Welding, Soldering, & Brazing Machine Operators	\$1,934	\$2,678	\$3,249 & up

Money



The Vietnamese proverb “Money makes the mare go” means that money can buy you everything. In some aspects, I agree with this proverb, but I personally think that there are still some things that we cannot buy with money.

First of all, we cannot buy time with money. Actually, many young people spend their whole time trying to make money because they think that it enables them to do everything they like with a lot of money they get. For example, they can make a tour around the world however, they never think that they get older and older, and their health will decrease. Are they healthy enough to travel? Are they able to use their money to buy their youth or the time they have spent?

Secondly, love is never bought with money. In fact, when you get a lot of money, you easily make friends. However, you should wonder if your friends love you or not. It depends on your behavior, but not your money so do your lover. I believe that you will not get a truthful love if you get a lot of money without honesty and faith.

Finally, money cannot buy you happiness. Many people get sucked into the belief that having more money is the key to a happy life, but it is not true. To illustrate, my uncle worked harder and harder to make more and more money because he thought that the more money he earned, the happier his family became. However, he gradually realized that he was wrong. His children, who relied on his wealth and richness, neglected their school activities, always played truant and indulged themselves in drug and alcohol. As a result, the family that he had tried his best to build up collapsed, the money he got did not bring him happiness. On the whole, our lives will be easier and more comfortable if we get a lot of money. However, we should remember that money cannot buy us time, love nor happiness.

Duyen Dang
Writing C

I like Books

Books are the crystal of human’s wisdom. Reading books is the best way to enrich my life. I like books for three reasons. First of all, books are the source of knowledge. The older generations have found and mastered a lot of natural laws in long range practice. The precious knowledge can be spread to depend on book. We learned all of knowledge from books too. Books opened my field of vision and changed my ideology. Therefore, I can get progress constantly.

Second, books are the source of strength. Many books recorded historic events and heroes, their experiences impress me and encouraged me to overcome difficulties. Some books tell about philosophy. Those ideas helped me to make definite targets in my life. I got energy to strive.

Finally, books bring happiness to me. Many books talk about interesting news, funny stories, jokes, caricatures and animal world. Those books give me surprise or make me burst out laughing. I enjoyed them very much. Books could relax me and make my life to become rich and varied. A Chinese proverb said, “You get benefits in you open a book.” I believe it. Books are an exhaustless treasure-house of ideas, so I think books are my best friend. I like books.

Helen Bai
Writing C



Superstitions

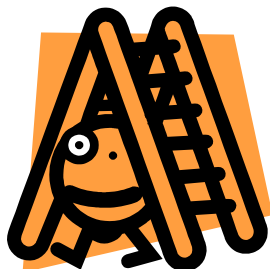
In El Salvador superstitions are very common as elsewhere in the world today. We have beliefs and stories that are passed down from one generation to another and held onto as a special story which makes up very much part of our lives. Some of the superstitions are so strong. Two of the most popular superstitions in my country deal with walking under a ladder and itchy palm.

It is common sense to avoid walking under an open ladder for fear that something might fall on you, but there are superstition reasons for doing so as well. Consider the shape of an open ladder; a triangle that signifies life for some. When you walk through the triangle, you are tempting your fate. You may also awaken spirits that live within the triangle (including spirits who may not be happy with the disturbance). If you do accidentally walk under a ladder, you can counter the bad luck by placing your thumb between your index and middle finger. Another method is to cross your fingers on both hands to call upon the sign of the cross to protect you from evil.

There seems to be a lot of variations on this superstition, but the idea of having a itchy palm generally refers to someone who is greedy or has an insatiable desire for money. Some believe that if the right palm itches, you will meet someone new, while an itch on left palm means money is coming. The bottom line is, if either of your palms itches, do not scratch it or you will counter the effect unless you scratch in on lucky wood or brass.

In conclusion, superstitions are an important part of the culture and customs of each country and passed down from one generation to another, and probably will continue in the future.

Rina Rodriguez
Level 4



Mixed-up Sentence Exercises

Here are some fun exercises to help you practice sentence structure. Try to solve the problems before you look at the answers below. Have fun!

Exercise 1:

red . the mother baby gave her apple a

Exercise 2:

cat chair onto the the black up . jumped

Exercise 3:

the . wall against ladder leaning the was

Exercise 4:

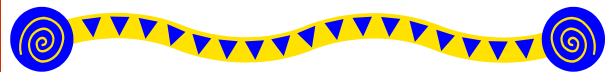
his eating ? he vegetables was

Exercise 5:

going are to you the party ? saturday on

For more practice go to:

www.rong-chang.com



Answers: 1. The mother gave her baby a red apple. 2. The black cat jumped up onto the chair. 3. The ladder was leaning against the wall. 4. Was he eating his vegetables? 5. Are you going to the party on Saturday?

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Waiting, Relaxing or Exploring at Mt. SAC!

What do you do while you wait? Have extra time before the bus arrives or you get picked up to go home? Or maybe you just want to find a new place to study other than the library! Mt. San Antonio College has more to offer than just what you commonly hear about. So why not get to know the school and use the services available to you as a student. For now, here are some places on campus you might like to know about!

Student Life Center (Building-9C) - This building is the focal point for student activities and programs. A place where students can relax, be social and get the support they need while away from home. The center is used by clubs to conduct meetings, activities, lectures and host clubs for student government. Students may play games such as air hockey, foosball, table tennis, chess, as well as play some video games while taking a study break. A current valid student I.D. is required for anyone who would like to use the services. The Student Life Center is open Monday through Friday. To get the hours of operation call (909) 274-4525.



Common Grounds (Building-8) - Need a coffee break or a place to check your email while you wait for your next class? Check out the Common Grounds (also known as the Coffee House) located inside the Campus Café, on the west end of campus next to the Mt. SAC Bookstore. This is a place where students and staff can take a mental break and enjoy a nice beverage like a Starbucks espresso or a yummy hot chocolate. So take a quick detour to the Café as you stroll across campus, and while you're there you can access your e-mail. To view the food, menu items and times of operation go to www.mtsacdining.com.



Randall Planetarium (Building-26C) - For nearly 40 years, students, community members and school children have been coming to learn and be amazed by the wonders of our solar system. Bring your friends and family and join the many who have witnessed the ever-changing night time sky. Be amazed by Mt. SAC's own 35-foot-diameter hemispherical dome that seats up to 75 people. With its new enhanced surround sound, spectators can have a truly amazing experience viewing the brilliant nebulas at the Mt. SAC Randall Planetarium. For events, times and to purchase tickets go to www.mtsac.edu/instruction/sciences/planetarium.



So whether you're relaxing, waiting for a class or simply need a new place to take your family to learn something new, take advantage of these locations and incorporate some fun, relaxation and learning into your schedule. To access resources and services the college offers students, faculty and staff go to www.mtsac.edu/homepage/resources.html.

STUDY TECHNIQUES

Tips on Spelling

English spelling rules are complex, and very challenging. If you find spelling to be a particular obstacle, here are strategies to follow:

As a foundation:

- Practice your spelling
- Keep a spelling notebook and list words you commonly misspell or have trouble with
- Keep a list of commonly misspelled English words, or words that may be spelled correctly but misused (e.g. who's, whose)
- Keep a list of rules for spelling:

This notebook can also help you build your vocabulary



For documents you send out or hand in to a teacher:

- Spell check the document if it is electronic. Some software can be set to automatically check spelling and grammar before you send it.
- Re-read the printed document carefully for errors. Pay attention to words you commonly misspell or that are spelled correctly but misused.
*(Note these words in your spelling notebook)
- Have someone you trust and respect review your document.
- Take advantage of your Writing Center in Building 26A

Building your spelling skill

- Check the dictionary for the correct pronunciation of the word.
- Check for the meaning and history of the word. Practice spelling the word to yourself before you close the dictionary. Write it down or visualize it in your mind.
- Check the spelling in the dictionary again to ensure that you have learned to spell the word correctly



For more tips go to: www.studygs.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

LEGEND

Fall Semester Begins - Aug. 29

Labor Day - Sept. 5

Veteran's Day - Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Recess - Nov. 24-27

Final Exams - Dec. 12-18

Are you interested in taking Credit Classes at Mt. SAC?

For the Winter or Spring term? If yes, then follow the steps below:

1. Credit Application
2. Assessment
3. Orientation
4. Counseling/Advising
5. Online Registration
6. Pay Fees

Would you like assistance with this process?

Make an appointment to see a member of the ESL Counseling Team.
Ask for Michael Ngo, John Pellitteri or Bertha Rodriguez.

(Building 66 at the ESL Registration Counter)


Do you want to practice learning English outside your classroom? Then why not stop by the **Language Learning Center** also known as the LLC, located in the Learning Technology Building (Bldg. 6).

The **Language Learning Center** has a large variety of language learning software, videos, DVD's and recordings to improve listening, speaking, and pronunciation skills.

To find out more you can also visit the website and see the number of audio, video, internet and software resources available for the different levels by clicking in the Resource Link and selecting the LLC Materials/ESL. www.llc.mtsac.edu

To use the **Language Learning Center**, you must register at the ESL Registration Counter in Building 66 and you will also need to have your Mt. SAC Student ID Card.


Hope to see you there!



65-year legacy of excellence

2011 fall schedule of CLASSES

credit class *wait lists* available July 19
(see details on the inside cover)



registration opens: July 19 • credit classes begin: Aug. 29 • noncredit classes: p. 168

