Newton Free Library

English Language Learning and Literacy Newsletter

October 2021

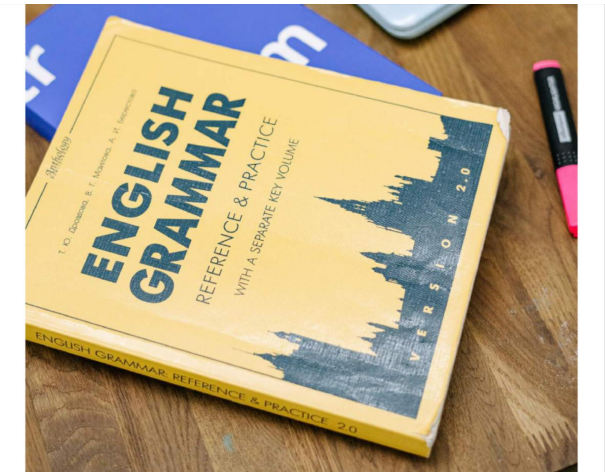
Tutor Roundtables

Several of you have expressed interest in resuming the ELL program's tutor roundtables. These are opportunities for you to share experiences with fellow volunteers and exchange ideas about teaching English learners. For the upcoming roundtable, it's likely that the discussion will focus on recent

experiences tutoring online — what has worked well (or not), resources that you would recommend, challenges that you've faced, and so on — but you are welcome to discuss in-person tutoring as well.

This roundtable will take place on Zoom. There will be two sessions: Thursday, November 18, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM and Friday, November 19, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Click on one of the links to sign up. I hope to see you then!

Grammar Resources



- "I felt very exciting when I saw my friend."
- "He has went to Florida."
- "My son is more tall than my daughter."

If you've noticed your learner saying or writing sentences like these — or making mistakes with other aspects of English grammar — and you've been looking for some useful practice exercises, check out All Things Grammar. It's a great source of free, high-quality grammar worksheets and other activities, such as conversation questions that focus on specific grammar points.

You can email the worksheets to students for them to do on their own (in which case you may want to remove the answer keys). If reviewing the answers together on Zoom, you could use the Zoom annotation tools or one of several free PDF editors, which enable you to "write" on the worksheets. Let me know if you would like help with any of this!

Another website, Teach-This.com, has some similar materials, though not all of them are free. In addition, many YouTube channels have videos about grammar; besides the ones I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I recommend Shaw English. There are also a number of popular grammar

textbooks in the ELL collection, including the classic Azar-Hagen series and the *Grammar In Use* series.

I think it's important for tutors to familiarize themselves with these materials because the aspects of grammar that ELL students need to learn — such as participial adjectives, the present perfect tense, and comparatives (in the three examples above, respectively) — are different from what native English speakers typically study in school. Most native speakers never think about these elements of the language, but for learners they can pose a major challenge!

Program News

- There will be another round of tutor training workshops on Monday and Wednesday evenings in November and December. I will explain more about them in an online information session, which will be held on Wednesday, November 17, at 7:00 PM. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested! They can sign up here.

- Many learners have been waiting patiently for a tutor, some for several months. If you're interested in taking on an additional student (either online or in person), please let me know. One possibility is to meet with your current learner and the new one in a small group, which could make your tutoring sessions more interesting and allow you to do some different types of activities.

- As you probably know by now, the library has a lovely new website. There is a new ELL page, with links to the tutor and student applications and information about current ELL classes, and soon there will be a separate page with links to a variety of recommended ELL resources. I expect that it will be ready within the next few weeks.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for everything that you do!

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