

The Shantou Beat

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Strategies for Good Presentations



Jun Liu at 2005 Beijing ELT Forum

Dr. Jun Liu
ELC Executive Director

I just returned from the 11th "21st Century Macao Star Cup" National English Speaking Competition, which was co-sponsored by China Daily and Macao Polytechnic University and held at the Macao Cultural Center.

This is the fourth year I have served as a judge, and every time I have witnessed the competition, I could not help thinking of some strategies that contestants employed to win the competition. I am outlining what I consider the most important ones for our Shantou University students for their future presentations.

Know your audience. We have all attended great presentations. The only problem was that they were sometimes for the wrong audiences. There are two possible reasons for this. First, the presenter did not adequately understand the needs of the audience. Second, the speaker's presentation was not appropriately aligned with the expectations, the experience level, or the mood of the audience. So, as a presenter and speaker, it is always important to know who will be your audience ahead of time.

Prepare outstanding content. Some presenters are high in energy but low in content. Other presenters have excellent content but their style of delivery puts you to sleep. Great speakers are the result of great preparation, employing the intellectual power to move listeners to new ways of thinking and the emotional power to move them to new ways of behaving. To develop excellent content, one has to speak from a strong point of view, craft titles that will hook the audience, create beginnings and endings with impact, find appropriate quotes, and perhaps develop illustrative stories.

Use superior organization. No amount of outstanding content or effective delivery skills can save a poorly organized presentation. If your audience cannot follow your line of reasoning, they will simply stop paying attention. Therefore, it is important to spend a lot of time developing the content and delivery of your message. This involves planning the organizational structure, making sure it is cohesive, paying attention to your transitions, and understanding the

critical importance of timing.

Develop dynamic delivery. Many presenters over-prepare on content and under-prepare on delivery. Good presenters find a nice balance between the two. Strategies to help develop dynamic delivery include avoiding dry openings, using powerful language, making your presentation flow, adding suspense and drama to your storytelling, using the pause that brings applause, using humor appropriately, considering role-playing, preparing for questions, and developing endings with impact.

As we all know, a common weakness of many presentations is that a month, a week or even a day after the presentation, no one remembers what it was about. Therefore, for your presentation to be effective, you should actively work to make it memorable, actionable and transferable. Although you may not use all the strategies described in this article, if your presentation can be easily remembered by your audience a long time after the fact, then you have delivered an effective presentation.

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Stories
in
this issue



P4 Living in China



P5 Soup cooking on campus



P3 The impression of Thai students



P7 Condoms on campus



P8 The happy dancing group

Just To Show Her True Self

Candy

05 Liberal Arts

Inga, a pretty girl from the Liberal Arts College, won the 2006 "Semester at Sea" scholarship. There follows a one-on-one interview with Inga.

Q: Did you prepare a lot for the "Semester at Sea" scholarship? How did you prepare for it?

A: Yes, I did a lot of preparation such as practicing my spoken English and listening comprehension, as well as enlarging my vocabulary everyday. I read some books about philosophy, different outlooks on life, and the history of China because I thought they could help me become more intelligent. What's more, I asked senior brothers and sisters many questions about the "Semester At Sea," and they gave me lots of useful information and advice.



Q: What was the process of the interview, and how did you feel about it?

A: The interview included two parts. First, I was given two minutes to introduce Shantou University. Then, the interviewers asked me some questions about my essay that I had handed in a few days before. I thought the interview would be formal and serious, so I felt a little nervous at the beginning. But when I met the interviewers, they smiled a lot, so I felt relaxed and confident again. I wanted to show them my best side.

Q: You succeeded in doing that. So, what factors do you think helped you win?

A: There were many factors that led to me receiving the scholarship. I took part in many activities because I am an outgoing and active girl. I learned a lot of things from these activities. I just wanted to show my true self to the interviewers. That was the point. Furthermore, my ability to use English played an important role in the interview.

Q: Finally, I wonder if you have any advice for us, for other students who are interested in the "Semester at Sea?"

A: In my opinion, an independent mind is even more important than excellent oral English. Self-confidence is quite essential. And also, to be a successful person, you must increase your knowledge and maintain good manners.

A Down-to-earth Guy

Tany

04 Electronics

Jamin (Li Zhimin) is a 2004 Electronic Engineering student. Interested in English study, he was one of the finalists in the 2005 Inter-collegiate English Speech Contest,



which is part of the annual English Festival. Recently, he won a scholarship for the "Semester at Sea" program.

The first impression Jamin gives is his abundant self-confidence. He always believes that difficult things will become easy if you work hard. There is no doubt that he is hard-working and diligent.

When asked how he studies English, Jamin smiled and said: "Everybody knows the answer. It is just whether you can persist or not, so persistence is the key, combined with your interest and self-confidence."

Indeed he is very interested in learning English. Jamin tells his friends that they ought not to learn English just for CET certificates, but also to learn about another culture and use this tool to become a "global citizen."

Jamin is also self-confident and said, "English helps me a lot in building up my self-confidence."

When he entered STU, Jamin's oral English was not very good, but he was not afraid to make mistakes. He went to the English Lounge and English Corner frequently to talk with teachers and other students.

Jamin maintains that the key to learning English is persistence. He is so committed that he listens to English and practices his oral English almost every day. "By virtue of continued practice, I gradually gained a feeling for English, an integral part in English learning," Jamin said.

Jamin is optimistic and positive.

When asked about his dreams for the future he said with a smile, "Nobody knows what he's going to do in the future. But, to me, what is important is that I keep at the things I am doing now and always do my best."

Never Act Without Preparation Or A Plan

Money

03 Journalism

In front of me was the winner of the Whitman College Exchange Student Scholarship, Jelen Zheng. As a sophomore majoring in Journalism and Communication, Jelen Zheng was in the spotlight as soon as the good news began to spread. Surrounded by a sea of praise, he remained peaceful. He described this experience as his so-called third university entrance examination, as tough as the former two.

Jelen's story should be traced back to

the time when he received acceptance to Shantou University. At that time Jelen found out about the "Semester at Sea" scholarship, which sparked his desire to go abroad. "I am a person who never acts without preparation and a plan," Jelen said. As every STU student knows, freshmen must take an English placement examination when they first enter STU. In order to get himself well prepared, Jelen spent one month doing all kinds of exercises to improve his

English. He received the highest score and was the only freshman admitted to Level 3. This exam strengthened his confidence and pushed him to go further.

When he was a freshman, Jelen got up at 6 o'clock every morning and went to the top of his dormitory to yell English. With his willpower and unrelenting efforts for three months, Jelen's spoken English made great progress. Along the way, he never limited himself to one



method, but continually tried different approaches to improve his study of English. Nowadays, he strives to improve his listening skills through listening to VOA (Voice of America) and CNN (Cable News Network).

The Impression of Thai Students

By Germany, Sadonna and Vivian

"Sawaddeeka." We practiced the only Thai sentence we knew before meeting three students from Thailand who are studying at STU. We couldn't help getting excited and nervous because it was the first time we had ever talked with Thai students.

"Ha-ha, you almost have the right pronunciation!" Their kind smiles thawed our nervousness. We quickly began to talk like old friends.

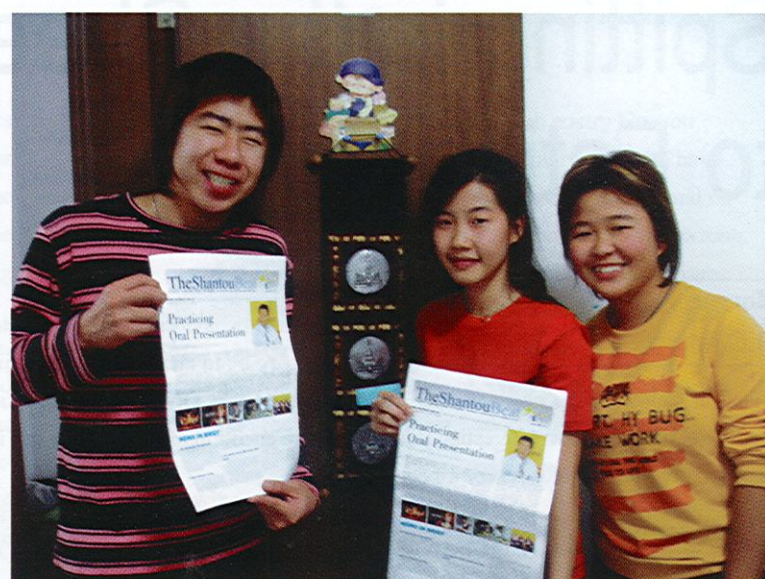
Ya Ni, a graduate in Journalism from Bangkok University who is keen on cooking Thai cuisine, is

now learning Chinese as her second language at Shantou University. She has an ambition to start a company and teach Chinese to Thai children. "I'm planning to go for further studies in Guangzhou soon," she added.

Hui Ying, a graduate in Film and Photographing from Thammasat University who can already speak Chinese quite fluently, is now learning Chinese at Shantou University as well. As a Chinese born in Thailand, she said that it is very useful to know Chinese in Thailand. "I am go-

ing to go to Shanghai for my postgraduate studies in International Trade this year, that's why I need to learn Chinese," she continued. Her eyes showed that she is full of expectation for her future.

Wen Hua, a shy boy, is also a Chinese born in Thailand. He has a dream to become a university student in Shanghai. He realizes that it is not easy to learn a second language if you don't learn it when you are still young. He has found that language differences have influenced his life.



From the left: Wen Hua, Ya Ni and Hui Ying

Homesick

Two of them told us that Ya Ni can cook their native Thai food quite well. We all showed great interest in her Thai-style cooking. Ya Ni shyly grinned and humbly said that she didn't cook skillfully as her friends had praised. But because she misses her country, Ya Ni cooks to remind her of her home Thai flavour. Mentioning their daily lives, the three noted that they usually chat through MSN to keep in touch with their families and their friends.

I think whatever nation you're from, homesickness, as a kind of patriotic affection, appears impartially in everyone's heart when staying in a foreign country.

Friendship

"We all get along with each other very well although we have known each other for only a few months. All of us came from the same hometown and have gone back to our same ancestral land to study; we must be united," the group said. They often have dinner together like a household. Wen Hua and Hui Ying told us they like to eat the Thai food that Ya Ni cooks. In order to have a better life in the future they chose to come to Shantou University to learn Chinese and to look for their own way in life. In only a few months, they will separate again to take another step into their brand-new life.

"We Are Proud to Be Half Chinese"



Hui Ying's calligraphy

Although their blood is Chinese, it's hard for all three to say that they are totally Chinese because they have lived in Thailand since they were born and Thai is their mother tongue. "However, China is playing a major role in the world now and we are proud that we are half Chinese, otherwise we would not come back to study," they added.



Hui Ying showing us special dress

Songkan Festival

"Songkan Festival is an important traditional festival in Thailand. It's like the Spring Festival in China; Songkan Festival is the celebration of the New Year in Thailand," Hui Ying explained. Songkan Festival, which means "Water-splashing Festival", usually lasts for three days from April 13th-15th. Some places begin to celebrate one or two days before April 13th. It has a history of several hun-

dred years.

The first day, April 13th, is called "Songkan Long Day." Gunshots and fire crackers will be used to scare away bad luck and other evils in the early morning. People usually clean their houses, clothes, and bodies to welcome the New Year.

The second day, April 14th, is called "Nao Day" and is regarded as an important day when more and more peo-

ple get splashed. "We gently tip water on to the shoulder of the old. But for the young, we just throw water on them," Hui Ying told us.

The third day, April 15th, is called "Phayawan Day" or the New Year Day. It is a traditional ceremony. Younger people go to adults and ask for forgiveness for anything bad they have done to the adults in the previous year. The adults will bless them by request.

"We Are the Same"

Transgendered people, who to us seem most controversial, are quite common in Thailand. When asking about this issue, we felt a little embarrassed because we thought our new

Thai friends would be uncomfortable with this subject. Unexpectedly, though, this topic was not at all embarrassing to them. "It's common to meet them here and there. I have several friends who are transgendered," one of the Thai students replied.

"Are there any differences when getting along with those friends? Do you treat them the same as other friends?" we asked.

"Why not? Actually, not only us, but most of the Thai people do. We are the same. We have the same right to be educated, go to libraries, play with friends, and enjoy any other social facilities. If they originally think they ought to change their gender, it's their own personal matter," they replied.

To tell the truth, we were really shocked at that moment. The Thai students inwardly

broke the discrimination. Through their eyes, we felt the genuine equality that was deeply rooted in their hearts.

Their sincere words should bring to mind a famous song:

"We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day so let's start giving."

Language Tips: 1. "Sawaddeeka." ---- It means "How are you?" 2. Songkan Festival ---- "Water-splashing" Festival.

From Spitting in the Street to Eating Out

Morgan Agnew
ELC Intern

Living in China for the past semester has been one of the most interesting challenges of my life. Almost every aspect of Chinese culture is different from America. While some parts of the culture have been easy to adapt myself to, there are other parts I don't think I'll ever get used to.

The way Chinese people behave around strangers in crowded public places has frustrated me the most. In America, Europe, and most of the western world there are a large number of unwritten rules governing the way we walk and act in public. We do not touch people we don't know. We keep our voices down and don't use cell phones in places like movie theaters or elevators. When buying tickets or entering somewhere, westerners almost always form neat, orderly lines (Called "queues" in Britain), standing a full meter behind the person in front of us. We get very angry at people who break these rules.

Chinese culture is very different in this aspect. Many people have grabbed my arm or shirt on the street. People talk on cell phones everywhere, including in movies and while riding motorcycles. To get on a bus or buy a ticket there usually won't be a line, but just a crowd of people all pushing to get to the front.

The Chinese government has recognized

that these behaviors can offend westerners, and is trying to change them in Beijing before the 2008 Olympics. For example, they're encouraging men not to spit in public.

On the other hand, there are some aspects of Chinese culture that I prefer to American culture. The first one that comes to mind is the way meals are eaten communally. When everyone shares every dish, everyone gets to eat as much of everything as they want. They are able to taste every food on the table. Even among co-workers at a fancy restaurant eating this way creates a sense of family.

In American homes, meals are eaten the same way. In American restaurants, however, everyone orders their own food and they don't usually share. Each person is therefore limited to eating what they ordered and doesn't get to taste the other food. If someone eats all his food and is still hungry, and someone else is done eating but still has food left, it can be very awkward to share, especially among coworkers or new friends.

When I go out to dinner with my friends, I'd prefer to eat Chinese style over American style, and I'd prefer to walk around a crowded American street than a crowded Chinese street. I think the people of China and America can learn a lot from each other - and that's exactly why I'm here.

March 8th, Girls' Day at STU



Students from the College of Science sending roses to a lucky girl. It's part of the "Rose Campaign".

Joemy
03 English

March 8th was Women's Day, and there were some special celebrations for girls here on the STU campus. Now let's take a look at how some girls celebrated this holiday.

Celebrations:

Scene 1: It's almost dark. Many colorful flowers, of course including the romantic rose, were sent into the girls' dormitories. The "Rose Campaign," sponsored by the College of Science, might have been the most noticeable celebration on that day. It attracted and pleased many students. When Jane heard a knock outside, she opened her door. Knowing that it was a rose for her, she laughed and jumped with a very surprised and excited face. She said: "I didn't expect my friend would send me such a beautiful rose. I am really surprised and happy."

Scene 2: It's about half past nine. A group of junior students from the College of Liberal Arts got together at the lawn near the girls' dormito-

ry. There was something traditional but special for them on this special day, soup. Moreover, it was extra special since the soup was cooked by boys! Sitting in a circle, enjoying the delicious soup, the students talked, laughed, and kept having fun. It was an unforgettable evening for them, especially for the girls.

Wishes:

A girl who received red rose with a greeting card said: "I really want to thank my friend. I hope that he will be happy everyday."

Another junior girl who comes from the College of Liberal Arts said: "I hope that all our classmates can keep friendships forever. As for myself, I wish that I can work harder and become a postgraduate next year."

Roses, greeting cards, soup, and good wishes were the way many people expressed their feelings on Woman's Day here at STU. Different celebrations and different wishes made this a special and beautiful holiday.

The Psychological Counseling Center

Nikki
04 English

Suicides in universities have been reported frequently in the last few years and have caused society to attach much importance to university students' mental health. Following in this trend, Shantou University began its own Psychological Counseling Center.

The Psychological Counseling Center was set up in April, 2004. As an important association on campus, it serves students' hearts and souls. Since many students are interested in,

we interviewed Chen Sifang, a teacher at the center, to help students become more familiar with it.

There are eight psychology graduate students at the Psychological Counseling Center. They talk to students face to face or in larger groups to help them to deal with their psychological problems. They advise students to address their problems and turn to the Psychological Counseling Centers as well as to develop independent problem-solving skills.

Ms. Chen said: "Most psychological problems are from the pressure of study and their

love stories." At first many students avoided the Psychological Counseling Center because psychological counseling was not so popular in China. However, after a year of services and activities, such as providing psychological texts, movies, lectures, and soliciting articles, more and more people are willing to get help from the Center.

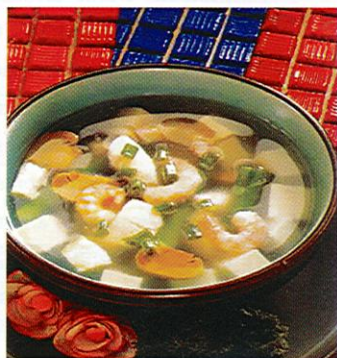


This photo was taken during the first Membership Conference of the Psychology Association in mid-March. During the conference they summed up the main work in the first year.

Soup Cooking on Campus

Sabrina
03 Liberal Arts

Looking at this photo, you may say: "How appetizing!" On campus, many students can make soup like this and some can probably make soup even more attractive than the one pictured!



Although I dare not say that soup cooking is popular all over campus, it does make our life more colorful. On a leisurely weekend, about 4-6 roommates will sometimes cook soup together to enjoy food that is different from the canteens'. When traditional holidays come, such as Mid-Autumn Day or Winter Solstice, classmates often get together and soup cooking is one of the exciting events in their celebrations.

The topic is soup cooking, but instead of me trying to convince you of its merits, why not listen to what you fellow students had to say. Here are different voices on soup cooking from students all around campus.

" [My roommates and I] never cook soup in our dorm. If we really want to have some, we will go to the canteen or the small restaurants in front of the East Gate."--Rachel,

a junior from the College of Liberal Arts.

"I don't need to, because one of my roommates cooks soup for her boyfriend about three times per week. And we always share the soup with her boyfriend."--Denny, a junior from the Law faculty.

"I have some creative ideas about cooking, such as banana soup. Instead of cooking soup, we often make desserts. For instance, apple soup, green bean, corn soup, etc."--Jane, a sophomore from the Journalism School.

"I cook soup for my boyfriend frequently. Once, in four days, I cooked seven different soups, because he was going to take the postgraduate entrance exam."

--Qing, a junior from the College of Liberal Arts.

"I never cook, and all my roommates are too lazy to do that."--Mr.

Zheng, a junior from the Medical

College.

"We cook soup two or three times a week. But sometimes it is not as delicious as we want, because the ingredients are so limited at the tiny market."--Li, a junior majoring in law.

I also asked students to recommend some recipes for healthy and delicious soup. The most delicious soup most of the students recommended was Chicken and Chestnut soup. They said it's easy to make and nutritious.

Some favorite creative recipes include:

1)Chocolate Glutinous Rice Dumplings

When you are making this kind of dumplings, put some chocolate inside the flour rather than sweetened bean paste.

2) Egg and Lemon Soup

Add some egg white into the lemon juice. Then slowly pour the mixture into the prepared chicken soup. Cook over very low heat for 3-5 minutes.

I believe you also have some fresh ideas about cooking soup. When you are free, why not have a try? I wish you enjoyable and healthy eating and cooking!

The ELC English Poetry Club

Sindy
05 Liberal Arts

Have you ever been to the English Poetry Club (EPC)? It is a new club at our university under the direction of Susan Spencer and Kyle McIntosh. The EPC meets every Sunday from 4 to 6pm at the English Lounge.

Personally speaking, I think EPC is indeed a great help to English learners. Students are given not only opportunities to gain access to many different kinds of poetry, but also chances to enjoy poems and practice their

English skills. Furthermore, they are encouraged to write their own poems in English. EPC can help students develop a better understanding and appreciation of poems.

When it comes to English poetry, however, most students say that it is too difficult for them to figure out the meanings of Chinese poems, let alone English ones. Yet, if you join this club, you will find that English poetry is not as complex as you might expect. "You don't have to

master English poetry like you master vocabulary. You can have interpretations of your own and no one will tell you that you are wrong. It makes it more fun," said Susan. "Reading poems is like looking at paintings or listening to songs. Not everyone gets the same thing from them," added Kyle.



Susan and Kyle suggest that one should not approach poetry in the same way that they approach other aspects of English; it is not necessary to find the exact meaning. Rather, just find your own interpretation of the words and their meaning.

Poems enable us to give life to our ideas. I hope that more and more students will envision poetry as a good way to learn English.

The Popular-Science Knowledge Orienteering: A Brainstorming Experience

Tracy
04 Biology

The Popular-Science Knowledge Orienteering, planned by the Popular-Science Volunteer Association, was held on March 5th.

Many students took part in this interesting and ingenious game. They had to complete five challenges including "Maze," "Mini Experiments," and "Questions and An-

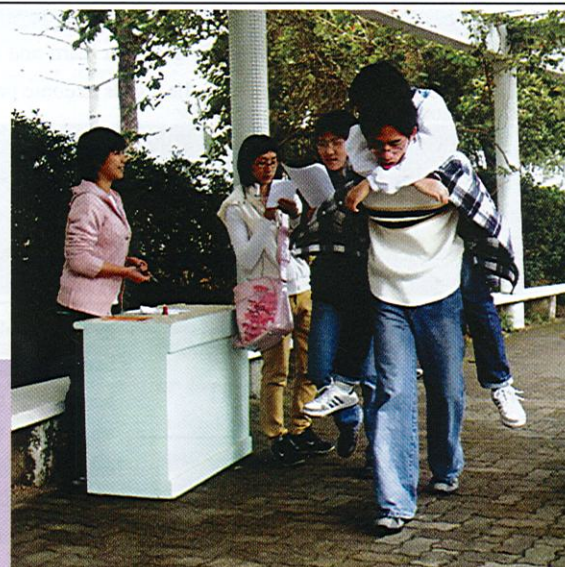
swers." Each group tried their best to solve every problem even though some were extremely tough. Eventually, the competing teams were narrowed down to the top ten with a group named "Dream" taking the first prize.

A participant named Zen said, "I was excited to join this game when I cooperated with my partners in those scientific tasks. Though my group lost, we still felt happy be-

cause we had tried our best. Of course we gained knowledge and skills from it as well." Whether they won or lost, all the participants learned a lot from their experience. The Head of the Popular-Science Volunteer Association said the reason why the Association held this activity was to expand students' knowledge of popular science, arouse their interest in popular science, and develop team-spirit. "Sci-

entific knowledge is always regarded as dull and serious theories. We are trying to change that idea-spreading pleasure. This was been the first time that STU has had such large outdoor activity to spread popular-science knowledge on campus.

The Popular-science Knowledge Orienteering combined study with





Susanne Rizzo
ELC Foreign Instructor

How to Improve Your English Vocabulary Skills

Many students have asked me, "How can I improve my vocabulary in English? I can't remember the words!" Remembering words can be one of the most challenging areas in language learning. To overcome this obstacle, it is important to involve yourself as much as possible with the words because this will help move them from your short-term memory into your long-term memory. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

1. Keep a vocabulary journal.

Carry around a small notebook at all times. Whenever you encounter a new word, whether it is when you are speaking with a foreigner or reading a book, write it down in your notebook and create an entry. Include the part of speech and definition (in English of course!). Be careful as words can be used as nouns or verbs. If you hear the word in conversation, ask the person with whom you are speaking for a definition and the part of speech. Also, ask him/her to give you several more ex-

amples of how to use the word. If you encounter this word while reading, try to figure out the word's part of speech from the sentence in which it is used. Also, try to determine from the sentence which definition from the dictionary applies. Include in your entry a sentence that shows the meaning of the word. Create this sentence from a personal experience. By making the word personal to you, you are more likely to understand it, remember it and use it correctly. Review your vocabulary

notebook every day. Schedule time to do this either as soon as you wake up or right before you go to sleep. By doing this, the words will stay fresh in your mind and you will be more likely to recognize the words when you see them again. Finally, try to use the word as soon as you can after you put it your journal. The more you use it, the more likely it will become part of your vocabulary.

2. Make flash cards.

I was very surprised to learn that many students had never heard of flash cards. Using them is a fun, powerful way to help you remember words. Fold a piece of paper into rectangles and cut them out. Write the word on one side, and on the other, include the same information as you would in your vocabulary notebook. Also include a picture of the word. Either one that you draw

or off the Internet. You can download images from Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>) or Google (<http://www.google.com>). Visualizing the words helps some people remember than just writing the definitions. It is important to engage your senses in learning. In addition to images, also try to act out the word. Involve your body. Go through your flash cards everyday.

Have competitions with your classmates either drawing the word or acting it out. In addition, include a synonym (word that is the same or similar in meaning), an antonym (word that is opposite in meaning) and several phrases where the word is used. With one flash card you can learn three words!

3. Use an English to English dictionary

This will help you to think in English and activate your current English vocabulary. Again, the more you engross yourself in the English the more you will be able to use it more fluently instead of constantly translating to and from Chinese.

4. Read. Read. Read.

Read some more. It is important to read in English for pleasure. By reading about topics you are interested in, you will encounter more words and see how they are used in context. Try to make time to read books, magazines, short stories and

newspapers in English. Discuss what you read with your classmates (in English!) or go to the Reading Club. This will give you more chances to use the new words that you learn.

The items above are just a few ways to help you learn and remember new vocabulary words. Getting as many senses involved in the learning process will help the words become part of your vocabulary. To begin, just focus on one. Good luck!

Here are some additional websites for further practice:

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/index.htm> <http://www.eslpartyland.com/students/inter.htm>
<http://members.aol.com/eslkathy/esl.htm#voc> <http://www.wordfocus.com/vocabulary-resources.html>
<http://www.eslcafe.com/> <http://www.teflgames.com/games.html> <http://www.goodsenseenglish.com/resources.htm>

The Internet and the Writing Classroom

Kyle McIntosh
ELC Foreign Instructor

The 21st Century has arrived, and with it comes an increased need to communicate via the Internet. For students who feel pressure to succeed in a global market economy, that need may be even greater. By introducing the Internet into the English writing classroom at the beginning of the semester and making it a vital part of the writing activities assigned throughout, instructors can facilitate the integration of computer-based technolo-

gy into the old technology of writing. Of course, basic writing skills must still be obtained and honed, and the process approach remains the best way to teach them. But the writing process can be taught within a context that is more meaningful and practical in today's increasingly interconnected world.

One of the central advantages of the Internet is that it provides authentic, up-to-date materials that may be unavailable or difficult to access in the traditional classroom. It also houses an abundance of statistics, graphics, and images that can be used to enhance research papers and presentations (Krajka, 2000). In addition, the construction of an online writing forum - a website where lessons can be

posted and discussions held - affords students an opportunity for ongoing collaborative writing tasks outside the classroom. An online forum also provides an immediate audience for student writers. Of course, some students may feel anxious about posting their work for others to read, but receiving meaningful feedback from instructors and peers can help reduce some of that anxiety (Lee, 2000). That's why it is important for respondents to be reliable and receptive.

Another potential drawback is the amount of independent work that may be required of students. Instructors need to encourage collaborative activities, while keeping track of individual students' participation (Cunningham, 2000). They must

make certain that students have received training in computing skills, software application, and Internet navigation. When conducting online research, students need to be capable of carrying out focused and efficient Internet searches. Sound advice and helpful hints (like choosing keywords) can facilitate the development of critical research skills.

Unfortunately, both students and instructors must sometimes deal with faulty computers and limited Internet access. Therefore, it is necessary to have back-up activities in case the technology fails. Nonetheless, the increasing number of individuals and institutions with access to the Internet makes integrating this technology into the English writing classroom a worthwhile endeavor.

Cuddle up with English

Jelen Zheng

04 Journalism

Like water and air, food is something that people cannot live without. But to eat food is far from enough; one needs the right kind of nutrition if they want to grow strong and healthy.

The following are some nutritious resources and how best to use them for English learning:

Tips on English Learning

A book excerpt containing tips on English learning from English professors all around China. To find a copy of this book type "英语的门槛有多高" on the search engine www.dangdang.com. This is a guide to use before you start "eating."

"Book Nerd" Series

There are a total of 50 books in this series that have been simply rewritten for Chinese readers. I managed to read them through as fast as possible without stopping to look up new words in the dictionary, which is said to be a short cut to practice thinking in English.

"Family Album, USA"

A multimedia TV textbook for oral English, combining American English and true everyday American life together.

ELC "North Star" Series

Although the books were once a bit difficult for me to understand, I still have been able to refer to the tapescript while listening over and over again until I am able to hear the listenings without the script. A very good way to practice listening.

VOA / CNN

No need to catch exactly what the reporters are saying, just listen. It is easy to listen to VOA time and time again because the library conveniently brings it to us. For CNN, there is a Net-TV program on the web named "Feidian" (沸点), which provides smooth access to CNN.

English News Website

Like VOA and CNN, the habit of reading the English net-news is another way to keep in touch with modern English.

Foreign Films / Music

Watching foreign films and listening to the music you like is a good way to learn English and enjoy yourself.

Looking back on the efforts I have devoted to English, I have pride in what I have accomplished, despite the fact that I still am like small blade of grass in the middle of a big savanna. Based on the foundation I have built, I have come to the conclusion that learning English is a process of building up reflexes. The stronger the reflexes are, the easier you can understand English. The truth is, I am a devoted English learner and still love every minute of it.

Condoms on Campus

Hewitt

04 Journalism

"Items of protection from AIDS", the law recently established by the Chinese government, states in detail that Beijing must place machines that sell condoms in recreation centers, building sites and academies.

According to this new law, universities are allowed to put these machines in student dormitories. Apart from steps taken by the government, condom manufacturers also have tried to promote their products on university campuses. Commonly, these manufacturers will send condoms for free to gain easy access to the campuses. Now let's focus on our university, how do STU students respond to this?

Gavin, a sophomore from journalism school goes along with sending condoms for free to campus. He thinks sex is a free and easy thing in many students' minds, so free condoms are a good way to help to avoid unexpected pregnancy, especially based on the situation of our university which he describes as very "discommodious" to buy them. But he says he would not buy condoms from machines if they were really placed in the dormitories.

Unlike Gavin, Irish from Engineering College said she absolutely can't accept the ideas



that allow condoms to get into campus. First, she mentioned the morals of traditional Chinese society. "It is just like offending our elegant culture," she said. Furthermore, Irish thinks selling condoms in the dormitories might encourage more students to have sex on campus. "To prevent AIDS, no measure can be more efficient than building up self-respect in our minds," she concluded.

Linda, a postgraduate student from Literature College, thinks it would be ironic to place condom machines in dorms. "It embarrasses us. Why would they just be placed in student's dorms but not other buildings? It would seem that only we students don't have a concept of protecting ourselves from AIDS," she said. Linda suggests setting the machines somewhere where they can provide service to everyone, not just students. In conclusion, most of students I interviewed think it is all right to make condoms available on campus. And what's the big picture in China? It is reported that 75% of university students say "yes," according to "East Space-time" a TV program produced by CCTV. Statistics confirm that youngsters in China can talk about sex more freely nowadays. But another thing I think we should consider is whether or not we have a healthy concept of sex.



Is It Copyright Infringement or Creation?

Kristy

04 English

Recently, a hot topic for debate has been a short online film called "A Blood Caused by a Steamed Bread."

Why "Steamed Bread" has given rise to so much controversy is because it is an adaptation of the famous film "The Promise." Reportedly, "The Promise" is the "richest" film in the history of Chinese movies. More than three hundred million Yuan was spent creating it. Chen

Kaige, the director of "The Promise," is infuriated by this short film, because he thinks that "Steamed Bread" not only has a bad effect on the international fame of "The Promise," but also that it is a copyright infringement. So Chen has decided to bring a suite against the creator of "Steamed Bread," whose name is Hu Ge.

However, most students I interviewed



think "Steamed Bread" is much better than "The Promise." They said that "The Promise" was very hard to understand and it wasted a lot of money, but "Steamed Bread" was very funny and creative.

What's more, most of them believed that kind of film adaptation is not a copyright infringement, but a creation all its own. Students seem to think Hu Ge's behavior didn't have any bad effect to society, so it can not be banned. Therefore, they support Hu Ge in the fight with Chen Kaige.

Every coin has two sides. Though "Steamed Bread" is a kind of creation, it also disrespects another person's creation. It is hard to say who is right or wrong in this case. I suppose it's a matter of opinion.



The Effect of the Psychological Consulting Center

Megin

05 Literature

Four people at South China Agriculture University committed suicide in ten days. This was a big news story that shocked many people. More and more suicides taking place in universities lead us to the following conclusion: the mental health of students in universities is becoming more and more fragile.

In recent years, society has paid more attention to this problem; more and more psychological consultation centers and hot lines as well as psychology courses have appeared. How about Shantou University? The Psychological Consulting Center was created last April with the purpose of helping students with psychological issues.

There are several activities hosted by the Psychological Consulting Center. One is a consultation hotline. Students who are confused or have problems can dial the hotline and get help from tutors in the center. Another way tutors help students is through

face-to-face conversations. The center also plays many films on psychology and lets audience members fill out a survey that helps students better understand their mental health. Right now they are soliciting articles on these films. This term, the center plans to hold a psychological drama competition co-operating with the drama organization at STU. The manager said, "We are just at the beginning; we still have a long way to go."

Does this consultation center help students a lot? Tutor Song told me, "When I see them

[students being helped] getting really moved, or even crying like a burden has been removed from their shoulders, I think they have gotten out of trouble." Song continued, "They make much sense of their problem at that time, but what they will do and how they will think later depends on themselves." I think most of the students who go to the Center learn at least something about themselves. Maybe it is one remarkable sentence that encourages them constantly in their life. On the other hand, the center still needs improvement; tutors need more training.

Dancing Group a Big Happy Family

Karen

04 Liberal Arts

Their graceful dancing appears in many shows and contests. They are the members of our university's Dancing Group. However, most of them had never danced before joining the Dancing Group. It was their love and passion for dancing that brought them together. Although they're inexperienced, they can improve and perform well by practicing. There is a saying: "Practice makes perfect." So even when there are no contests or shows, the Dancing Group keeps training at least once a week. If they have contests or shows, they will practice much more, some weeks training everyday.

The leader of Dancing Group told me that their training before The First Campus Dancing Contest left her with a deep impression. Because most of the members were new, it was hard for her to train them. So the group had several two hour practice sessions each day. What's more, they trained with a high level of intensity. It was really a tough task for the new members.

However, they put great effort into every movement and followed the hard training schedule without complaint. Two of the group members, especially moved their leader. Because one of the members, who had planned to pair-dance, was injured two days before the Dancing Contest, another member, Hong, was chosen to dance with Gao. Since Hong hadn't

practiced this pair-dance before and only two days remained before the contest, the new pair danced almost all day long until after 12 o'clock in the evening. Because of some difficult movements, they fell down frequently. But it seemed that they didn't care about the pain. They just kept dancing. They really devoted themselves to dancing.

The leader described Dancing Group as a big happy family. They get along well with each other and help each other both during

training and daily life. When someone feels upset because of a little dancing mistake, others will comfort them instead of complaining. After training, they often go to sing Karaoke or play basketball. The relationship between them is one of brothers and sisters.

For the group, the results of a competition are not important. What they think is valuable is that they can learn much more from the Dancing Group than just how to dance.



They learn responsibility, how to present themselves, how to express themselves with body movement, and most importantly, confidence. They dance with confidence, which makes them charming.

Indeed, they have endless happiness and amazing passion. It is not enough to describe their relationship with each other as friends. They are the dancing brothers and sisters.

Constellation Zone

The Ways of Consoling Oneself Among the Twelve Constellations

Heather

05 Law

Everyone has times in his or her life when he or she suffers setbacks or shocks. They might be a disappointment in a love affair, maybe a disagreement with the boss at work, possibly failure in school, or an argument with friends. What each person values and how he or she responds to setbacks differs among the constellations.

Aries (03/21-04/19): Generally speaking, they won't suffer too many setbacks in school or work, because they care more about friendship. But it is a different matter when they receive criticism from superiors who don't care about sparing their feelings.

Motto: There is no threshold that we cannot get through!

Taurus (04/20-05/20):

They pay a lot of attention to outstanding achievements at work because of their desire

for wealth. Therefore, they will be filled with remorse and anger if they accomplish nothing or fail after working so hard.

Motto: I've exerted myself, so I have no faults!

Gemini (05/21-06/21): In establishing social relations, they seem to value nothing. Actually they value everything, especially their parents, spouse, children, etc. They will feel bad when they are unable to help the people they care about most.

Motto: There is certainly somewhere for me to stay other than here!

Cancer (06/22-07/22): To them, there is nothing more important than love affairs. They prefer to hide themselves when suffering setbacks. Face them bravely!

Motto: Let the past go with the wind!

Leo (07/23-08/23): This positive group values all that they are proud of, especially school and work. It is a real shock if others dampen their enthusiasm when they are proud of their success.

Motto: There is no point in people taking counsel together who follow different ways!

Virgo (08/23-09/22): They are clinging and steady in their careers regardless of many storms outside, because they wish their families to be secure. What they value most is the safety of their families. However, when they are at fault, they are imitative of Ah Q, the main character in Lu Xun's *The True Story of Ah Q*, who interprets their defeats as moral victories.

Motto: Time is a good medicinal herb!

(to be continued...)

Retrieved from http://lcinfo.net.cn/xiangzuo/ziwo_zw.htm

Mandy

05 Public Management

Life is a kind of art. Without realizing this some students may think that living in university is kind of boring. But common life will become uncommon if you find your own way to live and enjoy yourself. A painter is happy because he paints what he likes. During this process, everything is colorful. Life eventually becomes an art.

As a freshman, I feel that my surroundings at STU are strange, but I still feel happy. And my campus life is full of entertainment due to the fellow students from my hometown. I feel like everything goes as well as when I am back home. How wonderful!

You may ask, why do I have this comfortable feeling? My answer is that students from my hometown often organize various sorts of activities for freshmen. Last semester, we went for a short trip to Nan'ao. It was the first time I saw the sea and I still can't find any words to express my feelings about it. With mellow sunshine and soft sand you can image how wonderful it was. When I was lying on the

sand, I forgot all troubling things and only thought life was wonderful. And then, some of us played volleyball on the sand and the others walked along the seaside to enjoy the beautiful landscape. Everything was wonderful!

What's more, almost every week the students from my hometown will get together. Why? We cook for ourselves! Although all of us are far away from home, we still can taste delicious food from home. When we caress our big bellies, we are immersed in happiness. Seeing this, other people always joke that, "I wish I were your fellow townsman, you always can entertain yourselves." Truly, we share all the happy things together.

My campus life is jolly. But, don't envy me. As a matter of fact, everyone has the right to create their own life. In my opinion, "Life is made of time, which is like sand in a palm, it will be blown away beyond your expectation." Also, "life is a plain paper, which is waiting for people to color it." So we need to make good use of our time and opportunities to fill up this plain paper. I believe that life will be far from dull with our efforts.

Life, the work of art, can be exquisite beyond compare.