

**Nevermore, Nevermore**

**Alajuela 200 years  
of History**

**Halloween**

**Joomag**

**Explicit Grammar or Not?**

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# COVER PAGE

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For those who have the Halloween spirit, here is a fresh pumpkin ready to be carved. In this edition, we want to share this beautiful picture taken from

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If you have an awesome picture you think could be the cover of one of The ILE Post editions, send it to [eherrera@utn.ac.cr](mailto:eherrera@utn.ac.cr). So far several readers have sent amazing pictures that we will be sharing with you soon.

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**ILE UTN**

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# EDITORIAL

## *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano*

“A healthy mind in a healthy body”, wrote the Roman poet Juvenal as early as the first century A.D. The importance of exercise is known to prevent or manage a wide range of health problems, especially against overweight. However, we hardly promote its benefits for a healthy mind.

Today, people usually complain of how tired they are, of a hundred things to do, that they just want to go home and sleep. Out of this the perfect excuse comes out as “if I were not so tired, I would go exercise”. Such mental fatigue can also be fought with exercise. It has been proved that physical activity stimulates various brain chemicals that may leave a feeling happiness and lower stress levels (Rob, 2010). Likewise, physical activity delivers oxygen and nutrients to tissues. In fact, regular physical activity helps the entire cardiovascular system in order to breathe easily. When the heart and lungs work more efficiently, the benefits are energy and a sharp mind.

There must be a concern for current health conditions, but also for what may come in the future. Two typical diseases many people suffer from at certain age are Alzheimer and dementia. They happen because there is a disconnection among nerve cells in the brain, for neurons seem

to lose ability to communicate with other cells and little by little they die. Wanjek (2012) concluded that regular physical exercise appears to protect the brain from shrinking, an otherwise natural process that is associated with memory and thinking problems.

Whether we like it or not, age makes our brains harden, similarly to what happens with bread after a day or two. However, exercise stimulates the brain plasticity by stimulating growth of new connections between cells (Montelli, Zheng, Jing, Gómez, Twiss, 2004). This is exactly what doctors keep saying all the time that prevention is not just better but also cheaper and less painful than a cure.

So it does not matter if what you pursue is a physically athletic look, disease prevention, or getting rid of stress, exercise will always be the best answer, as simple as that. Deep inside, once you get used to exercising, it also becomes fun and maybe addictive.

If the concept of “*mens sana in corpore sano*” was already valued in the old Juvenal's Roman Society, how much more it has to be for the society of today, when so much depends on the mental capability to deal with a daily hard life.

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## English Certification Process at UTN

The 1-2013 Trinity Certifying Process just concluded with great success its roll of interviews for professors and students. Trinity is a leading provider of qualifications for teachers in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), with more than 30 years of experience. Trinity qualifications are widely recognized by employers and education authorities around the world.

Seventy five candidates enjoyed the experience of being classified according to the Common European

Framework for Languages and with international recognition. Mr. David Evans was in charge of this process. He is originally from London, England. Now, students are very motivated with reaching higher English spoken standards and get the benefits this foreign language provides.



*"Having to take the Trinity test in order to prove our proficiency in English is actually a very good idea. This requirement along with the training courses and seminars regarding teaching methodologies is indeed an effective way for the UTN to make sure that we all have what it takes to provide our students with the quality of education that they deserve",* said Andres Bejarano, one of the UTN teachers who got his certificate.

*"This was an interesting experience, but I have to admit I was very nervous at the beginning; however, as the examination was taking place I started to feel calm and confident. I had a preparation process that lasted for a week where I got information about the examination, its parts and content. I consider this preparation stage very valuable and I advise, whoever wants to take the GESE examination, a good prior proper preparation and a lot of practice",* said Yamil Segura, another UTN teacher who got his certificate.

Soon UTN will expect all of its teachers to be certified as a result of their ongoing investment in training to improve teaching standards throughout the university system.

## UTN Exclusive Tax Revenue Project

The establishment of UTN required strong mechanisms be put in place to ensure university goals could be realized and then maintained on a long-term basis. The most important of those mechanisms is, of course, the budget. Government grants have been the primary contributor to a successful balanced budget, and have supported... (rest of sentence). However, this public funding will not continue providing such accomplishments ad



infinitem. Chancellor Marcelo Prieto has proposed the strengthening of the institutional budget with the enactment of a government law to allow an exclusive tax revenue system for the UTN. This project would establish an increase of \$5 in the departure tax. Four dollars out of this five dollar fee will be allocated to the UTN. The other dollar is contributed to the strengthening of the professional technical schools of the country. This initiative was presented to the legislative authorities on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and the Special Commission of Science, Technology and Education of the Legislative Assembly unanimously approved the final document on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. In brief, UTN is close to achieve this major goal after strenuous efforts for over a year. This will indefinitely support the development of the university to ultimately offer a technical education of excellence with more opportunities for the students.

## *Aerosmith in Costa Rica*

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, American legendary rock band, Aerosmith returned to the stage for the third time in Costa Rica at the National Stadium. The concert was part of the band's Global Warming Tour, which began in 2012. The group has already performed more than 60 concerts worldwide as part of the tour. Classics like: "Dream On", "Janie's Got a Gun", "Amazing" accompanied new hits from their new album "Music From Another Dimension", in what proved to be a Night of Rock at its best.

The band was formed in Boston, Massachusetts in 1970. Guitarist Joe Perry and bassist Tom Hamilton, originally in a band together called the Jam Band, met up with singer Steven Tyler, drummer Joey Kramer, and guitarist Ray Tabano, and formed Aerosmith. In 1971, Tabano was replaced by Brad Whitford, and the band began developing in Boston.

(Image taken from: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ch-villa/8351487633/sizes/m/in/photostream/>  
It is under creative commons and was taken by Ch Villa)



## *US Government Shutdown*

During recent weeks, we have heard about the US government shutdown, but what is it? And why does it happen?

Basically the government shutdown is a result of the inability of members of Congress to approve the budget. Because of this government shutdown, 800,000 government workers will be placed on involuntary unpaid leave. National Parks and National Monuments will be closed until further notice, and services such as the US Postal Service and the Department of Immigration will have to subsist on their profit-making activities, like selling stamps and issuing passports.

The US currently has a Democrat President, a Republican majority House of Representatives, and a Democrat majority Senate. Congress has refused to pass the Democrat President's 2013-14 Federal Budget without major amendments to key policies, most notably Obamacare (Obama's universal health care plan). In response, the Democrats-controlled Senate has refused to even meet to discuss the amended bill, let alone pass it. The US Government financial year ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>, which means that if no budget is passed by that date, the government shuts down until a resolution is reached.

This is not the first time a shutdown like this has occurred. Bill Clinton oversaw a four-week shutdown in 1996, and there was little-to-no economic fallout from that. However, a budget standoff has never happened to a US as divided and as economically imperilled as this one; the knock-on economic effects could lead to a recession. Furthermore, the US government is edging perilously close to its debt ceiling. If it hits the debt ceiling before the stand-off is resolved, the US Government will default on its loans. This would affect the US government's credit rating, global markets, and, pretty much everything, actually.

(Information taken from: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/30/us-shutdown-explainer-non-americans>)



## *Alajuela, 200 Years of History*

According to a motion issued in the Spanish Parliament of Cadiz (Spain, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1812), the first town hall of Alajuela was founded on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1813. On December 18<sup>th</sup> of the same year, the La Lajuela quarter obtained the title of town and it was renamed. It was first called "Villa Hermosa," then it was called "San Juan Nepomuceno de Alajuela" and finally the title of city was granted on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1824 and with it the name "Alajuela" which remains today.



In pre-Columbian times the land where the canton of Alajuela is today was part of the so-called Huetar Kingdom of the West, which was inhabited by native tribes, who at the time of the Spanish conquest were led by Chief Garabito.

In 1777 the dwellers of La Lajuela and Ciruelas, having been served with notice to move to Villa Vieja (today's Heredia), requested the provisional construction of a public place of prayer in the house of Don Dionysius Oconitrillo, of Spanish origin, 30 meters north of where Alajuela's cathedral is today. After increases of population in the five existing quarters then: Targuaz, Puás, Ciruelas, La Lajuela and Rio Grande, the citizens faced difficulties to maintain their religious obligations, so they requested permission to establish a parish and a public place of prayer from the Bishop of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Monsignor don Esteban Lorenzo de Tristán.

(Information taken from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alajuela>)

## *Meza Skate Board*

Last October 6<sup>th</sup>, Meza Skate Park opened to the public. The project was made possible through the efforts launched by Alajuela City Mayor Roberto Thompson. It is being described as one of the biggest community projects ever in Alajuela and it will, quite literally, take our local sports facilities to the extreme.

Its aim was to provide active Alajuela youngsters wanting something different from the traditional activities and team sports on offer, with another option – one that many had repeatedly called for a long time. Extreme sports fans labeled their long-awaited skate park 'awesome and exciting' as they stepped foot on it for the first time.



(Pictures taken from Alajuela City Mayor Roberto Thompson's FACEBOOK)



# THE ILE ETHOS

## *Nevermore, Nevermore*

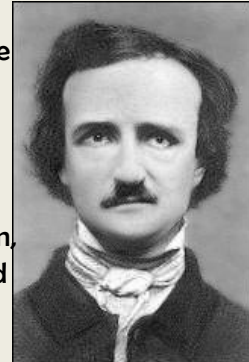
On October 7<sup>th</sup>, lovers of the mysterious and the melancholy mourn the death of Edgar Allan Poe. As is appropriate for the man who invented the detective story, he died 164 years ago, in 1849 at the age of 40, under baffling circumstances. Edgar Allan Poe was born on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1809, in Boston, Massachusetts.

He was orphaned at a young age when his mother died shortly after his father abandoned the family. Poe was taken in by John and Frances Allan, of Richmond, Virginia, but they never formally adopted him. He attended the University of Virginia for one semester but left due to lack of money.

After enlisting in the Army and later failing as an officer's cadet at West Point, Poe parted ways with the Allans. His publishing career began humbly, with an anonymous collection of poems, *Tamerlane and Other Poems* (1827), credited only to "a Bostonian".

Poe and his works influenced literature in the United States and around the world, as well as in specialized fields, such as cosmology and cryptography. The name Poe brings to mind images of murderers and madmen, premature burials, and mysterious women who return from the dead. Poe and his work appear throughout popular culture in literature, music, films, and television. A number of his homes are dedicated museums today.

Among his long collection of poems and short stories, some of the most famous are: *The Pit and the Pendulum*, *The Black Cat*, *The Masque of the Red Death*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *Anabelle Lee*, and of course, *The Raven*.



*Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.  
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—  
Only this and nothing more."*

*(The Raven)*



Scholarly debate still rages as to why he was found, four days before his death, delirious and in borrowed clothes, in Baltimore, Maryland, far from his home in New York City. The exact cause remains unknown, but was rumored to have been everything from alcohol and opium, to syphilis, cholera, tuberculosis, rabies, and "brain congestion."

(Information Taken from: <http://www.poemuseum.org/index.php>)  
(Images taken from: <http://www.wpclipart.com/>)



## Explicit Grammar or Not?

By Xinia Nagygeller (ILLE Professor)



Is grammar really so important when studying a second or foreign language? How explicit should we as English language teachers be when addressing grammatical points in our classroom? These questions may have different answers depending on what personal views we have on the meaning of grammar and how necessary it is in our classrooms.

Folse (2009) claims that grammar is an essential aspect when learning English either as a second or as a foreign language because basically, grammar is the skeleton of language, the glue that puts together strings of thought and helps make ideas understandable. I agree with these claims because without proper grammar we may be able to communicate some ideas but we may not always be able to achieve good results like obtaining the services we want or providing the kind of information someone requests from us, just to mention a few situations in which making our ideas understandable is needed. Moreover, poor grammar may indeed create serious misunderstandings and problems for instance in business relationships or when the target language is used for academic purposes. When a person studies a second or foreign language (L2), he does not study isolated words or idiomatic expressions; he needs to know how to put those ideas together and in this way resemble the speaking of the native speakers of that language. I have thought for a long time that as non-native speakers, what we do is to imitate native speakers of the L2, and this applies to grammar as well as to vocabulary, pronunciation, body language, and other aspects. Therefore, we need to use the grammatical patterns native speakers of English use in order to communicate in the way they do.

In the article *“An Introduction to Grammar for English Language Learners”* in which he discusses the idea of teaching grammar to English Language Learners (ELL), Folse (2009) has apparently written for teachers who are English native speakers themselves. The author makes allusion to many cases in which, as native speakers of the target language, instructors may not realize the importance of identifying the problems that their students (either in ESL, EFL, ESP, K-12 or other teaching settings) will face when learning the language at different stages and depending on their origin or background. I have had the opportunity to teach as both a native and a non-native speaker. When I taught in the U.S. as a Spanish teacher I was teaching my first language without really any training on it. So I can relate to what the author mentions in the text: just because I am a Spanish native speaker it does not mean that I know why I use grammar the way I do, so I may not be able to explain it well or to foresee what problems Spanish learners will face in the learning process. On the other hand, because I have been an English language learner myself and I share the same cultural and linguistic background of my EFL students here in Costa Rica, I know what kind of problems I should expect and why students would commit them. Experience has a lot to do with this, too, but I guess that sometimes being a non-native speaker teacher has its advantages. Anyways, like Folse (2009) argues, the most important thing is that as ELL teachers we need to be aware of our students' needs and objectives in learning the language, and also we need to address grammar in the way that is more appropriate for their learning situation. It is definitely not the same to teach a conversational English course, EFL/ESL in K-12, or EFL in a college major. Grammar should be treated in different ways in

these settings, but it has to be present and practiced somehow.

I strongly believe that every language teacher, native speaker or not, has to develop strong skills in his or her own use and knowledge of the target language grammar. First, it is part of our credibility as teaching professionals to make good use of language. Then, and as Folse (2009) points out, “the teacher’s daily English input plays a much more important role in the English acquisition of ELLs than many teachers believe” (p. 18). This means that we are the main providers of examples on the use of the language, especially in EFL settings where students may not really have the opportunity to interact with the language outside the classroom. Hence we need to exert a good command of language in general. Also, I can remember my Applied Linguistics professor at UCR when she said that we, her students, were mostly her product. Now I think she was right because I can see how much teachers influence and affect the way students learn to use the language, and how they

turn to us as their models. So their English is, to some degree, our product.

Am I in favor of teaching grammar explicitly? Well, I have already mentioned that grammar is really important in all kinds of settings, but how explicit it should be made really depends on the kind of English class being taught. I have taught all kinds of courses and levels, including Grammar and Composition at college level, and I can say that grammar has always been present in some way or another. Folse (2009) states that experience gives teachers the ability to identify what works best for a kind of class, course or topic, and that experimenting with different ways of teaching grammar should lead us to the development of better teaching skills and a sense for how to treat such an important aspect of L2 learning. I could not agree more with this position. If we want our students to make appropriate and effective use of language, we must look for the best ways to cater to their needs and give them the tools to succeed in their ELL process.

#### References

Folse, K. (2009). *Keys to teaching grammar to English language learners: A practical handbook*. Ann Arbor, MI: The Michigan University Press

## *Importance of Research and Documentation*

*By Gerardo Molina (English Professor)*



I was recently assigned a simple homework task in a course I am taking. It was to find a scientific article in the field of education and present a briefing of the article to the class. It sounds simple, but there was a limitation. It cannot be a monograph or opinion article. It should be a scientific study.

I started by checking scientific databases such as Cochrane and digital education magazines from different countries, including Costa Rica. The surprise was that there are some studies out there, but most of them end up with conclusions like “we

could not prove...”, “it was not determined...”, “there was not enough evidence of ...”

So, I remembered a presenter I heard about a year ago telling that everything that happens in education is mainly trial and error based on someone’s idea instead of scientific studies. After this experience, that sounds pretty much right.

I did some research on Education programs offered by the universities, and majors with an emphasis on Curriculum, Evaluation, Adult teaching, elementary-school teaching are very popular, yet a major on Education with emphasis on Research is offered against the demand.

Since the demand is reduced, they are rarely offered.

Maybe not many teachers will be interested in studying Research as a graduate major, but we should at least start applying some principles of research and documentation in our own classes. If we think that our way of teaching X topic is not working as expected, we can think of a different approach. However, we cannot treat our students as guinea pigs every time. We must document the experience and share it with other professionals so that we build a database with statistics and feedback that can help us all get to better performance and better results.

For those more inclined to write formal research papers, it is important to consider some ground rules for respecting intellectual rights. There are two formats that help us avoid plagiarism and give our research paper a standardized format. The first one is APA from the American Psychological Association. It is widely found in medical, scientific, and psychological papers. On the other hand, the MLA is the system from the Modern Language Association and is widely used in linguistic research and pedagogy. The institution you are doing the research for will probably tell you what format to use, but it is necessary that you learn how to use them well.

## BACK IN TIME

Every day we get tons of new information. Newspapers, books, pamphlets, and the internet give us the chance to learn about what people think, what happens around the world, and even some things we could not even imagine. In this section, we want to give a glimpse to what was happening around the world more than fifty years ago.

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- ✓95 years from publication or 120 years from creation whichever is shorter (anonymous works, pseudonymous works, or works made for hire, published since 1978)
- ✓95 years from publication for works published 1964–1977; 28 (if copyright not renewed) or 95 years from publication for works published 1923–1963 (Copyrights prior to 1923 have expired.) After this important explanation, we leave you with an article from The Literary Digest, 1897.

## *The War and the Servant*

*Published in 1918 in the Vanity Fair Magazine*

In the good old ante-bellum days, scenes were every-day occurrences in the life of Mr. J. Wallingford Smith, - inventor and sole owner of Smith's Slenderizing Stays, they Lace on the side. Mr. Smith simply could not call it a day unless at least five footmen and valets were involved in the complicated process of getting him dressed for the eyes of the world. All his puttings on and his taking off were supervised, directed, and personally attended to by these motherly creatures; the elaborate ceremony was rather like that of the popular French colored print entitled, "The Queen's Toilette." And then, just as mixed up in this war, and the draft came along and, oh, dear, look at the Smith mansion now.

Portrait impression, from memory, of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wallingford Smith, motoring in their third-best Rolls-Royce, just about two weeks before the Kaiser turned on the war. Note the attendant chauffeur and footman- Mr. and Mrs. Smith wouldn't dream of going out in anything, not even a Ford, unless it had at least two men on the box. But things aren't what they used to be. the chauffeur and footman left for the front about six months ago, leaving the Rolls-Royce flat.

This scene, almost too terrible to look upon, it is absolutely true. It's not one of those faked war pictures at all. It shows the hideous suffering, the dreadful privations, that the war has brought upon some of us. It shows, in short, the bitter anguish of the J. Wallingford Smith as they watch a battalion of their footmen, chauffeurs, butlers, valets, gardeners, coachmen, grooms, house detectives, and resident photographers departing for the embarkation camp. How silent and lonely the house will seem without the familiar presence of these brave youths! Mrs. Smith is simply overcome at the thought of the empty future.

Fate seems to be against the unhappy Smith-it's not even on speaking terms with them. Even that good idea if Mrs. Smith's about engaging a child footman didn't work out. The boy wonder was really too immature-he couldn't overhear, even the simplest stories without blousing-so Mrs. Smith had to resort to a mere maid to accompany her around our city. But, judging from the maid's expression, it doesn't look as if she thought much of her job; there aren't enough men around to make it really worth her while. All the regular ones are in uniform the ones that are out of khaki are out of the question.

Conscription is the mother of invention- Mrs. Smith recently conceived the brilliant idea of engaging a mere stripling to pinch-hit for the drafted footman. Someone simply has to carry the family ermines around- you can't expect a lone lady to do it all by herself. Of course, the new footman is a trifle inept, but there's one consoling thing about him - they can't draft him for twelve years, anyway. The accompanying picture graphically portrays the new footman in action-playing the part of a human coat room while Mrs. S. drops in at the Ritz, at teatime. The waiter has really been all worked up over the size of Mrs. Smith's food order-you can see only the very, very last of it. He is thinking seriously of getting Mr. Hoover on the long distance and having something very radical done about her. And here is the ultimate straw. Even the maid has gone and done it-she enlisted necessary Service. The uniform is so much more becoming than those trying maid's costumes. She is pictured with her young man, lately invalided home from the front. The Smiths' grief and desolation cannot be shown; there is some bereavement, among the very rich, which is too deep and terrible to be gazed on by the mere subscribers to Vanity Fair.





From the heart of my attic, this month I want to share with you something about my passionate and mad soul.

ATTE. *Bertha Mason*

### *Dark soul*

Each night, the tender  
 Feeling leaves  
 And is replaced by this tiny spider.  
 It's legs spread around my chest,  
 Begging for attention.  
 She crawls, cries; whispers  
 Tempting lullabies.  
 The souls darkens,  
 But remains awake  
 Through the silent night.

### *Kindergarten*

*By Adrian Calvo (ILE Student)*

What I do remember from kindergarten was how happy and excited I was. I remember this feeling when my son entered preschool recently. The difference was that now as his mother I almost suffered a heart-attack by leaving him there the first day. (Just for the record: I never leave him alone for more than five minutes.) The idea of leaving him with a stranger was not my favorite idea. So when the day arrived and he went to the classroom, I felt very uneasy: a hole in my stomach and my eyes wet. But I wasn't the only one. Some parents had tears falling and some others were already used to the routine so they were pretty calm. I can even recall the image of my mother on my first day of kindergarten and her eyes were also watering.

I remember from my childhood that the playground was not big, but it had a slide, a seesaw, a swing and some monkey bars. The playground my son has in his school consists basically of some plastic slides, like playground sets, a seesaw and a swing. Another thing I remember is the classroom. It was very colorful. Beside the tables and chairs, we had toys, table games and a small plastic house that was like a hospital with the hospital gown and some doctor instruments, but it also had some clothes like a tutu or funny t-shirts. The classroom of my son was familiar to mine except it wasn't colorful. It was blue and there were no cute decorations made of foam like the ABC or Winnie the Pooh.

Notwithstanding, the contents were very different. When I was in kindergarten, I was six years old; my son, who was only three years old, learned more things than I learned. He was taught English, Religion, Computer and Physical Education. He also had to learn the alphabet (recognizing vowels from consonants), the colors, the numbers from 0-20 and recognizing the decades until 100 besides all the activities and practices enhancing this knowledge and body coordination.

Definitely children have the potential to learn all these things and more. Something I wouldn't believe in my time. Just like my mother did with me, I believe the key to maintaining our children's interest in education is to support them.

As children, we love when our parents sing us nursery rhymes before we go to bed. Here, we want to share with you one of the most famous nursery rhymes in English.

### *Mary had a Little Lamb*

Mary had a little lamb,  
little lamb, little lamb,  
Mary had a little lamb,  
its fleece was white as snow.

And everywhere that Mary went,  
Mary went, Mary went,  
and everywhere that Mary went,  
the lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school one day,  
school one day, school one day,  
It followed her to school one day,  
which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,  
laugh and play, laugh and play,  
it made the children laugh and play,  
to see a lamb at school.

And so the teacher turned it out,  
turned it out, turned it out,  
And so the teacher turned it out,  
but still it lingered near.

And waited patiently about,  
patiently about, patiently about,  
And waited patiently about,  
till Mary did appear.

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"  
Love Mary so? Love Mary so?  
"Why does the lamb love Mary so,"  
the eager children cry.

"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know."  
The lamb, you know, the lamb, you know,  
"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know,"  
the teacher did reply.

The nursery rhyme was first published by the Boston publishing firm Marsh, Capen & Lyon, as an original poem by Sarah Josepha Hale on May 24, 1830, and was inspired by an actual incident.

(Information taken from: [http://makingmusicfun.net/html/f\\_mmf\\_music\\_library\\_songbook/mary-had-a-little-lamb-history-and-lyrics.htm](http://makingmusicfun.net/html/f_mmf_music_library_songbook/mary-had-a-little-lamb-history-and-lyrics.htm))

## LANGUAGE BITS

Here there are some examples of how to say things in different situations.

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You were at a party and you didn't know it was so late.	I was quite unaware of how time had progressed.	I didn't realize what time it was.	I completely lost track of time.
A man often makes sexist comments. You tell a friend.	He is disrespectful and insulting towards women.	He's sexist.	He's an MCP (a male chauvinist pig).
You think a film was really, really impressive. You tell a friend.	It really impressed me.	It was incredible.	It was out of this world.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #66, p.10)

### *Business Acronyms*

Usually in movies or in companies and offices we visit, we listen to people using acronyms that we certainly do not understand. As in the previous edition, today we want to share some common acronyms business people use. We hope they will be useful especially if you are reading business technical documentation.

**CAO:** Chief Accounting Officer

**R&D:** Research and Development

**CMO:** Chief Marketing Officer

**B2B:** Business to Business (companies that sell to other companies, like Oracle)

**CSA:** Customer Service Advisor

**CFO:** Chief Financial Officer (head of the finance)

**FIFO** – First In, First Out (used both in computer programs and accounting; it determines that what comes first is handled first)

**FY:** fiscal year

**HR:** human resources

**KPI:** Key performance indicators

**P&L:** Profit and Loss (also called Income Statement, is an accounting report used to outline how revenues are transformed into profits)

**MSRP:** Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price

**SOHO:** Small Office/Home Office

**TCO:** Total Cost of Ownership (a method to estimate all the costs)

**TQM:** Total Quality Management

(Words taken from: <http://innovationzen.com/blog/2007/10/10/all-the-business-acronyms-you-need-to-know/>)

## TECHNOLOGY

### Joomag



Joomag is a FREE service for creating digital interactive content, including digital magazines, photo albums, catalogs and e-books. All this is possible right from the website using this innovative online editing tool. Joomag is an innovative service for digital interactive magazine publishing and hosting. It features a powerful platform for creating digital interactive content, including magazines, e-books, catalogs, reports, brochures and photo albums, and delivers an exceptional reading experience to users thanks to the carefully designed online viewer with realistic flipping effects and user friendly magnifying and panning features. Everyone is free to use Joomag. Individuals can use it to publish articles, photo albums, brochures and so on using Joomag's online editing tools. Media business owners can use it to publish their existing printed materials by converting them to digital format using the converter tool, which can convert from popular editorial formats to Joomag's digital format. They can then add interactivity, such as videos, links, sounds and animation, using the editing tools. Students and Teachers from over 130 Educational organizations worldwide use Joomag for their course works, papers and e-learning materials. Digital Magazines offer publishers the unique opportunity to easily spread their content around the world, saving money traditionally spent on print and distribution. Recent research showed that the reader engagement with a digital interactive magazine is more than five times greater than with a similar one without interactivity.

Digital Interactive Magazines also encourage readers to interact for access to additional content, for example by clicking to play content in the form of video, slide shows, and flash animation or by registering online for membership in a fan, professional or special interest group.

(Information taken from: <http://www.joomag.com/>)





# HUMOR

*A dog walks into a job centre, goes up to the woman at the desk and says, 'Good afternoon, miss. I'm looking for work.' The woman looks up, amazed, and says, 'Good heavens, a talking dog! Er... well, let's try the circus in town. I'll give them a ring.'*

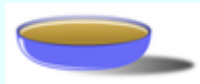
*The dog says, 'The circus? What on earth would the circus do with a computer programmer?'*



'Waiter, what's this?'

'It's bean soup, sir.'

'I don't care what it's been - what is it now?'



Teacher: 'What's your name?'

Schoolboy: 'Henry Smith.'

Teacher: 'Always say 'Sir' when you speak to a teacher.'

Schoolboy (apologetically): 'Sir Henry Smith.'



Mother comes home from a business trip and asks her little son, 'Well, Johnny, how did you get along with father while I was away?'

'Everything was fine, mum,' the little boy says. 'Daddy took me to the middle of the lake by boat every morning and I swam home alone.'

'Wasn't it too much for you to swim?'

'Oh, no, mum, the only problem was that I had to get out of the bag first.'



Two women neighbors are talking.

'Mary, what's wrong with you? Are you ill? I saw the doctor coming out of your house twice last week.'

'So what? I saw an officer coming out of your house five times last week but I'm not saying that a war has broken out.'



(Images taken from: <http://www.wpclipart.com/>)

(Jokes taken from <http://english.specialist.hu/a3/xfun/jok.php> )

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

## Halloween

Halloween is observed on October 31<sup>st</sup> in the United States and the United Kingdom. The ancient Celtic harvest festival, Samhain, was the earliest version of Halloween. About 3,000 years ago, the Celts believed in many gods and worshiped nature. They thought that the spirits of the recently deceased traveled together to the land of the dead on Samhain. To win the favor of the spirits, people sacrificed crops and animals, and wore costumes and masks to disguise

themselves. In Scotland farmers carried torches around their fields to frighten evil spirits away from the crops. In Wales people built bonfires on hilltops and carefully watched them until midnight. When the fire burned out, everyone ran down the hill as fast as possible. It was thought that the devil would capture the last person down the hill.

After the Roman invasion of Britain in A.D.43, Samhain was linked with Roman autumn holidays. The Romans celebrated a harvest festival in honor of the goddess Pomona, from which came many customs associated with apples and nuts. They also celebrated Feralia, a day to honor the dead. Halloween is linked to all three of these holidays.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe, pagan holidays were given new Christian interpretations. Samhain, Feralia, and Pomona were combined into ALL SOULS' DAY. The night before this holiday was known as All Hallows' E'en. *Hallow* is an old word meaning "holy," and *e'en* is Scottish for "evening." Eventually it became one word—Halloween. Wearing costumes is still a popular tradition, but it is done for fun, not to hide from evil spirits. Black cats, bats, and witches were once thought to have supernatural, evil powers. Now pictures of them are used as decorations. Black and orange are seen everywhere during Halloween. Orange symbolizes autumn and the harvest, and black is the color of death and darkness. The colors remind us that Halloween was once a harvest festival and a festival of the dead.



(Information taken from: Mohenm, H., (2000). World Holidays. p. 40)

(Image taken from: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl/4055670403/sizes/o/in/photostream/>)

## It happened in October

October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1880	First electric lamp factory opened by Thomas Edison.
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1863	Lincoln designates last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day
October 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1938	Germans mark all Jews' passports with a large red letter "J" to restrict Jewish immigration to Switzerland, following a request from the Swiss government.
October 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1965	Beatles' "Yesterday," single goes #1 and stays #1 for 4 weeks.
October 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1906	San Francisco public school board sparks United States diplomatic crisis with Japan by ordering Japanese students to be taught in racially segregated schools.
October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 1923	Disney Company is founded.
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 1938	First Xerox copy is made.
October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1970	Salvador Allende Gossens is elected president of Chile.
October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1938	Orson Welles broadcasts his radio play of H. G. Wells's The War of the Worlds, causing a nationwide panic in the United States.

## Famous People Born In October

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Zlatan Ibrahimovic	October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1981
Hugh Jackman	October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1968
E. E. Cummings	October 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1894
Wayne Rooney	October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1985
Francois Mitterrand	October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 1916
Julia Roberts	October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 1967
Diego Maradona	October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1960

# PROVERB OF THE MONTH

A proverb is a short saying or sentence that is generally known by many people. The saying usually contains words of wisdom, truth or morality that are based on common sense or practical experience. It is often a description of a basic rule of conduct that all people generally follow or should follow. Proverbs can be found in all languages. To close this month's edition, we want to make you think about this popular Irish proverb:

*A good laugh and a long sleep are  
the best cures in the doctor's book.*

*- Irish Proverb*

## International Accreditations at UTN

*by Marco Araya*

**Trinity College London** offers its second roll of international accreditations this coming December. This entity honored **Universidad Técnica Nacional, Registered Examination Center 46172**, as the only representative institution in Costa Rica to test people who want to acquire a worldwide recognition in his/her English language skills.

Each year, more than half a million applicants in Latin America are accredited by Trinity which is not only the oldest but also educational entity.

Examinations are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. PIT (Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo) office provides all the information you need to register for the next examination process. Representatives will be pleased to guide aspirants through this remarkable experience: registration requisites, pre-tests, tutoring, and assertive advice. **Contact us and become a Trinity certified member. Ph: 2435-5000 ext: 1233**



## *Discovering Pura Vida*

Remember, if you want to read authentic stories created in UTN-ILE, you can find them in Discovering Pura Vida. The books are a series of language learning and culture immersion original stories in English with an interesting way of learning Spanish. They are for kindle readers at the moment, but any PC or tablet can display them, too. Each book is \$3.99.



(Images taken from: Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field\\_keywords=discovering+pura+vida&prefix=discovering+pura%2Caps&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Adiscovering+pura+vida](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field_keywords=discovering+pura+vida&prefix=discovering+pura%2Caps&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Adiscovering+pura+vida))

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