



ISSUE # 28

JANUARY 2015

Chinese New Year

Welcome to UTN 2015

**English Teaching:
A life experience**

**US to restore Ties
with Cuba after 50 Years**

**Free and Open-
Source Software**

cover page



Photo credit: [kenyomatic](#) / [IW](#) / [CC BY](#)

In this first 2015 edition, our cover page is dedicated to the celebration of the Chinese New Year. This year the celebration begins on Jan 24th and it is the year of the snake. Find more information inside this edition.

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. So far several readers have sent amazing pictures that we will be sharing with you soon. If you want to know what is happening in ILE, follow us in



<https://www.facebook.com/TheILEPost?ref=ts>

INSIDE

Editorial.....	
UTN NEWS	
-Welcome to UTN 2015.....	1
-MAG and UTN against Climate Change: Impact on Livestock.....	1
-Sistema Integrado de Bibliotecas y Recursos Digitales SIBIREDI-UTN.....	2
-Four New Licenciatura Programs Approved.....	2
WORLD NEWS	
-US to restore Ties with Cuba after 50 Years.....	4
-Deadly Attack on Satirical Magazine in Paris.....	5
-Russia Says Transsexuals Unfit to Drive.....	5
-2014 Was Hottest Year on Record.....	4
THE ILE ETHOS	
-What does It Really Mean to Be Ethical?.....	5
-English Teaching: A life experience.....	6
VALUE OF THE MONTH.....	7
VOX POPULI.....	8
90 SECONDS WITH	
-Xinia Castillo Campos.....	9
THE ATTIC OF BERTHA MASON	
-Only for you.....	12
-My Sadness.....	12
-My Year.....	13
LANGUAGE BITS.....	14
HUMOR.....	16
TECHNOLOGY	
-Free and Open-Source Software.....	17
THIS MONTH IN HISTORY	
-Chinese New Year.....	19
PROBERB OF THE MONTH.....	20
CONTRIBUTORS	
Sandra Argüello (column writer)	
Andrés Bejarano (article writer)	
Xinia Castillo (biography)	
Irwin Céspedes (article writer)	
Alice Córdoba (poem)	
Cindy González (section contributor)	
Marilyn Quesada (poem)	
María Fernanda Rodríguez (poem)	
Emilena Rodríguez (Editorial)	
Izabella Sepúlveda (article writer)	
Niki Sims (academic journal editor)	
Ivania Soto (poem)	
Yoseth Vargas (poem)	
Ivette Vásquez (news writer)	



EDITORIAL

Time to Think in your New Year's Resolutions

By Emilena Rodríguez



I hope you had Happy Holidays, and you got everything you asked for in your Christmas wish list. Now, it is time to think in

your new year's resolutions. I know! It's hard to believe but vacations are over. Now we have to go back to the "real world," mode and set our school goals for 2015.

I invite you to reflect on your language proficiency, feel free to circle any of the following goals- but by all means write your own while you enjoy a cup of coffee. Possible language problems that you want to overcome in 2015: I need to improve in grammar. I should work on my pronunciation. I need to get better at word choice. I must get prepositions straight. I have to make reading a priority. I should work on subject- verb agreement. It would not hurt to work on tense consistency.

Once you know what you need to work on. Go ahead and think on possible ways to overcome these issues. It is very important to be realistic! When you set a New Year Resolution, you have to keep an eye in how possible it is to attain it. The idea is that you feel motivated not obligated and that at the end of the year, you will feel proud of yourself! Here I write some suggestions of resolutions. If you need to work on word choice, grammar, spelling and so forth, you might to set goals like "I am going to subscribe to

journals, magazines, newspapers, forums, groups that I can access through my Facebook account" or "I am going to follow someone on Twitter." "I am going to read short stories. Whereas if you want to improve your listening skills, you can set goals like: "I am going to watch videos or sitcoms every week." "I will subscribe to podcasts." "I am going to watch a movie every weekend." "I will listen to online radio." "I will listen to more English music." If your issues are with speaking, some suggestions are: "I will enroll in one of the conversation clubs." "I will not skip classes." "I will download some recording apps on my smart phone and listen to them later." "I will not switch to Spanish in class when I do not know the word or when the professor is not looking at me." If you have a hard time giving speeches in front of the class, remember that most if not all of your classmates feel the same way. You can set goals like: "I am going to rehearse at home in front of a mirror or with a friend." "I will time myself." "I am going to watch sample videos."

If you have issues deciding what do you want to work on, consider asking one of your professors for guidance. We are there to help! Sometimes, we know that we need help, but we have to reach out in order to get it. New years are opportunities for achieving goals and make dreams come true!

Happy New School Year!

UTN NEWS

Welcome to UTN 2015

January 12th marked the beginning of the 2015 school year at UTN. This year, UTN accepted 3,666 new students. UTN offers 31 different majors in its campuses around the country (Alajuela, Atenas, Guanacaste, Puntarenas, San Carlos).

Little by little, Costa Rica finds out about the advantages UTN offers in terms of enrollment (no admission test required), quality and number of facilities, campus services, cost and financial aid (scholarships, and professional academic and administrative staff.

Technical education is one of UTN's most important goals. Our job is just to make sure you are highly educated so you can get a job once you finish the university program. UTN offers undergraduate, graduate and professional students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals, and the values and sensitivity necessary to be successful human beings. In brief, **we are thrilled that you will be joining our UTN family!**



MAG and UTN against Climate Change: Impact on Livestock

On November 24th and 25th, MAG (Ministry of Agriculture and Stockbreeding) held the seminar: **Climate Change and Livestock** at UTN Atenas campus. This scientific meeting attracted a big number of speakers, delegates and participants from all over the country. There were very interesting discussions on the challenges faced by the livestock sector in an effort to efficiently enhance its contribution to sustainable food supply in the context of climate variability; Impacts of climate change, including climatic variability and extremes, on livestock production and pastures; adaptation to climate change of the livestock sector, and

contribution of the livestock sector to global and regional food security.



UTN NEWS

Sistema Integrado de Bibliotecas y Recursos Digitales

SIBIREDI-UTN

by *Ivette Vasquez (UTN Libraries and Digital Resources Director)*

The Sistema Integrado de Bibliotecas y Recursos Digitales (SIBIREDI) was established by No. 201 -2012 resolution of the University Council on August 30th, 2012 under the tutelage of the Research Vice-Chancellor. This system integrates all libraries from the different UTN campuses around the country. Its objective is to coordinate a standardized work among all UTN libraries, as well as to promote the use of libraries and their products within the community.



Currently, SIBIREDI has better and more updated collections. Users can access biblioteca.ut.ac.cr website where they can find a variety of online resources such as consultation catalogs.

This portal provides free access to two subscription digital research databases: EBSCOhost and eBook-Proquest. These tools offer back issues of thousands of academic journals in a wide variety of disciplines. Issues are available both as images and as text, making searching possible both within each title and across the database. Furthermore, the platform has a friendly interface, making it easy for the user to work with these collections. One more feature of this platform is the chance of digital interaction

between teachers and students.

To access EBSCOhost, you should use your identification number. In the case of ELibro-Proquest, you will require your identification number and a password formed by the initials "butn" and the last five digits of your identification (everything in lowercase without dashes or spaces).

If you have problems or want more information about how to access these database collections, there is online training at capacitacion@e-libro.com, and for EBSCOhost at <https://ebco-spanish.webex.com/mw04011/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=ebco-spanish>. Remember that you can also ask the library staff for help.

Four New Licenciatura Programs Approved

On December 11th, the University Council recognized and approved four new licenciatura programs:

- **Licenciatura in Electrical Engineering**
- **Licenciatura in Occupational and Environmental Health**
- **Licenciatura in Process and Quality**
- **Licenciatura in Pedagogical Mediation**

These programs will be offered in May 2015



WORLD NEWS

US to Restore Ties with Cuba after 50 Years

The United States will restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba more than 50 years after they were severed, US President Barack Obama has said, just hours after Havana announced it had released a US aid worker who had been jailed for five years in Cuba.

"On December 17th, the US is changing its relationship with the people of Cuba. We'll begin to normalize relations between our two nations. Through these changes, we intend to

create more opportunities for the American and Cuban people and begin a new chapter," said Obama.



The US president said he had spoken to his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro on Tuesday about arrangements to release US aid worker Alan Gross, who

was arrested in 2009 in Cuba, on humanitarian grounds.

US media reported a prisoner exchange that also included Cuba releasing a US intelligence source and the US releasing three Cuban intelligence agents. Obama said he had instructed Secretary of State John Kerry to immediately initiate discussions with Cuba on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, which were severed in 1961.



(Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/48541-us-to-restore-ties-with-cuba.html> Photo Credit: [flippinark](#) / [Foter](#) / [CC BY](#))

Deadly Attack on Satirical Magazine in Paris

On January 7th, three heavily armed men have attacked a French satirical magazine based in Paris, killing at least 12 people, including four cartoonists and two policemen, officials have said.

The lawyer of the magazine confirmed that four cartoonists working with the publication, including the editor Stephane Charbonnier, known as 'Charb', were among the dead. Police said 11 people were wounded in the incident, adding that four were in a critical condition. The cartoonists known as Cabu, Tignous and Wolinski were also killed in the attack; AFP news agency quoted a judicial source as saying.

Charlie Hebdo has drawn repeated threats for its caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed, among other controversial sketches.

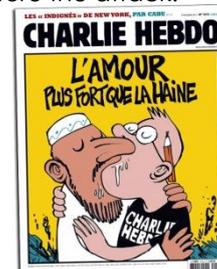
French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said the assault was carried out by three attackers. In amateur camera footage shared on the internet, the attackers are heard shouting: "We have avenged the Prophet Mohammad

President Francois Hollande, speaking outside the office of the magazine, described the attack as having been carried out by barbaric people.

Rowland said that a terrorism alert has been raised to its highest level in the wake of the attack.

The magazine had tweeted a cartoon of Abu Bakr al-

Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group, minutes before the attack.



France's Muslim leadership sharply condemned the shooting as a "barbaric" attack and an assault on press freedom and democracy.

"This extremely grave barbaric action is also an attack against democracy and the freedom of the press," the French Muslim Council (CFCM) said in a statement.



(Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/europe/48936-attack-on-satirical-magazine.html> Photo Credit: [yXeLLe~@rtBrut-](#) / [Foter](#) / [CC BY-NC-SA](#))

WORLD NEWS

Russia Says Transsexuals Unfit to Drive

Transsexuals, transvestites and others thought to have what Russia considers to be "sexual disorders" have been barred from driving in the country for "medical reasons" under new road safety regulations.



The new regulations have been criticized by rights activists, who see them as unconstitutional and likely to exacerbate an already hostile climate for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender community in Russia.

"The new Russian rules banning people from driving because of their gender identity are ridiculous and unlawful," Nils Muiznieks, human rights commissioner for the Council of Europe, said in a message posted to Facebook on Friday. He urged Russia "to immediately amend the rules to remove this ban."

The government resolution, dated December 29 and signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, lists numerous medical conditions, including "mental and behavioral disorders" defined by the

World Health Organization, that the government believes disqualify a person for a driving license. The WHO classification contains "gender identity disorders" such as transsexualism and "disorders of sexual preference," including fetishism and voyeurism.

The organization, which has been under pressure for years to stop considering transgender people as mentally ill, is currently revising its International Classification of Diseases, which came into use in 1994. The revised version is due in 2017, according to the WHO website.



(Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/europe/48992-transsexuals-unfit-to-drive.html>)

Photo Credit: [kaybee07](#) / [Foter](#) / [CC BY](#)

2014 Was Hottest Year on Record

US scientists have said that 2014 was the hottest year on record, marking the third time in a decade that a new record has been set.

With the exception of 1998, the 10 warmest years on record have now occurred since the year 2000, analysis of surface temperature measurements show.

Both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA reported on Friday that 2014 was the hottest year in 135 years of record-keeping.

Earlier, the Japanese weather agency and an

independent group out of University of California Berkeley also measured 2014 as the hottest on record.



NOAA said 2014 averaged 14.6C, 1.24 degrees above its 20th-century average. It had previously reported that Earth set yearly heat records in 2010 and 2005.

NASA, which calculates temperatures slightly differently, put 2014's

average temperature at 14.7C, which is 1.22 degrees above their average, which they calculate for 1951-1980. Rutgers University's Jennifer Francis and other climate scientists also said the results show that global warming continues unabated.

"The globe is warmer now than it has been in the last 100 years and more likely in at least 5,000 years," she said. "Any wisps of doubt that human activities are at fault are now gone with the wind."



(Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/49125-2014-was-hottest-year.html>)

Photo Credit: [kaybee07](#) / [Foter](#) / [CC BY](#)

THE ILE ETHOS

What Does It Really Mean to Be ethical?

by Andrés Bejarano (ILE Professor)



Even though most dictionaries define ethics as the philosophical study of moral values and rules, in the end, ethics is no more than the study of the codes of behavior in a given culture. Also, the word etiquette, which had a different origin, came to be known as “A code of polite or acceptable behavior prescribed by an authority. **(1)** Thus, ethics and etiquette are basically determined by culture and arbitrary in nature.

Let’s take a couple of examples of variations in etiquette standards around the world: First of all, regarding table manners, in Japan, slurping your food, especially noodles is in fact considered polite and an indication that you have enjoyed the food. The same with burping and belching which are considered good table manners in some countries like India, Turkey and some Middle Eastern countries. **(2)**. Furthermore, there are plenty of examples of differences in behavior not necessarily related to food. For instance, for Russians, it is impolite to smile at a person for no significant reason. That is why shop assistants do not smile at customers. **(3)** Also, the typical differences regarding greeting and body language that may become a headache for any person experiencing a culture for the first time. Not to mention how concepts of time and punctuality vary from culture to culture. As some of us wish Costa Ricans were more punctual and responsible whereas others hope that someday the famous tico time can turn into just being fashionably late, God forbids.

Likewise, in terms of morality, a person usually defines and judges what is right and wrong based on the set of ethics established by the culture of the society where he or she lives. Therefore, as many of you already know what may be immoral for you and me, can be completely acceptable for the people in other societies, say for example, polygamy, sex before marriage, and even abortion. There are of course some universals that are immoral in any society such as killing or stealing, basically because you are attempting against the integrity of another human being.

Ethics also evolves throughout history like for example masturbation was considered a form of murder by the Medieval Church and later it turned to be almost like an irrelevant sin for most priests. Not to mention, that is now rendered relatively harmless and in some cases even healthy by the scientific community. Also, contraceptive methods are still being debated within religious and non religious circles as well; some of them labeled as more morally acceptable than others.

Regardless of a person’s creed, or cultural background, my belief is that more than being polite or ethical; we all need to be aware. Or as any mystic would put it, we need to be awake and be sensitive to the needs of other human beings by not dismissing their cultural backgrounds and even their personal upbringing. We live in a global village, and people think and act differently. So let our differences be something exciting or at least an excuse to trigger our sense of curiosity and understand there is not a single “ethical” way to go about living our lives.

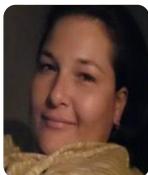
Works Cited:

- (1) <http://www.alphadictionary.com/goodword/word/etiquette>
- (2) <http://www.annieandre.com/2012/03/world-table-manners-etiquette/#sthash.j5RiXc8s.dpuf>
- (3) <http://lastochka-fromrussiawithlove.blogspot.com/2011/04/why-do-russians-smile-so-seldom.html>

THE ILE ETHOS

English Teaching: A Life Experience

By: *Izabella Sepúlveda (ILE Professor)*



When I was told some weeks ago about writing an article for the ILE Post, many thoughts came to my mind. They told me I could write about something related to English, teaching or teaching English. So, the process started on deciding which one was or is more meaningful or important to me. I discovered none, or better put: everything. All of them have meant, at some point, a lot in my life and now, one cannot go without the other.

It all started thirty years ago (ok, I just realized that means I'm old) when I discovered that I loved English as a language and enjoyed it very much. Some years later I realized that what was easy for me was a challenge for others. Soon, I found myself helping friends and family members with homework, projects, and more. So, what started as a hobby somehow became a part time job and very soon, a full time job.

Twenty years have passed since I started teaching and I have to say I still enjoy it as much, if not more than then. It is still challenging, ever changing and rewarding in many senses. All of which make it even more rewarding to me.

I know many teachers commonly say: "It's not about the money", and now I know, it isn't. It's about helping people change their lives, providing tools, improving their skills, learning about a new culture; it's much more, it's something that money can never buy. It does have its sacrifices, like time for checking, preparing, correcting and other tasks, but those pale when a student approaches you and says: "Teacher, I loved your class today." Then, all your nights of work are worthy, all your afternoons in front of your computer seem unimportant and your hours on end planning have a new meaning.

That is how I discovered that I was supposed to become a teacher; when I could understand that to me, there is no better way to spend my working hours than sharing with others what I have learned through time; not only about English but also about life, principles, and much more. Although not just any teacher, I wanted to become an English teacher, which I did.

Today I can definitely say, I am where I was always supposed to be, doing what I was always supposed to do and I wouldn't change it for anything.

Value of the Month

UTN begins Value of the Month campaign. For the month of January, the value is Tolerance in the Workplace. This campaign has the objective to permeate school life and, as students and staff live these values, their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development increases.

Tolerance in the Workplace

Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.

How to Encourage Tolerance in Your Team

- ✚ Start by encouraging your people to take a courteous interest in one another's beliefs and behaviors, and coach them in active listening skills, so that they can best hear what others are saying.
- ✚ Being tolerant of others also extends to what you say: words have consequences, both good and bad. This is why it's important that people think carefully before they speak about sensitive things. Coach your team members to think about the people around them.
- ✚ Sometimes, it's easier to teach tolerance than to practice it. So, lead by example. Don't forget that your words and actions can influence others, so set a good example by demonstrating kindness, compassion, and tolerance with others.

To encourage tolerance at work, people should first seek to understand others, be aware of what they say, set an example, and make an effort to understand cultural differences.





VOX POPULI

The UTN community includes professors, administrative staff and students. Each individual has something to say about everything. In this section, we give the university community the opportunity to express what they feel about different school, country and world issues that in one or another way affect or impact our lives, feelings and opinions. Professor Cindy Rodriguez is in charge of this interesting section. In this issue, we asked ILE students:

What was the most important news of 2014?

The world suffered the death of comedian Robin Williams

-Priscilla Vargas

Costa Rica elected a president from a non-traditional party.

-Emily Villalobos

The success of Costa Rica soccer team in the World Cup of Brazil.

-Josué Solano

I think that the most important news was the decision of the US to restore full relations with Cuba.

- Brenda Rojas

I think that the most important news was that the Nobel Award Committee decided to give the Nobel Prize to Malala Yousafzai.

-Francine López

Costa Rica lost Marito Mortadela. He was loved by many people.

-María José Rojas

In my case, I could not believe it when I heard that a Malaysia airplane flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing just disappeared without any trace. With all technology there is today, and they have not found the plane. That was amazing.

-Silvio Córdoba

One of the worst news for Costa Rica was that INTEL closed its assembly and test site, so it had to cut 1.500 jobs.

-Miguel Corella

90 seconds with...



We see them walking around the UTN campus. They are always willing to help us when we need information, advice and guidance. UTN academic and administrative staff are an important element of the university. However, people hardly have the chance to meet them. In this section, we will try give you a glance of the other side of all those people who are behind UTN organization and functioning. In this issue, let's meet:

Xinia Castillo Campos: *UTN Main Campus Teaching Director, Bookworm*, Adventurer, Globetrotter and Plant Lover.*

Where do you live?

I am originally from Candelaria de Palmares. When I was two years old, we moved to Peñas Blancas de Pérez Zeledón. Now I lived in San Pablo de Heredia.

Best childhood memory?

Frankly, I loved the freedom I had to go around. We were very creative people in terms of the different games we used to play. Living in the country side, I was a very active child. The chance I had to eat fruits, they were everywhere, for example: oranges, guabas, guayabas, etc.



First job

My first job was as a market researcher. I remember one of my first assignments was in a tooth paste campaign. Then, I am a very proud to say I began working at CUNA in 1981, and here I am.

Favorite food

Sincerely, I am from the country side, so I love olla de carne. I am one of those who eats all vegetables in this delicious dish.

Something you really can't stand.

I eat almost everything. Maybe morcilla is something I do not eat.

*Bookworm: person who reads a lot

90 seconds with...



Would you class yourself as a day or night person?

I am a very organized person. When I was a child, I had to wake up at 3 am to get ready and walk to school, so I consider myself an early bird. It is very difficult for me to wake up after 6 am. On the other hand, if I have to work until late at night, I can do it with no problem.



A good book

I read and reread a lot. It would be very difficult for me to mention a particular book; however, I like Isabel Allende's work. I enjoy reading magic realism novels. The mix between real world settings, fantastic elements, Authorial reticence really catches my attention. Also, I like when there are allusion among novel I have read.

Favorite music

I do not have a favorite music genre. A song I love is "Celebra la Vida" by Axel. Sometimes, I like to listen to classical music, but in general terms, I do not have a special taste for any particular type of music.

What is always in your fridge?

There is always milk, orange juice and natural beverages. However, I try to keep my fridge full of everything I need and like.

What's a trip or vacation you really have enjoyed?

I have had the chance to travel to many places, not only in Costa Rica, but to different countries. The best trips for me were the ones I took as a teenager. I had a friend, and we packed some clothes, bread, tuna fish and condensed milk. In addition, I enjoy travelling with one of my nephews. He studies the places we go, so he is my tour guide.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is to be asphyxiated in any way, and also to be drowned. I think that would be terrible.



Tell me a joke or proverb you remember right now.

Even though right now I cannot recall any, I use a lot of them. Actually, I use them in class, and my students have fun with them.

The Attic of Bertha Mason

Reading Challenge 2015

Thanks to our own Carlos Daniel González I came across the reading challenge 2015. The list seems frightening at first sight, but it's a great beginning to motivate ourselves for reading more this year. I have already begun my challenge:

1. A book with a love triangle: *A Home at the End of the World* by Michael Cunningham. Though not a classic love triangle, this novel tells the romanticized relationship between two men and a woman. And it has a happy ending
2. A nonfiction book: *Writing* by Marguerite Duras. This amazing writer explores in intimate language the bumpy journey of a life lived among words.

Take the challenge? You can let me know your progress at Sandra.arguello@gmail.com



Reading Challenge

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book with more than 500 pages | <input type="checkbox"/> A book you can finish in a day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A classic romance | <input type="checkbox"/> A book with antonyms in the title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that became a movie | <input type="checkbox"/> A book set somewhere you've always wanted to visit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book published this year | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that came out the year you were born |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book with a number in the title | <input type="checkbox"/> A book with bad reviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by someone under 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> A trilogy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book with nonhuman characters | <input type="checkbox"/> A book from your childhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A funny book | <input type="checkbox"/> A book with a love triangle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book by a female author | <input type="checkbox"/> A book set in the future |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A mystery or thriller | <input type="checkbox"/> A book set in high school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book with a one-word title | <input type="checkbox"/> A book with a color in the title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book of short stories | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that made you cry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book set in a different country | <input type="checkbox"/> A book with magic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A nonfiction book | <input type="checkbox"/> A graphic novel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A popular author's first book | <input type="checkbox"/> A book by an author you've never read before |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book from an author you love that you haven't read yet | <input type="checkbox"/> A book you own but have never read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book a friend recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that takes place in your hometown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Pulitzer Prize-winning book | <input type="checkbox"/> A book that was originally written in a different language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book based on a true story | <input type="checkbox"/> A book set during Christmas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book at the bottom of your to-read list | <input type="checkbox"/> A book written by an author with your same initials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book your mom loves | <input type="checkbox"/> A play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book that scares you | <input type="checkbox"/> A banned book |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book more than 100 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> A book based on or turned into a TV show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book based entirely on its cover | <input type="checkbox"/> A book you started but never finished |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A book you were supposed to read in school but didn't | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A memoir | |

The Attic of Bertha Mason

Only for you

by Yoseth Vargas (ILE Student)

If life makes you fall,
I'll be there for you.
If you don't like something at all,
I'll change it for you.

If you have obstacles in your way,
I'll remove them away from you.
If you are surrounded by sadness today,
I'll cheer you up every day.

If you need a shoulder to cry,
I'll be at your home tonight.
If you beg me to stay,
I'll be there night and day.

My Sadness

by Marilyn Quesada

I remember the day
You left my life.
It was in a cold May
When you said good-bye.

My life you destroyed,
And I fell on a huge depression.
All the moments we enjoyed,
I long them with obsession.

The Attic of Bertha Mason

My Year

by Ivannia Soto, Alice Cordoba and Fernanda Rodríguez (ILE Student)

January is a time to party
Where we don't have to study.

February a time to send
Cards and chocolate to our friends.

March is the time to start again,
Where vacations come to an end.

With April come the first rains
Cause all plants are in pain.

In May, some bugs stop by,
And in a month they will say good-bye.

In June, we celebrate Father's Day
For all them, we everyday pray.

July gives us a short break,
And we go to the beach and to the lake.

In August, mothers enjoy their day,
Young and old with their hair gray.

Drums are played on September fifteen,
Where we celebrate we don't have a queen.

October brought Columbus to land,
A country better than Disneyland.

November brings the last rains,
But there is no one for to blame.

Windy December gives us joy,
For the worship of the king that was born.

LANGUAGE BITS

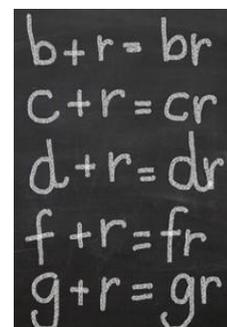
SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
You had to pay for something that you didn't really want to have to pay for.	It fell upon me to liquidate the outstanding debt.	I had to pay.	I had to fork out.
You would like to play some football.	Would anyone care to engage in a spot of sport involving an inflated sphere?	Would anyone like to play football?	Anyone fancy a game of footie?
You think someone is a bit stupid.	He is of a most idiotic nature.	He's really stupid.	He's a flipping idiot.

(Information taken from Hot English Online Magazine #103 p.36)

Advanced Superlatives and Comparatives

by Irwin Céspedes (ILE Professor at Puntarenas Campus)

It is not a surprise when we enter into grammar that for some students it is always a complete chaos. There are lots of rules to learn and memorize. However, there is no way out, you have to follow all of them if you want to sound proficient in L2. As a teacher, one set of rules that may bring students some trouble is the ones that guide the superlatives and comparatives with one syllable in its vocal separation, specifically, the clustered consonants or consonant blends examples.



Clustered Consonant or Consonant Blends:

These are a group of two or more consonant letters together in a word without an intervening vowel (Wells, 1990). These specific consonant groups are directly affected by the *phonotactics* of a specific language. *Phonotactics* is the branch of the phonology which studies the restrictions in a language on the permissible combinations of phonemes. (Roach, 2002). Phonotactics may vary from language to language and are phonetical restrictions for the languages of the world. (The Australian National University, 2013).

A consonant cluster is also directly affected by the "*Maximal Onsets Principle*". This states that intervocalic consonants are maximally assigned to the onsets of syllables in conformity with universal and language-specific conditions. (Crowley, 1997) Now, those intervocalic consonants in the theory of phonetics are simply a group of consonants that occur in the middle of a word, between two vowels associated with *Lenition*, a phonetic process that causes consonants to weaken and eventually disappear entirely.

In this case a word that may sound with double syllables pronounced by Spanish L1 speakers in reality has only one syllable, according to the *Phonotactics* of the English language, ruled by *Maximal Onsets Principle* and subrules as the *Lenition* and *Fortition* process, just to name a few. (Yavaş, 2007).

Some mistakes related toward this concept in syllable division are the confusion and discerning between the International Phonetics Association standardized system for phonetic ruling and specific language oriented systems for learning phonetics in non-native speaking countries like Costa Rica. For example, one of the simplest books for learning phonetics in its early stages is "English Pronunciation for Spanish Speakers" written by Dale & Poms, (1986), in which the method used for teaching this topic is slightly touched by the native *Phonotactics* of the Spanish Language. This is why these mistakes happen in syllable division, bringing confusion among new learners and advanced L2 students and tutors.

LANGUAGE BITS

This is illustrated in the next diagram. As we can see, with the word *Smart*, in Spanish due to the conditions of our *phonotactics* it may be analyzed as a word with two syllable, whereas in the case of English, it is not the case. There are several of these clusters, ones easier than others to discern. These are presented in this chart below.

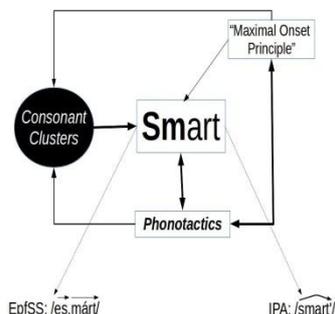


Chart 1. Some Clustered Consonants at the beginning of some adjectives:

CC.	Word	CC.	Word	CC.	Word	CC.	Word	CC.	Word
bl-	Blue	fl-	Flat	pr-	Proud	sn-	Snob	sw-	Swift
br-	Brave	fr-	Frail	sc-	Scare	sp-	Spook	tr-	Trashy
cl-	Clean	gl-	Glib	sk-	Skill	squ-	Square		
cr-	Crazy	gr-	Grave	sl-	Slight	st-	Stiff		
dr-	Dream	pl-	Plain	sm-	Smart	str-	Straight		

We can take as an example the adjective *Slight*:

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Slight	Slighter	Slightest

In our mother tongue, we could have said: "More Slight", because for us the syllabic division we are accustomed is /es,lait/ and not /slait/ as the IPA suggest. And this is similar with the other adjectives there. This phenomena occurs vastly in the first kind of comparative and superlatives. These are the ones that are ruled by just one syllabic movement in the words. It occurs little in the other cases.

And this is basically some adjectives we analyze from time to time in the topic of superlatives and comparatives follow one or another rule into the set of three possible for making them. Nowadays, the issue of discerning which one follows what rule is a little foggy, but with a little bit of time and understanding we could extract that there is a lot of mechanics of why one word follows one rule or another.

Works Cited:

Crowley, T. (1997). *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics* (1., p. 342). Auckland, N.Z: Oxford University Press.

Dale, P., & Poms, L. (1986). *English Pronunciation for Spanish Speakers-Consonants* (p. 248). Prentice Hall Regents. Retrieved from <http://books.google.com/books?id=7bBpvhzb0C&pgis=1>

Roach, P. (2002). *The Syllable*. *Phonetics: Beyond the Basics*. Retrieved July 25, 2013, from <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~llsroach/phon2/mitko/syllable.htm>

The Australian National University. (2013). *World Phonotactics Database - ANU*. Retrieved November 26, 2014, from <http://phonotactics.anu.edu.au/>

Wells, J. C. (1990). *Syllabification of the English Intervocalic Consonant by Chinese English Learners - Gan*

Deng_2009-10.pdf. *Studies in the pronunciation of English*. Retrieved July 26, 2013, from http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/new/doc/ma_papers/malin/Gan_Deng_2009-10.pdf

Yavas, M. (2007). *Factors Influencing the VOT of English Long Lag Stops and Interlanguage Phonology*. *Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech*. Retrieved from http://www.nupffale.ufsc.br/newsounds/Papers/45.Yavas_Mehmet.pdf

HUMOR



Why is English hard to learn?

We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*, but the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.



One fowl is a *goose* and two are called *geese*, yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*.



You may find a lone *mouse* or a house full of *mice*; but the plural of *house* is not *hice*.



If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*, and I give you a *book*, would a pair be *beek*?

If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*, why shouldn't two *booths* be called *beeth*?



If the singular's *this*, and the plural is *these*, should the plural of *kiss* be called *keesed*?



We speak of a *brother* and also of *brethren*, but though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.

The masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*; but imagine the feminine...*she*, *shis*, and *shim*!

The plural of *man* is always *men*, but the plural of *pan* is never *pen*.



You can have a *dessert* in the *desert*.



(Pictures taken from <http://www.clker.com/>
Jokes are from anonymous source)

Technology

Free and Open-Source Software

Free and open-source software (FOSS) is computer software that can be classified as both free software and open-source software. That is, anyone is freely licensed to use, copy, study, and change the software in any way, and the source code is openly shared so that people are encouraged to voluntarily improve the design of the software. This is in contrast to proprietary software, where the software is under restrictive copyright and the source code is usually hidden from the users.



The benefits of using FOSS can include decreasing software costs, increasing security and stability (especially in regard to malware), protecting privacy, and giving users more control over their own hardware. Free, open-source operating systems such as Linux and descendents of BSD are widely utilized today, powering millions of servers, desktops, smartphones (e.g. Android), and other devices. Free software licenses and open-source licenses are used by many software packages.

Even though some paid software offers more alternatives in some cases, the open source software gives the user the chance to do many of the same things paid software can do. Here there is a list with some popular open source alternatives and their corresponding paid application equivalents.

Open Source	Paid Applications
Audacity	Audition
Gimp	Photoshop
Scribus	QuarkXPress
Inkscape	Illustrator
Open Office	Microsoft Office
Kompozer	Adobe Dreamweaver
Cinelerra	Camtasia

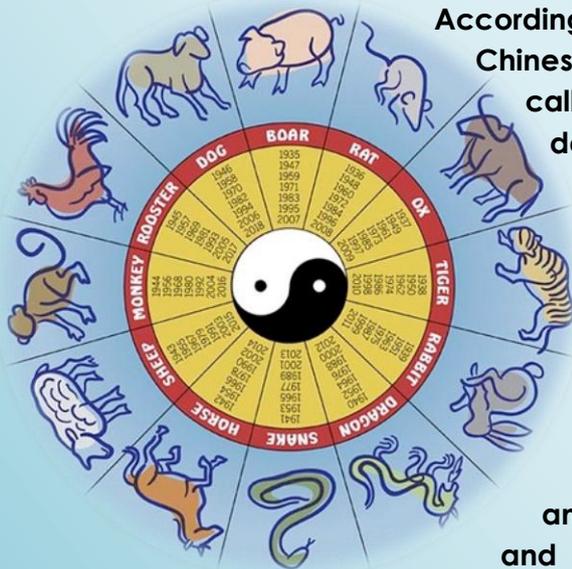
(Information taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open-source_software)

This Month in History

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is an important traditional Chinese holiday celebrated at the turn of the Chinese calendar. In China, it is also known as the Spring Festival, the literal translation of the modern Chinese name. Chinese New Year celebrations traditionally run from Chinese New Year's Eve, the last day of the last month of the Chinese calendar, to the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first month, making the festival the longest in the Chinese calendar. Because the Chinese calendar is lunisolar, the Chinese New Year is often referred to as the "Lunar New Year". In the Gregorian calendar, Chinese New Year falls on different dates each year, a date between January 21 and February 20. The Chinese year 4713 begins on Jan. 21st, 2015.

The source of Chinese New Year is itself centuries old and gains significance because of several myths and traditions. Traditionally, the festival was a time to honor deities as well as ancestors. Chinese New Year is celebrated in countries and territories with significant Chinese populations, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Philippines and also in Chinatowns elsewhere.



According to tales and legends, the beginning of Chinese New Year started with a mythical beast called the Nian. Nian would come on the first day of New Year to eat livestock, crops, and even villagers, especially children. To protect themselves, the villagers would put food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year. It was believed that after the Nian ate the food they prepared, it wouldn't attack any more people. One day a villager decided to get revenge of the Nian. A god visited him and told him to put red paper on his house and to place firecrackers. The villagers then

understood that the Nian was afraid of the color red. When the New Year was about to come, the villagers would hang red lanterns and red spring scrolls on windows and doors. People also used firecrackers to frighten away the Nian. From then on, Nian never came to the village again.

Taking family portrait is an important ceremony after the relatives are gathered. The photo is taken at the hall of the house or taken in front of the house. The most senior male head of the family sits in the center.

(Information taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year)

(Pictures taken from: http://www.uschina.usc.edu/article@usc1?2013_lunar_new_year_welcoming_the_water_snake_18631.aspx)

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

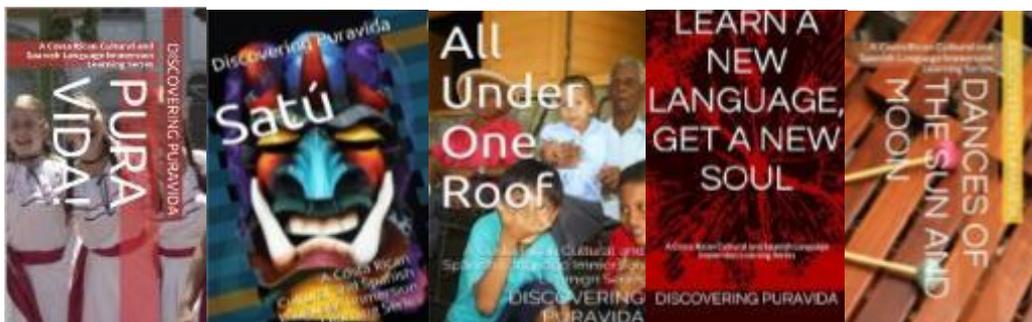
A proverb is a short saying or sentence that is generally known by many people. The saying usually contains words of wisdom, truth or morality that are based on common sense or practical experience. It is often a description of a basic rule of conduct that all people generally follow or should follow. Proverbs can be found in all languages. In this month where China celebrates its new year, we want to close this month's edition with this inspiring Chinese proverb to start the year with the best attitude:

**Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember;
involve me and I'll understand.**

~ Chinese Proverb

Discovering Pura Vida

Remember if you want to read authentic stories made in UTN-ILE, you can find them in Discovering Pura Vida. The books are 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)

To buy one of these wonderful titles go to [DISCOVERING PURA VIDA](#)

PROGRAMA DE IDIOMAS



Description

Our language open courses have been designed to provide students an environment in which they can participate and role play everyday situations.

Experienced teachers and small groups complement a process applying appropriate foreign language learning strategies. Phonetic concepts are included to reinforce oral abilities in a way students can integrate other language skills, such as reading comprehension, listening, and grammar structures.

Besides, students are able to discuss and express their opinions on several topics regarding a variety of common interest issues such as sports, culture, pollution, social problems, and the like, by using proper grammar structures and pronunciation.

At the end of the program, students achieve an intermediate level of language production (B1 according to the Common European Framework) intended as satisfactory to fulfill their academic and professional requirements with native speakers.

Academic program

Our program consists of the following academic offerings:

English Introductory Level (INGLES NIVELATORIO)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Registration fee is not charged.
- Placement test (Optional).
- Age requirement: 15 years old minimum. (does not include the Children Program)

Further information: Tel. 2435-5000 ext: 1192-1193 or through e-mail programaidiomas@utn.ac.cr

A basic two-month course designed to provide students elementary language tools.

Regular English Program (INGLES REGULAR)

A two-year program in which students attend classes twice a week, morning or evening schedule, or only on Saturday mornings.

Intensive English Program (INGLES INTENSIVO)

A twelve-month program in which students attend three times a week, morning or evening schedule.

English For Children and Teenagers (INGLES PARA NIÑOS Y ADOLESCENTES)

A two-year program designed for children and teenagers up to 14 years old. Students attend classes on Saturday evenings.

Portuguese

A fourteen-month program in which students attend classes twice a week, morning or evening schedule, or only on Saturday mornings.

Italian

A sixteen-month program in which students attend classes twice a week, morning or evening schedule, or only on Saturday mornings.