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The Grand Canyon

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Teacherpreneurship

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

COVER PAGE



This year we dedicate our coverage to different famous people who have influenced the world in some way. For the month of January 2016, we want reader to learn a little bit about famous American writer Edgar Allan Poe. 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 FACEBOOK.

Picture taken by Chelsea Daniele
<http://foter.com/f/photo/3720760725/1873946390/>



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EDITORIAL

The Fresh Start Effect

by Eric Herrera (ILE Professor)

“We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy.” -

Joseph Campbell



Lose weight, quit smoking, quit drinking, save money, get organized, eat healthily, spend more time on the computer are some of the most common new year's resolutions.

One more time, we are in front of a chance to start over in many aspects of life. A year has passed, and a new one has just started. Personal resolutions come and go, and in most cases, they have just been meaningless attempts to change. However, people do not give up and persist thinking one day they will achieve the goal they pursue.

This *“I am going to change feeling”* is defined by psychologist as the Fresh Start Effect, or when people aspire to change their behavior at moments which feels like a new beginning, so-called “temporal landmarks”. Psychologists propose that “temporal landmarks” enable people to open new ‘mental accounting periods’, putting past failures behind them, providing a broader life perspective and motivating a desire for behavior change. (Leigh Kennedy)

Why do people fail to achieve these goals? Well, there are several reasons why. First, some resolutions are not realistic; an overweight person cannot start working out at almost a professional level overnight and look good in a month. Second, people think only about the resolution and not about the dis-

cipline and self-control that making a significant change in life requires; in other words, most people forget change is a complex process. Third, it is not only you, but people around you. If you want to quit smoking or eat in a healthy way, you should try to keep far from temptation and people who bring it with them with it; otherwise, the resolution will have a fast and negative ending. Finally, motivation to achieve your goal must be present as much as possible. If you want to start school and study more, you should look for examples of successful people you admire, so you keep in mind that if others can do it, why not you. In brief, commitment, consistency and motivation are keys to fulfilling your resolutions.

No matter what your resolution is, just remember that life does not go a hundred percent according to a plan. The person you are today is not the person you will be next week or month, especially if you undergo a difficult (economic, healthy, love) experience.

Resolutions are meant to change in a positive way, to become a better person, not to stress you out and make you feel bad about yourself. Besides, if you cannot stick to your resolution, there is always another opportunity next year.



Leigh Kennedy, K., 2016. That Fresh Start Feeling. Retrieved from <https://katyleighkennedy.wordpress.com/2015/09/23/that-fresh-start-feeling/>

UTN The Place To Be

UTN exceeded new student enrollment expectations for 2017. **Three thousand and two hundred** new students will join the already ten thousand regular students UTN has. UTN has become an excellent



higher education option for students, and something very important is that UTN continues attracting large numbers of applicants who come especially from public high-schools (92%).

“These numbers show that our relentless efforts to recruit students from every corner of the country are bearing fruit,” said Chancellor Marcelo Prieto

“The interest of all these students to attend UTN is a testament to the efforts of the



faculty and staff who are dedicated to ensuring that students receive a high-quality education at UTN,” said Student Affairs Vice Chancellor Marisol Rojas.

Life, Dialogue And Peace

Costa Rican public universities designated 2017 as “Year for Life, Dialogue and Peace.” The objective of this designation is to promote a university culture of tolerance and respect for human rights based on the practice of dialogue not only to ensure harmony and stability, but also to promote development. This national announcement confirms the deeply humanist identity universities attached to the National Council of University Rectors (CONARE) portrays and invite universities in universities in the Central America Region attached to the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA) o join this noble initiative.

The promotion of interactive dialogue and understanding among people is a sublime idea to which everybody must pay due respect and towards which everybody must exert their concerted action and sustained commitment, so that we can attain hope for a peaceful world, where tolerance, respect and accommodation, rather than rejection and confrontation, prevail, and where misunderstandings based on ignorance and fear

between and among peoples are removed, complies the declaratory.

During 2017, a series of activities will be carried out targeting reflection and a marked entrenchment of the importance of human rights awareness. We should unite to de-emphasize the agents of strife and conflict among us while paying greater attention to those issues that create a harmonious atmosphere, in order to guarantee for all the individuals full and fundamental human rights.

imp



Atenas Campus Grows

On January 18th, UTN Atenas Campus opened some new facilities that will help develop students' academic progress and receive a greater number of students at UTN's dormitories thanks to the training center.



FACILITIES

Training Center:

These facilities were built by Sinohydro (Power China) under an agreement that will allow them to use the facilities while they work in the hydroelectric dam of Chucás. The facilities include 40 dormitories, 3 conference rooms, a dining room and a kitchen.



Collection and Processing of Whole Blood Laboratory:

This is a project lead by the Research and Knowledge Transfer Department, whose

objective includes the sale of plasma to the University of Costa Rica for the production of antiophidic serum.

Freestall Barn:

A freestall barn sets forth all factors related to nutrition, health, and growth, as well as all other activities of the dairy operation. Buildings and equipment on a dairy farm facilitate the job of caring for the animals.

Iguana Farm: as part of the current animal-breeding farm, this building aims to establish 'optimal conditions for sustainable production and marketing of the green iguana to benefit the small farmer' while also allowing natural populations to recover.

Biosafety Hog Farm Module:

The objective of this facilities is the implementation of measures that reduce the risk of disease agents being introduced and spread. The measures taken to improve biosecurity depend on the pig production system concerned and the local geographic and socio-economic conditions.

Food Technology Laboratory:

This lab will benefit the learning process for preservation, processing, packaging, distribution, and safety to provide nutritious and wholesome food to the consumers.

"Currently this campus has around one thousand students, and almost half of them reside in the UTN's dormitories. This is one of the important reasons why we need to offer all students high quality facilities for both their academic training and their comfort inside the campus.," said UTN Atenas Campus Dean Rodney Cordero.



"This is one more step this campus takes to offer a constant improvement of its facilities. Students deserve high quality education, and this is not only a matter of excellent teachers but also of facilities," said UTN Chancellor Marcelo Prieto.

In addition to all this, UTN Atenas Campus already began building a modern butterfly farm that will open this year.

From education and research to campus operations and facilities, UTN is taking great strides to create new opportunities to become the best option for higher education in Costa Rica.

To Legalize Marijuana Or Not?

The issue of consumption and the legalization of marijuana has been a matter of social and political debate for a long time in many countries, with decriminalizing medicinal and recreational cannabis use being seen as a means through which to combat drug trafficking or fraudulent criminal activities.

There are dangers however with legalizing of cannabis such as the argument that it would lead to an increase in use among the youth and children. Evidence though suggests that this phenomenon is temporary and would be counteracted with effective information and prevention campaigns. In fact, in countries like the Netherlands the increase in use was only transient while in Portugal the levels of consumption dropped when possession of drug for personal



use became legal. Today in Europe, reported deaths from marijuana total around 20 people only, while there are thousands who die from the snuff and alcohol. Whereas, snuff and alcohol have never been banned despite them being addictive and harmful products to peoples health. No one has ever died from an over-

dose of THC reportedly. There are ways to consume it to prevent combustion and its harmful effects on the lungs and its much less addictive than alcohol and snuff. There isn't lots of marijuana is deadly to the body, not like snuff which kills around 10 million people worldwide. In contrast with alcohol and tobacco, cannabis does not cause physical dependence although it can a slight mental addiction, is even less addictive than caffeine.

According to the toxicology reports of this drug; if the drug legalization rules will be measured by their level of toxicity and injury to health, then marijuana would be the first drug to be legal, as they show the lowest incidence for health problems than alcohol or snuff. What do you think?



Information taken from: <http://www.talkingdrugs.org/to-legalize-or-not>

Image via Foote.com taken from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/snakegirlproductions/24007160556/>

Florida Airport Gunman Faces Possible Death Penalty

US authorities have charged a US army veteran accused in a deadly shooting rampage at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport, with offences that could carry the death penalty, while continuing to probe whether "terrorism" was a potential motive.

Federal prosecutors charged Esteban Santiago on Saturday with firearms offences and carrying out an act of violence at an airport, US Attorney Wifredo Ferrer said in a statement.

If convicted, he could face the death penalty or life in prison. Santiago, 26, was accused of killing five, wounding six and sending thousands scrambling

for safety on Friday before authorities shut down the airport in Florida, a major gateway to the Caribbean and Latin America. Murder charges could be forthcoming from state prosecutors, but no decision has been made yet, according to the Sun Sentinel newspaper.

Santiago had travelled from Alaska to Fort Lauderdale on Friday, January 6th.

After retrieving a 9mm semi-automatic handgun and ammunition that he had declared and stowed inside his checked luggage, he allegedly loaded the weapon in a toilet and opened fire in the crowded baggage claim area.

FBI special agent George Piro said law enforcement was continuing to investigate motives for the attack, including "continuing to look at the terrorism angle".



The Biggest Ivory Market In the World Will End All Legal Trading In 2017

Elephants across the world are in grave danger of extinction. Depending on the species, elephants range from being considered vulnerable to endangered on the spectrum that categorizes the threat of animal extinction. Populations of the majestic creature are drastically declining, and humans are to blame. Developing land for human occupation encroaches on the animals' natural habitats, and agriculture in elephant habitats puts their populations at additional risk since easy access to a quick meal of a farmer's crops can destroy human livelihoods and lead to retaliation against the animals. Still, the biggest threat to elephants are poachers hunting them for their ivory. Figures from 2015 show that about 20,000 elephants were killed during that year, which is more than were born.

Surprisingly, human encroachment and poaching may be more closely entwined than one may initially imagine. The increased demand for land con-

tinues to move people into elephant territory, and poaching provides a means of both securing ivory as a commodity and removing elephants from land, leaving it free to develop. According to an assessment led by the United Nations Environment Programme, by 2050, 63 percent of elephant rangelands will be taken over by humans.

NEUTRALIZING POACHING

A significant effort was undertaken in the 1980s to end the ivory trade, which culminated in an international ban on the practice. The ban was successful until organized crime and political corruption stepped in and allowed demand to boom. In 2011, poaching was responsible for 75 percent of all elephant deaths.

The international ban did include a glaring loophole that allowed the practice to continue well after it went into effect: ivory procured prior to the start of the ban could still be sold. This allowed illegal traders to claim that ivory was older even when

pieces were freshly poached. China has finally made a bold move to put an end to this barbaric practice once and for all. The Chinese government has developed a plan to completely shut down ivory markets by making all trade illegal by the end of 2017. "It's a game changer and could be the pivotal turning point that brings elephants back from the brink of extinction," said Elly Pepper at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Conservationists hope that this sweeping move by China will embolden other nations to enact similar bans. Elephants need to be given a fighting chance to recover, and ending poaching is the best way to start.



Information taken from: <https://futurism.com/the-biggest-ivory-market-in-the-world-will-end-all-legal-trading-in-2017/>

Image via Footer.com taken from: https://farm4.staticflickr.com/3026/2909902279_f8643d6df6_b.jpg

Scientists Discovered A New Human Organ

Researchers presented a study that asserts the **mesentery**, which connects the gut to the body, is actually one continuous organ.

While its parts have always been there, and have long been considered a part of the digestive system, the mesentery has recently been reclassified as an organ. For centuries the structure that connects the gut to the body has been considered fragmented, with its parts scattered and separated.

The reclassification of the mesentery as one continuous structure has already began changing the

way medical students are studying the human body — and even Gray's Anatomy, the world's most famous medical text book series, has been updated.

Indeed this is a good thing. By understanding the mesentery as a separate organ, we can dissect abdominal diseases better — "perhaps you're experiencing some mesenteric pains," your doctor could very well be telling you the next time your stomach hurts.

For now, just relish the idea that you now have **79 organs** in your body.

Information taken from: <https://futurism.com/scientists-discovered-a-new-human-organ-and-it-could-revolutionize-disease/>



When God Brings Music Into Your Life

By Andrés Bejarano (ILE Professor)



There is an old saying that goes: **“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”** but what if life, or God for that matter, has given you more than just “lemons”. What if He gave you lemons, flour, plenty of eggs and much more? Obviously, you take all the ingredients,

make a big delicious cake and bring it to your family and friends so that they can enjoy it with you. Well, that’s exactly what life is all about: Accepting the gifts that God puts into your hands, make something with them and then share the outcome with the ones around you.

One of the biggest gifts that God has given me, in addition to the privilege of being an English teacher and having the chance to explore other languages, is music. And that in particular is a gift that I received at a relatively young age. I remember that when I was about 12 years old, my Dad walked into my house and dropped a guitar on the sofa and said: “I just bought this guitar in case someone here would like to learn how to play it” Nobody seemed to pay much attention to it except me, so I picked it up and started jamming out to whatever silly sounds I could get out of it.

Then, my father offered to take me to the house of a very humble and at the same time well known musician to ask him to tune up my first musical instrument. His name was Fernando Aguilar Garro who had played for well-known bands around the country, including the International Orchestra called **Lubin Barahona y sus caballeros del Ritmo**. He was about 70 years old back when I met him, already retired as a music teacher but a relentless musician who played around 7 instruments and who was, at that moment, the director of the Municipality Youth Band which he invited me to join just a few days after I

had visited him in his house. I did indeed join the music band, starting by learning how to read music for about 7 months and playing some percussion while I got ready to be able to pick up my next formal instrument, and at the same time, learning the basics of guitar music in high school with my music teachers. About a year later, I was ready to ask Don Fernando to let me learn how to play the Saxophone, but he was looking forward to assigning me the trumpet as my official band instrument because he desperately needed an extra trumpet to play second voice within his musical arrangements. So I had to settle for an instrument that I did not quite want to learn but that I ended up liking a lot. We played for the town festivities like for Mother’s Day and in Christmas concerts. We had a lot of fun both during the rehearsals and the performances.

Years passed by, and I began to be very curious about keyboards. I had my first **“pianica”** as soon as my Dad was able to afford it. I wanted don Fernando to teach me how to play the keyboard, but he told me that he had decided to stop teaching that particular instrument because he was kind of tired of doing that for so many years. One day, he passed by my house and heard me trying to play music on the little “pianica” by ear. It was funny, because he was already sitting on the other side of the road waiting for me to come out to tell me that he had been listening to my attempts to play **“El Espíritu Guanacasteco”**, which is just as common in Guanacaste as “El Punto Guanacasteco” and very popular for uttering the typical “Bombas”. Thanks to this little incident, he decided to change his mind and became my keyboard teacher. Years later, after saving money from various jobs I did, including music reading tutoring, I was able to buy an organ with the pedals and everything, so my passion for music grew more intense over time.

Later on, my music teachers asked me to do presentations in high school for graduations and the like and some years later, I was playing music at parties and other kinds of events. I never thought of music as a profession but I took it very seriously.

Years went by, and I even had the privilege to play in a couple of events with Don Fernando as a "Duet". I played the Organ and he played the saxophone. What a double fortune that was playing with my favorite music teacher in the world and accompanying



Andres Bejarano, sitting third from left to right

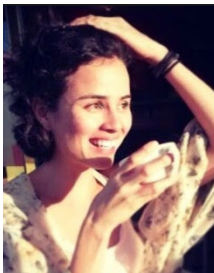
my second favorite instrument, the saxophone.

This year, to make my music journey even more interesting, I received a very pleasant surprise. **Charles Mc Dermott**, one of the volunteers at our University, gave me his son's Saxophone for free. He had kept it in a box for about 10 years because his son lost interest in it and Charles did not know what to do with it anymore. So one day, while I was having a little chat with Charles, we brought up the topic of music and he told me about his intentions to donate the saxophone. I was not planning on keeping it but after a couple of days, I told Charles that I wanted to keep it to see if I could learn how to play it. And guess what: I am practicing on it, and I am pretty sure there will be more saxophone for quite a while.

Anyway, as the chorus in the song "Pedro Navaja" of Rubén Blades goes: **"La vida te da sorpresas, sorpresas te da la vida..."**, God does not seem to stop surprising us with his gifts every single day of our lives. Even if those gifts take about 23 years to arrive.

The Tale Of The Pigs In English

By Cindy Rodríguez (ILE Professor)



Almost every time I tell a person I help people to learn English they tell me “**Yo lo entiendo leído, y comprendo bastante cuando lo escucho, pero no lo hablo**” or “**he tomado varios cursos, pero el inglés no es lo mío, no logro hablarlo**”. What I tell them is that they are only feeding one pig

and they are neglecting the others. Let me explain to you what I mean.

The Common European Framework (CEF) is a guide that states the abilities a learner has reached in different moments of the learning process. They can also be seen as levels of reference to locate people's ability to speak a foreign language (not only English, but also languages spoken in Europe). This framework has been adopted worldwide, and Costa Rica is not the exception. Many programs and curriculums have been designed around the research done by the CEF, such as the ILE Major. For, example, the first quarter, students are expected to reach an **A1** level, and by the second quarter, students should be in **A2** transitioning to **B1**. The highest level in the CEF is **C2**, and with the Associate Degree at ILE you would be graduating with a solid **B2**.

The CEF has stated that in order to reach each of the levels, a certain accumulated amount of hours have to be reached. For example, to reach the first level, A1, you need to be in contact with the language for a total of 90 hours, and by the time you reach a C2, you would have spent between 1000 to 1200 hours (Cambridge 2016).

Now, I am going back to the little pigs story and the reason why I explain to people that even though they have studied English they seem to have difficulties speaking it. When I say “pigs” I am talking about piggy banks, those clay pigs they sell here in Costa Rica. People buy the pigs to fill them up with coins, and once they are full, people smash them on the floor or with a hammer. Some people fill them up with 100 colones, but some other people aim higher and fill them up only with 500 colones coins, so that, even though it is the same pig, you make more money with with coins of a higher-denomination .

Now, the thing is that when you learn a language you get at least 6 piggy banks: one for listening, one for speaking, one for reading, one for writing,

one for pronunciation, and one for vocabulary. Every class you take, every practice you make you “insert” a coin into each pig, and you will continue doing so until they are full and ready to be smashed, and actually use the money (which in English means, being ready to speak in a context out of a classroom with an authentic purpose).

Now, there are two things to take into account, first, you need to feed each pig equally, otherwise some are going to be filled and ready to use before the others, and you need all of them. For instance, if you are learning English in a formal program like ILE's, and you go to classes, but only listen to your teacher and peers speaking, or just read the texts given, you will only be feeding the listening and reading pigs, neglecting or poorly feeding the speaking one. I really believe that the people who are “able to listen and read but not speak the language” is because they are using most of their learning hours in listening and reading, which are important, but not the only ones. Some students go to classes and barely participate or speak Spanish most of the time, so the listening pig is the first one ready to smash.

The second thing to take into account is the **QUALITY** of the “coins” you insert. This has to do a lot with the quality of the program, the teacher, and the materials, but it also has to do with the quality of students. As I told you before, you may fill up a pig with 100 colones coins, but you would get much more money if you insert only 500 colones coins. Being in classes and doing your minimum effort, or just sticking to the book, or speaking only under a very controlled or memorized activity means that you are putting nickels in your pig, so that by the end of the major your communication skills may not be the best to continue growing or to fully communicate. I see a lot of students who come to classes and believe that English can be learned by osmosis, and their English ends up being really poor, enough to survive, but not to fully and openly communicate. So, just keep that in mind, you have been given clay piggy banks, check on how full they are, and be careful with the coins you are filling them with. Make sure to “feed” them all equally, so that they will all be ready to smash at the same time, so that is not necessary; you are not one of those who just reads and listens English well, but is unable to speak it.

Which pig are you feeding today?

ACADEMICS AND MORE

Teacherpreneurship

By Maggie Hos-Mcgrane

Reading on in *Flattening Classrooms, Engaging Minds* I've come to an interesting section where the word "teacherpreneur" has been used. This word, a combination of teacher and entrepreneur, describes teachers who take initiative and also maybe take risks: teacherpreneurs are defined as those teachers who are focused on making profitable learning experiences for students through collaboration with other classrooms. Here is a quote that I find extremely important:

The greatest educational opportunities are not necessarily happening where the most money is being spent, but where the best teacherpreneurs are attracted and empowered. A successful teacherpreneur makes rich learning experiences for his or her students through innovation and customization the most successful teacherpreneurs can be those who sometimes "rock the boat" as they innovate and move ahead.



Let's think about these words. It's not the money that is im-

portant, it's the attitude of the leadership of a school who will attract, employ, support and empower the teachers who want to redefine learning. The leadership needs to allow teachers to take risks, to reach out and collaborate with colleagues around the world, to



TEACHERPRENEUR

A classroom expert who continues to teach (even daily) but also has time, space and reward to lead reforms in pedagogy and policy.

Barnett Berry
in Education Week Teacher



reflect critically on what they are doing, to rock the boat in order to make changes for the good of the students' education. Many schools don't want to do this - they simply want teachers who will follow the book, not teacherpreneurs who will rewrite the book. Teacherpreneurs who lack autonomy, trust and respect will be unhappy in "lose-lose" situations that don't meet their high standards and expectations.

Julie Lindsay and Vicki Davis point out that "teachers are accountable for what they are doing in the classroom. Accountability without authority is a recipe for teacher classroom

dysfunction."

Schools who actively seek to employ and encourage teacherpreneurs are very different places culturally, from schools that do not support them. Not surprisingly, the schools that are employing teacherpreneurs, who are usually very active on teacher collaborative networks and social media sites, are the schools that everyone has heard about on the international circuit - the school's reputation is enhanced by all the innovative things that these teachers are doing which reflects well on the school makes it an attractive place for teachers who are looking for new challenges. I know of some school leaders who never have to spend a lot of time out of school going to multiple recruitment fairs, because the good teachers simply approach them (and of course because these school leaders are active on the social networks themselves, they already know of these teachers). Of course I know of other school leaders who seem to spend months every year flying all over the place to numerous recruitment fairs trying to find teachers for their schools. Although you would think that the time that was spent on recruitment would pay dividends in the quality of teachers recruited, in mediocre schools this is often not the case as good teachers move on quickly from places that are not stimulating and supportive, and with a high turnover of staff the leadership team is constantly on the recruitment trail.

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. This month we asked students:

Why would you recommend to study at UTN?

The fact that UTN does not apply an entrance examination gives the chance to more people since these exams usually do not probe how much you know.

Yerlín León

People should take advantage of UTN, a university that is growing fast.

José Alfaro

The opportunity to get a major in two years gives people the chance to start work soon.

Ricardo Soto

UTN has very nice facilities and its location is very convenient.

Daniel Rodríguez

My experience here has shown me the academic and human quality of teachers. They make a difference.

Natalia Rodríguez

There is a wonderful study environment among students and between students and teachers. Teachers are always there to give you a hand and pay attention to your particular situations.

Yessica Molina

The prices for registration and courses UTN offers are very reasonable for all.

Clara Avila



UTN offers different study schedules, so people who study and work can take advantage of them.

Andrea López



A Letter From Me

By José Andrés Alfaro (ILE Student / San Carlos)

Joshua grew up fast: next year (2049), he'll be 17, and he's already 1.8 meter tall. He enjoys doing what most teenagers like; he likes what's in, fashionable sports, popular activities and pop music. So, it didn't take his father by surprise when he told him he'd decided to go on one of those new recycle trips. Since he was born and raised on the "free" part of the world, Joshua felt curious about the other side, the side he only knew through documentaries, the side that rejected our help.

- "Hi, father!" – Joshua says when getting into the house.
- "Welcome. I heard you're going to the Americas."
- "Yes, and I'd appreciate it if you stopped listening to my private conversations," he answers with a smile.
- "Why don't you learn another language or something? Picking up trash from abandoned cities sounds boring."
- "We are also visiting some inhabited towns, father...It seems you didn't hear the whole conversation."
- "If I did, I would never get surprises, and I like surprises."
- "You have been to Mexico, haven't you? I would like a piece of advice," Joshua said.
- "Ok. First, you want to go "full commando" most of the time; they are not fond of that, putting on some pants occasionally wouldn't hurt you, ok? Your cellphone...most of your tech gadgets won't work there! I don't think you guys will be able to call a medic drone or get one of those cool laser surgeries from a satellite...what else...? Oh! They do their activities around the clock, and most importantly..."- he added, - "Respect their ways, even if they don't respect yours; religion and politics are relevant issues for them", although you can have some fun if they don't have a gun around, ha.
- "If there is Wi-Fi you can be in touch, right?"
- "I'll be in touch for sure."

That same day at noon, Joshua was on his way with the rest of the group. Since he likes traveling, he always has most of his stuff ready for the next trip. They arrive in less than 20 minutes; the trains we build now cross the oceans in no time, and he doesn't take airplanes because they're seen as old fashion, and some of them still run on fossil fuel.

When the expedition group went to the first neighborhoods, the first thing Joshua noticed was the houses, that one thing he was supposed to look, but he did it in a different way from mine; he thought of them as prison shape shelters, since he hadn't seen padlocks, metal gates and other security systems in their "natural environment". Joshua didn't appreciate the beauty of the old fashion streets and the wooden houses, I guess the past times will never be nostalgic for teenagers because he'd not lived that era. The expedition leader, Mr. Becker, was the only one who could feel that. Mariam, one of Joshua's, interrupts the quite walk:

- "What was the plan again?"
- "You never pay attention, do you?" - Becker asks.
- "I just don't remember if we are preventing the metal gates from rusting or setting them up for the collectors."
- "We should be doing both," - John, the other member of the team answers.

-“Looks like this neighborhood isn’t empty after all” - , says Joshua. – Let’s meet some locals.

There were a girl and her mom watering some plants just outside their house. The group wanted to continue with their duty but Joshua wanted to meet people also, so he told them he would catch them up later. At first, he wanted to know more about that people’s culture but, after a few minutes of chatting with the new friends, he realized how beautiful and charming that young miss was. They didn’t talk much since it was getting late, so he was invited to come chat again the next day. The next day he went back and, while the girl’s mother was busy milking a cow on their backyard, he and the girl, Merry, had a longer chat than the day before:

-“People from Europe always have something interesting to tell! - Merry exclaims, - tell me something about you and your friends.”

-“John and Mariam are friends of mine, and the old guy is Professor Becker, who’s like the leader of the expedition. All the now empty neighborhoods and suburbs have houses which have gates or some sort of metal, and our task is to collect any material in good shape to reuse.”

-“So that’s what you do?” - Merry asks.

-“No, Mariam and I study an odd major: “stress implementation”, ha ha.”

-“Really?” - Merry reacts surprised.

-“Yeah.” - Joshua answers, - “and it is exactly what it sounds like. Things have changed a little too fast for us in recent years. Taking jobs out of the equation has been relatively good. There is a large portion of us feeling literally no stress, robots and computers do almost everything for us. Nowadays, everybody doesn’t get angry or scared anymore and does only what they enjoy: traveling, learning something new, doing art; consequently, some biologist have suggested that this may be not entirely healthy, and we should start finding ways to actually implement some type of stress source in our society. My mayor,”- Joshua finishes- “is about finding out whether we should listen to those sociologists who claims that .”

-“If mum lets me, would you take me to your country? I’d like to meet it”- She asks politely.

He answered with a smile, - “Of course!”

The chats became a daily routine until Teresa, Merry’s mother, noticed there could be something happening between her daughter and Joshua other than friendship and implied to the couple she didn’t approved that “friendship”. Joshua understood the situation and decided to return home, leaving his group and new friend behind, or at least that is what he thought.

Joshua came back happy from his trip, but this feeling was to be short lived:

-“Hi father!” - Joshua greets.

-“Hello! How was your trip?”

-“Still like surprises hah?” - Joshua asks in a mocking way.

-“Mmm...oh yes, and you should start enjoying them too, ha ha.”

-“Your voice, it’s different, I don’t like it.” - Joshua answers changing his face from joy to anger.

-“What’s the deal with my new voice? I changed it thinking you’d like it.”

-“You are mistaken, I don’t like it.” - Joshua’s expression looks sad now.-“It remains me the fact that you are no longer between us.”

-“Don’t say that, part of me still is.” I said.

-Joshua: “Only the humor part it seems.”

-“I was told all my mind was going to be successfully uploaded...”

-“It’s weird!” - Joshua interrupts him, - “Nobody has a talking screen as a father!”

-“I did it because I was dying...and I wanted to see you grow. I didn’t want my only son watching his only parent die.”

-“Well...yes...I guess you’re right...I’d rather have a piece of you than no you at all.”

-“So you still want around?” I asked, feeling what I think is sadness.

-“Yes Peter”...Joshua answers.

-“Please keep calling me father...and...I think I’ll hang around ’till my grandson is old,” - I start laughing again.

-“Ha ha ha...that surveillance cameras of yours won’t see that happening any time soon,” - Joshua answers even happier than me.

-“Oh really?” - I answer in a sarcastic tone.

-“You were saying I should get used to surprises,” - he says with a skeptical expression- “What’d you mean by that?”

-“Ready for this? ...your ’ame’ affair is pregnant.”

-“Impossible!” - He screamed scared - “That would be an unauthorized pregnancy!” I never confirmed I wanted to be a father!”

-“I told you some gadgets wouldn’t work there, they still have laws and...”

-“Oh no!” - He interrupts me again, -“The ’condam’! I forgot it! Fucking nobody uses that now! That’s dinosaurs shit!”

-“First of all”, - I replay laughing again- “The accent is on the first syllable: ’condom’; and second, you should be content, and if you are not for you, be it for me, I want to be a grandfather.”

Joshua had a hard (and long) time assimilating that new piece of information, so the hours of silence after that important talk became days, until he got the phone call confirming I was watching more carefully than he had expected. The phone call was Merry, happily informing Joshua that she had a belly. Eventually, they decided they would keep seeing and visiting each other, sharing the time with the newborn.

I hope you can read this somehow, I will send this letter to every place I could think you could be. I never forgot that time you’d told me you wanted to have a great grandson, to look for him and to see him grow. Now you have it. I’d like you to know that I had been “uploaded” too, but my process doesn’t have any chance to be erased, at least by accident. I salute you with respect and love,
your son

PETER

Why Are Converse Shoes So Popular?

Converse is an American shoe company with a production output that primarily consists of apparel, skating shoes and lifestyle brand footwear. Converse is known as one of America's most iconic footwear companies.

Converse Rubber Shoe Company was created by Marquis Mills Converse in 1908 in Malden, Massachusetts. In 1917, the company designed the All Star. The shoe was composed of a rubber sole and canvas upper and was designed to be an elite shoe for the professional basketball league. In 1921, American basketball player Charles "Chuck" Taylor joined a basketball team sponsored by the Converse Company called The Converse All Stars. Taylor held basketball clinics in high schools all over the country and while teaching the fundamentals of the game, he sold the All Star shoes.

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MUSIC

Converse All-Stars established and maintained their presence in the rock and roll and punk rock communities via popular musical artists including Avril Lavigne, Elvis Presley, The Ramones, Grateful Dead, Kurt Cobain and Nirvana, Hootie and the Blowfish, Green Day, Bruno Mars, Ed Sheeran, Jason Mraz, Miley Cyrus, and Fall Out Boy.

FILM AND TV

Perhaps indicative of the shoes' iconic status or of their mainstream success, nearly five hundred films and television shows feature actors in a leading or main supporting role wearing Chucks.[18][19] The most iconic of all probably being Back To The Future, where Michael J. Fox wears black Chuck Taylors. David Tennant wore three different colored Chuck Taylors throughout the British TV Show Doctor Who, when he played the Tenth Doctor. Chucks made many appearances in other notable films

POWERLIFTING

Although intended as a basketball shoe, powerlifting athletes have embraced Chuck Taylors as ideal for the sport. Chucks have flat, rubber soles that enforce correct posture on movements such as deadlifts, squats, and bench presses. "The 71-year-old Pete Bennett also set a world record for the squat in his age class at 465 lbs in a pair of Converse.

The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is a steep sided canyon carved by the Colorado River in Arizona, United States. The Grand Canyon is contained within and managed by Grand Canyon National Park, Hualapai Tribal Nation and the Havasupai Tribe. Preservation prompted by President Roosevelt, the Grand Canyon region is approx. 277 mi wide, 18 mi wide and over a mile deep.

HISTORY

The canyon was created when the Colorado River and its tributaries cut their channels through layers of rock while the Colorado Plateau was lifted up. Millions of years of erosion by the river has given the canyon its present form. The canyon has been inhabited by Native Americans while the Pueblo people considered it a holy site and made pilgrimages to it.



OVERVIEW

Hikers, Mule Riders and River Runners usually visit the Inner Canyon which is the area below the rim. It

is a paradise for people interested in backpacking, river trip across the Colorado River or mule ride to the Phantom Ranch.

South Rim

Days and Time
All Year, 24 hours a day

North Rim

Days and Time
15 May to 15 Oct
Day use available from 15 Oct to 1 Dec/ till Highway 67 closes
Entrance Fee
(valid for 7 days – both South and North Rim)

Vehicle US \$25 per vehicle
Individual US \$12

People coming by foot, bicycle, motorcycle and non-commercial groups.

Annual Recreational Pass US \$50
Valid for 12 months. Admits purchaser and 1 accompanying person

WEATHER

The Grand Canyon is located in a high altitude desert. Therefore it can get very cold in winter (well below zero, snow is not uncommon) and extremely hot (up to 45 °C on the canyon floor) in summer.

Ways to get across the Canyon :

-Hiking – Hikers usually do a overnight trip to cover the 21 mile trek with vertical decent of 1 mile.

-Automobile – One can get across the Colorado river via the Navajo Bridge, downstream from Lees Ferry.



NOTE:

A free shuttle bus system operates in the Grand Canyon Village area. Make your visit easier by parking your car at the Visitor Centre and using the free shuttle buses to get around the village.

Reservations are strongly recommended during spring, summer and fall.



DISCOVERING TECHNOLOGY



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PDF CANDY

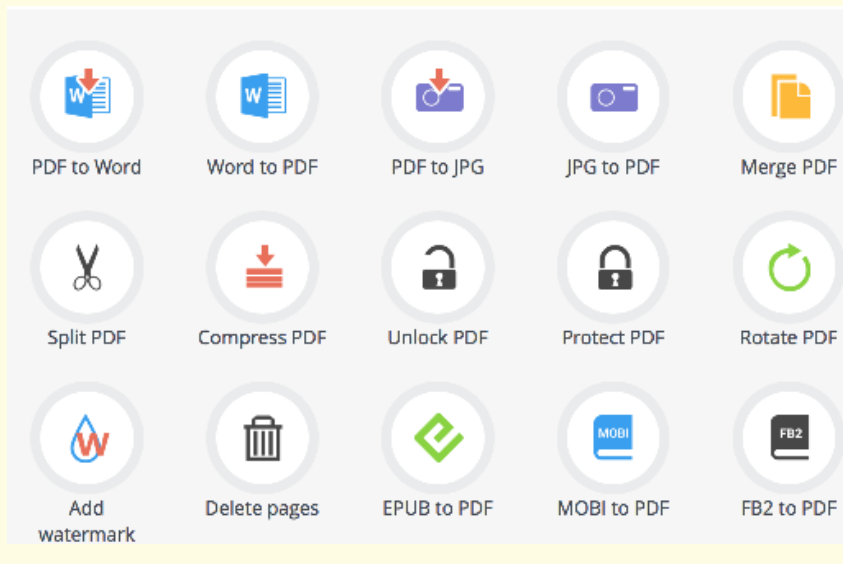
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“ENGLISH FOR YOU CR” PRESENTS, READING STRATEGIES FOR THE TOEIC EXAM



Today we want to share some basic strategies for the ToEIC exam, which many teachers are going to take in the coming days.

1- Read the questions first. Questions will tell you the level of difficulty of the task, what information you need, and what the keywords are. Information that is not requested in the questions is irrelevant and you shouldn't waste time reading all the text.

2- Underline the keywords in the questions and the answer options. Keywords are wh- words (what, when, why, where, how much, etc.), nouns (including names of places, people and brand names), verbs (and their negatives), and some adjectives and adverbs.

3- Answer the easy questions first (about specific information or vocabulary) and then the difficult ones (general ideas, inferencing, specific information in the negative).

4- If you don't know an answer, try to eliminate options so you take your guess between only two of them.

5- Find exercises on internet and do as much practice as you can. Good luck!
love, like. In some cases, however, using the infinitive or the gerund will imply different meanings.

You can listen to our podcast including this section, music in English, news, and more in:
<http://www.EnglishforYouCR.com> and www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr

magniloquent

speaking or expressed in a lofty or grandiose style; pompous; bombastic; boastful.

EXAMPLE:

These last words were pronounced with an accent of the most magniloquent solemnity.

Dictionary.com

EDGAR ALLAN POE

Poe's Childhood

Edgar Allan Poe was born on January 19, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts, his parents, David and Elizabeth Poe, had two other children as well, Henry and Rosalie. David and Elizabeth separated soon after their matrimony and Edgar's mother took all three children with her. Elizabeth Poe died in 1811 when Edgar was two years old, forcibly sending each child to live with different families; Poe was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. John Allan, a middleclass, fairly wealthy family who lived in Richmond, Virginia. When Poe was six years old he went to school in England for five years, studying Latin, French, math and history. Later he returned to America and resumed his studies at the University of Virginia when he was seventeen. Because his father would only give him a third of what he required for tuition and other expenses, Edgar soon began to drink heavily and fell into debt. He quit school less than a year later.

Poe in the Army

Edgar Allan Poe was without a job and left abandoned by his father. On May 26, 1827 Edgar Allan Poe enlisted in the U.S. Army under the name Edgar A. Perry. He was 18 but stated he was 22. From May to November, 1827, he lived in the barracks along Boston Harbor as a member of Battery H of the First Artillery. In 1829, his adoptive mother died and John Allan attempted to mend the bond between him and his adopted son by signing his application to West Point. Edgar entered West Point as a cadet, despite his position as sergeant major in the army; however, he didn't stay long because his father refused to send him money.

A Struggling Writer

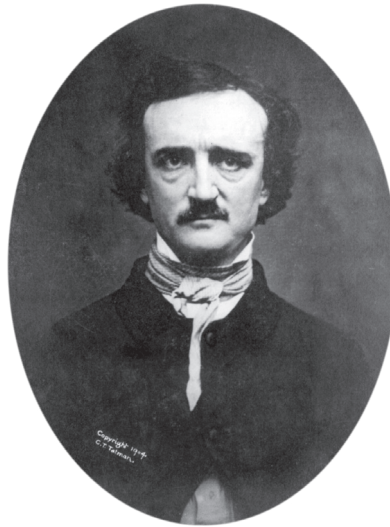
In 1831, Poe went to New York City where he had poetry books published. After minimal fame, his third book of poetry didn't gain much attention; hence

he was left without any money to publish more poetry books. His adoptive father, John Allan, died in 1834 and did not include Edgar in his will.

Virginia.jpg

In 1835, Edgar got a job at the Messenger as an editor. Poe missed his Aunt Maria Clemm and cousin, Virginia, so when he was fired from his editorial position he moved back to Baltimore. In September Poe received an offer to be rehired at the same position. He returned to Richmond with his cousin and Aunt. In 1836, Edgar married his cousin, Virginia Clemm. At the time he was 28 and she was 14.

Edgar missed Mrs. Clemm and Virginia and brought them to Richmond to live with him. In 1836, Edgar married his cousin, Virginia. He was 28 and she was 13. A few months after they were married, Poe was fired from the Messenger for the second time because he



began drinking again.

In 1837, Edgar went back to New York to work at the New York Review. He wrote "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym" but he could not find any financial success. He moved to Philadelphia in 1838 where he wrote "Ligeia" and "The Haunted Palace." His first volume of short stories, "Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque" was published in 1839. Poe received the copyright and 20 cop-



ies of the book, but no money.

In 1840, Edgar Poe joined Graham's Magazine as an editor for George R. Graham; however, Poe left Graham's in 1842 because he wanted to start his own magazine (which he failed at, miserably). Poe found himself without a regular job once again. He won a hundred dollars for his story, "The Gold Bug" sold a few other stories to magazines but he barely had enough money to support his family. In 1844, Poe moved back to New York.

Edgar was in and out of several jobs within the next couple of years and in 1847, ten days after his birthday, Virginia, his young wife, died, causing Poe to collapse from stress.

Final Days

In June of 1849, Poe left New York and went to Philadelphia; Poe left Philadelphia in July and went to Richmond. He stayed at the Swan Tavern Hotel and renewed a childhood romance with Sarah Royster Shelton and planned to marry her in October.

On September 27, Poe left Richmond for New York. He went to Philadelphia and stayed with a friend. On September 30, he meant to go to New York but supposedly took the wrong train to Baltimore. On October 3, Poe was found at Gunner's Hall, a public house at 44 Lombard Street, and was taken to the hospital. He lapsed in and out of consciousness but was never able to explain exactly what happened to him. Edgar Allan Poe died in the hospital on Sunday, October 7, 1849.

To read his work, you can visit:

<http://poestories.com/stories.php>



2017 The Year Of The Rooster

Saturday, January 28th marks the beginning of the Chinese calendar, also known as Lunar Calendar.

Roosters are conservatives at heart. With roosters, what you see is exactly what you get. There are no hidden depths to the rooster's character.

The Rooster is a hard worker, seeker of knowledge, a pioneer who tends to be self-ish and lonely, shrewd and definite in decision making, often speaking their mind. Because of this, they tend to seem boastful to others. The rooster is a dreamer, a flashy dresser, and extravagant to an extreme. Born under the this sign one should be happy as a restaurant owner, publicist, soldier, or world traveler. Choose the buffalo, snake, or dragon, never the rabbit for couple.

To know more about this zodiac sign, go to: <http://www.yourchineseastrology.com/zodiac/rooster.htm>

Information taken from: <https://www.ibiblio.org/chinesehistory/contents/08fea/c06s04.htm>

Image of rooster and background taken via Footer.com from: https://farm4.staticflickr.com/3887/14942636061_b98f5e3c05_h.jpg
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