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Online Chart Tool

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

# COVER PAGE



This month we dedicate our cover page to four-time Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry, American Robert Frost. 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 from wikicommons and edited by Eric Herrera.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Robert\\_Frost\\_NYWTS\\_5.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Robert_Frost_NYWTS_5.jpg)

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# EDITORIAL

## The Emotional Salary: The Wellbeing Of Employees

**“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.”**

*-Confucius*



In life, we are constantly faced with decisions. These decisions can be as easy as what clothes to wear today, what to have for lunch, or what music to listen to on the way to work. Some others are extremely important and can seriously affect life such

as what major to study, to get married or not, or to have children or not. Some people may think that the most logical decision is the correct one to make; however, this is not true because there is also an emotional part of the brain that can tip the balance to the emotional decision.

Today, the ability to balance these two types of thinking—rational and emotional—is a must in order to get a job. For example, if a project to which you were assigned and you put all your effort and energy into is cancelled, or a customer treats you badly on the phone, then your first reaction to these stressful situations would be to get angry and scream; nevertheless, these types of behavior could seriously harm your professional reputation, as well as your productivity.

On the other hand, studies have found out that new generations choose the place they want to work in for reasons that go far beyond financial considerations, or in other words paying a good salary is not, by itself, guarantee of happy employees. This kind of reasons are known as the emotional salary.

Psychologist Sofia de Castro Sousa (2016) explains “this delicate relationship between salary and satisfaction focus itself on the satisfaction of employees’ personal, family and/or professional needs, to improve their quality of life and, consequently, a healthier organizational environment.”

How can a company provide help and support to its employees? There are different ways a compa-

ny can think of to deal with the emotional salary. From some easy tangible strategies such as providing employees with a nice place to work (decoration, arrangement of furniture and equipment, etc.) to more specific ones such as flexible working hours and training possibilities are aspects a company should take into consideration. A company should think of innovative ways to make workers feel as happy as possible at work, so that employees can build a feeling of identification for the company they work for. The emotional salary does not have to do exclusively with assigning large budgets; it is rather about being alert and paying attention to employees’ needs and interests.

If a company does not pay attention to this situation, it may lose talented people and reduce workers’ motivation. This emotional salary idea was probably unthinkable ten or fifteen years ago, but it should be assumed as one more of the constant changes society and its individuals undergo. Little by little, people have understood that time and life quality are more important than high salaries.

Ideas to Share

Some example of successful companies that worry about the emotional salary are: Google that gives its employees free lunch and dinner; Yahoo that provides on-site gym equipment for its workers; AOL that supplies on-site day care facility for women who just had a baby; finally, Grasshopper Group offers its people free snacks, and coffee/espresso.



## First Academic Innovation Day

Last February 23rd, UTN held its first Academic Innovation Day. Innovation Day is a one day showcase of research projects and activities undertaken by UTN students and staff.



Among the attendees was the Minister of Science and Technology Marcelo Jenkins who told Costa Ricans that the country is looking for young

people with original and innovative ideas and enterprising and hard-working spirit to build startup companies. At the ministry, we have funds to help specific programs so that these people can grow their own business.

UTN Chancellor Marcelo Prieto expressed that universities are not only for direct research but also for providing future researchers and anyone with a good idea with spaces where they can share, exchange and show what they are doing.

There were stands where participants showed their projects and lectures were given by experts in innovation. The four award categories: peda-



gogic innovation, innovative technology, social innovation, and research. The winners were elected by a panel of judges. Specific criteria included: format, design, content and appearance of project posters/displays; clarity of the research concepts; and ability of the individual or team members to answer judges' questions about their

## Pedagogical Mediation Gallery

With the objective of developing and implementing pedagogic strategies focused on learning Bulletin ARJE presented a pedagogical mediation gallery. This presentation exhibited ten interesting and innovative practices professors at UTN have been working on during the last year.

Pedagogical mediation is



a valuable instrument that should be applied by professors so that education does not end up being a monotonous and boring suffering for learners said ARJE Psychologist and Academic Advisor María Rebeca Quesada.

The pedagogical mediation allows professors to teach in a non-master class that is fun for students, and at the same time they are learning in a significant approach, expressed ARJE Director Alex Porras.

To get more information about ARJE, and if you want



to be part of this initiative, you can send an email to [ajporras@utn.ac.cr](mailto:ajporras@utn.ac.cr) y [rquesada@utn.ac.cr](mailto:rquesada@utn.ac.cr)

## 2016 University Plan, Performance, and Accountability Report

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Central Campus Dean Emmanuel González presented the 2016 University Plan, Performance, and Accountability Report.

As a public entity, UTN is accountable to the public, and it must and it shall remain accountable to them for its actions, past and present, and for its future developmental trajectories. Accountability is demonstrated in a variety of ways:

- by the transparency of the decision-making processes that govern the University and its campuses; and
- by the way in which key performance indicators are disclosed to and discussed with the broader public.

Some interesting facts shown in this report are briefly commented on below.

The University is committed to being accessible to a wide range of populations, attracting outstanding students, offering exceptional education, and graduating students prepared for success. The student enrollment was increased by a 13%. The main campus in Alajuela has 48% of the total students of UTN.

UTN MAIN CAMPUS STUDENT ENROLLMENT			
PROGRAM	GOAL	ENROLLMENT	DIFFERENCE
Licenciatura	296	459	155%
Bachelor Degree	1495	1458	98%
Major	3678	4285	117%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5469</b>	<b>6202</b>	<b>113%</b>

The revenue budget shows a **budgetary execution of 97.21 %**, ensuring a sound management of financial resources.

The scholarship and gift aid program is one of the most important and successful programs because it makes possible for many students to access higher education.

2016 REGULAR BUDGET (STUDENT FUND HELP)	
PROGRAM	GOAL
Gift Aid	¢327.000.000
Student Residency Support	¢65.040.000
Food	¢219.595.200
Scholarship Exemption	¢85.230.000
Student Welfare Fee	¢39.609.842
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>¢736.475.042</b>

In terms of infrastructure, the technology development center opened in 2016 following LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification standards and is one of its highest achievements. This building, as well as any other infrastructure is based on the **ECO CAMPUS** concept as part of the university's commitment to preserve the environment. In addition, next year the laboratory tower will be finished with an area of 4000 mt<sup>2</sup>, and it will contain the chemistry, physics and biology departments. Also, computer information, and imaging technology laboratories with leading-edge educational technology and equipment.

Obviously, UTN is proceeding with a firm step that includes **quality education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusion in reintegration programs.**

It is our duty to report on the university's effectiveness in fulfilling its mission, while the operating and capital budgets report on the University's responsible financial management, said Dean Emmanuel González.



## The World's First Flying Taxis

We're a lot closer to flying cars that we think. In fact, Dubai has already begun testing a prototype of a self-driving hover-taxi with the hope of launching an aerial shuttle service by July.

"The autonomous aerial vehicle exhibited at the World Government Summit is not just a model. We have already experimented (with) the vehicle in a flight in (the) Dubai sky. RTA will spare no effort to launch the AAV in July 2017," shares director general of the Roads and Transport

Authority (RTA) Mattar Al-Tayer. To avail of the taxi service, passengers will simply select a destination before they board the vehicle with the help of a ground control center. The EHang 184 quadcopter can travel on a programmed course at 100 km an hour (60 mph) at an altitude of 300 meters (1,000 feet), the authority said in a statement. The service is meant to help reduce traffic congestion along the Emirate's main thoroughfares, and was built to withstand



the country's extreme temperatures during summer. With this new innovation, Dubai could reach its goal of becoming a world leader in driverless technology by 2030.



Information and image taken from: <https://futurism.com/the-worlds-first-flying-taxis-will-take-to-the-skies-in-five-months/>

## Mass Grave Of Babies And Children Found In Ireland

A mass grave containing the remains of babies and children has been discovered at a former Catholic care home in Ireland where it has been alleged up to 800 died, government-appointed investigators said on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Excavations at the site of the former Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway, have uncovered an underground structure divided into 20 chambers containing "significant quantities of human remains", the judge-led mother and baby homes commission said.

The commission said DNA analysis of selected remains revealed ages of the deceased ranged from 35 weeks to three years old. It found that the dead had been mostly buried in the 1950s, when the facility was one of more than a dozen in Ireland offering shelter to orphans, unmarried mothers and their children. The Tuam home closed in 1961.

The home, run by the Bon Secours Sisters, a Catholic religious order of nuns, received unmar-

ried pregnant women to give birth. The women were separated from their children, who remained elsewhere in the home, raised by nuns, until they could be adopted.

The discovery confirms decades of suspicions that the vast majority of children who died at the home were interred on the site



Shrine erected in memory of 800 children allegedly buried at the site of the former home

in unmarked graves, a common practice at such Catholic-run facilities amid high child mortality rates in early 20th-century Ireland.

The Irish government in 2014 formed the commission following the work of a local Tuam historian, Catherine Corless, who found death certificates for nearly 800 children who were residents at the facility but burial

records for only two.

"Everything pointed to this area being a mass grave," Corless previously told the Guardian. She recalled how boys playing in the field had reported seeing a pile of bones in a hidden underground chamber there in the mid-1970s.

The government's commissioner for children, Katherine Zappone, said the findings were "sad and disturbing" and promised that the children's families would be consulted on providing proper burials and other memorials.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Corless requested Galway county council's records on the home from 1925 to 1961. She was refused.

Minutes from a Tuam council meeting call for "due care and sensitivity" when building the playground because of the "children's burial ground and adjoining burial ground", Corless said. "The playground is unnaturally big, it's as big as the town playground."



Information and image taken from: <https://www.africametro.com/world-news/europe/mass-grave-of-800-babies-and-children-found-at-former-catholic-care-home-in-ireland>

## WikiLeaks To Share CIA Hacking Tools With Tech Firms

WikiLeaks will hand over details of hacking secrets used by the CIA to technology companies to allow them to find software flaws and fix them, founder Julian Assange has said.

Speaking during a press conference broadcast via Facebook Live, Assange on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, promised to give exclusive access to tech manufacturers after the latest document dump, which included allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) hacked into smartphones and computers.

The whistle-blowing site also claimed the trove of 8,000 documents proved that the CIA and British MI5 military intelligence developed malware to infiltrate Samsung smart TVs and turn them into listening devices.

“Considering what we think is the best way to proceed and hearing these calls from some of the manufacturers, we have decided to work with them to give them some exclusive access to the addition technical details that we have so that the fixes can be developed and pushed out, so people can be secure,” Assange said, speaking from the Ecuadorean embassy in London where he has been holed up since 2012.

Once tech firms had patched their products, he said, he would release the full data of the hacking tools to the public.

In response to Assange’s news conference, CIA spokeswoman Heather Fritz Horniak said: “As we’ve said previously, Julian Assange is not exactly a bastion of truth and integrity. Despite the



efforts of Assange and his ilk, CIA continues to aggressively collect foreign intelligence overseas to protect America from terrorists, hostile nation states and other adversaries.”

The CIA has so far declined to comment directly on the authenticity of the leak, but in a statement issued on Wednesday it said such releases are damaging because they equip adversaries “with tools and information to do us harm.”

Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/64191-cia-hacking.html> Image via Footer.com taken from: [https://farm8.staticflickr.com/7066/6776447922\\_39e69d921a\\_b.jpg](https://farm8.staticflickr.com/7066/6776447922_39e69d921a_b.jpg)



## Ancient Pharaoh Statues Uncovered In Cairo Mud Pit



Archaeologists have found two pharaonic statues dating back more than 3,000 years in a muddy pit in a Cairo suburb.

The relics were found in Mattarya district, a site of the pharaonic capital of Heliopolis, one of the oldest cities of ancient Egypt. Today the area is a sprawl of working and middle class districts in northeastern Cairo.

The statues, discovered on Thursday on wasteland between crumbling apartment blocks, are thought to represent pharaohs from the 19<sup>th</sup> dy-

nasty, which ruled from 1314 to 1200 BC.

One statue stands eight metres tall and is carved out of quartzite, a tough stone composed mostly of quartz grains.

It could not be identified from its engravings but it was found at the entrance to the temple of King Ramses II - also known as Ramses the Great - suggesting it represents him.

The other is a limestone statue of 12<sup>th</sup> century BC ruler King Seti II.

They were discovered by a joint German-Egyptian archaeological mission.

“The discovery of the two statues shows the importance of the city of Heliopolis, which was dedicated to the worship of Ra [the sun god]”, Aymen Ashmawy, the head of the Egyptian team on the dig, said.

Dietrich Raue, the head of the German team, added the archaeologists were working hard to lift the statues so they can be transported to another site for restoration.

Information and image taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/middle-east/64186-pharaoh-statues-uncovered.html>



## Strategies To Avoid Desertion In Higher Education

By Euyenia González (ILE Professor)



Higher institutions should have a strong commitment for giving new students the support they need to overcome their academic difficulties. This is especially relevant in the first year of university. Institutions should invest time and resources in knowing their student's needs and abilities to avoid desertion.

Nowadays, there are a variety of causes for desertion in higher education. In some cases, students suffer from economic problems, others start a major without analyzing their abilities and competences, and others do not find classes very dynamic or really challenging for them. That is why, educational institutions can consider some strategies to help students stay in the educational system. In this way, giving students the tools to become professionals is the key to provide the individual and their families the optimal conditions to have a better quality of life.

The universities should set a specific plan for informing students about the required abilities and competences for the different majors. Sometimes they ignore the professional profile and start a major because this is a popular one, but they totally ignore the abilities they should have to study the major. Then, it is relevant that universities provide orientation programs that give students specific information of the necessary requirements and strengths pupils need for the major. Likewise, learners should learn how to determine their potential and be conscious of their abilities and skills to make the right choice.

Moreover, social affective diagnosis should be required to know the necessities of the students, and the problems they can face

during the process. It is imperative for the institutions to identify the entrance profile of their students. They should get not only information related to the academic field but also related to work, family, and personal interests etc. For instance, many students work at night and come to classes during the day; others did not get appropriate basic courses in high school which makes their performance even more difficult. This knowledge about students can help the professionals in education to understand them better and provide specific support in the classes they are taking.

Finally, professors have to accompany the students in the learning process. This guidance and tutoring are vital aspects in order to help students to achieve their goals. Many incoming freshmen enter the university facing many fears and anxieties because they are faced with many new experiences. That's why the teacher's guidance is a main tool for keeping students in the classrooms. Professors have to be willing to help and guide students by working with them, identifying their learning styles and providing suitable materials and equipment to develop their skills for learning.

Summarizing, universities are responsible for giving students the guidance they need when entering the institution. Students register in a major full of expectations and dreams. It is our responsibility to accompany them during this process. Offering orientation programs, applying socio-affective diagnosis and training teachers to tutor the learners properly can reduce the rate of desertion in higher education. If institutions encourage those strategies, drop outs may decrease and more students could get their degrees with less difficulty.

## More Than Teaching English

By Melissa González (ILE Professor)



Who has not heard about National Geographic? The global organization that is committed to exploring and preserving our planet. During years, people have learned a lot about interesting cultures, breathtaking places and exotic animals because of its incredible documentaries and magazines. However, that is not enough for this famous organization. Its members always want to expand their organization into different areas. For this reason, they have published a set of books with educational purposes for learning English. This material is now available in Costa Rica at the Centro Cultural Costarricense Norteamericano, a pioneer English teaching institute that signed an agreement with National Geographic Learning to start using its programs in our country.

According to Maria Eugenia Flores, Headmaster of Centro Cultural Costarricense Norteamericano, this agreement will give students the opportunity of learning English while they develop other abilities that are fundamental to succeed professionally in this competitive and globalized world. Among these capabilities, we can first mention the importance of communication skills; this is more than speaking a language fluently. It involves being clear when explaining something to other partners and use adequate vocabulary and tone of voice. Moreover, it is necessary to be an active listener and have great writing competences. Second, problem – solving skills; since we are living in environments full of changes and challenges, it is important to use reasoning, previous experiences, available resources and creativity to solve any issue quickly.

Becoming tech savvy is also essential. Like it or not, technology is involved in everything we

do, and it is always going to be there. Therefore, it is mandatory to be updated in order to have better opportunities in this innovative world. Furthermore, students expect its use in class to improve and make the teaching-learning process more interesting.

Another important aspect is researching skills; in the past, people had to go to libraries to look for information about topics of their interest. Nowadays, data is just a click away. If you have a question or want to take a course without going out of your house, you just need your cell phone or computer. There are no excuses. Knowledge is power, and people who are eager about learning new things can definitely have more chances to grow in their jobs and lives.

Innovation and Creativity are two vital skills as well. " Creativity is the ability to produce new and unique ideas, innovation is the implementation of that creativity - that's the introduction of a new idea, solution, process, or product" (Sokolova, 2015 ). In other words, being innovative and creative means being different from the others, and these two skills have brought amazing discoveries to our world. They must definitely be promoted among people, especially nowadays that our planet and societies are facing problems such as global warming, pollution and ecosystems preservation.

Finally, the National Geographic programs are encouraging respect for diversity. In this planet, there are millions of individuals with different personalities, sexual preferences and beliefs. People's poor tolerance toward those differences is the main cause of the abominable situations that we are facing: wars, terrorism, murders, among others. Tolerance and respect are the first values that should be learned at home, and they must be highly reinforced at every educational level.

# THE ILE ETHOS

Times have changed a lot, and those days in which professors taught English as an isolated subject have disappeared. Teaching a language must be a holistic process in which students can acquire skills like the ones mentioned before to

help them in their professional and personal development. Moreover, professors must also do their best to obtain those abilities to plan enjoyable and more exciting classes.

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# ACADEMICS AND MORE

## Is Tech The New Teacher?

By *Natalie Orenstein on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017*

A new paper argues that **technology can enhance—but will never endanger—the teaching profession.**

In *Class of 1999*, a sci-fi thriller from 1990, robot teachers are sent to high school campuses to control troublesome teenagers. The cyborgs' job is to crack down on gang violence and misbehavior—but they ultimately become violent against the students themselves.

Although not on the level of a '90s B movie, there is concern that teaching will be usurped by technology. Many jobs are at risk of computerization, according to a 2013 Oxford University study—and some think educators are among the vulnerable, though not everyone.

That idea is purely “hype and fear,” writes Thomas Arnett of the think tank the Christensen Institute in a recent white paper, “Teaching in the Machine Age.” The paper makes the case that “as innovations simplify and automate distinct aspects of teaching, both effective and less effective **teachers will see their capabilities enhanced by computers.**”

Education software programs can, for example, provide differentiated instruction to students with different learning styles or needs in a way one teacher standing in front of a classroom may have more difficulty doing. Some programs include real-time assessment features or provide feedback to teachers who can then tailor their lessons to individual student needs. Others offer instructional planning platforms, complete with resources and lesson planning tools.

Arnett turns a spotlight on Teach to One, a program used in some New York classrooms. The online system assesses students' work, creating daily lesson plans for each. Based on the results, some students continue working alone on computers and others are sent to small group stations. Teachers—the real live sort—are on hand, some checking in occasionally with students and others engaged in more involved guidance.

Some schools go further, however. Education Week reports that **some schools and districts have indeed filled vacant teaching positions with software.** A Georgia district experiencing a teacher shortage participated in a pilot test of an accredited online education program offering “virtual teachers.” They livestream to laptops, and students can interact with the teachers using a chat box or by clicking



a “raised hand” icon. In Maine, another school with a shortage uses Rosetta Stone as a foreign language teacher. Despite the cost savings, administrators in each case said they would prefer conventional teachers.

In other parts of the globe, technology has provided a temporary solution when teachers or education infrastructure is in short supply. When schools were

closed in Liberia during the Ebola crisis, an ed-tech start-up sent more than 500 tablets loaded with educational materials.

Arnett tells Education Week that he supports such efforts in times of need, but not as permanent replacements. And no matter how “smart” technology gets, he argues, teaching is immune to full automation.

“As artificial intelligence increasingly takes on human work, the most valued and secure human jobs will be those that require complex social skills—such as teaching,” he writes.

A growing awareness of the importance of cultivating social-emotional and other non-cognitive skills has added to teachers' already long list of responsibilities, Arnett writes. Tech that takes care of the tasks that can be automated can free up time for the uniquely human.

Already many educators and learning scientists have reconsidered the role of teachers in the 21st century as more like mentors. Teachers can provide critical support to empower students to do their own digging into topics and complete hands-on projects—aided, yes, by digital tools. Under this theory, technology allows kids to have more self-direction, but teachers remain as important as ever.

Arnett notes that teaching enhancement tools are hardly new. Textbooks came before ed tech. But digital tools undeniably have unique functions and power—power that, if complemented with good teaching, can amplify the critical work that educators do.

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:

## *What are some skills a person needs to get a good job?*

*No matter the job, passion and love for what you do are the most important aspects a person needs to be successful in any activity.*

*Abigail Venegas*

*Companies want people who can make decisions efficiently, so I will say leadership is a very important ability.*

*Jeanina Quesada*

*A person needs to be pro-active dynamic, and prepared to act when necessary.*

*Juan Carlos Morales*

*A person needs to be hardworking, organized, and responsible to work anywhere.*

*Juan Carlos Alvarado*

*Something really important is the ability to communicate accurately with others in a written and an oral way.*

*Roxana Soto*

*One of the most important skills is teamwork. Today, companies want their employees to work in groups and share ideas to achieve an objective.*

*Lilliana Rodríguez*

*My experience tells me companies value punctuality a lot. Costa Ricans are very unpunctual.*

*Handel Enriquez*



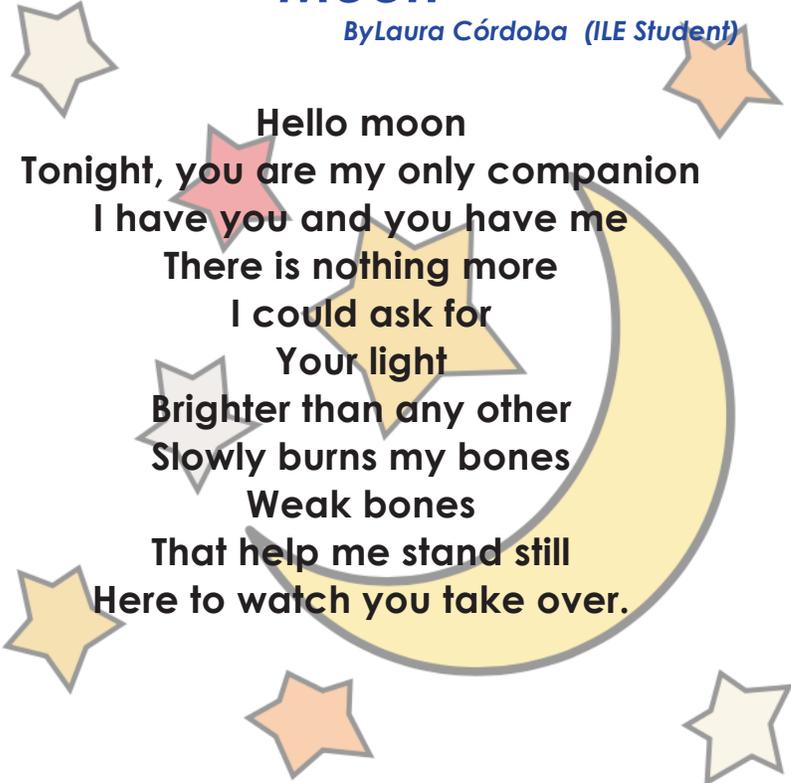
*Depending on the job tolerance is highly expected. When you deal with people, you need to be patient and understanding.*

*Elena Jiménez*



## Moon

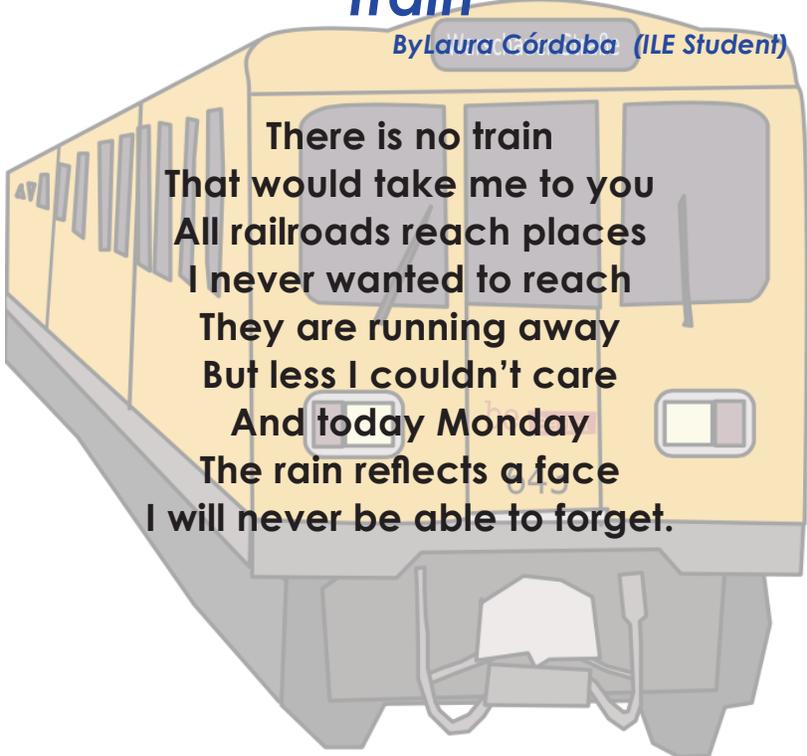
By Laura Córdoba (ILE Student)



Hello moon  
Tonight, you are my only companion  
I have you and you have me  
There is nothing more  
I could ask for  
Your light  
Brighter than any other  
Slowly burns my bones  
Weak bones  
That help me stand still  
Here to watch you take over.

## Train

By Laura Córdoba (ILE Student)



There is no train  
That would take me to you  
All railroads reach places  
I never wanted to reach  
They are running away  
But less I couldn't care  
And today Monday  
The rain reflects a face  
I will never be able to forget.

## *A Savior For Kajikawa*

*By Geancarlo Solano (ILE Student)*

This story begins in the hidden land of Kajikawa, a dark place where samurais are still considered heroes. Kajikawa is located between China and Japan; it is a small island with only forty-three thousand people; however, Kajikawa has seen better days; now it is consumed by darkness since the emperor Shao Khan took over the power on the year eight hundred BC.

Shao Khan is a mean person whose thirst for power has made him do terribly numberless things against Kajikawa population.

One day, one seer told him about his future, and how one young samurai will defeat Shao Khan to restore peace for the country. When Shao Khan heard this, he became white as snow; he knew he will be defeated one day, so his journey to find his future murderer began.

This is the moment when our hero joins the story, Leonidas, a youngster at this moment, raised with moral values from his parents who knew greatness was for him; nevertheless, he was not aware of how his life was about to change.

Shao Khan slaughtered every people who did not want to join him and became his servant. When it was Leonidas' time, he refused; he knew his parents had thought him better. Shao Khan immediately knew this was the young samurai who will give an end to his reign of terror; therefore, they started fighting. One could hear the creaking of the swords. Leonidas was no rival for Shao Khan, so he was easily defeated.

Shao Khan, drunk with power, thought our hero was dead, and left the place thinking the victory was his. Our hero was badly wounded, but he managed to find help and recovered. Leonidas knew he will need to become stronger if he wanted to defeat Shao Khan, and after he became fully healed, his training started.

Ten years had passed since the first encounter of our protagonists, and now more mature, Leonidas was ready to meet his destiny, and so his journey towards greatness began.

He defeated every single Shao Khan's minion, and finally made it to the main room. Shao Kahn was there waiting for him; after a short dialog between them, the fight started. Khan realized how strong Leonidas has become now, and for the second time on his life he felt fear. The fight was a back and forward battle. Both showed their best strategies, but in the end, our hero was the one victorious.

When Shao Khan was finally defeated, peace came back to Kajikawa again. People were not afraid anymore. Our savior had done it. He restored the balance to Kajikawa, and people were forever grateful to him.

## “Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it’s .....a Jew.”

May 2, 2016

Guest Voice

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CALGRARY, Alberta, Canada—Look to the sky. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it’s Superman, the most famous comic book, radio, television and movie superhero. He is faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. He is also Jewish. The truth is revealed.

In Cleveland, writer, Jerry Siegel and cartoonist, Joe Shuster, both the sons of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, created the fictional Superman in 1934. Siegel and Shuster’s Jewish roots and the immigrant experiences of their parents influenced their thoughts and writings. Incidentally Joe Shuster was born in Toronto. Perhaps Superman, the quintessential Ameri-

can superhero, may be a closet Canadian.

Long before Superman became Superman he was Kal-El born on the alien planet Krypton, the only child of Jor-El. The names Jor-El and Kal-El have unmistakable Yiddish roots, akin to the names Yossel, Barel and Fyvel. In addition, the name **Kal-El phonetically in Hebrew is translated as “vessel of God”**, the suffix “El” being one of the ancient Hebrew forms denoting God. A leap of faith is now needed. For we must assume that at the Man of Steel’s Bris the Mohel would have used a diamond-cutter.

The story of the boy who was to become Superman begins with the planet Krypton on the eve of a holocaust-like disaster. His parents, in order to ensure Kal-El’s survival, place their baby in a small vessel, a spaceship, where he is rocketed to the planet Earth and lands in a corn field in Kansas. He is found by Methodists, Jonathan and Martha Kent who raise the infant as their own. The child, however, never forgets his origins.

Does the story sound familiar? It should. It is the story of the baby Moses. To escape Pharaoh’s cruel decree that every Hebrew male child be cast into the Nile, the infant Moses is saved by his mother who lays him in a small vessel, a reed basket and floats it down the river where it is found by the daughter of Pharaoh who takes Moses and brings him up as her own, an Egyptian prince. Moses, however never forgets his Hebrew origin.

Both **Moses and Superman** are strangers in a strange land.

Back to the story of Superman. The child, Kal-El takes the waspish name, Clark Kent. Only a Jew would pick a name like that for himself. After all, Issur Danielovitch Demsky became Kirk Douglas, Bernard Schwartz became Tony Curtis and Betty Joan Perske became Lauren Bacall.



As Superman reaches adulthood with his superpowers fully developed he does something at that time very Jewish. Because he is an alien he takes on an alter ego, that of a nebbish, bespectacled, bumbling reporter who never quite ever gets the girl, sort of a fictionalized version of Woody Allen. He becomes the allegory of Jewish assimilation in the 1930s, the Diaspora Jew viewed as timid and bookish yet underneath a fierce warrior doing God's work. **Superman's story is the metaphor for the Jewish North American dream**, the tale of the old world Jew who comes to the new world for a better life and just tries to fit in. Superman is the "greenhorn" who came to America, embraced the culture and made something of himself. While Superman came from Krypton, he just as easily could have come from Kiev.

Superman's mission is to fight for "truth, justice and the American way." Time and time again he is called upon to perform wonders, to repair order and balance in the world. Superman is the vessel for Jewish values, to do good for its own sake, to practice the core mitzvah of tikkun olam.

Superman of America is the reincarnation of the Golem of Prague. During the 16th century the Jewish people of Prague were under anti-Semitic attack and lived their lives in fear. Their rabbi, Yehuda Loew in order to protect his people from the pogroms, created out of clay the supernatural Golem who came to life upon recitation by the Rabbi of a special incantation in Hebrew. The Golem was a giant manlike creature with the word "emet" (truth) carved on his forehead. The Golem did Rabbi Loew's bidding and defended the Jews of Prague. When the Golem was no longer needed he was returned to his inanimate state by removing from his forehead the first letter of the word "emet" thus changing it to "met" (death). According to the legend the inanimate Golem is somewhere hidden in the attic of the famed synagogue of Prague ready to return to life when needed. A



statue of the Golem stands at the entrance to the former Jewish area of Prague.

Superman is the Golem for our time. Both are animated by truth and serve the cause of justice.

While Superman is physically indestructible (except for proximity to Kryptonite) he was subject to the same jibes and taunts faced by other Jews in the first half of the 20th century. Other superheroes, disparagingly and perhaps anti-Semitically, referred to Superman as, "that big blue Boy Scout." In real life, by a speech given in 1940, Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Minister of Propaganda, so enraged by the Superman comic book's anti-Nazi stance, outed Superman's Jewish identity.

We, the Jewish people, have our biblical superheroes, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samson, Ruth, Saul, David, Solomon. To those revered names we add the name of post-biblical superhero, Superman.

So boys and girls, Superman, or if you now prefer you may refer to him as "**Supermensch**", continues, as he always will, to do good, to fight evil and to save our planet Earth from all menaces both of this world and extra-terrestrial.

The next time you look to the sky and see the red caped crusader, in his blue tights with the letter "S" emblazoned on his chest streaking by, you may be tempted to say, "Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's .....a Jew."

# VISITING LANDMARKS

## Washington D.C.- National Mall

Washington, D.C. the nation's capital is a city for making history. The city is named after the United States first president, George Washington and was established in the 1800's.

In D.C. there is something for everyone in this metropolitan area; a city rich in history and politics. Discover it for yourself by exploring some of the famous sites around the area. First to explore, and perhaps most visited, area of the city should be the National Mall. Leave plenty of time to sightsee in this area. **On the list of must see:** National monuments- Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Capital building, The White House, and all the Smithsonian Museums. Wear your walking shoes as the distance between the Capital and the Lincoln Memorial is almost a **2 mile jaunt!** You may explore this area for free, yet below tour options are provided.

The peak tourism time starts around late March and early April when the National Cherry Blossom Festival takes place and then again in the fall. The off-season time is considered to be January, July and August and the best time to get great hotel deals. If you can deal with the intense heat and humidity



### WEATHER

Washington is in the humid subtropical climate zone and exhibits four distinct seasons. Its climate is typical of Mid-Atlantic U.S. areas removed from bodies of water. Spring and fall are warm, while winter is cool with annual snowfall averaging 39 cm. Winter temperatures average around 3.3 °C from mid-December to mid-February. Summers are hot and humid with a July daily average of 26.6 °C and average daily relative humidity around 66%, which



comfort. The combination of heat and humidity in the summer brings very frequent thunderstorms, some of which occasionally produce tornadoes in the area.

### TRANSPORT

Washington has an extensive subway system, and a map with interactive options for directions can be found at WASHINGTON METRO.

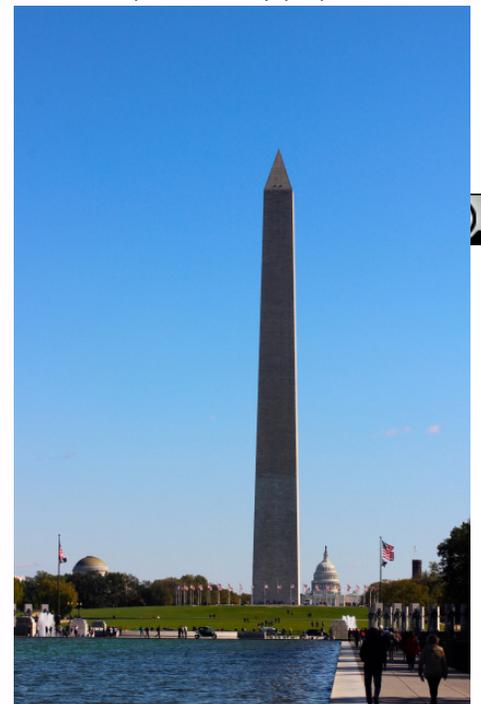
### FOOD

There are dozens of restaurant for all tastes and prices. One of the most picturesque places to have a wonderful meal is in a foodtruck. A food truck is a large vehicle equipped to cook and sell food. Some, including ice cream trucks,

sell frozen or prepackaged food; others have on-board kitchens and prepare food from scratch. Sandwiches, hamburgers, french fries, and other regional fast food fare is common. In recent years, associated with the pop-up restaurant phenomenon, food trucks offering gourmet cuisine and a variety of specialties and ethnic menus, have become particularly popular.



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## “ENGLISH FOR YOU CR” PRESENTS, LISTENING STRATEGIES FOR THE TOEIC EXAM – PART I



As part of our series on preparation strategies for the ToEIC exam, we want to share these listening strategies with you for Part I of the TOEIC, listening with photographs:

- 1- **Brainstorm for vocabulary.** While you hear the recorded instructions, look at the pictures and mentally answer these questions: “Where are the people? What are they doing?” This will help you brainstorm for vocabulary.
- 2- **Use your pencil while you listen.** Take down notes of keywords next to the pictures. Move your pencil from the letter of each option to the next. If one of the options sounds correct, leave it there until you have heard the three options.
- 3- **Eliminate wrong options.** Keep in mind that although you may not be sure which option is the correct one, it can be easier to discard wrong ones. Using the previous technique, discard options and mark an answer.
- 4- **Answer and move on!** Don't leave any questions unanswered. If you don't know the answer, follow the previous techniques and check an option. Move on and brainstorm and prepare for the next picture in the exam.
- 5- **Practice as much as you can with other pictures.** Get familiar with the verbs and nouns the TOEIC evaluates. Good luck!

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<http://www.EnglishforYouCR.com> and [www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr](http://www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr)

## spoon

foolish or sentimentally amorous.

**EXAMPLE:**

*SGrowing a mustache and turning spoony over a woman like that, you really are a fool!*

## Robert Frost

Robert Frost (1874-1963), a New England poet whose verse went far beyond the regional, is one of America's most popular and well-regarded twentieth-century writers. He was a four-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and many of his poems such as "Mending Wall" and "The Road Not Taken" have become touchstones of America's poetic tradition. He is noted for his faithful depiction of colloquial speech, his muscular, oftentimes ambiguous imagery, and his command of a pervasive and terrifying irony that belies any characterization of him as merely a genial purveyor of rural wisdom.

Frost was born on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco, California. After the death of his journalist and teacher father, Frost and his family moved to Massachusetts, where the poet would spend the rest of his childhood. Frost briefly attended Dartmouth College, but he quickly became disillusioned and took on a series of odd jobs throughout the 1890s, working as a teacher, a factory worker, a mill worker, and a newspaper deliveryman.

In 1894, Frost published his first poem, "My Butterfly: An Elegy," in the New York magazine *Independent*. The next year, he married Elinor Miriam White, a classmate from high school in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and they moved to a family farm in Derry, New Hampshire, where they lived for the next nine years. Frost and White would have six children together, two of whom died young. These tragedies darkened Frost's verse, helping prepare for the loneliness of "Desert Places" and the terror of "Design."

Frost sold the farm and moved to England to focus on his writing in 1912. This same year, he published his first book of poetry, *A Boy's Will*. He soon found himself enmeshed in the European literary scene: he met Ezra Pound, who helped champion Frost's early career, and was much influenced by the



Georgian poets T.E. Hulme, Lascelles Abercrombie, Rupert Brooke, and Edward Thomas. Pound, who was eleven years Frost's junior, introduced him to William Butler Yeats, whom he had long admired, but Pound mistook Frost's traditional forms and unobtrusive irony for simplicity, and Frost chafed at Pound's critical strictures. "I'd as soon write free verse," he once said, "as play tennis with the net down." Frost valued his independence and rebuffed Pound's advances. When war came, he returned to the United States.

*North of Boston* (1915) was Frost's first book of verse to be published in the U.S. This book, written while he was living in England and reviewed favorably by Pound, illustrates Frost's intimate if fraught relationship with international modernism. The volume contains many of Frost's most famous lyrics, including "Mending Wall" and "Birches," and the poems showcase his absorption of the blank verse form as well as his abiding interest in the use of the American vernacular.

After the success of *North of Boston*, Frost was able to purchase a farm in Franconia, NH. Here he wrote most of the poems for *Mountain Interval* (1916).

In 1920, Frost purchased Stone House, a farm in Vermont; this same year, he won the Pulitzer Prize for his fourth collection of poems, *New Hampshire* (1920). As Frost's poetic reputation grew – he won the Pulitzer in 1931 for *Collected Poems* and began lecturing at the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College – his personal life was again touched by tragedy: his daughter Marjorie died in childbirth in 1934; his wife died in 1938; and his daughter Carol committed suicide in 1940.

Frost continued to write poetry and collect honors until his death in Boston in 1963; he read at President Kennedy's inaugural in 1961. His poetic legacy, while secured, is rife with contradictions. He was a popular poet whose greatest poems approached nihilism in their bleak irony; he was a master of traditional verse forms who was championed by Ezra Pound; he was an American regionalist whose most well-known book was written while abroad. Frost remains to this day one of the most iconic figures of American poetry.

To read Robert Frost's work, you can visit:

<http://www.online-literature.com/frost/>

Information taken from: [https://modernism.research.yale.edu/wiki/index.php/Robert\\_Frost](https://modernism.research.yale.edu/wiki/index.php/Robert_Frost)

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## Winter Equinox In Stonehenge

An equinox is the moment in which the plane of Earth's equator passes through the center of the Sun, which occurs twice each year, around 20<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

On an equinox, day and night are of approximately equal duration all over the planet. They are not exactly equal, however, due to the angular size of the sun and atmospheric refraction. To avoid this ambiguity, the word equilux is sometimes used to mean a day in which the durations of light and darkness are equal. The vernal equinox occurs in March, about when the Sun crosses the celestial equator south to north. The term "vernal point" is used for the time of this occurrence and for the direction in space where the Sun is seen at that time

To know more about the Solstice at Stonehenge, go to:

<http://earthsky.org/human-world/gallery-the-winter-solstice-as-seen-from-stonehenge>

Information taken from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equinox>

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<https://farm8.staticflickr.com>