From top left: Tianyu Wang (China), Tatiana Nikolaeva (Russia), Khaled Amir Benaida (Algeria), Fatimah Alsinan (Saudi Arabia), Javier Guerrero (Dominican Republic).
Do you ever feel nervous about speaking English with native-speakers? Do you worry that you might use the incorrect word or mispronounce something? Well, you are not alone!

During cross-cultural advising appointments, we often ask students questions such as, “Are you using English outside the classroom?” and “What kinds of things are you doing in your free time to practice your English?” Sometimes students answer by listing many things they do every week to practice English; however, other times, students smile shyly and say that they feel nervous to speak English with native speakers outside of class.

According to the book Do’s and Taboos of Using English Around the World, American English has over 750,000 words and has changed over time by “borrowing roots from other languages” and has “adopted mind-shattering, inconsistent rules for usage, pronunciation, and spelling.” There are even many differences among the various geographic regions of the United States. For example, what one person calls “tennis shoes,” another person might call “sneakers.” There are also many differences in the English used for social conversations versus the English used in academic or business situations.

You are studying a very complex, and sometimes confusing, language, and it is natural to feel a little nervous. However, what is the best way to become a more confident speaker? Practice, of course! The more situations that you experience and the more English you try to use, the more you will learn about using American English naturally. Don’t worry if someone doesn’t understand you the first time. This can happen to native speakers, too! If you ask a question, and someone doesn’t understand, just take a deep breath and repeat your question clearly and slowly. Once you see how easy it is, you will feel more confident practicing English every day.
By Conversation Leader Puteri Ahmad

Most of you have been here in Lawrence for a while now and probably think Lawrence is just this small, boring campus town that has nothing; *buzz* YOU'RE WRONG! Believe me, Mass Street is not the only place that you can find something fun to do in Lawrence. There are a lot of places that you have yet to discover in Lawrence, and this is why The Hidden Gems of Lawrence series will be your go-to guide to travel around Lawrence - the cool way.

In the first series, I will be introducing to you a hidden little park. Forget about South Park, the Veterans Park, or even Dad Perry Park! Behold, I introduce to you - the DeVictor Park. Sounds fancy right? This park is named after Fred DeVictor, a long-time director of the Lawrence Recreation Department during his retirement reception. it is also known as “the Greenbelt” because the park trails encircle the neighborhood surrounding it.

During your walk, you will get to see some fancy houses with cool backyards! But other than that, the trail will lead you to different paths -- take the one into the woods, you won't regret it! You will stumble across stones you can step on to get across a little stream, or come across this huge wooden hanging bridge, or even get to climb up a big outdoor treehouse. A lot of exciting adventures await you at the DeVictor Park! So what are you waiting for?

Directions: It’s a 10 minute drive from Eaton Hall (KU Engineering Hall) if you drive on Bob Billings Parkway heading West. You need to just keep on driving, and driving almost until the end and make a right on George Williams Way. You will see the park on your right!

You can always ask a conversation leader to tag along, or even talk about your experience during Conversation Groups! Have fun with your adventure!!!

Sincerely,

“The Girl Who Never Wants to Stay at Home”
By AEC Instructor Dr. Melissa Peterson

Your teachers keep mentioning this word: plagiarism. They keep saying how bad it is. It’s confusing, though, when they use words like steal to refer to something that you can’t touch. You can’t steal the wind or the sunlight – how can you steal an idea? Let’s break it down.

Plagiarism is failing to give proper credit to a source or author when using their information, ideas, words – even when paraphrased and even if you knew the information before. Avoiding plagiarism can be simple: it just means including the author and page number and/or year correctly. If you are in doubt, ask your teacher, the Writing Center, or a librarian to help you.

When do you have to cite a source? Almost anytime you write a fact, statistic, or piece of information that is not common knowledge and that is not your original thought. Common knowledge is anything that most everybody knows. For example, you wouldn’t have to cite that the Earth orbits around the sun because this is common knowledge. Some students forget to cite background knowledge. Did you know the information before you wrote it? You will still have to see if it is common knowledge. If it is not common knowledge, you will have to cite it. Did you change the words from the original source into your own words (paraphrasing)? You absolutely have to cite it. Remember, you are giving credit to the author’s ideas, too, not just their words. Did you quote any-
How do you avoid plagiarism? *Think. Write. Signal* (adapted from the University of Oklahoma Office of the Provost, the Office of Academic Integrity Programs, and the Integrity Council, p. 4).

**Think:** understand what you have read. Take notes while you are reading. Use your own words and clearly mark quotes when you must use the author’s exact words. Avoid copying and pasting.

**Write:** paraphrase as much as possible. Ask your teachers or the KU Writing Center for help with paraphrasing.

**Signal:** Be explicit when you are using someone else’s words and ideas. This includes quoting and paraphrasing. A direct quotation requires quotation marks and a citation. Leaving off the quotation marks is plagiarism. A paraphrase requires a citation, an explanation of why you included the paraphrase, and sometimes an explicit mention of the source.

What is the bottom line? Cite. Cite. Cite. Cite when you aren’t sure. Ask when you don’t know.

**Works Cited**

Don’t stay home with your kids this summer, there’s so much to do in Lawrence! Here are some ideas from the Lawrence Kids Calendar. The calendar shows daily activities for kids, and week-long camps kids can attend. You can view the calendar on the website at lawrence2.kidscalendar.net. On the front page of the website you can sign up to receive a weekly email telling you all of the activities for kids that week. Just enter your email address and click subscribe.

**Storytime Live! At Pet World, 711 W. 23rd St., Every Saturday, 11:00 a.m.**
Every book reading features a special live animal guest. After each story, kids will have the opportunity to visit or interact with our animal guests and our Pet World staff reader will lead a small, simple discussion and answer questions. See you Saturday!

**Youth Bowl at Royal Crest Lanes, 933 Iowa St., Everyday**
All day every day in the summer kids can bowl for just one cent!

**Skill Club at The Toy Store, 936 Massachusetts St., Every Sunday, 2:00 p.m.**
Kids can learn different skills and tricks while playing with toys.

**LOL Family Fun Zone, 1000 Massachusetts, Open everyday but the hours vary**
LOL Family Fun Zone offers a downtown Lawrence location for children to engage in physical and educational, parent-supervised activities, year-round, in a safe and clean environment. It’s a space where parents can relax and interact positively with their children, network with other parents, and connect with parent resources.

**Free Program at Prairie Park Nature Center, 2730 Harper St., Every Saturday 10:00-10:30 a.m.**
Programs may include a short video, slide show and of course going outdoors to enjoy birds, wildflowers, bugs or a stroll through the park. All ages are welcome. Children under 14 years-old must be with an adult for all family programs.

**Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St., Open Everyday, hours vary**
The library offers A LOT of activities for children. Visit their website for more information at www.lawrence.lib.ks.us/.
You're invited to a Fourth of July Celebration

The family of Conversation Leader Annette Jardon has graciously invited us to an evening at their farm. We'll have hamburgers and hot dogs (no pork) for dinner, and ice cream for dessert. Following our evening on the farm we'll go to the nearby town of Baldwin City to watch fireworks. We will pick you up and take you home.

Check your KU email for all the details!

Questions - Email Tiffany Learned at tlearned@ku.edu

or just ask a conversation leader.
AEC

BY THE NUMBERS

126 STUDENTS
1 ALGERIAN
82 CHINESE
1 IRANIAN
4 JAPANESE
1 KOREAN
3 KUWAITIS
1 RUSSIAN
27 SAUDIS
3 EMIRATIS