



AEC Newsline

The student e-newsletter of the Applied English Center at the University of Kansas

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About this publication

AEC Newsline is the digital newsletter for students at the Applied English Center at the University of Kansas. *AEC Newsline* is published twice per semester and once during summer.

Editor is Tiffany Edwards. Production coordinator is Kari Balthazor.

To provide feedback or suggest content, please send an email to aecnewsline@ku.edu.

Spotlight:



Happiness Survey

“Is there a recipe to happiness?” This is what Linda Pollock’s level 2 Reading and Writing class is trying to find out. After doing a unit on happiness, their class thought that it would be fun to write a survey where you can find out for yourself how happy you are.

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER — Group Work

By Sandra Issa, AEC Counseling Coordinator

"All right, let's get into groups and discuss this reading."

Have you heard your instructor say those words? Do you have to work in small groups with other students in your AEC classes? It is very common for instructors at the AEC to have students work together in class. It is also very common for professors at KU to have students work together in class. In fact, "the use of small groups has become a common pedagogical practice in college and university classrooms." People work together in groups in all areas of life. For example, it is very common for employees in a company to be assigned a group project. This is one of the reasons why colleges and universities ask students to work together in groups.

There are many benefits to working in groups, but it may take you some time to get used to this. Are you comfortable working in a group? Think of your group work at the AEC as good practice for your university classes.

How can you make your group work experiences positive? Start by asking yourself what kind of a group member you are. Do you participate in the group? Do you try to be the leader of the group? Do you try to avoid being the leader of the group? Do you try to talk as much as possible? Do you try to talk as little as possible? Do you try to do all of the work in the group? Do you try to do none of the work in the group?

Here are a few tips for getting started when your instructor puts you in a group and expects you to work together with the other group members.

First, introduce yourself. Make sure you know the names of all the members of your group. Write them down, so you don't forget.

Second, try to make sure everyone in the group has a job to do. For example, one person can be the "secretary." He or she can write down what the group discusses. Another person can be the "presenter." He or she can report the group work to the rest of the class. If everyone has a job to do, it is more likely that everyone will participate in the group.

Third, try to make sure everyone has a chance to participate. If one student is talking too much, you could say, "Let's hear what the other group members have to say."

Perhaps the most important thing to remember when working in a group is to respect the other members of a group. You may not like all of the people in your group. You may disagree with what some of the group members say. However, you can still be respectful of them.

If you would like to read a little bit more about group work, go to the AEC website at www.aec.ku.edu. Click on "Resources" at the top of the screen. When you get to the "Resources" page, make sure the tab is set to "Current Students." Next, click on "Advising & Counseling" on the left of the page. This will expand the "Advising & Counseling". Click on "Advising & Counseling FAQ." From there, click on the question "Why is there so much personal interaction in the classroom?" This will give you some additional information.

Gillespie, Diane, Sally Rosamond, and Elizabeth Thomas. "Grouped Out? Undergraduates' Default Strategies for Participating in Multiple Small Groups." *the Journal of General Education*. 55.2 (2006): 81-102. Web.

Mobile Apps for Education

While waiting for the bus in the early morning or late afternoon, what do you typically do? Do you make phone calls? Do you use your phone to check your grades in Blackboard? Those few extra minutes are crucial extra learning moments in your day! You should consider using the extra time to practice English on your iPad or smartphone.

Taking a few minutes to do extra practice could save you time in the long run.

Do you want to practice **vocabulary** before a test? Try Quizlet and be amazed at the simplicity of creating your own vocabulary sets, games, spelling activities, and quizzes.

Do you want to practice **spelling**? Try Spelling City and learn how to make your own word lists and enjoy free activities.

Using your iPad or smartphone to engage in English practice for fifteen minutes in between classes or while waiting for the bus could save you hours of study in the future. Use your time wisely!

◆ Quizlet	www.Quizlet.com
◆ Spelling City	http://www.spellingcity.com
◆ Grammar Up	Search your iPad app center for these great apps.
◆ Idioms	
◆ Grammar Express Verb Tenses	
◆ Prepositions Lite	
◆ Articles Lite	
◆ Grammar Express Passive and Active Voice	

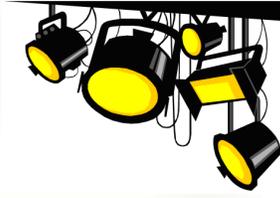
Would you like to practice **phrasal verbs**? Try Phrasal Verbs in the iPad app store and test your knowledge of phrasal verbs.

Use **Grammar Express: Prepositions Lite** for extra lessons and quizzes over prepositions. Those extra minutes will benefit you and hopefully lessen your study time at the end of the day.

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Happiness Survey

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Follow the instructions and then check out your results. Hope you have a good time doing this - Linda Pollock's class did!

Answer each question with yes or no:

1. Do you have a hobby?
2. Have you done some volunteering work?
3. In your home, do you have a place where you can relax?
4. Do you feel safe where you live?
5. Does religion or a set of beliefs make you happy?
6. Does work (productivity) make you happy?
7. Do you have close friends?
8. Do you keep in touch with your family?
9. In your free time, do you like to be with friends?
10. Do you say "thank you" many times a day?

Check to see how happy you are:

If you answered yes to

8-10 you are a pretty happy person 😊

5-6 you should do something to cheer yourself up

4 or less maybe you need to see an AEC counselor 😞

Key to how to improve your mood:

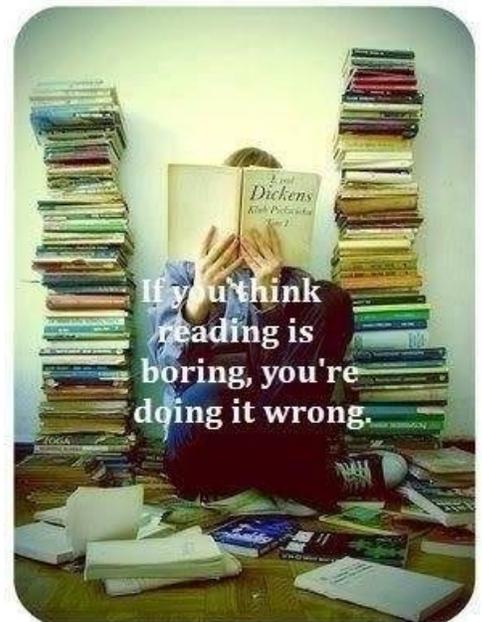
Our class based our questions on the research done by Dan Buettner who suggested that there are 6 areas of happiness. They are Self (questions 1, 2 and 10), Home (3), Financial Life, Social Life (7 and 9), Workplace (6) and Community (4, 5 and 8). Go back now, and see where you answered no and try to match what area you need to improve.

If all else fails; eat chocolate!

Social Media Announcements

AEC Conversation Groups are now on Twitter and Instagram! Find us on Twitter @aec_ku and on Instagram at aeccg! Of course we are still on Facebook. Our page can be found at Applied English Center Conversation Groups. Come find us on the web!

Happy Holidays



Upcoming Activities

Friday, November 22nd

THANKSGIVING COOKING CLASS

Learn to cook with your English! Let's celebrate this traditional American holiday by learning to cook such Thanksgiving favorites as mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, deviled eggs and apple pie.

Sign Up Begins: Monday, November 11th, 8:00 a.m.

Sign Up Deadline: Wednesday, November 20th, 4:30 p.m.

Where: Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM),
1204 Oread Ave.

Cost: This event is free.

Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Main floor of ECM

Transportation: We won't pick you up, but we can take you home afterwards.

Finish Time: 8:30 p.m.

Student Limit: This event is limited to 20 students.

Sunday, December 8th

COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA ART AND ARCHITECTURE TOUR

Take your English out for an afternoon on the Plaza!

Sign Up Begins: Monday, December 2nd, 8:00 a.m.

Sign Up Deadline: Friday December 6th, 4:30 p.m.

Where: Country Club Plaza in Kansas City

Cost: Bring money for shopping and dinner.

Website: www.countryclubplaza.com

Meeting Time: 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: In front of Lippincott

Transportation: We'll take the AEC vans.

Finish Time: We'll return to Lawrence at about 8:00 p.m.

Student Limit: 30 students

***If it rains this event will be cancelled.**

Important Proficiency Test Information

The proficiency test will be held Saturday, December 7. Testing begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at approximately 1:30 p.m. All students should have received information from their AEC teachers about where and what time to report for the test.

Test results will be ready Monday, December 16 at 1:30. If you have questions about your test results, you may make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

Conversation Groups held their annual Halloween party in the Kansas Union on Halloween night. The students and conversation leaders really got into the Halloween spirit!



From left to right: Kansai student **Tomomi Umeda**, conversation leader **Jerusah McFarland**, and Kansai student **Mika Tabata**.