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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:

AEC Students and Staff to Participate in Homecoming 2013 Parade

Homecoming 2013 will celebrate “Jayhawks Around the World”. The Homecoming Parade will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 3 in downtown Lawrence. Join the ISS staff and other international students for the parade. We’re not just watching the parade; we’re going to be in it! If you want to carry the flag from your country, please contact Steven from ISS at issprograms@ku.edu by 5:00pm on Monday, September 30th. You are also welcome and encouraged to wear your country’s traditional clothing. Staff and students from the AEC will be carrying an AEC banner, and you are also welcome to walk with us.

Brian McClendon, co-creator of Google Earth, will lead this year's parade.

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Students often ask “How can I improve my English?” The AEC has many resources to help you work on your English outside of your classes. For more information, visit the AEC website at www.aec.ku.edu and click on the Resources tab at the top of the page.

**LEO Lab** - The LEO lab is the Learning English Online computer lab. It’s a computer lab just for AEC students. The lab is located on the second floor of Fraser Hall. The lab has many online activities for you to practice your English such as games and quizzes, links to popular news sites like CNN and NPR, and listening activities such as TED Talks.

**The Point** - The Point is the AEC Academic Resource Center. It is located on the 4th floor of Anschutz Library in room 438. You can go to The Point to get extra help with your classes from AEC instructors. The Point is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To make an appointment, sign up in the appointment book at The Point.

**Counselors** - The AEC has counselors who can talk about any problems with you. They can talk about personal problems, such as life in the U.S., or academic problems, such as problems in your classes. To make an appointment with an AEC counselor, call the AEC office at 864-4606 or stop by the office in 204 Lippincott Hall.

**Conversation Groups** - The AEC has conversation groups from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Conversation groups meet on the first floor of the Kansas Union. You can come at any time, and leave at any time. The conversation leaders are KU students, just like you.

**AEC Activities** - The AEC offers many activities throughout the semester, such as short trips and fun classes. You can find out about AEC activities from your KU email, the AEC Conversation Groups Facebook page, the AEC website, and at the front desk of the AEC office in 204 Lippincott Hall. To sign up for activities, go to the front desk of the AEC office.

**How Can I Learn English Quickly?**

Learning a language is NOT like learning an academic subject such as chemistry or history or math. Learning a language is more like learning to play basketball or learning to play the piano. You can study all ABOUT basketball, you can memorize all the rules, but if you want to become a good basketball player, you have to practice, practice, practice! Learning a language is the same. To successfully learn a language, you have to USE the language. (But you have to use it correctly! Make sure you are not practicing BAD habits.)

Your AEC instructors are like coaches. They guide you, they show you what is important, they tell you what is correct, and what is not, and they encourage you. However, if you don’t practice English outside of the class, your language learning progress will probably be slow.

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How Can I Learn English Quickly?

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You have to take the initiative. (That means you have to look for opportunities to practice what you have learned.) Everyday, you have many many choices to make. Will you take the easy choice, or will you take the best language learning choice? Look at the choices below and think about which choice you will make.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Easy Choice</th>
<th>The Best Language Learning Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will sit by my friends who speak my language in my class.</td>
<td>I will take a seat by a classmate who does NOT speak my language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will go out for coffee with my friends.</td>
<td>I will invite someone who does NOT speak my language out for coffee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I finish reading an article or a book, I will put it down.</td>
<td>When I finish reading an article or a book, I will read it again and again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While I am reading, I will pay attention to the words on the page.</td>
<td>While I am reading, I will be asking 1,000 questions: What will the author say next? Can I summarize what I just read? Have I read anything like this before? Why did the author choose that word? Why is this verb in the past tense? Etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will only see my instructor during class time.</td>
<td>I will visit my instructor during office hours to ask questions and get a little extra help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will go home after class.</td>
<td>I will attend a Conversation Group after class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask yourself these questions:

1. How many hours a day do I spend thinking, speaking, writing, reading, and interacting in my native language?
2. How many hours a day do I spend thinking, speaking, writing, reading, and interacting in English?
3. How can I increase the number of hours I speak English each day?
4. How many friends do I have who do NOT speak my native language?
5. Do I have roommates? Do my roommates speak my native language?
6. Do I avoid talking to Americans (or others who do not speak my native language) or do I seek them out?

Language learning is not something that just happens to you. You don’t become an NBA player just by studying basketball, you don’t become a concert pianist by taking some piano lessons, and you don’t become a proficient English speaker by only using English in your classes. You must work hard to learn a language. You must be an active language learner.
AEC Students and Staff to Participate in Homecoming 2013 Parade

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The parade will include all kinds of student groups and the Marching Jayhawks, our KU marching band.

A pep rally will follow the parade on 8th St. between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. A pep rally is like a party to get excited before a big game. Football coach Charlie Weis will speak to the audience, and the pep rally will include performances by the Marching Band and the KU Spirit Squad.

After the pep rally, local band Coversmith will take the stage to play for two hours.

All members of the KU and Lawrence communities are invited to attend the parade and pep rally to show school spirit and help support the KU football team!

A Message from the Director

Welcome to the Applied English Center! We’re glad you’re here. You are attending one of the oldest (founded in 1964) and largest English language programs in the United States. This semester, more than 480 students are studying at the AEC. 55 instructors teach classes to help you meet KU’s English proficiency requirement.

Our mission at the AEC is to help you get ready to study at KU. That includes language, academic, and cultural preparation. Your instructors work with you to help you make the fastest progress possible.

How can you help yourself? First, remember that the work you do helps you achieve your goal; classes and homework are a support, not an obstacle. Second, be active in class. In learning a language, this means going to class prepared and being a good class participant. Third, everything we do in our classes is done to help you learn. FINALLY: READ! This last point is very important in preparing for university study. Reading helps you become a better reader, and it also helps you learn vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills.

Remember that what you do in class is only the beginning. Be sure to find ways to use English outside of class. Join a student club. Come to AEC conversation groups. Learn what’s happening at KU, so that you have things to talk about with other KU students. Attend events — sports, music, theater, movies — anything where other students are present. Do you need ideas or help getting connected? Talk with your instructors or see an AEC counselor.

Here’s a good article about one way to be a good language learner. If you can’t understand all of it, find a friend to help you translate it, or use Google Translate to get most of the ideas.

7 Ways to Develop Good Habits in Language Learning

Good luck! We want you to do your best.

Mark Algren
Meet these AEC Students and Staffers through their Photography

“Photography is not about the cameras, gadgets, and gizmos. Photography is about photographers.” - Peter Adams

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AEC student Nitchada Boonsiri remembers her first snow storm in the U.S.

“The first snow and also first winter storm in my life. I was fascinated because my country, Thailand, doesn’t have snow. I can’t wait for next snow storm!”

Conversation leader John Stolzle took this picture of a flower “bed” while visiting his sister in California near Crescent City.

Conversation leader Anna Bang traveled to Singapore last summer.

“Amazing Merlion Park view in Singapore. One of the most famous parks known in Singapore’s history. The Marina Bay Sands Hotel looks amazing! Can’t wait to swim there on top!”
Meet these AEC Students and Staffers through their Photography

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AEC student Saharat Peamponsant traveled to Thailand.

“Last summer, after I had finished my summer courses, I had a chance to go back to my home country, Thailand. I was really excited to meet my family and old friends again. The first place that I visited after I arrived in Thailand was Khao San Road. Khao San Road is one of the most famous streets in Bangkok. This street is popular with the backpackers and has a lot of small bars, night clubs, and restaurants. Khao San Road is also famous for its massage parlors, market stalls, and tattoo shops. Indeed, spending time to explore here will give you an amazing experience. If you have a chance to come to Thailand, don’t miss visiting Khao San Road – the street of incredible fun.”

Conversation leader Jenny Curatola did an internship this summer.

“This summer I was an intern with Coro Kansas City, a leadership development program that exposes you to many different positions in city management. I worked for a City Councilman at City Hall, the American Jazz Museum, the Kansas City Fringe Theatre Festival, and the Pipe Fitter’s Local 533 labor union. At the end of the summer, I worked with other interns to write a research paper on economic development in Northeast Kansas City and to build a greenhouse in a community garden!”