

Welcome to the fall session of English as a Second Language at FUMC (First United Methodist Church)

Parking: please do not double park.

Child Care Donations: We would appreciate a \$2 donation from parents leaving children in child care.

This helps defray our child care expenses.

Snack List: Volunteer to bring snack by putting your name on the snack list.

Classes: We have 2 levels of classes, intermediate and advanced. You choose which class is right for you. You may go back and forth between the classes.

Break: We take a 20 minute break at 11. This is an opportunity for you to meet other students and teachers and to practice using your English with other students.

### **The Lesson**

Congratulations. You have moved to one of the coolest cities in the United States. Austin is one of the safest cities of its size. It is the fastest growing city in the fastest growing state in the U.S.. It is home to a premier university. It has 3 lakes and a river within 20 minutes of downtown. It has more restaurants and clubs per capita than any other US city. It is one of the youngest cities in the US (meaning a young population).

### **Things to do in Austin: Which of these activities have you done? Which would you enjoy most?**

- 1.rent a kayak or paddle board on Ladybird Lake
- 2.hike the bike paths around Ladybird Lake
- 3.go water skiing, kiteboarding or parasailing on Lake Travis or Lake Austin.
- 4.Take an electric boat ride on Ladybird Lake
- 5.hike and bike paths
- 6.ride or roller blade the veloway
- 7.visit Ladybird Johnson Wildflower center
- 8.watch the bats emerge from the Congress Avenue Bridge
- 9.check out some live music in one of the many clubs
- 10.eat food from the trailers on SOCO (South Congress)
- 11.tour the state capitol
- 12.swim in Barton Springs
- 13.watch the sun set at the Oasis on Lake Travis
- 14.see a movie at the Violet Crown Cinema
- 15.go rock climbing in Zilker Park
- 16.have a cocktail in the old Driskill Hotel
- 17.go to Austin City Limits for a live taping
- 18.play golf at Lion's Municipal Course
- 19.stroll through the Zilker Botanical Garden
- 20.take a picnic to Mt. Bonnell to enjoy the view
- 21.ride the Zilker Zephyr miniature train
- 22.scoot your boots at The Broken Spoke
- 23.catch a play at Zach Scott Theatre
- 24.attend a Longhorn football game
- 25.go to the Austin Symphony at The Long Center
- 26.cruise 6th street
- 27.take a Segway tour of Austin
- 28.take a ride on the Austin Duck
- 29.swim some laps in the Deep Eddy pool
- 30.play a round of miniature golf at Peter Pan mini golf
- 31.visit a museum (see list below)

**Museums: Do you often visit museums in your country? Tell about the best museum you have ever visited.**

1. Bob Bullock State History Museum: Congress Avenue and MLK
2. Texas Memorial Museum on the UT campus--Sunday, Sept 23rd is Family Fossil Fun Day
3. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado St.
4. AMOA (Austin Museum of Art): visit The Jones Center at 7th and Congress or Laguna Gloria at 3809 W. 35th St.
5. Blanton Museum of Art- Congress and MLK across the street from Bob Bullock Museum--admission is free every Thursday
6. The LBJ (Lyndon Baines Johnson) Presidential Library--on the UT campus
7. O. Henry Museum 200 S. Lamar Blvd.
8. Elizabet Ney Museum

**Libraries in Austin:**

The main branch of the Austin Public Library is located at 800 Guadalupe St. just a few blocks from where you are now. There are many branch locations. To find a branch library near you, check <http://library.austintexas.gov/locations>

You must have a library card to check out books. To apply for a library card, bring an id and proof of residence (a utility bill will work) to the library. The library also offers "Talk Time" at some locations. Volunteers are available to practice English conversation. Check the website for locations and times: [http://www.austinlibrary.com/newip/index.cfm?action=i\\_talktime](http://www.austinlibrary.com/newip/index.cfm?action=i_talktime)

**Getting a driver's license:**

Check this website to find out how to get a Texas driver's license: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/index.htm>

**Group Conversation:** (Teachers: if your group is quite large, consider breaking it up into smaller groups so everyone has a chance to participate in the conversation.)

1. In what part of town do you live? Tell about your house or apartment. How did you find a place to live? Are you satisfied with where you are living? Do you find rents in Austin high compared to your native country?
2. Do you know many people in Austin? How do you meet people here?
3. What do you do for fun in Austin? Compare that with what you did in your home country.
4. How do you get around town? Do you drive or ride the bus? Is getting around in Austin difficult?
5. What other cities in Texas have you visited? Which cities would you like to visit?
6. Is this your first time to live in the United States? Is it different than your expectations? In what ways?
7. What is something I should know about your country before I visit there?
8. Which part of your country is the most beautiful?
9. What is one thing that shouldn't be missed in a visit to your country?
10. What other English classes do you attend in Austin?
11. What are some fun things to do in Austin that don't cost any money?
12. What is your favorite restaurant?
13. Do you or any of your family members attend the University of Texas?
14. Do you have children in public school in Austin? How are the schools different here?
15. What is the best thing that has happened to you since you came to Austin? What is the worst thing?
16. What do you feel is your weakest area of English? i.e. vocabulary, pronunciation, accent, idioms, verb tenses, idioms and slang
17. Have you been to a sporting event in Austin? What would you like to attend?
18. Have you been to a rodeo in Texas?