

FUMC ESL 5-8-2023 High Beginning and Low Intermediate

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now.

In Memoriam: Our fellow ESL teacher, Kathy Morales died on Saturday. She had been fighting cancer for years and always before was able to defeat it and survive. But once again, the cancer came back, this time in her lungs. She took the news with her usual calm, positive personality. She was determined to defeat it once again. But sadly, this time, she just didn't have the resources left to fight it off.

Kathy was my good friend and an invaluable partner in running the ESL program. We were complete opposites, but great working partners. I was the organizer, the lesson writer, the teacher trainer and occasionally the sergeant at arms when we had unauthorized (not approved) visitors trying to enjoy our ESL snacks. Kathy on the other hand was the soft and sensitive one. She was the one the students would email if they were sick or troubled about something. She always had infinite patience and plenty of kind words. When I got frustrated with people for one reason or another, I would call Kathy and gripe to her. She would listen for as long as I wanted to rant. Then she would say something nice to calm me down and by the time we hung up, we would be laughing about what I had been so mad about.

When some of the students wanted to "pay back the church" by volunteering, Kathy organized volunteer Wednesdays. The students would meet and work on projects for the church. The latest volunteer Wednesday, the students attached paper butterflies to cords that were hung up in the sanctuary for Easter. They are still hanging there decorating our church.

Kathy joined the ESL program after we had only been teaching a few years. We were still trying to refine our program and figure out how best to help people here from foreign countries. We knew teaching English was important, but that making our students feel warm and welcome was our greater goal. Kathy and I would talk on the phone several times a week about how to achieve this. We bounced ideas off each other. I rarely made decisions without first running it by Kathy. And she frequently had great insights that I hadn't thought about.

As I sit down to write this, I'm struck by the fact that this memorial is the exact type of thing that I would usually call Kathy about and we would hash out something together. So, please understand that I'm feeling a little bit adrift. I've come untethered (that means untied) from my anchor. It has only been a day and yet I already miss her so much. Now she is at rest, no pain, no worries, and for that I'm thankful. Rest in peace, my friend.

Catherine Bingaman

Teachers, I suggest you give the students time to talk about Kathy: tell stories about her or explain how you felt. In person teachers will have the good fortune to be able to exchange hugs. I'm also including, at the end of this lesson, a letter Kathy wrote about ESL for the church Ministry Sunday a few years ago. Feel free to read it to your students if you wish.

IDIOMS WITH BREAK- To break is to separate into pieces, to be damaged EX: The windows broke during the earthquake. My washing machine broke. She has broken the window.

Here is an example of when I broke something.

When I was a teen and lived at home with my parents, my mother said, "Bring your dirty clothes downstairs right now." I was talking on the phone with my friend and I didn't want to stop. But my mother kept telling me to bring the clothes downstairs. Finally, I got mad. I gathered up my dirty clothes and threw them downstairs. At the bottom of the stairs was a table with my mother's treasured glass vase and some flowers. The dirty clothes landed on the flowers and knocked the vase onto the floor. It broke into many pieces. My mother came in and saw her beautiful vase broken on the floor. She was so sad. I felt awful. I was so ashamed of myself for acting badly. I hugged Mother and apologized many times. That happened sixty years ago, but I still remember it well. And I still feel bad about it.

Now you tell a story about when you broke something that was important.

1. You can break a rule. EX: The girls broke the rules when they asked the boys to come over.

What rules do you break? Did you ever break any of your parent's rules?

2. You can break promises. EX: I promised Mother I would come home next month. But I had to break my promise because the children were sick.

Have you ever broken a promise?

3. You can break loose. EX: We tied the dogs up, but they broke loose.

4. If you stop what you are doing and rest, you take a break. EX: You have been working hard. Take a break.

5. If something breaks your fall, it prevents you from falling hard. EX: He fell out of the window, but the bushes broke his fall. He wasn't hurt.

Have you ever had a bad fall?

7. If you break the news to someone, you tell them something (usually bad). EX: We broke the news to Mother that we were moving to the U.S.

Have you ever had to break news to someone that would make them sad or mad?

8. If you break a record, you do better than everyone in the past. EX: My brother broke the record for the mile run. He won the medal.

9. Machines break down. EX: My car broke down. Can you come and get me?

Have you ever had a car break down?

10. People also break down. EX: She broke down when she learned of his injury. This means she felt very bad and maybe cried or got very upset.

11. You can break into something. EX: The bad boys broke into that garage. If the house is locked, we will break into it.

Has your house ever been broken into?

12. You can break off a piece: EX: Please break me off a piece of that candy bar.

13. War breaks out. EX: War broke out in Syria. Prisoners break out. EX: The prisoners broke out of jail. Your skin breaks out. EX: My face breaks out when I eat chocolate.

Are there any foods that make your face break out?

14. You can break up with someone you are in a relationship with. EX: My boyfriend and I broke up.

Did you ever break up with someone?

15. If you sell something for the same amount you paid for it, you break even. You haven't lost money, but you haven't gained either. EX: The dinner cost \$25.00 but I had a \$25.00 coupon so I broke even.

16. If you have a breakthrough, you make a sudden important discovery. EX: Doctors have made a breakthrough in curing some cancers.

Do these sentence pairs mean different things?

It is 10 o'clock and Joe is still in bed.

It is 10 o'clock and Joe is already in bed.

Lucy has worked here longer.

Lucy no longer works here.

Lucy doesn't work here any more.

Lucy doesn't work here yet.

Are you still going to dinner with Jack?

Have you gone to dinner with Jack yet?

I wrote to him, but he still hasn't replied.

I wrote to him, but he hasn't replied yet.

They're still repairing the road.

They're already repairing the road.

Ben doesn't live in Seattle any longer.

Ben no longer lives in Seattle.

Kathy Morales Letter to the church about ESL

The Power of ESL at FUMC

Kathy Smith Morales, October 1, 2017

I have been a member of FUMC for more than 30 years. During that time, my life has taken a few unexpected turns and at least a few of those surprises were the result of the ministries of this church.

About 13 years ago, I got a call from Cathy B., who leads the ESL program, asking me to please consider helping her. She knew several teachers would be absent from the next English as a Second Language class and was afraid she would be the only teacher. ESL was not on my radar and I don't think Cathy and I had ever had a conversation about ESL. But I told her I'd come and at least be a warm body. The students kindly helped me and I had a great morning. Cathy asked if I wanted to come back and I did and I still do.

When Cathy explained the ESL program to me, she told me that yes, we teach English, but teaching English is not the most important thing we do. The most important thing we do is to provide a place of welcome – a place where our students can find friendship.

Teaching ESL has given me many gifts:

- The first to come to mind is the gift of Joy. There are no bad days.
- My nest was emptying at the time of Cathy's call – teaching ESL gave me a new direction and sense of purpose.
- The world has become a much smaller place to me; but my circle has grown ever larger. I view the news and world events with different eyes and ears because of the people I have come to know.
- I was sick a few years ago and I wasn't able to teach for about a year and a half. My students prayed for me; sent me emails and cards and gifts and carried me in love. What a gift! And when I returned, they were so protective of me!
- When I was sick I had a lot of time to talk to God and I would tell God how much I wanted to get back to my students. Cancer really messed with my brain and there were a lot of things I just couldn't do – or do well: follow directions, make plans, organize ideas... Thank goodness Cathy B. prepares all the lessons and I just have to show up and teach. When I was well enough to teach – I could! It was my little miracle that this part of my brain still worked. The gifts of joy and purpose returned to me and helped me continue to heal.

I have also seen how the ESL program has had an impact on students – not just things like improving their English, or making friends, but changes of heart. It is not that uncommon to have students in a class who are from countries that share a bad history.

There was the student who told Cathy, "I have never liked people from X. In my country, we do not like people from X. But I came here and I met a friend. She is from X. Now I know that I do like people from X."

Another student told me, "In my country, they tell us that Americans don't like us. Christians don't like us. But I come here and I know that is not true."

You may not know that many of our students are temporary residents here and return to their home countries. I believe that the welcome our students experience here leaves a mark on them that they carry with them wherever they go when they leave us. We don't know how God may be at work in and through them. And I have to tell you that I believe our ministry of welcome is more important now than ever before.