

FUMCESL 5-8-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

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.

Discuss these idioms.

1. If it was already bad and has gotten worse, we say it has, "gone from bad to worse".

Talk about something you know of that has gone from bad to worse.

2. When you “get off on the wrong foot”, you make a bad start with someone. EX: Bill and Sara got off on the wrong foot because he was two hours late picking her up.

Talk about a time when you “got off on the wrong foot” with someone and tell how that turned out.

3. The phrase, “Two wrongs don’t make a right.” means that you should not do harm to a person who has done harm to you, even if you think that person deserves it. For example: Bobby took Ellen's ball away from her. So she ran and got Bobby's baseball glove and took it.

Have you ever been tempted to do something wrong to someone because they wronged you?

4. If you say, “The right hand doesn’t know what the left hand is doing.” it means that one group doesn't know about or understand what another group in the same organization is doing. EX: The sales department ordered lots of office supplies. But the accounting department refused to pay for the order because there wasn't enough money in the budget for lots of supplies. The sales department should have checked with accounting to make sure there was money to pay for the supplies.

This same thing has happened in my family when our children were living at home. I made an appointment with my son's math tutor, but my husband had already set up a baseball practice with my son at that time. The right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing.

Tell about a time the right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing.

5. If your, “heart is in the right place”, you have good intention even though you might not be the most polite person. EX: She's not the most polite person I know, but her heart is in the right place. She always intends to be nice.

Do you know anyone who is a bit gruff, but has their heart in the right place?

6. If you “put something right”, you correct something that has gone wrong. For example, you might make a thoughtless comment that hurts someone's feelings. Then later, you have to return and apologize to “put things right”?

Pronunciation:

Read these sentences and notice the differences in how to pronounce the words in bold. Lizards live in the **desert**. I hope my husband doesn't **desert** me. I love chocolate **dessert**.

In English, the same word can be used as both a noun or a verb. Often the meaning is different. Sometimes, the stress will be different in the noun and the verb form.

Read these example sentences. Tell which syllable is stressed in each sentence.

My company will **produce** many cupcakes.

You will find bananas in the **produce** section of the grocery store.

His orange sweater **contrasts** with his purple pants.

In **contrast** to most movies made today, this one was well-written and had great acting.

I **estimate** it will take two weeks to get the parts we need.
The plumber gave us an **estimate** on replacing the faucets.

Please **excuse** me for calling you so late.

She didn't have a good **excuse** for missing the party.

(The difference in pronunciation in these sentences is not the stress of the syllables, but the way you pronounce the S. In the first sentence it has a Z sound and in the second sentence, an S sound.)

We took a **present** to the birthday party.

The teacher will **present** the students with their awards.

Please **record** the scores in this book.

That girl set the **record** for high jump.

Kathy's 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.