



# English as a Second Language

Fall 2007

[www.cuesta.edu](http://www.cuesta.edu)

**Newsletter**

(805) 546-3941

## Cuesta's ESL Program

Come join us and study English at Cuesta College. Cuesta's ESL program essentially began when Douglas Pillsbury joined Cuesta as a full-time teacher in 1989. Much has happened since.

Today Cuesta offers six levels of ESL classes, ranging from beginning to advanced classes. These classes prepare students to participate more fully in the English-speaking world and help them enter the basic skills classes offered at Cuesta. Several experienced ESL instructors conduct these classes. Their professional backgrounds range from teaching at language schools in foreign countries to high schools, colleges, and universities here in the United States. They have much to offer you. You can improve your reading, communication, and writing skills by joining one of their classes.

In addition to six course levels, Cuesta also provides ESL language laboratories. These laboratories come equipped with computers & printers, audio & video players, and listening, reading, & pronunciation materials. In addition, ESL tutors also conduct small groups and one-to-one instruction as part of the lab.



The ESL program also provides classes at Arroyo Grande and Nipomo High Schools. Improve your future by improving your English skills at Cuesta College.

## Cuesta Talk

### What is the worst food you've eaten in the USA?

"A cold, greasy garden burger at McDonalds in L.A." Juan Gutierrez MEXICO

"On vacation in Mexico, I ate iguana. It smelled like snake and I got sick." Marilu Bohannon MEXICO

"Dog tacos. No one told me. It smelled funny. I got really sick." Jose Luis Michel MEXICO

"At a French restaurant I ate frog. It wasn't good." Nargas Abbasgolikhan IRAN

"BBQ chicken with honey and decaffeinated coffee." Anna Dominika POLAND

"Oatmeal because it tastes like nothing." Marlene Schleich AUSTRIA

"Chinese hot sour soup, too much pepper and it was too sour." Shohei Suehisa JAPAN

"A Chinese restaurant spice that tasted like diesel fuel." Mary-Lyn Reveles MEXICO

"Rare meat with blood." Catalina Guzman COLOMBIA

## The Shoemaker

By Vicente Perez MEXICO

Did you know that everybody enjoys using shoes in different kinds of skins and models? But making shoes is a big headache because they have many parts. Most people don't have any idea about the process.

First I cut the cattle's skin and also I cut the horse's skin for the lining. Then I join the seam with stitching. I discard the extra leather that overlaps the seam.

After stitching the seam and cutting the extra material, I then do the process called "el montado." This process is the most important because it gives the shape to the shoe. I put inside the shoe a piece called a "horma." The horma is shaped like a foot and gives the shoe its proper shape. This process last at least 24 hours.

After el mantado, I put on the sole. I take the horma out of the shoe. I paint the shoes to give them a beautiful shine and color.

In conclusion, everybody buys and uses shoes, but we often don't now how much

trouble the shoemaker experiences. And all of this is done for our beautiful stinky feet!



## Sushi

By Leo Tellez MEXICO

Many people in the United States of America enjoy eating sushi. Sushi is Japanese food and it's very expensive. But unfortunately it's a weird food for me. Sushi is served raw, and made with sheets of seaweed. It could be good for you, but I would never want to eat it. I can't understand why people would want to eat this kind of food.



*Cuesta*

## *The Worst Food*

By Marina Vazquez MEXICO

The worst food I've ever eaten was on the road. I ate it when I came to the USA on a bus. The bus stopped on the road, so the people could go to the bathroom or eat something. I don't remember the city. I wanted to eat something, so I asked for menudo. When I tried to eat it, it was nasty, greasy, and red. The tripe was too soft, and stinky. It was like gum. I didn't eat any more of it. It was the first time I saw red menudo with hominy in it.

## *Sweden: The Sweetest Trip!*

By Yessica Perez PERU

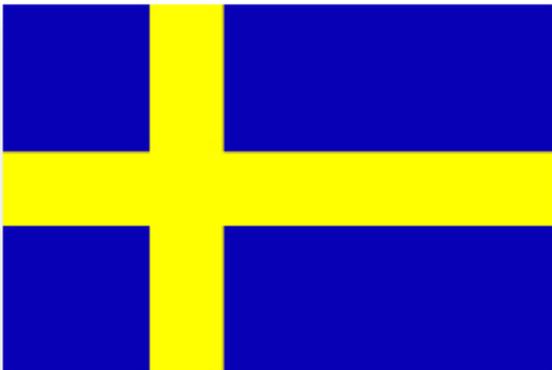
One of the most important trips I've ever made in my life was to Sweden. My two sons, Richard and Derek were invited to participate in the Gothia Cup, a world class soccer tournament for youth players around the world.

The SLO Fire team played soccer matches against German, Italian, and Swedish teams. All games were fun to watch, but one game will stick in my mind for the rest of my life!

At first I couldn't imagine beating the local Swedish team since their players were older and bigger than the SLO Fire team. Additionally, they had the hometown advantage. All their friends and family members were there cheering them on. When the game started I felt a little nervous. But as soon as I saw how the SLO Fire team was playing, I started to feel more confident. The first half ended 0-0, with both teams looking very even.

In the second half, Derek, the smallest kid on the field scored a goal, and all the parents came to my husband and me to congratulate us. All the SLO Fire parents couldn't believe it. We were ahead 1-0! But five minutes later, the local team scored for a tie, 1-1. The Swedish team was playing hard because didn't want to lose to an apparently weak team. Fortunately our team had better technique and ball control. Ten minutes before the end of the game a ball got loose in the Swedish area and Richard, my oldest son, scored the second goal. Ever person from our group, all 42 people, were hugging and cheering. Unbelievably, we were ahead 2-0, and won the game 2-0.

As a parent, I can't describe the amount of pride and happiness my husband and I felt that both of our sons scored a goal to help win the game. I was on a cloud! We thanked God so much for giving us this opportunity. Today, I consider our trip to Sweden a very important one especially since we beat the Swedish team and both my sons were the only ones to make it happen. Can I say two brothers beat a Swedish team in Europe?



## *My Worst Food*

By Joel Andrade MEXICO

The worst food I've eaten in the United States was at McClintock's restaurant. The waiter asked me how I would like my steak cooked. My answer was medium, but when it came back, the steak was too rare and showed blood. I will never forget this because it was so disgusting, nasty, and it was uncomfortable for me. I don't like my meat rare. For all these reasons, the worst food I've eaten in the in the United States was the rare meat.

## *Belize*

By Lilian Romero BELIZE

Belize is a small but beautiful country in Central America. It is situated along the Caribbean Sea. It borders Mexico on the north and Guatemala to the west and south. Belize has the second largest barrier reef in the world. The corals in this reef are not only home to large number of marine species, but it is also a beautiful underwater garden. Belize has a population of \$250,000. People there are friendly. Belize has diverse cultures and therefore various regional dishes. In the northern region I come from, the typical dishes have Mayan origin. These dishes include: Relleno Escabeche, Chirmole, and Pibil. If you happen to visit Belize, you will enjoy the beauty of its coral and the variety of its dishes.

## *Austria & California*

By Marlene Schleich AUSTRIA

I love the weather in California. It's so wonderful to wake up and look out the window and see the sun shining. In Austria snow starts at this time but here I can wear short pants and flip flops. That's wonderful. I also love the beaches especially Pismo Beach. On the weekend I spend most of the time there. I started to surf and it's so much fun! In Austria the most common sports are soccer and skiing. It's normal in Austria that people can ski. I learned skiing at the age of 2 but now I prefer going snowboarding. Austria has also beautiful cities like Vienna, Graz, and Salzburg. There's a lot to see, great museums, beautiful lake, shopping malls! I really recommend visiting Austria and I'm sure you'll like it!

## *Cuesta's Book Fund & ESL Award*

Financial assistance is available for ESL students in need. Although Cuesta can't pay all student expenses, both the book fund and the ESL Halderman Award offer money to those who meet the criteria.

In order to be partially reimbursed for books, students must submit a request to their teachers with home address, telephone number, and social security number. The ESL Halderman Award offers two qualifying students \$125 each. Students are awarded at the end of every spring semester. To qualify, students must explain in writing their future goals and financial situation.

Please don't hesitate to apply! Cuesta College is here to serve you. For more information, log onto the Internet at <http://academic.cuesta.cc.ca.us/english/eslprog/award.htm>

### **Special Note**

In order to preserve the authenticity of the students' writing we have kept their original word order and sentence structure.