



English as a Second Language

Spring 2007

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 High School. Improve your future by improving your English skills at Cuesta College.

Cuesta Talk

What is your best excuse for NOT doing your homework?

"I was talking to my classmate and I forgot to write it down." Dedi Diaz MEXICO

"I used it as an umbrella and it got wet." Fremiot S. PERU

"I was working." Emere Uzmaner TURKEY

"I was too shy to ask about it." Ashraf Maleki IRAN

"I just forgot." Heidi Shaw GUATEMALA

"I was doing it in the car and it flew out the window." Narges Abbasgholikhhan IRAN

"I didn't have firewood to make a BBQ, so I used my homework." Julio Sanchez PERU

"It was stolen in the movie theater." Alejandro Negrete MEXICO

"The teacher told the class, but didn't tell me personally." Florinda Taylor MEXICO

Adapt

By Estela Gonzalez MEXICO

I think it is hard to adapt to a new culture because all people have different behaviors. But I think it is important to adapt to a new culture.

First, the USA has very good rules because they enforce the law to everybody and everyone tries to do their best. This concept is very good for us because in our country we have a lot of problems with the government, and it is very easy for us to break the law and do what we want.

Second, when we go somewhere in the USA everybody greets us. In contrast, in Mexico you greet only the people you

know. In addition, I think we have another real challenge. The language in the USA is different than in our country. It's sometimes difficult to learn but it's necessary to get better opportunities.

Finally, we should try to adapt to the best way because we live here in the USA. This culture helps us grow!

My Special Friend

By Maricruz Valdovinos MEXICO

I have a special friend. He is the most special in the world. He is kind because he helps me in our job. He doesn't want that I carry heavy bags. He cares for the children when I go to school. He cooks when I'm tired. His food is very delicious. He cares for me when I'm sick. He is loving to everyone around me. He wins my heart and my life because he fills my heart with happiness. He is a wonderful person. He has a big heart. He is a blessing in my life. Who is my special friend? He is my husband.



Cuesta

Bluey

By Adelina Farias MEXICO

I have a beautiful blue fish. His name is Bluey. He is two years old. He lives in a small fish tank all by himself. He can't speak English, Spanish, or Chinese. But I'm happy he can't speak because sometimes I tell him all my secrets. Telling him my secrets makes me feel better. The best thing is that he doesn't tell anyone my secrets. This is a wonderful quality to have in a friend. I love my blue fish Bluey!

Coming Back to School

By Miguel Oliva MEXICO

Coming back to school has been pleasant. I have been away from school for a few years, so I didn't know what to expect this time.

This experience is totally different from my previous speculation. One of the things that is different than high school is the freedom of choice. This makes me feel confident. I found myself committed to teachers, schools, and classmates. Classes are interesting and time flies through them. I look at school from a different perspective now.

Staying away from school for a while helped me realize how much I was missing. For all these reasons, my return back to school has been a kind experience.

Shopping

By Leydi Healy MEXICO

Shopping is my favorite pastime because nothing else compares to getting a bargain at a sale, trying on new styles, and sharing the experience with my daughter. I mastered the art of shopping.

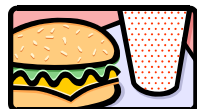
Knowing when a sale is a real bargain and taking advantage of it is very rewarding. Buying something and getting great deals allows me to provide nice clothing, food, and other items my family needs while keeping a budget. At the same time, I get to check out the latest styles of clothing and try them on especially during the change of seasons when all the new fashions hit the stores. Finally it wouldn't nearly be as much fun by myself. Bringing my daughter with me and teaching her how to be a smart buyer, and at the same time spending quality time together, is priceless.

Nothing else compares to spending an afternoon trying on new clothes and getting some great deals while laughing and having a good time with my daughter.

My Country and the USA

By Adelina Rojas MEXICO

The most important thing that I miss more about my native country is my family, friends and mother's food because I was growing up with them and it was a big change when I moved to this country. The thing I love most about this country is my job because now I can help better my family and I improve more here. Maybe I have a better life too.



The Most Beautiful Place

By Rudolfo Valencia MEXICO

The most beautiful place that I saw was Yosemite National Park. It was so interesting because there were a lot of interesting places to see. For example, I like the green forest, tall trees, and water falls. It is a beautiful place where you can breathe fresh air. You feel peace and relaxation. I went there 10 years ago and I still remember this nice place. When I was there, I didn't have a chance to see the animals, but saw something about the nature of the earth. Some day I would like to return to that beautiful place with my family.

My Country and the USA

By Fabian Gonzalez MEXICO

What I miss most of my country is the evening because I met with my friends. We talked, played and we had fun every evening. What I love most being the United States is knowing many different people of different countries.

My Country and the USA

By Flor Ramirez MEXICO

I miss my parents and the food. My parents I don't see for a long time and the food is all natural in Mexico. We didn't use chemicals. I love my work here in the United States because I make more money than in Mexico.

Pupusas

By Jose Martinez EL SALVADOR

Pupusas are a very popular food in El Salvador. People in El Salvador enjoy eating pupusas every day. There are many different types of pupusas, such as cheese with beans, cheese with loroco, or the most popular are called mixtas. Pupusas always come with their delicious partners, curtido and a special salsa. Also, many families enjoy this with Kolashanpan, the official drink of El Salvador. For many reasons, pupusas are an easy choice.

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.