

# Tutor Exchange

FALL 2004

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*“No one can make you feel inferior without your permission.”*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

## How Old Are Libraries?

Libraries have existed for many centuries. The earliest libraries were established in Mesopotamia almost thirty-five hundred years ago. Paper had not been invented, so people wrote on soft clay tablets that dried and became permanent records. Thousands of documents on clay tablets were stored. The writing on these tablets was in cuneiform script and was not translated into English until the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, over time, earthquakes and fires destroyed these early libraries.

In 1250 BCE, Pharaoh Ramses II established the first Egyptian library. It housed over twenty thousand papyrus scrolls, some of which still survive today. Papyrus is a reed plant that was mashed into a paper-like writing material and used by many ancient civilizations. Once written on, the sheets were rolled up for storage, thus the name papyrus scrolls. The library in ancient Alexandria, Egypt, was established in the third century BCE and contained over seven hundred thousand scrolls. It was a center for scholars until the library was destroyed by fire.

In the tenth century AD, the library in Cordoba, Spain, had over four hundred thousand books—with no computers and no modern machines to commercially reproduce or print books! In 1367, Charles V of France

founded the Bibliotheque Nationale de France in Paris. It is the home of ten million books and three hundred fifty thousand manuscripts. In 1638, the oldest library in the United States was established through the efforts of American John Harvard, Harvard University's chief benefactor. Then in 1691, the first public library in Britain was established. The official British Library was established in 1753 and houses over eighteen million books, thirty-three million patents, two million maps, and six hundred thousand newspaper volumes.

In the late nineteenth century, Andrew Carnegie was instrumental in establishing libraries throughout the United States. Many communities still have libraries established by this benefactor.

## Activity

With your student, use an encyclopedia, the Internet, and your library's reference desk to find answers to the following questions.

1. Where was the ancient civilization on Mesopotamia?
2. What does BCE stand for?
3. Where is Alexandria, Egypt?
4. Where is Spain?
5. What is a Pharaoh?
6. When was paper invented?

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# Funambulists and Spoonerisms

We have found some great, fun words to add to our vocabularies. By adding a few new words each week, we can express ourselves better when speaking or writing. Here are some words we found particularly interesting.

A *funambulist* is someone who walks a tight rope.

When someone transposes words or thoughts accidentally, the sentence they created is called a *spoonerism*. Example: instead of saying *I'd walk a mile in his shoes*, we might say *I'd walk a shoes in his mile*. The second sentence is a *spoonerism*.

Someone who doesn't like to work, or is afraid of working, suffers from *ergophobia*. (Perhaps we all suffer from *ergophobia* from time to time!)

Someone who shoes horses is called a *farrier*.

The opposite of an *explosion* is called an *implosion*. Perhaps the best example of an implosion is a submarine that submerges too deeply in the ocean. When the pressure of the water exerts more weight on the submarine than it can support, the submarine is destroyed. It looks as if it is being crushed instead of exploding. The word *implosion* is also used to describe a building being demolished using explosive devices in such a way that the building comes down in a relatively small, neat pile rather than with debris flying in every direction.

A *palindrome* is a word or group of words that is spelled the same backwards and forwards. Examples: the name *Renner* and the phrase *Madam, I'm Adam*.

Beekeepers build artificial beehives for their bees to live in. The bees produce honey and help pollinate crops. These artificial hives are called *apiaries*.

## Activity

Discuss a few of these words that may interest your student because they are unique. Ask him to make up sentences using the word he has discussed with you. Create a page in his notebook for unique new words he learns, and ask him to write these words and the sample sentences on the page.

# Libraries

Continued from page 1

7. When was the mechanical printing press invented?
8. Where is the oldest library in your state?
9. In your state or community, is there a library established by a Carnegie grant?

Here are the answers:

1. Where was the ancient civilization on Mesopotamia? It was between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in southwest Asia.
2. What does BCE stand for? It stands for “before the common era” and refers to the time prior to the Christian system used for dating events. Some countries count the century Christ was born as the first century AD and count the centuries prior to that date as BC or BCE.
3. Where is Alexandria, Egypt? This city is located on the northwest corner of the Nile Delta in Egypt, 110 miles northwest of Cairo, Egypt’s capital.
4. Where is Spain? Spain is located in southwest Europe. It is bordered by France and Portugal.
5. What is a Pharaoh? It is the title used by the kings of ancient Egypt.
6. When was paper invented? It was invented in the mid-nineteenth century.
7. When was the mechanical printing press invented? Johann Gutenberg is credited with developing the modern printing press in the mid-fifteenth century.
3. Where is the oldest library in your state?
4. In your state or community, is there a library established by a Carnegie grant?

## WANT MORE?

*Tutor Exchange* is published in January, March, July, and September. A one-year subscription is \$18. Contact Beatriz Sarmiento, City of Commerce, by calling (323) 722-7323, or contact her online at [beti65@hotmail.com](mailto:beti65@hotmail.com). Be sure to include your name, mailing address, phone number, and library or program name.

# What Year Was That?

Here’s a puzzle for you and your student to solve. Using an encyclopedia or the Internet, work together to find out what year saw the following events. For the answer, see the box at the bottom of this page.



This is the year that France’s Louis and Auguste Lumière premiered a movie they made using a motion picture camera they invented. It was a simple movie of people leaving their factory in France and is considered the first authentic motion picture. Meanwhile, Austrian Sigmund Freud founded the field of psychoanalysis, and the first two professional football teams were established in Pennsylvania. *Jude the Obscure*, by English novelist Thomas Hardy, was introduced to the reading public, while in Cuba colonists began their war to become independent of Spanish rule. German physicist Wilhelm C. Roentgen discovered X rays, and Irish born poet Oscar Wilde published a witty play called *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

What year was it?



“For success,  
try aspiration,  
inspiration,  
and perspiration.”

-Satchel Paige



The year was 1895.



# Cut It Out ~ Cut It Out ~ Cut It Out

## Activities to clip and use

### Continental Bytes

It's important to learn how to use a computer to find reference materials on the Internet. Here's a great activity to practice this skill. Answer these questions about different states or countries using the Internet and reference materials. Use this as an opportunity to discuss such things as what causes volcanoes, the use of the atomic bomb on Japan during World War II, and major geographical features. The answers are listed on page 8.

1. Which country produces most of the world's diamonds?
2. What is the name of the tallest mountain in Africa?
3. What and where is the largest volcano in the world?
4. What is the name of the native people of New Zealand?
5. What is the name of the river that flows through Rome, Italy?
6. What two bodies of water are connected by the Suez Canal?
7. Where is Peace Memorial Park?
8. Where is Timbuktu?
9. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
10. What and where is the highest waterfall in South America?
11. What country is composed of over 7,100 islands?
12. What is the name of the largest city in Southern Australia?



*“Literature is my Utopia.”*

—Helen Keller

### Foreign Words Used in English

Many words or phrases we use originated in other countries and were brought to the United States by immigrants. Below are some of our favorites.

*Al dente:* An Italian term that means “slightly undercooked.” Example: *I like my pasta al dente.*

*Bon appetit:* A French term that means “eat well” or “enjoy your food or meal.” Example: *The waiter delivered the meal and said, “Bon appetit!”*

*Carte Blanche:* A French term that means “total freedom to act, unlimited authority.” Example: *My boss gave me carte blanche on this project.*

*Circa:* A Latin term that means “approximately, about or around.” A term used frequently with dates when the exact date is not known. Example: *The library was established circa 1688.*

*Gesundheit:* A German term that means “good health.” It is usually said after someone sneezes. It is pronounced *Ge ZOOHNT hait.*

*Per annum:* A Latin term that means “yearly.” Example: *The author earns an average of \$90,000 per annum in royalties.*

### Activity

During the lesson, use your reading materials to search for unfamiliar, non-English phrases. Check a dictionary or other reference material at the library to find the origins and meanings of the phrases, and start a page in your notebook for them. List each phrase, the meaning, and example of how the phrase is used in the reading material. Encourage your student to use her newly-learned phrases when she is talking or writing to someone.

# Cut It Out ~ Cut It Out ~ Cut It Out

## Activities to clip and use



## Seeing Pseudonyms

Although some celebrities, authors, and other well-known people keep their original names during their very public careers, many others change their names—looking for perfect, unforgettable names that will bring them fame and fortune while perhaps giving them some privacy. These made-up names are called *pseudonyms*.

### Activity

Try to match up the pseudonyms below with the famous person's original name by drawing a line from the original name to the correct pseudonym. For the answers, see page 8. Use materials at the library such as reference books, encyclopedias, and the Internet. If your student doesn't know who some of these people are, this can be a great opportunity to introduce them and learn about their accomplishments. Work together to discuss and explore the lives, accomplishments, and legacies of these famous people.

<u>Original Name</u>	<u>Pseudonym</u>
Frederick Austerlitz	Jackie Gleason
Norma Jean Baker	Marilyn Monroe
Stanley R. Soog	Francisco (Pancho) Villa
Frances Gumm	John Wayne
Walker Smith	Fred Astaire
Doroteo Arango	Judy Garland
Marion Michael Morrison	Sugar Ray Robinson



*“You have to believe in yourself.  
That’s the secret.”*

—Charlie Chaplin

## Developing ESL Curriculum

by Beatriz Sarmiento, Literacy Coordinator, City of Commerce Library

In our Summer 2004 issue, we discussed oral genres—oral topics that help our ESL students communicate in different situations. We also discussed the four steps used to teach oral genres: *Building Control of the Field*, *Modeling*, *Joint Construction*, and *Independent Construction*. Please be sure to review the first part of the article in the Summer 2004 issue of *Tutor Exchange*. This is the second part of the article and it contains an example of how to use these genres in the four categories.

### Ordering a Pizza Over the Phone

#### *Building Control of the Field*

The tutor brings in a menu from a pizza delivery service. The tutor discusses the topic with her student and asks the student if he has ever ordered a pizza over the phone. The tutor reviews the words the student needs to order the pizza, such as *pepperoni*, *the works*, *veggie pizza*, *bread sticks*, *anchovies*, etc. Then the tutor uses and discusses phrases such as “Anything else?” or “What’s your cross street?”

#### *Modeling the Text*

Develop a sample dialog to order pizza on the phone.

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### We Welcome Your Comments

Address your questions or comments to Editor, *Tutor Exchange*, P. O. Box 15117, Anaheim, CA 92803-5117 or [SCLLNews@aol.com](mailto:SCLLNews@aol.com). Please include your name, library or program, and phone number. Articles or letters appearing in *Tutor Exchange* become the property of SCLLN and are subject to editing for clarity and space.

## ESL Curriculum

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The tutor can point out new vocabulary and phrases and answer any questions. Then review address and cross street information, with an emphasis on how street names are spelled in case the student is asked. Be sure to discuss if he should add a tip to the total.

### *Joint Construction of the Text*

Share handouts of a sample dialog to practice with the student. Take turns being the customer. Discuss your student's questions. He may have difficulty with the vocabulary or may be uncomfortable spelling out the street he lives on.

### *Independent Construction of the Text*

Encourage your student to create his own dialog. Then ask him to call and place an order for the pizza.

This curriculum can be used with a variety of genres. The more you use it, the easier it is to replace necessary information into the four categories. If you would like to know more about this curriculum cycle and how to use it, Beatriz Sarmiento will be offering a workshop about it at the SCLLN Literacy Conference in January 2005.

## SCLLN 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Those of you who are veteran attendees of the annual SCLLN conference might notice that the word tutor is not in the conference title. That's because this year we are inviting adult learners to attend. SCLLN recognizes that adult learners are very interested in improving their literacy skills and meeting other learners.

For the second consecutive year, the conference will be held on the campus of California State University, Dominguez Hills, in Carson on Saturday January 22, 2005. In September, registration and workshop information will be sent to library literacy programs that are members of SCLLN.

Be sure to ask the coordinator of your library literacy program about registration for the conference.

Beatriz Sarmiento of the Commerce Public Library will be handling registration and can answer questions relating to the conference. We are very excited to include adult learners, so please encourage your learner to attend. Thanks to the generosity of the Literacy Network of Greater Los Angeles, the conference is free for learners.

See you there!

## Aging Gracefully

Here's a great math trick. It uses two numbers to get a person's age. The person must perform a series of calculations and only reveal to you the final number. From this number, you can calculate his age. For the first number, ask someone to multiply his age by 10. For the second number, ask him to pick a number from 1 to 9 and multiply it by 9. Now ask him to subtract the second number from the first number. It will be a three-digit number. Add the third digit to the number formed by the first two digits, and that is his age!

Here's an example: Your friend's age is 55. Ask him to perform the following calculations and only reveal to you the final number he gets. For the first number, ask him to multiply his age, 55, by 10. The answer is 550. Then ask him to pick any number between 1 and 9, and multiply it by 9. He picks the number 9 and multiplies it by 9. The answer is 81, which is now the second number. Finally, ask him to subtract the second number (81) from the first number (550). The answer is 469. This is the number he reveals to you. To determine his age, add the third digit, 9, to the number formed by the first two digits, 46. The answer is 55—which is his age.

## Activity

This trick works with any two-digit number. Be sure to discuss the term *digit*, and any other unfamiliar terms. If the student needs to develop subtraction skills, review some of the basics with him. To begin practicing this trick, use the worksheet shown

below to calculate the age of one of your student's children. You can use this to practice some math skills. It is also a crowd-pleaser your student may enjoy using at work or with friends. Each time he uses this trick, he's practicing calculation and addition skills. Remember—the person must perform this series of calculations to himself and only reveal the final number he gets to the student.

### ***Math Trick Worksheet***

#### ***For the first number***

The person's age multiplied by 10:

#### ***For the second number***

Select a number between 1 and 9:

Multiplied by 9:

#### ***To find the age***

What is the first number?

What is the second number?

What is the final number when the two are subtracted?

What is the third digit? What is the number formed by the first two digits?

Add the third digit to the number formed by the first two digits.

That is his age.

## To *Qu* or not to *Qu*

Many students have a difficult time pronouncing the sound for the letters *qu* or spelling this sound correctly. Pronouncing the sound for *qu* is the same as pronouncing the sound /kw/. Spelling the sound is actually very simple. In many instances, this sound appears at the beginning of words, and is spelled using *qu* and not solely the letter *q*.

### Activity

Use the student's materials and a dictionary to find words beginning with *q* and not followed by *u*. Then ask him to find words beginning with *qu*. Work together to answer these questions:

- How many of the words beginning with *q* are familiar to you? (Answer: probably few or none)
- Is there any reason you should learn or memorize the words beginning with *q*? (Answer: probably "No, I'd never use them.")
- Are there more words that begin with *q* or *qu*? (Answer: *qu*)

So most of the time, we should use *qu*.

There are probably no more than seven words. Webster's lists two or three and the Scrabble® Word Building Book lists four. They are: gar, gaid, ganar, goph.

## Strange But True

On Lake Isabella, some new boaters were having a problem. No matter how hard they tried they couldn't get their brand new twenty-two foot boat to perform. It was very sluggish in almost every maneuver, no matter how much power was applied. After an hour of trying to make it go, they putted over to a nearby marina, thinking a mechanic could tell them what was wrong. A thorough topside check revealed everything was in perfect working order. So the mechanic jumped into the water to check underneath. Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer.

Police in Oakland, California, spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them, shouting, "Please come out and give yourself up!"

An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two different automated teller machines. The kidnapper then proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts.

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot!" the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

# Continental Bytes

*continued from page 4*

1. Which country produces most of the world's diamonds? (South Africa)
2. What is the name of the tallest mountain in Africa? (Mt. Kilimanjaro)
3. What and where is the largest volcano in the world? (Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa)
4. What is the name of the native people of New Zealand? (Maoris)
5. What is the name of the river that flows through Rome, Italy? (The Tiber River)
6. What two bodies of water are connected by the Suez Canal? (The Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea)
7. Where is Peace Memorial Park? (Hiroshima, Japan)
8. Where is Timbuktu? (Mali, West Africa)
9. Where is the Statue of Liberty? (New York Harbor)

10. What and where is the highest waterfall in South America? (Angel Falls, Venezuela)
11. What country is composed of over 7,100 islands? (The Philippines)
12. What is the name of the largest city in southern Australia? (Melbourne)

# Pseudonyms

*continued from page 5*

## Original Name

## Pseudonym

Frederick Austerlitz

Fred Astaire

Norma Jean Baker

Marilyn Monroe

Stanley R. Soog

Jackie Gleason

Frances Gumm

Judy Garland

Walker Smith

Sugar Ray Robinson

Doroteo Arango

Francisco (Pancho)

Marion Michael

Villa

Morrison

John Wayne

