

Hi. Welcome to our first monthly TESOL update. You signed up to receive information about TESOL and the courses we have running, so starting from this month I will be sending a monthly email with information you may find interesting. Please feel free to contact me (tesol@rennert.com or 212-867 8700) at any time if you have any questions or comments. I hope you enjoy this small insight into the TESOL world!



Above: Me on The Inca Trail, Peru, 2000

James Stakenburg, Head of Teacher Training-Rennert/SIT Teacher Trainer

OBSERVING ESL CLASSES AT RENNERT

Are you interested in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) but not sure how it works? Do you wonder how it is actually possible to teach without translation? Are you wondering if teaching is right for you?

You are welcome to observe classes at Rennert before deciding to do a TESOL certificate course, during the course and whenever you like after the course.

Observing other teachers teach is a valuable experience for all teachers. You can always learn from other teachers' ideas and methods. And now, while you are maybe unsure if this is the right thing for you, it's a great chance to see real professionals in action. To help you decide, we're offering an open house. See the details in the right hand column. Space is limited. RSVP by Friday November 14, 2008 to tesol@rennert.com or call (212) 867 8700 ext 34

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AT RENNERT

All SIT TESOL Certificate Alumni in New York can attend Rennert's in-house professional development workshops for free for the rest of their career. Currently scheduled workshops are:

Wednesday, November 5

Topic: Ideas for Presenting Grammar (both Effective and Ineffective Ways)
Workshop leader: Peter

In this workshop, Peter will explore different ideas for presenting grammar to students. He will take a look at both effective and ineffective methods that teachers use in the ESL classroom, and will talk about how best to approach teaching grammar to students.

Wednesday, November 19

Topic: Ideas for Friday Excursions
Workshop leader: Beatrice

Where to take students on a Friday excursion? A museum, again?? In this workshop, Beatrice will offer different ideas for fun and interesting Friday excursions. Learn how to create excursions that will allow students to really participate, practice their English, see New York...and do something different!

Wednesday, December 3

Topic: Taking Language Outside the Classroom
Workshop leader: Peter

Have your students ever complained that they don't know how to meet Americans, and that they are having problems integrating into life in New York City? In this workshop, you will learn how to teach your students strategies for meeting Americans and using New York to improve their language skills.

JOBS: Colombia

This month we are featuring Colombia, a country that has a reputation for being dangerous that is undeserved for the average English teacher.

The Scoop

Word-of-mouth advice from Noga, American, who's lived there for 7 years...

"Colombia has a bad reputation, but it is actually safe (unless you're very rich). Colombians are very friendly, so it's a great place to go and have fun and enjoy life. You will live well on a teacher's salary, but probably won't earn enough to save.



You have 2 basic options - get a work visa or don't get a work visa. If your goal is to go and travel and support yourself while you spend a couple of months in different places then don't get work visa. If you're planning on living there for longer, get a work visa because then you will get health insurance, vacations etc. It is easy to get a job without a visa - just arrive and get a job. It's harder to get a work visa, but certainly possible. Contact schools before you get there and they will sponsor you.

Classes generally start very early - as early as 6.30 am and end very late—as late as 9:00 or 9-30. Classes in between are not as frequent, so split shifts are common. Total teaching hours vary. Usually you are not paid for prep time.

Colombia is a totally different culture and has a different way of doing business, for example some times people are not straight up with you. It's important to be careful when looking for a job, because there isn't much protection for the workers. So if you're employed by a so-so institute, it's possible that you may not get paid on time.

People on the street don't generally speak English. Spanish isn't required for work, but it is difficult to get around without basic Spanish. There are various expat bars in La Zona Rosa and Parque de la Noventa y Tres areas of Bogotá. To find an apartment you will need to speak Spanish or have someone help you. To put your name on an apartment lease, you will need a Colombian cosigner, but you can just get a room easily enough instead. Lots of schools will help with finding accommodation if they sponsor you."

Above: Cartagena, Colombia, 2000

FAQ ABOUT THE WORLD LEARNING SIT TESOL COURSE

What will I learn?

The World Learning SIT TESOL Certificate Course addresses three areas:

- Participants explore the relationship between language learning and teaching, which later provides the foundation for their investigation of teaching.
- Participants plan, teach and assess lessons in the four skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing), grammar, and culture, through experiential activities, teaching demonstrations, discussions, lesson planning, and readings.
- Participants put their new knowledge and skills into practice through daily practice teaching sessions. Trainers observe and facilitate feedback sessions after these lessons. From them, participants learn to reflect on and assess their own teaching as well as to learn from their peers' teaching.

Above: TESOL workshop, New York City, July 2008

TEACHING TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have any great ideas/ activities etc that you would like to share, please email me tesol@rennert.com .

DICTOGLOSS - one of my personal favorites

What is it?

Students work in cooperative groups to recreate a text that has been read aloud to the class (or an authentic listening text).

What is its purpose?

- To introduce key words at the beginning of a work sequence
- To encourage students to focus on meaning when listening to a text
- To develop effective listening strategies
- To develop proof reading and editing strategies
- To provide an authentic opportunity for cooperative learning

How do I do it?

- Find a suitable text - usually one that is short and cohesive
- Divide the class into groups.
- Ask students to write down the key words as the text is read. (Teachers might need to read the text more than once.)
- Have students work in cooperative groups to recreate the text.
- Groups proof read and edit their texts before presenting them to the class in spoken or written form.
- Students compare their texts with the original, attempting to justify the differences between them.

How can I adapt it?

- Students might be given title of the topic and asked to predict the key words
- Some (or all) of the groups could be given copies of (some or all) key words before the text is read.
- Ask groups to work out definitions of the key words
- Rather than reading the text, use an authentic listening text - a fun, communicative variation on a standard listening lesson!

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- Observing ESL Classes
- TESOL Open House
- Jobs: Working in Colombia
- Teaching Tip of the Month
- FAQs about TESOL courses

TESOL Certificate OPEN HOUSE

Find out more about becoming an ESL Teacher
You will:

- Get an overview of the ESL teaching industry
- Meet the SIT TESOL trainer and a previous participant
- Have your questions answered
- Experience a course session

Refreshments provided
Wednesday November 19
6:30 - 8:30pm
Level 3, 15 West 39th St.

Discounted post-certificate teaching seminars available at Rennert

Rennert offers a range of one-day teaching seminars that are open to all ESOL teachers in the New York area. Alumni of the SIT TESOL certificate course and Rennert teachers get a discounted rate of \$60 (regular price \$75) for all of these professional seminars.

"Fabulous! A lot of things were cleared up for me and it was explained very well!"

"Very informative and useful - can absolutely utilize information learned."

"Very useful, especially as a beginner teacher."

Extra Information:
To look for English schools, a good place to start is the Colombian yellow pages www.quihubo.com . The main newspaper is El Tiempo and also has an extensive list of English schools.

The following schools are all known to hire American teachers:

Baranquillo
Centro Cultural Colombo American-Barranquillo
Tel (5) 340 8084
Fax (5) 340 8549
Email:
Colombo@b-quilla.cetcol.net.co

Medellin
Centro Colombo Americano - Medellin
Tel (4) 513 4444
Fax (4) 513 2666
Email:
bncmde@medellin.cetcol.net.co

Cali
Centro Colombo Americano - Cali
Tel (2) 668 5960/ 661 4303
Fax (2) 668 4695

Bogota
Centro de Ingles Lincoln
Tel (1) 288 0360
Fax (1) 287 3806

First Class English Ltda
Tel (1) 623 2374/5
Fax (1) 623 2379

What people have said about the course...

"This was a wonderful course. I feel that I am capable to enter the profession of teacher in a way that I never believed that I would be at the outset of the course." - Alex

"If you're interested in teaching ESL to adults, you should take the course. It enriched my life, outlook on teaching ESL to adults and teaching in general, and it was fun. I never got sick of the course, and I always looked forward to going to class everyday because I knew I was going to learn something that I had never known before. The teaching was challenging and very rewarding." - Roaine



I think the best think about the course is that it was challenging, yet non-threatening. You were free to make mistakes and then learn from them. This is a good course if you want to learn how to teach effectively. It really causes you to think about teaching and what you are trying to accomplish.-Glennis



It was one of the most useful and reflective experiences I've had in a while. (You) should consider taking the course if you're at all interested in teaching ESL! You also make good friends. -Julie