

Hanging Around The IELI



Hunter IELI Student **SooHyun Ham**

English. English? English!

I came to New York a year ago. I feel more comfortable using English than I did before. However when I speak with strangers, I am still nervous. I start to worry about my pronunciation or grammar. So I interviewed several people who work at the IELI at Hunter College to know how they feel when they speak with international students. Some of them were born in New York, and some of them moved to New York a long time ago.

Jennifer (from New York)

Difficulty speaking with international friends?

Sometimes we cannot understand each other but, when we repeat the word we eventually figure it out. **Do you have any advice for IELI students?** I know that it is not easy to learn a new language. The important thing is oral skills. Try to converse with people just to have practice. Don't be SHY.

Lauren (From upstate New York)

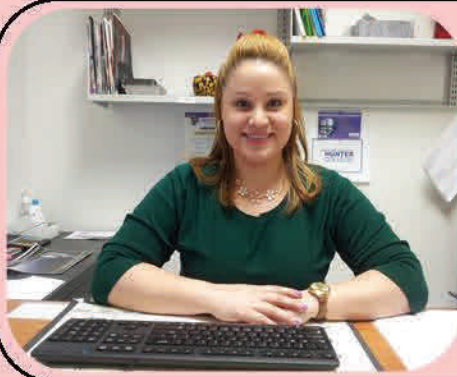
Hard to understand?

The IELI has many different levels so I always try to use simple sentences and I encourage them to send an e-mail. It is one good way to communicate with them.

Making friends? I suggest taking a course that you are interested in and you can make friends who have similar interests as you.

Sophia (She had never learned English before coming to New York. Now she is working at the IELI)

How did you study English? Usually I studied by myself as much as I could and I tried to communicate with people. Also, I used to bring my dictionary all the time to find out my mistakes. I used to work as a babysitter with an American family. **What would you say to IELI students?** Don't cry and never give up.



Aisha (Moved to New York when she was young)

Speak to non-native speakers? I saw some students who cannot speak English at all. WE try to understand each other, speak slowly, and are patient. Then we can communicate somehow. **Do you have any advice for IELI students?** I want to let them know watching TV is a good way to learn English. Even if you do not understand just turn it on.

CHEF WALKS INTO THE US



By Sutthavee Buaklee



My name is Sutthavee Buaklee, IELI student. I come from Thailand. Now I'm taking level 8. As you know, Spanish is a second language in the United States. There are so many Mexicans who come to the U.S.A for better lives, jobs, and money. I would like to present one Mexican chef who has been working at an Italian restaurant for 2 years. His name is Miguel, 40 years old. He has been in the U.S.A for 4 years. The first time he came to the U.S.A, he was 20 years old. He spent \$ 2,200 for an agent and took an airplane to Arizona, but he was dropped off outside of a town and had to walk for 30 minutes. At that time he just came to travel, and to go to parties. He spent only one year here. The second time, he spent \$ 2,300 for an agent. He started to work at restaurants, such as Chinese, Thai, and Italian. Then he went back to Mexico and planned to come to U.S.A in a few months. Miguel said that the last time was so difficult for him because it was getting hard to come to the U.S.A. as an immigrant. As a result, he has walked around 12 hours non-stop through the mountains. He said it was totally different from the first time that he needed to walk only 30 minutes, He said and laughing. However, now, he is working at an Italian place in Brooklyn. He said he doesn't want to move because it is unusual for a Mexican person to work at a restaurant as a chef. It might because of his cooking skill and because

"WHEN I CAME TO THE US FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS DROPPED OFF IN A SMALL TOWN AND NEEDED TO WALK TO A CITY!"

he is honest. The most surprising thing that made me wondered was that he has never thought about going back to Mexico yet, also he always thinks about tomorrow I need to work, tomorrow I need to work.



ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

Is Writing So Difficult?



By Hanji and Minji



For me, writing is very difficult because I don't like this kind of "silent" way to express feeling. Obviously, talking directly is a better way.

—Tamaki

I love reading!!! So, I am very fond of writing as well. Compared to other methods of recording events, writing is the best and the clearest way to describe what has happened.



—Jenny



Well, I always believe words in writing are kinds of elves beyond self-awareness, and should never be confined.

—Paul

Writing is very nice, but the writing test is very terrible! I like writing something that I prefer, but I don't want a topic limited to a small range and this can make me feel unfree and uncomfortable.



—Leah



I don't have great talent in writing, but I am also intrigued deeply for I can have my own space where no one can interfere with me.

—Pandang

As a guy, I don't like writing but I have to learn how to write a love letter!



—John

What kind of writing topic do you normally prefer?

Percentage of students' preference

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| SPORTS | 10% |
| FOOD | 10% |
| CULTURES | 40% |
| HISTORY | 20% |
| SCHOOL | 0% |
| TECHNOLOGY | 10% |
| PERSONAL HISTORY | 20% |

BRIEF IDEAS

- ENLARGE VOCABULARY
- SHAPE YOUR TEXT
- PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS
- REVISE

Tips for Improving Writing Skills



Writing is one of the most crucial skills which everyone should master not only in study

but also in daily life. My friends above often ask me about how to improve writing skills and I always think about this question. Actually, I have some good results with my own writing, so I want to share some advice about how to write more effectively. For students, we can use a series of

"shortcuts" to improve writing skills in certain examinations, like the TOEFL writing test.

However, these so-called "shortcuts" are not just easy ways to improve writing but some important instructions we can follow. Writing skills develop over a long period of time in which

we collect experience and materials. Remaining patient is the key if you want to make enormous progress.

HERE ARE THE SHORTCUTS!

To improve examination skills, there are four tips I have found very useful:

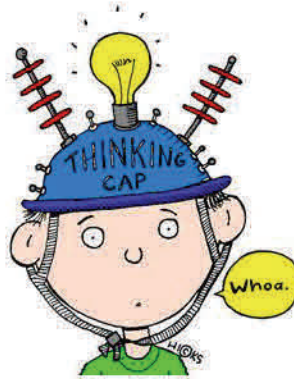
ENLARGE VOCABULARY

Repetition is simple and may be boring and annoying, but it is worthwhile. For me, I usually use a word list from my TOEFL dictionary.

SHAPE YOUR TEXT

The aim of shaping writing structure is to make whole passages logical and convincing. Everyone believes plagiarism is wrong, but I have to say what we should "plagiarize" is not others' passages themselves but

the internal structures among the passages.



PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

The word, "SPECIFIC", is the very word we need to focus on. I understand most people

don't have sufficient experience in daily life, so sometimes we can "fabricate" some proper stories or statistics to reinforce our demonstration

REVISE Compared to the other three tips, revision is the most neglected one, because most people believe this step is redundant. However, revision plays a critical role which greatly influences the writing score.

Mr. Nelson



INTERVIEW

Q: Most students feel writing is difficult. Do you think writing is difficult or not?

A: Writing is difficult for everyone, even native speakers.

Q: Do you think writing is important or not? And if writing is important, why do you think so?

A: Writing is useful for students. Also, Writing skills challenge them to articulate ideas and to argue logically.

By Lee J Nelson,
novelist and teacher at IELI



Neil's dog

The Peter Detmold Park

By
Audjima Tedtian



I always think about the relaxing places for the dogs in a big city like New York. In the big parks, people are worried that their dog might be lost or attacked, especially if they have small dogs. I recommend The Peter Detmold Park to be your alternative.

The Peter Detmold park is near the FDR Drive, across from Queens. There are great views and the trees are beautiful. You can see the 59th Street Bridge (the Edward Koch Bridge) in the background. You can see a very old hospital in a small island in the river. It is now a park that you can visit. In the park there are benches and tables with checkerboards on the top that you can play while



A dog-friendly area

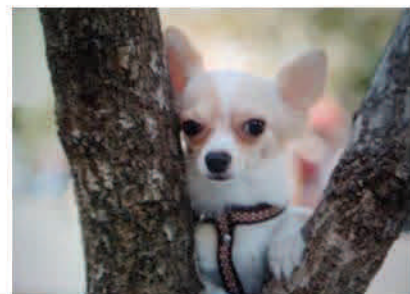


your dog enjoys the park. In the park there is a board where they put pictures of the dogs, or some announcements about dogs. It is like a small community for some people who love dogs. Sometimes they have activities in the park. The Peter Detmold park is open every day from 9 AM to 9 PM. The address is 454 E 51st Street.

Neil is the owner of a dog that usually comes to Peter Detmold park. He said he chose this park because it

is peaceful. He wanted to be in a quiet place where he could see the river. He likes this park because his dog can socialize with other dogs.

I miss my dog in Thailand and this park makes me think of him.



My dog Bravo, in Bangkok

Shopping to Relieve Stress

CONSIDEROSTY

Nathacha Nilwan

Most of us who live in New York usually want to find some unique and fun gift for our friends or family back to our countries. I have found a perfect place to get some great gifts. If you are looking for a gift for someone or yourself, this boutique won't let you down. There is a selection of unique items, "from handmade jewelry to artisanal home goods" (from a review on Yelp!) at a reasonable price. Both of the owners of this boutique are Thai. They are very polite, friendly and helpful. I like to speak my native language when I visit. I've visited twice. The last time I stopped by, I could see that they had more interesting stuff. For example, unique handmade post cards, candles with a beautiful design and scratch map travel edition. I couldn't help buying something to send back home. Inside, the store decoration is very cute, cozy and it gives you a

warm welcome feeling. The majority of the items are around \$50 or under. The bestselling items are girl's favorite items; rings with a heart and ribbon shape only \$10 and Rewined candles, which smell very nice, for \$27. Once I bought a very well designed candle for my cousin on her birthday and she loves it! I also bought myself lip balm, what interesting is the packaging is very pretty. The packages of lip balm are shaped like a French macaroon cookie, which is very fascinating! In addition, if you are looking for a card for any occasion, don't miss this place because they have a variety of cards and postcards. You will also enjoy spending time exploring the different kinds of items here. A variety of gift choices for every occasion are on display. A nice spot for finding something for any special person or yourself! Very interesting, isn't it? So, if you are walking around West 4th Street, don't forget to stop by this place. You would definitely find your favorite items here.



Check these items out!





Affordable & Fashionable



Now the season is changing to spring, and girls from Hunter College want to know where they can find fashionable clothing

Natalia Montoya N.



FOREVER 21

- * You can find clothes from \$ 5— 50



- * My favorite store is on 34 ST. 6 AV.

There are two brands which I want to talk about, because you can find economical and seasonal clothing!!!

Forever 21 and H & M sells variety of fashion clothing choices at very economical prices.

These brands have created something called "fast fashion," which essentially imitates the latest fashions and speeds their cheaper versions into stores.

If you went to Gucci or Chanel last October, you knew the chances were good that clothes would still be there in February. However, in H & M and Forever 21, if you don't buy it right then and there, in 11 days the entire stock will change. You buy it now or never. And because the prices are so low, you buy it now. That is how fast fashion works.

When I choose clothing, I always pay attention to the season, fashion trends, for which place I'm going to use the outfit, and vivid colors.

H&M

- * You can find clothes from \$ 7— 150



- * My favorite store is on 59 ST Lexington AV.

New

I choose this skirt for the pic because one of the colors for this season is mint!!!

Helpful Tips

For this Spring you must have in your closet a vest and any clothes with military color .