

**THE ENGLISH DAY AT UTN**

**FIRST 2013 GRADUATION  
CEREMONY**

**FORMAT FACTORY**

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

**UTN ILE ON AMAZON**

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# COVER PAGE

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With this refreshing view of this little waterfall, we want you to take a visual shower and get ready to begin the second half of the year. This picture was taken in Arenal Paraíso Hotel in La Fortuna de San Carlos, and it is maybe a couple of meters long and no more than fifty centimeters wide. With this cool view, The ILE Post wishes you a great second half of 2013. Go on!



<http://www.facebook.com/utnile>

**ILE UTN**

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# EDITORIAL

## *Knowing versus Understanding*



Some questions can trouble us for years, and yet many remain unanswered. One of those questions had been in my mind for years; “*how come after studying five years of English in public High Schools or in the case of younger generations, after studying eleven years – when the students come to college they know very little English?*” Has not anyone wondered how, too?

The other day, as I was reading a book by Wiggings and McTighe, I found a possible answer to my question. However, this answer could also challenge us –language learners- with what comes into play when developing a second or third language.

These two brilliant authors have problematized the concepts of knowing and understanding. According to them, to know something has to do with retrieving “facts”, which for our purposes will be knowing about grammar rules, phonetics, phonology, syntax to mention some areas whereas “understanding” takes us to a different level (p. 39).

For Wiggings and McTighe (2005) “understanding is about transferability” which the authors describe as “the ability to transfer our knowledge and skill effectively involves the capacity to take what we know and use it creatively, flexibly, fluently, in different settings, or on our own.” (p. 40) Then, I thought that in high school, we were not asked to “transfer” our language knowledge; we

were mostly asked to “know” the meanings of words and grammar rules. If you knew the facts that were going to be tested, then you were a great student. No wonder why at the end of so many years, we just learned some English.

But then I thought, in a way, this issue goes beyond what happens with English learning in high schools. We have these preconceived assumptions of what language acquisition entails which might be preventing us from doing. This reasoning led me to inquire: How often do we, language learners, just worry about “knowing” about the language instead of “understanding” the language? How often do we question our capacity to transfer what we know into different scenarios? How often do we worry to use our English knowledge creatively, flexibly and fluently as the authors suggest? How often does the wiliness or the eagerness “to pass” a course interfere with communicative competence?

There is a need to change our mindset when it comes to English learning. We cannot longer think about language rules or language courses separately or to expect to learn a language just by knowing about it. If we want to be successful learners, it is mandatory that our language learning mindset be changed. The target should be that each one of us worries about “understanding” English in a more comprehensive way, acknowledging that just knowing about it is not enough.

*Emilena Rodríguez*

Source: McTighe, J., & Wiggings, G. P. (2005). *Understanding by design handbook*. Alexandria, Va: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.



**NEWS**

### *UTN Celebrates 5th Anniversary*

UTN celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Teatro Nacional. The Asamblea Legislativa approved the law that gave birth to the youngest university of Costa Rica on May 14<sup>th</sup>, and it was officially published in La Gaceta on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. The event on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, hosted by UTN Chancellor, Marcelo Prieto, was attended by administrative and academic staff, partners, alumni and students. Currently UTN offers 35 different undergraduate, postgraduate and professional, and it has over 8.000 students in its six campuses around the country. All UTN degrees are professionally focused and prepare students to work in their chosen careers. UTN has a diverse student population which reflects Costa Rican demographic variety, and every year it welcomes hundreds of students from all around the country.



Alongside UTN quality courses, students have opportunities to enhance their practical experience through a professional practicum and internship program. Among the main goals UTN faces are to build more and better facilities, to get its own financial resources and to raise visibility and improve the reputation locally, nationally and internationally; laying out its vision for the present and future. The celebration concluded with success in a warm and joyful atmosphere.



## *First 2013 Graduation Ceremony*

During May 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, UTN main campus in Alajuela held its first year graduation ceremony. It was a day that had been anticipated for a long time and finally arrived when roughly 447 UTN undergraduates withstood the hot weather and began a new phase of their lives. Dean Emanuel González encouraged graduates to take risks, forge distinctive paths and value friendships and family during his speech. "It's always nerve-racking leaving what you know," he said. "But you have been well prepared and you really have grown up a lot here." Among the graduates there were several students from the ILE major. The ceremony lasted approximately one and a half hours.



## *First Multicultural Fair at Universidad Técnica Nacional*

*By Gabriela Calvo (ILE Professor)*

Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo (PIT) held on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> the first Multicultural Fair at Universidad Técnica Nacional (UTN).

In this opportunity, delegations from the embassies of Brazil, Canada and Japan graced the event with cultural activities, and provided information regarding opportunities to learn languages in those countries.

Moreover, there was the visit from Ms. Carmen Isabel Claramunt, head of the Office of Scholarships from the International Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Yoshikazu Furukawa, first secretary of the Embassy of Japan, who gave talks on scholarships abroad.

In addition, the Group of Music and the Dance and Folklore Group from UTN - Sede Central delighted the audience with their demonstration of typical dances and a few songs. Moreover, stilt-walkers from Carpe Diem theater group filled the event with their creativity and captivated the attention of all participants.

Finally, through coordination with the organizers of La Tea, around 1500 high school students visited the fair. These students had the opportunity to learn about the majors they could study at UTN, about the certification processes in the English language offered by Trinity College London, and about the efforts PIT carries out in order to transform UTN in the first plurilingual center of higher technical education in Costa Rica.



## UTN ILE on Amazon

By Jose Soto (ILE Director)

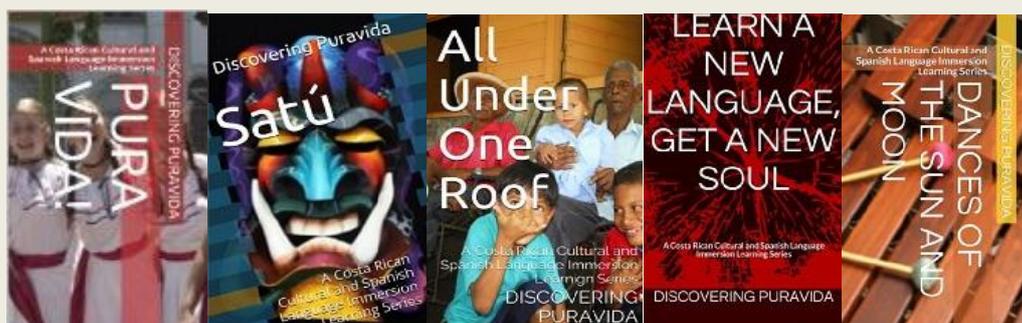
ILE is very proud to announce that some of our students have founded their own publishing company and their books are uploaded in amazon now.

The books are series of language learning and culture immersion original stories in English with an interesting way of learning Spanish. They are for kindle readers at the moment, but any PC or tablet can display them, too. Each book is \$3.99. For us, the faculty, the fact that these students have been able to achieve this is a great accomplishment.

They developed this during their professional practicum with a publishing company, *Discovering Pura Vida*, which saw the potential, and later changed its name after they became part of it.



Some of the students who are part of this writing adventures are Edwin Murillo, David Chaves, Greivin Segura, Carolina Vargas, Adriana Calvo, and Johanna López among others. We invite to recommend it to your friends and family as a way of knowing about our Pura Vida culture. Besides, they are now a group of entrepreneurs seeking for success in publishing their stories. And we all want to see them succeed with their language abilities. For the ILE major and for the UTN, this is an extraordinary event to celebrate and be proud of because of the local and international projection it has through Amazon.



(Images taken from: Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=discovering+pura+vida&prefix=discovering+pura%2Caps&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Adiscovering+pura+vida](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=discovering+pura+vida&prefix=discovering+pura%2Caps&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Adiscovering+pura+vida))

## *The Miami Heat Won Second Ring on a Road*

After seven thrilling games, the Miami Heat finally defeated The San Antonio Spurs in one of the most epic confrontation ever. The series was back and forth through the first six games, with the losing team responding the following contest.

The series was highlighted by the matchup between the Big Three of Miami-LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade-and the Big Three of San Antonio- Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker.

Game seven was a battle with both teams showing how much they wanted the precious ring. The game was tightly contested. No team was able to take control and pull away.

Lebron James had 37 in a win that showed why he is the best player in basketball. He hit a couple of key 3-pointers that eventually sealed the Heat's third NBA championship. The final score was 95-88. Lebron James was named the Bill Russel NBA Finals Most Valuable Player for the second-straight year after averaging 25 points and nearly 11 rebounds and seven assists.

The mutual respect off the court and the attitudes of the winning and losing teams also exemplified the class of both teams.



## *Brazil Beat Spain*

Spain's quest for a first ever Confederations Cup title will have to wait another four years as it was massacred by hosts Brazil 3-0 in the Confederations Cup final on June 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. As the crowd roared and Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers blew his whistle to start the match, only one team looked het up and ready to run riot in Rio de Janeiro. Fred (twice) and Barcelona's new star Neymar scored the goals to send Spain back home empty-handed. It was a night to forget for Spain as the world champions saw their 29-match unbeaten record destroyed by the South Americans. The tournament is a rehearsal for the World Cup finals to take place next year, a chance for the infrastructure and stadiums to be put to the test. Neymar was awarded MVP, and Spanish Player Fernando Torres scored the most goals (5). For those who love soccer, it was an exciting match where both teams showed different faces, while the so far al mighty Spain looked weak, the unknown Brazil recovered some of the respect it had recently lost with its poor performance in friendly matches.





# THE ILE ETHOS

## *Two Days of Food, Entertaining and English*

*By Cindy Rodríguez (ILE Professor)*



On June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, my nine-year-old niece and I had two days of adventures and fun; we traveled to other countries, participated in an episode of the *Amazing Race*, and attended a Talent Show at night. Yes, all these activities were done in two days, and we did not spend much time traveling or much money. On June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, we attended the English Festival at UTN where both ILE and *Cursos Libres* participated. It was a great experience and two days that my niece will never forget.

On the first day, Thursday, we traveled to India where we were surprised by the colorful food, people and exotic music. There, we met some locals, and we were able to know and taste their food and costumes. There, we ate carrot soup with yogurt, an invigorating drink based on mango and cardamom, flat bread with some cilantro and cardamom dip, and delicious rice with tomato. Then after talking to the locals and taking pictures with them in their picturesque tent, we flew to The United States.

In the United States, we ate a lot and there was an incredible variety of food. First, we were received by a couple of bartenders from Las Vegas, who offered us a Mint Cocktail and some Hot Dogs (which name I do not remember) with avocado and some chopped hot chili. Then, we continued with a typical potato salad which is a must on 4<sup>th</sup> of July's barbecues, some cheesecake, and a warm homemade apple pie. When in the US, my niece and I took pictures with the famous Uncle Sam's hats. It was very fun, and the people we spoke with had a great English level. Then we decided to go straight to England.

England was the most surprising country, my niece personally loved it, and she even went back to congratulate the English people we spoke with. There we ate England Muffins. I like them a lot because they were not sweet but salty, I promised myself to try to prepare them at home. The guides were really kind to explain the recipe to us step by step. Later on, they gave us a sample, and we ate it right away. We found out that they were learning English, and had started a couple of weeks ago at *Cursos Libres*, and yet they were so outgoing and able to communicate so well! They did a fantastic job! We continued our trip flying to Australia where we ate like queens.

In Australia, we ate a unique salad based on cabbage and carrots, and it was unique because when I tasted it I thought it was like Costa Rica's cabbage salad, but it honestly a little much better! It was sweet! It was really good, and the thing I loved the most was that you can eat it with crackers, just like a perfect snack for a party. Something else that caught my attention was its name, because it was named after a king. It was really fun to eat something with a history after it.

Finally, we decided to go to Jamaica, where we were received with the sweet rhythm of reggae and the colorful costumes of the locals. I was amazed with the tour they gave us! First, we went through the history of music, we learned a little bit more about how reggae came from a mixture of rhythms like Jazz, and how it also helped to originate some other rhythms. Then, we learned about the colorful cloth, the meaning of the Jamaica's Flag, and the meaning of Rasta colors. Finally, we enjoyed a refreshing and healthy tropical drink based on hibiscus, ginger, and lemon,

accompanied with exquisite Caribbean bread that had different fruits and crunchy fresh nuts. What I loved from this country was both its friendly and knowledgeable people, and that it was the country where I learned more about culture, and not just about food. It was a great tour. Then, after traveling around all these countries, my niece and I decided to spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing and getting ready for an evening full of entertainment.

In the evening, we went to an auditorium to enjoy a night of music, jokes and surprises at the talent show. The talent show was opened by a remarkable duo: ILE's Director, Jose Soto, and Professor Andrés Bejarano who played the Beatles and also a Frank Sinatra song. Afterwards, poetry took the stage. The poetry section was a mixture of curiosity and learning. It was our first time listening to a person reading poetry live, but most importantly, his own poetry and with a witty sense of humor. It was great. Then the night continued, and the stand-up comedy section started, we had Andres Bejarano opening with a couple of "Gallegos" jokes, and suddenly, right from the audience a man stood up, and in a very as-a-matter-of-fact and causal tone, told the most amusing jokes. Then, surprisingly my niece stood up and told two jokes of her own. I also participated for some minutes with a small monologue of women's reality in public toilets. Finally, Jose jumped to the stage and started to rock! It was a solo, both singing and playing Leaving on a Jet

Plane from John Denver. In brief, it was a night to remember!

Next morning I woke up really early and hurried to the university. When in there, I found about 60 or 80 people eager for challenge. There was a rally, just like the Amazing Race going on. It was really cool to see every group running around and trying to figure out every single puzzle provided. They need, for example, to sing along with a guy from the cafeteria, or to walk backwards for three minutes. There were about six different groups participating, but only three won. The first, second and third place received a huge package of Sneakers, M&Ms and other sweets. It was so engaging to see them all presenting their tasks. To finish the English Day Celebration, at night, there was a play in the auditorium, but unfortunately, I was unable to attend. Carpe Diem Company presented Jesus Christ Superstar. My niece and I did so many fun things and met so many nice people in those two days that we wished they would last a little bit longer. It is nice to know that this kind of activities are done at the university, and it is really glad to see students and teachers, both, from ILE and Cursos libres, participating and showing so much interest. I have to congratulate the organizers, fellow teachers collaborating, and especially the students who make it possible, thanks to them, me and my niece traveled around the world, and had much fun than ever in just two days. Hurray and two thumbs up to the English Day at UTN.

## Non-Native English Speakers Wanted

By Alonso Vega (LE Professor)



Whenever I watch one of those Open English commercials, I am dumbfounded by the premise that a good EFL

instructor *must* be a native speaker. I can see clearly why someone would think that a native speaker is a better English teacher than a non-native one:

1. A non-native English speaker's pronunciation will never be as precise as a speaker whose mother tongue is English.
2. A non-native English speaker's vocabulary range can be limited if compared to that of a person who has been exposed to the target language since birth.
3. Even when mastering all grammatical structures, non-native speakers sometimes make tiny -apparently undetectable- mistakes that native speakers spot immediately.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the “*sistemita de inglés online*” would pride itself on its flawless native English-speaking staff. Nevertheless, the advantages of having a proficient non-native English instructor can be just as rewarding as those of having a native speaker.

To begin with, a non-native English instructor understands the learner's struggle. Learning a foreign language is not an easy endeavor. It is a long, time consuming, and often frustrating process

for many students. A non-native speaker will be patient enough with his/her pupils because he/she is familiar with the journey and all its highs and lows.

In terms of the mastery of grammar and vocabulary, a non-native instructor can really understand where the students' mistakes are coming from. Most of the time, grammar and vocabulary errors in language learning occur due to differences between the native language of the learner and the language he/she is learning. Learners tend to assume that the way grammar and words work in their mother tongue will also apply for the new language. Only an instructor who shares this background with the students would be able to see the origin of the errors, and most importantly, lead the learners to the correction of those mistakes.

Finally, a proficient non-native speaker is the best exemplification that acquiring a foreign language is possible; and with outstanding living examples of this acquisition at UTN, our students couldn't help but be inspired in their learning project. Becoming a proficient non-native English speaker is a trait to be proud of. How many times do you hear someone saying “I am so proud of speaking my native language!”? Learning your first language was an effortless task. Speaking a foreign language is a choice. It is a top challenge that you must feel proud of to take on. What an amazing way to enjoy this voyage with instructors that have been there before and now help you light the way.

## *Old School, New School*

By Grace Zúñiga (ILE Professor)



When I first gave the idea of creating a magazine to my bosses Eric and Jose to let the students and the university community to learn about what we were doing at ILE back then in 2012, I never thought the amount of possibilities that idea was able to provide.

The ILE Post has become a space where students can show some of their writing abilities, an ambit to recognize efforts fulfilled by prominent members of our community, a space for teachers to write about many subjects.

Today, it is my turn to write in what it became The ILE Post afterwards. I must say that I am doing it reluctantly since I consider myself the oldest teacher at ILE, and the least recommended to give advice given that all my partners have better and more modern preparation henceforth I would like to talk about the old school and in some way compare it to the new one we are all working together.

When I started being a teacher in 1987, the most important thing besides planning and preparing tests with the regulations from Ministerio de Educación was to be sure you finish the material that was set for every class, work on the expensive books the students had to buy and give them as much homework as possible to make them work at home; regardless interaction or communication.

Students learned rules, patterns, and vocabulary by heart. They were able to recite a poem, sing a song, or even talk about a specific subject with some accurateness; however, once they left the classroom, they forgot everything, so every new course was like starting it all over again.

As years went by, after changing jobs, taking other courses and seminars, I finally understood the relevance of communication while teaching English.

This communication goes beyond talking or expressing ideas inside or even outside the classroom. It is the communication that allows sensibility from professor to students and vice versa. This communication let professors understand how every student must be compelled to express his/her opinion in class if they want to develop fluency. It is the communication that gives the chance to the professor to recognize his/ her weaknesses and to put extra effort to overcome these weaknesses for the sake of the students and look for more material, get more information and walk the extra mile in order to initiate in the students that spark of interest, that desire of getting involved in their own process of learning a second language and the awareness of being part of society, nature and the responsibility we all share of taking care of our country.

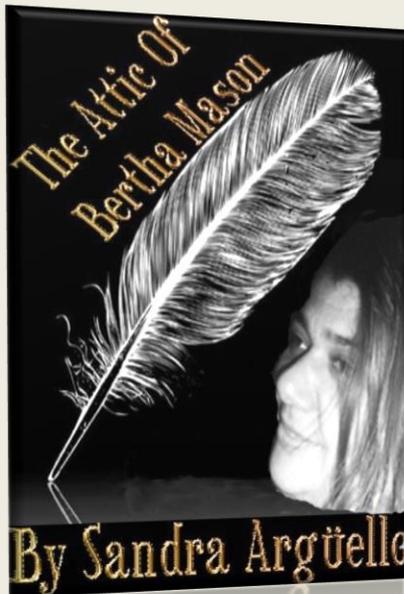
This communication is disrupted when the teacher we have inside only cares to fulfil a program, collect the salary or comply with the schedule.

The level of commitment we, the old teachers, developed have not changed since we have loved what we do since the very beginning.

The experience we have gained within time has permitted us to make a balance between the new teaching theories, the TIC's, and the technology advances, to meet the student's needs. We are aware that we are in charge of one of the most important things in life, the goals of students that come into ILE with a hope.

The hope to communicate not only in their native language but in English as well as their efforts, their time, and their money to get a diploma and a career will allow students to be part of the productive population of our country.

Old teachers as well as new ones should never forget that we are touching souls, and that our reward resides in our student's success and nothing more.



## *The author, is he dead?*

In 1968, critic Roland Barthes wrote an essay entitled “The Death of the Author” in which he states that the author should be left outside the room of interpretation. In other words, when we approach a literary work we should not be concerned with the author’s background, intentions or worldview. He says that, in a way, assuming that we care for what the writer intended, is a type of interpretative tyranny from which the reader must attempt to escape. What Barthes proposes is that there is no way to know for sure what, for example, Shakespeare wanted to accomplish when writing Othello. What readers can do is read the text from their own perspective, which implies a whole different worldview. Then, the text is open to interpretation. Of course, this view was not well-received by all readers and schools of criticism. Some people argue that the writer and the text cannot be separated because the piece of writing is actually the product of a specific person in a specific historical and social context. The danger of leaving everything open to any interpretation is that literary rigurosity might be lost in the name of too much “reading into it.” The author might not be dead, she might just be a witness to the world she lives in.

## *Muse*

*By Fernando Céspedes (ILE student)*

From the gloomiest pit of my soul,  
 where my angers lie alone,  
 when sadness is my bride,  
 sorrow seems to thrive,  
 the vision of my muse releases me,  
 the vision of her completes me.

I distinguish her silhouette dancing in shadows;  
 it distracts me from my joy which is shallow.  
 Her hair curly and windy is a shelter for my pains.  
 Her sweet, addicting poison is in my veins.

An angelical, fragile, delicate face  
 makes me long for her loving embrace.  
 Her voice is a heavenly lullaby  
 that strikes like lightning in the sky.

Her smell is the sweetest of all aromas  
 that wakes me up from sensorial comas.  
 No-one so beautiful my eyes have seen,  
 yet destiny seem to be so mean.  
 She’s so delicate and so pure,  
 and I’m so passionate and obscure.  
 Her love for me may not arise;  
 Woe, graceful Empress of demise.  
 My passion as a quite ember waits  
 to become an inferno that never abates.

## Treasure Island

*By (ILE Student)*

On more than one occasion, some American tourists who came by the souvenir shop before taking the flight back home share with us their amazing experiences they had lived in our "island". (*Tourists sometimes think we are Puerto Rico not Costa Rica-How I do not know*). I do not dare to correct them and try to imagine about the different possibilities for making such a mistake: a) They did not know much about geography (it was always my first impression), b) someone from the travel agency confused them, c) they traveled so much that they do not know where they are currently, or d), and this one was the option that thrilled me, they were talking about the Coco Island.

When I found myself thinking of the Coco Island, it was almost inevitable for me drooling over the gold from the Treasure of Lima hidden in it. Some years ago, I read an article in a local newspaper, in which it indicated, the Alkor Company, a Russian – British consortium, was able to locate three important points of metal concentrations on the island (two in the sea and one on the land) by using "Geo-Vision technology" which processes modern satellite images.

But my gold fever vanished when I remembered that in 1994 an executive decree prohibits the treasure search to protect the island. The current treasure hunters bring helicopters and radars in search of another treasure: the sharks and the great marine wealth surrounding the island. These criminals every day find the treasure and mercilessly massacre it. In few years they have provoked more damage than the one caused by pirates and treasure hunters in five centuries of history.

The Coco Island, named by Jacques Cousteau as "the world's most beautiful island", shelters in its waters the white fin sharks, giant hammerhead sharks, tuna fish, parrot fish and stingrays. This great fauna diversity is complemented by variety of species of birds and hundreds of insects. In 1997, the island was declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

## LANGUAGE BITS

Here there are some examples of how to say things in different situations.

SITUATION	FORMAL	RELAXED	INFORMAL
<b>A friend did something that made you look really stupid.</b>	I would like the culprit to openly declare his/her guilt.	They made me look really stupid.	They made me look like a right plonker.
<b>You would like to discuss something with a friend. You invite her to sit next to you.</b>	Please obtain an object upon which you could repose your weary legs.	Get a chair and come and sit down.	Grab a seat.
<b>A friend keeps talking about the same thing. You tell him to stop.</b>	Please cease from focusing on that story.	Stop going on about it.	Give it a rest; Give it a break.

## What is a Bushism?

English teachers are constantly asking students to pay attention to their vocabulary. We really want them to handle enough vocabulary, so they do not have problems with Bushisms. A Bushism is an example of the problems that can occur when people do not have a proper grasp of the words they use. This problem is highly exemplified by President George W. Bush, whose misadventures with the English language are well known. Sometimes he just picks the wrong word:

- "Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?"

- "I cut the taxes on everybody. I didn't cut them. The Congress cut them. I asked them to cut them."

- "You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test."

- "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully."

- "We spent a lot of time talking about Africa, as we should. Africa is a nation that suffers from incredible disease."

- "Families is where our nation finds hope, where wings take dream."

- "Will the highways on the internet become more few?"

(Information taken from: Seely, J., Words. Recovered from: <http://englishtips.org/1150869872-words-one-step-ahead.html>)

Examples taken from: <http://www3.telus.net/linguisticsissues/bushisms> )

# HUMOR

## *Stupid Things Students Answer during Tests*

Q: Name the four seasons

A: Salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar

Q: What is artificial respiration commonly known as?

A: The Kiss of Death

"Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull."

"To prevent contraception: wear a condominium."

"The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects."

-Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn when the apples are falling off the trees.

-Dulcinea was Sancho Pansa's goat.

-Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.



(Images taken from: <http://www.wpclipart.com/>)

(Jokes taken from [http://www.bbc.co.uk/lancashire/fun\\_stuff/2002/08/28/exams.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/lancashire/fun_stuff/2002/08/28/exams.shtml))

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My wife asked, "What are you doing today?"

I replied, "Nothing."

She said, "You did that yesterday."

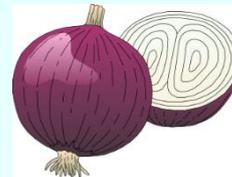
I said, "I wasn't finished."




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Q: What's the difference between a banjo and an onion?

A: Nobody cries when you chop up a banjo.




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Two goldfish are in a tank. One turns to the other and says, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"



## TECHNOLOGY

### *Format Factory*



Trying to convert things from one file format to another can be a royal pain, as we all know. There are many programs out there that will do the job for us, but most of them will cost you an arm and a leg. Format Factory is a free audio, video and photo converter that supports a large range of formats for encoding and ripping. You can convert either single files or entire folders from one format to another. Presets for portable devices make it easy to create audio and video files that can play on your Android phone or tablet, iPhone, iPad, iPod or Blackberry. Format Factory lets you rip your favorite DVDs and Music CDs to create a copy of your films and songs on your local hard disk or any portable storage drive. If your media files are corrupted, Format Factory can help to repair them. While converting pictures, Format Factory allows rotation and zoom as well as adding of tags and watermarks. The program also comes with an AV Mux tool. The amazing thing about this program is the huge number of file types that are supported. Videos can be converted to: MP4, 3GP, MPG, AVI, WMV, FLV or SWF. Audio files can convert to: MP3, WMA, AMR, OGG, AAC, or WAV. Last – but not least! – image files can convert to: JPG, BMP, PNG, TIF, ICO, GIF, or TGA! Best of all, MP4 files support iPods, iPhone, PSP and BlackBerry format! To get more information and download the software go to: <http://www.pcfreetime.com/es/>

Information taken from: <http://chris.pirillo.com/how-to-convert-files-using-format-factory/>

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### *World Environment Day*

World Environment Day is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. World Environment Day activities take place all year round and climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere.

The World Environment Day celebration began in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action.

Through World Environment Day, the United Nations Environment Program is able to personalize environmental issues and enable everyone to realize not only their responsibility, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development.



World Environment Day is also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

Everyone counts in this initiative and World Environment Day relies on you to make it happen! We call for action — organize a neighborhood clean-up, stop using plastic bags and get your community to do the same, stop food waste, walk to work, start a recycling drive . . . the possibilities are endless.

Lamentably, I have to denounce what happens in places around Alajuela. There are companies that contaminate rivers, and city governments that do little to stop them. I am one of those thousands of Costa Ricans who like to go jogging every morning. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, just one day after World Environment Day, when I was crossing a bridge, I sadly saw a river near Barrio de San José de Alajuela turned into an environmental washing machine. Some people say it is because of Punto Rojo factory, but the point is that my eyes could not believe such a scene, and that is why I took these pictures for you to believe it. The height of the soap foam cloud was approximately five meters high. Let's stop talking and let's start taking actions to help our environment.



(Information taken from: <http://www.unep.org/wed/about/>)

## It happened in June

June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1638	The first earthquake recorded in US, at Plymouth, Mass.
June 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1955	Bill Haley & Comets, " <i>Rock Around the Clock</i> " hits #1.
June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1893	Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience (in South Africa)
June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1942	Future essayist Anne Frank receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday.
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1938	Action Comics issues the first Superman comic.
June 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1981	The AIDS epidemic is formally recognized by medical professionals in San Francisco, California.
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 1633	The Holy Office in Rome forces Galileo Galilei to recant his scientific view that the Sun, not the Earth, is the center of the Universe.
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 1981	First paintball match was held.
June 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1613	Shakespeare's Globe Theater in London burns down

## Famous People Born In June

PERSON	BIRTHDAY
Morgan Freeman	June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1937
Rafael Nadal	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1986
Pancho Villa	June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1878
Federico García Lorca	June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1898
Johnny Depp	June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1963
Lionel Messi	June 24 <sup>nd</sup> , 1987
Helen Keller	June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 1880

### International Accreditations at UTN

*by Marco Araya*

**Trinity College London** offers its second roll of international accreditations this coming December. This entity honored **Universidad Técnica Nacional, Registered Examination Center 46172**, as the only representative institution in Costa Rica to test people who want to acquire a worldwide recognition in his/her English language skills.

Each year, more than half a million applicants in Latin America are accredited by Trinity which is not only the oldest but also educational entity.

Examinations are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. PIT (Programa Institucional de Idiomas para el Trabajo) office provides all the information you need to register for the next examination process. Representatives will be pleased to guide aspirants through this remarkable experience: registration requisites, pre-tests, tutoring, and assertive advice. **Contact us and become a Trinity certified member. Ph: 2435-5000 ext: 1233**

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