

You Never Dreamed You'd Be Tutoring Online, But Here You Are Crushing It!

Dear Tutors,

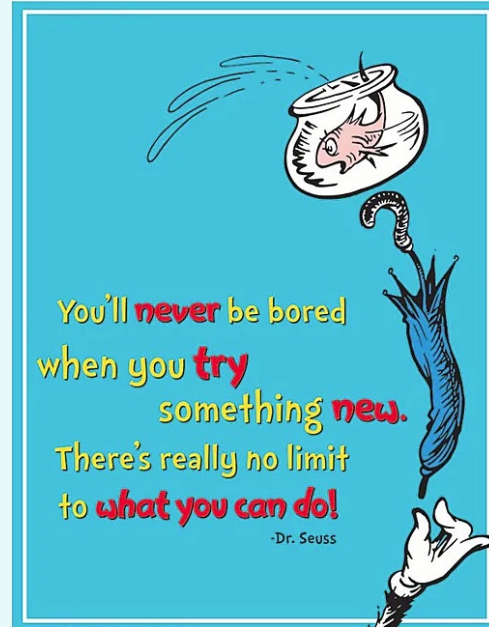
I'm sending forth my heartfelt thanks for the courage it took to dig deep down inside of yourself over the past year to learn completely new methods, new words and new ways of communicating from a social distance. Do some of these things sound familiar?

- You learned new verbs like "zoom" and "screen share".
- You updated your computer to include a camera.
- You converted your email from an AOL to a Gmail.
- You "invite" and "host" from a distance.
- You went out-of-state for the winter months, yet continue to tutor your student in NY.

Through it all you have remained a dedicated, caring person. You find great satisfaction in the difference you make in the life of your student. And you did it because you always find a way to give back. Thank you for being a humble, community hero.

You are my inspiration. Gratefully,

Christina



**RCLS Mini Grant Supports
Educational Resources for
Literacy Tutoring**



**New City
Library**

The *Easy English News (EEN)* has been a longtime favorite of Literacy Solutions' tutors. It is jammed packed with current events, civics and vocabulary to help build a varied and interesting literacy lesson for a student.

In October 2020, Literacy Solutions, NY (LSNY) was awarded a mini grant from the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) made available to us through the New City Library. The grant allowed LSNY to increase its subscription to *Easy English News (EEN)* which is now available in a digital format so more tutor/student pairs can use the publication while working remotely.

This edition of our Tutors In Touch e-newsletter is meant to serve as a guide of the different ways our literacy tutors are using EEN with their students.

How To Use Easy English News in a remote tutoring session.

By Lucille Mazarin
Retired Educator
Literacy Tutor Since 2019

The *Easy English News* allows me to construct a lesson which includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

- We start the session on page one of the newspaper. This page contains the most important news of the month. For example, the main story of the December edition was the 2020 election.
- To start off with the lesson I might read a paragraph. I would then ask my student to do the same. We are therefore working on pronunciation skills and in turn further developing confidence in speaking on the part of the student.
- The next step would be for me to ask some questions about what we just read. This serves to measure comprehension level.
- I would then inquire if there are words or phrases that the student has not understood. A list of these words would be created. Many of these words would most likely be on the back page of the newspaper and we could therefore resort to that page to read the definitions and try to understand them. I have found The "Word Help" section to be really helpful, very extensive, and very well formatted.
- Obviously the student could not be expected to master this whole section, so "pick and choose" might be a good idea. I would ask the student to try to use some of the words in sentences. This could be both a spoken and written exercise.

- I would also request that as a homework assignment, the student create questions to ask me next time, using some of these vocabulary words.
- The second and third pages of the newspaper contain events of the month. It also included certain historic events that occurred in past days. The articles were concise and interesting, and they were accompanied by great pictures.

As you can see from what I am saying, this newspaper is really a great teaching tool, one of the best that I have seen! The format allows the instructor to once again reinforce the vital skills necessary in language acquisition learning.

- Additional pages of the newspaper allow for fun activities . Talking about a recipe can be so useful because it leads to

Elizabeth Claire's Teacher's Guide, Tests, and Audio Recordings available FREE at EasyEnglishNews.com

February 2021
Volume XXXV Number 8
See page 10 for prices and ordering information.

A kinder, healthier 2021

There is a lot of fear, anger, and hate in the news today. It is on television, the internet, and social media pages. More people are feeling stress, anxiety, and depression*. They are feeling "left out" from the community around them. The good news is that simple acts of kindness may help people feel better physically and mentally.

Random* Acts of Kindness Day
February 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day in the United States. It was created in 1995 in Denver, Colorado. Other countries also observe kindness holidays on different days during the year. The day was started to encourage* each person to do something nice for someone else. Then that person would pay it forward* by helping someone else, and so on. The hope was that people would want to continue doing nice things for each other. These actions would make communities stronger.

Life in the U.S.A. Is your home safe?
A burglar* is a criminal* who enters a home or business to steal things. Burglars take things when no one is home or when a family is sleeping. Burglars look for money, jewelry, watches, TVs, computers, cameras, and other valuables*.

Protect your home
Burglars look for homes that they can get into easily. In many burglaries, the burglar does not have to break in*. The owner has left a door or window unlocked. Use dead bolt* locks on all doors to the outside. A locksmith* can put dead bolts in for you. Burglars can easily break into an apartment on the first floor of a building.

What's Inside?
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* is English your new language? This guide is for you! Call for more info. 703-231-1111

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Teacher's Guide includes a student quiz.
[Click here for Feb Teacher's Guide.](#)

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

February 2021 Quiz I

Choose the best answer. Write its letter on the line in front of the number.

1. When is Random Acts of Kindness Day?
 - a) February 17
 - b) February 14
 - c) February 2
 - d) February 28
2. Where did it start?
 - a) New Orleans, Louisiana
 - b) Denver, Colorado
 - c) Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania
 - d) Tampa Bay, Florida
3. Doctors say doing acts of kindness can help
 - a) cure a stomachache.
 - b) fix a broken ankle.
 - c) cure COVID-19.
 - d) reduce anxiety.
4. Congress met in Washington, D.C. to certify electoral votes on
 - a) February 15.
 - b) January 20.
 - c) February 7.
 - d) January 6.
5. What group of people forced their way into the Capitol Rotunda?
 - a) Senators
 - b) Representatives
 - c) protesters
 - d) Capitol Police
6. A criminal who illegally enters a building to steal things is a
 - a) locksmith.
 - b) burglar.
 - c) dead bolt.
 - d) stranger.
7. Burglars look for homes
 - a) with many lights.
 - b) that have several cars in front of them.
 - c) that look empty and dark.
 - d) with locked windows.
8. What device allows a person inside a house to see who is on the outside of the door?
 - a) a dead bolt lock
 - b) a security bar
 - c) a buzzer
 - d) a digital doorbell
9. What should you do when you go on vacation?
 - a) Leave your doors unlocked.
 - b) Write your travel plans on Facebook.
 - c) Leave your garage door open.
 - d) Wait until you return home before you share your photos and stories.
10. A Neighborhood Watch group is
 - a) a group of people who look out for suspicious things in a community.
 - b) a group of people who make laws for a country.
 - c) a group of people who install locks on doors.
 - d) a group protesters.

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

II. From Here and There

True or False? Write "T" for true, and "F" for false. If the sentence is false, write a word to replace the underlined word to make the sentence true.

11. February is African American History Month.
12. Eight percent of Americans have roots in Africa.
13. Groundhog Day is a special time to think about people you love.
14. Mardi Gras means "Ash Wednesday" in French.
15. Susan B. Anthony worked to help women get the right to vote.
16. George Washington was the first president of the United States.
17. Abraham Lincoln was president during the Civil War.
18. The 19th Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote.
19. Two basketball teams play for the championship on Super Bowl Sunday.
20. Robert F. Lee gave a speech at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg.

III. Building Vocabulary

Write the letter of the best word for each sentence.

Word List

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A. repetition | F. surrender |
| B. timer | G. compromise |
| C. random | H. records |
| D. reduce | I. grant |
| E. mispronounce | J. cemetery |

21. A _____ act of kindness is not usually planned.
22. When an army has to _____ the war is over.
23. A _____ is a belief that doing something will bring a person good or bad luck.
24. A place to bury people who have died is a _____.
25. Southern states wanted to _____ from the Union.
26. People may not understand you if you _____ your words.
27. A very cruel and unjust leader is a _____.
28. A device that turns on the lights or a TV at certain times of the day is a _____.
29. When two groups want different things, they may have to _____ to reach an agreement.
30. Doctors say that meditation can help _____ depression and anxiety.

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vocabulary expansion (e.g. Do you like banana bread? Have you ever made it? What other favorite recipes do you like? How old were you when you started to cook using a recipe? and on and on.)

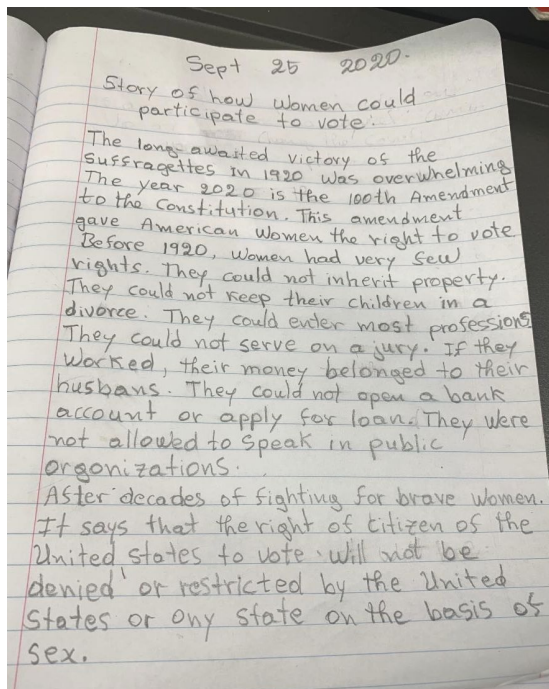
- There is also a crossword puzzle and this can be done together with the student. It is fun and instructional at the same time.



A Writing Assignment

Literacy Tutor Allan Rubin describes an assignment he gave his student with the example of her work featured in the photo shown to the right.

"Every week I give my student a specific theme to write about. This past week after we read an article in *Easy English News* about the suffrage movement in the US, I asked her to read the article again by herself and write a brief story bringing out the key points and facts in the article. While there are a few errors that I will be reviewing with her, I thought that you might be interested in seeing this. I think that she did a pretty good job in pointing out the key important facts about the suffrage movement."



Read Aloud and Talk About It.

Literacy Tutor Annette Diskin uses *Easy English News* with her student by having her read an article aloud two, sometimes three, times.

They then proceed through the "Talk About It" section of *EEN* which she finds is always a good way to add vocabulary. For any words requiring definition that are not listed in the "word help" section, Annette says she has to use her brain a little bit. She playfully adds that this is not such a bad idea!

Let's Talk About It

A kinder, healthier 2021
(pages 1 and 5)

Events in February
(pages 2 and 3)



Publisher Provides Digital Version of EEN

Publisher, Elizabeth Claire, began offering a pdf version of its newspaper in September 2020 to accommodate tutoring by social distance. A pdf now allows a tutor to screen share each issue when using a video conferencing program like ZOOM.

A monthly Teacher's Guide and other teaching aides are available by download off their website @ ElizabethClaire.com.

[Click here for publisher's website.](#)

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