



Globetrotter

Volume 1, Issue 9

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Greetings

Thank you very much to the students who sent comments about the previous Globetrotter issue. We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think. We look forward to getting more emails from all of you.

NEWS---The new Global Communications website is now available. Please check out all the new features, such as: blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, podcast, and much more!

NEWS---If you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at www.e-test.biz.



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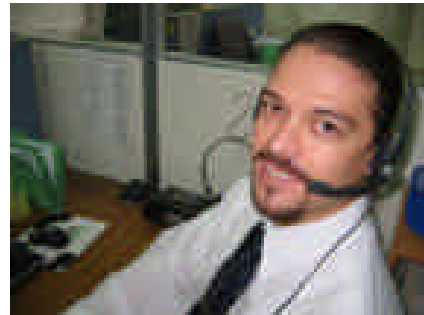
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Teacher Spotlight Alando

Is everyone enjoying the summer? It looks like the rainy season has finally passed. Whew! Hopefully, we can enjoy a nice summer and autumn now. I think most of the students know me, as I have been teaching at Global Communications for about 2 years now. But maybe you don't know that in each monthly newsletter of the Globetrotter, I write a movie review for a new Hollywood movie. And the movie review is recorded in a podcast and available for download on our website. It's a good way to practice your movie vocabulary! Check it out.

In September, I am starting an online graduate degree program through Roosevelt University in Chicago (USA). I will be studying for my Master's degree in Training & Development, while I am living and working in Japan. Isn't technology wonderful?!

In October, my girlfriend (Mika) and I will make our 2nd trip to the island of Guam. We really enjoyed our trip there last year. This year we are planning to do more shopping and snorkeling, but also we will rent a car and tour the south part of the island, where there are fewer tourists and some old historical buildings and forts to see.



Movie Review

The Constant Gardner

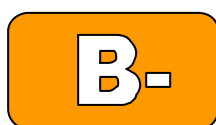
By Alando Garcia

The Constant Gardener, a British film, stars Ralph Fiennes as Justin Quayle, and Rachel Weisz as Tessa. The movie **opens** with the murder of Tessa, who is an **activist** interested in justice for the African people. The movie then moves backward to when Justin and Tessa first met. Justin is an important, **albeit** a bit lazy and uninspired British diplomat that is assigned to go to Africa. Tessa convinces Justin to take her with him. Later, the two are married and Tessa is pregnant with their child.

After Tessa's murder, Justin searches to find the answers of why she was killed and to **carry on** her activism work. The movie turns into a sort of action movie at this point as Justin searches for answers in Kenya and eventually **uncovers** a huge **conspiracy** involving the British government.

I found the story to be interesting and well-developed albeit not very exciting and certainly not a "thriller." It was pretty clear where the movie was headed before the **mid-point** of the film. I enjoyed the second half of the movie much more. The action scenes were pretty good and I thought the ending was a bit original.

The visuals, however, I found a bit disappointing because the movie was filmed in Africa so I was expecting some fantastic cinematography - it was okay, but I have seen better from older films. And I thought that the movie tried a little too hard to make those of us living in a **1st world country** feel guilty, by making us feel responsible for the plight of Africa. But overall, despite the flaws I still thought it was a pretty good movie. It makes a good DVD rental, I think.



Movie Reviews Grading System

- **A** = Outstanding acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **B** = Very good acting **and** storyline, visuals and/or special effects are good.
- **C** = Good acting **or** good storyline **or** good visuals and/or special effects.
- **D** = Poor acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **F** = Everything was terrible!

Vocabulary

The Constant Gardner

1. **opens** – the opening or first scene in the movie; how the movie begins
2. **activist** – an activist is a person that fights for the rights of poor people or people that might be treated unfairly by others
3. **albeit** – “even though” or “although”
4. **carry on** – to continue
5. **uncovers** – means to find something that was hidden or a secret
6. **conspiracy** – a conspiracy is when a group of people try to hide the truth about something or try to hide their real actions. For example, some Americans believe that the Kennedy assassination was a conspiracy – that Kennedy was killed by a government group (such as the FBI or CIA) or by a foreign enemy, and not by a single crazy gunman. If it were true, this would be a conspiracy.
7. **mid-point** – the half way point, the middle of the movie.
8. **1st world country** – for example, America, England, Japan, Germany are all 1st world countries where the economic and political conditions are stable and citizens have access to most or all modern conveniences. The opposite is a 3rd world country – like Kenya, Iraq, or Peru. A 3rd world country is often called “a developing country”; a 1st world country is “a developed country.”

What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun

Volunteer to Volunteer

KNOWLEDGE THROUGH INTERACTION

Participating in volunteer activities has long been considered a noble donation of your time and energy. Volunteer activities can range from joining a club that hands out free meals to homeless people to picking up the trash in the neighborhood by yourself. Any action that is devoted to the betterment of society, rather than selfish advancement, can be considered volunteerism.

It is true that the volunteer's compensation is usually just a warm feeling in their heart knowing that they did a good thing. However, great amounts of knowledge that benefits only the volunteer can be picked up while spending time volunteering.

One valuable piece of information that can be learned is knowing more about society. When a person participates in volunteer activities, the person is automatically signed up to meet a wide variety of people coming from drastically different backgrounds. You may be assisting elderly people, homeless people, single mothers, children with learning problems, etc. All of these people are different from each other and different from you. Sometimes it is very beneficial to learn and appreciate how different and unique people can be, rather than how we are all the same.

Another valuable piece of information that can be learned is "empathy". Empathy is the ability to identify or understand someone else's feelings or situation. "Put yourself in someone else's shoes" is a common phrase used to describe empathy. It is very important to have the ability to understand the reason why people do the things they do. It is far too easy to just distance yourself from people who are more troubled and form judgements about their abilities or position in life. It is quite a challenge and a little scary to directly involve yourself.

So actually, the gift that you receive by volunteering may be bigger than the gift you give.

What do you think?

Send Us Your Comments

What do you think about the following article? Voice your opinion by sending your comments to:

office@globalcom-online-english-school.co.jp.

We anxiously look forward to knowing how the readers feel about the topic.

SAYING NO Comments

It is very brave and difficult for you to say "NO", when other people almost always say "YES". But, when dissenting becomes to be right, you would surely get the power of the reliance, the respect, and the trust from many people. You have to consider well whether you should say "yes" or "no". I think it is very important and is positive thinking for you to say, "yes" instead of "no". But in this situation you should say "yes", if the other conditions of the problem became to be good for you. It is better that you can say "yes , but the next condition will be OK--" instead of saying "No". The positive thinking and the positive attitude will give you good luck. ---Takuma---

Vocabulary Builder

Anatomy Vocabulary

1. adrenaline = NOUN = chemical substance released by the body when scared, excited, etc.
 - I like to exercise by running because it really increases my adrenaline.
2. dilate = VERB = to become wider or larger or expand
 - My eyes dilate when I put in my contact lenses.
3. nervous system = NOUN = the system that controls the senses the body feels
 - The nervous system is comprised of the cells, tissues, and organs that controls the body's responses.
4. spinal cord = NOUN = thick rope or cord of tissues located in the backbone
 - Dan injured his spinal cord in the car accident and now he cannot walk.
5. tissue = NOUN = a group of cells that act together to control specific body functions
 - The four basic types of tissues are muscle, nerve, epidermal, and connective.

Test Your Skills

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct word to complete the reading sample and answer the following comprehension questions.

The Science of Blushing

What exactly is “blushing”? When you're caught ashamed or in an (1) position, your body releases a bit of adrenaline. Your heart rate goes up. You breathe faster. And often, blood vessels that deliver blood to your face dilate—they open (2) or relax a little. More blood than usual flows to the skin of your face, and your face darkens or turns noticeably red. This describes the process of blushing.

Some people even have a condition referred to as *erythrophobia*, fear of reddening. So, there is a (3) between your brain and the blood vessels that feed your face. These blood pathways are regulated by your *sympathetic* nervous system. In this usage, sympathetic refers to nerve signals that your brain generates unconsciously. It's your thoughts that cause these signals to be produced, but you don't consciously think about producing them. Your brain somehow sends signals to your face, based on what someone has said or what you've seen. You blush. The sympathetic nerves involved here are near the center of your spinal cord; it's the same area that controls the organs in your thorax, your chest.

Since you're human, you have blushed from time to time. And it's quite reasonable that there are nerves that (4) blushing. It's also not surprising to realize that blushing is involuntary. That we can't control it very easily is just part of being a human.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. _____
a. healing
b. soothing
c. awkward | 3. _____
a. friendship
b. knot
c. connection |
| 2. _____
a. up
b. to
c. out | 4. _____
a. master
b. control
c. expertise |

What does your body release when you are embarrassed?

- A) oxygen
- B) adrenaline.
- C) tears
- D) signals.

According to the article, what is “erythrophobia”?

- A) the fear of dark places
- B) the fear of being embarrassed
- C) the fear of changing colors
- D) the fear of turning red

According to the article, which isn't a result of “blushing”?

- A) insomnia
- B) breathe faster
- C) heart rate increases
- D) face turns red or darkens

According to the article, which statement is true?

- A) Blushing cannot be controlled by humans.
- B) Blushing is a natural way the body protects itself.



Kids Corner

VOCABULARY: FLAVORS

Draw a line from the picture to the correct adjective that describes the flavor of the food.

1. sweet



2. bitter



3. salty



4. spicy



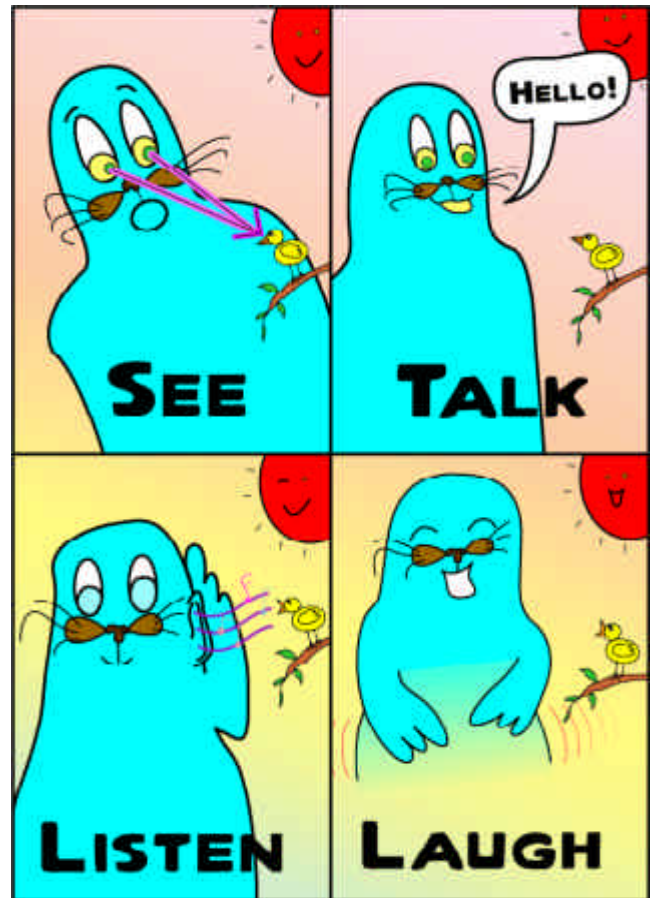
5. sour



RECOGNIZING ADVERBS

Adverbs are words that give more detail about the verb in a sentence. Adverbs tell **when**, **where**, or **how** something happens. Circle the adverb in each sentence.

- The young students played outside.
- Eric decided to go quickly.
- My father is coming home soon.
- Sally and her husband work late.



July Answers

Test Your Skills (pg. 4)

Fill in the Blank

- a (who)
- b (provoked)
- b (morale)
- a (proceeds)

Multiple Choice Questions

- b (Franklin met Paine only by accident.)
- b (Common Sense)
- d (military)
- b (Paine was fired from his job by his father.)

Kids Corner (pg. 5)

Recognizing Adjectives

- big
- happy
- noisy
- hot