

In this month's Gee Vee:

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Global Village Vancouver

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Let's get casual...English that is!

For anyone who's ever been baffled by the way native speakers talk, one of GV's brand new afternoon classes offers you a chance to clear up some of the confusion.

"Casual English" for lower intermediate students (GV3 and 4), taught by Scott Hodges was such a popular choice this month that the class filled up by Friday of last study block, so only continuing students were able to take it.

Scott says this class

allows students to "round out their English learning experience, and to understand native speakers in a relaxed, informal setting." While GV's regular classes also address the issue of native-speaker style English, this class takes a special look at some of the things that often confuse ESL students.

Students studying Casual English will get a mix of pronunciation, vocabulary, and listening with a variety of structures. Also included are idioms and

slang and relaxed pronunciation such as linking and reduction. Scott uses episodes of TV shows like Friends and the Simpsons as models for understanding and using this casual English.

So, if you're interested in taking some of the mystery out of native speaker talk, make sure you sign up for Casual English as soon as possible. If this first month was any indication, this class is going to be one hot commodity!

CTC Job Rocket blasts off this fall

GV Vancouver's Career Training Centre is gearing up for fall Job Rocket programs. These programs are designed to help students open doors of opportunity in their careers and develop skills they'll need in the business world.

The program teaches students how to put together professional presentations and business correspondence, marketing campaigns and a competitive business plan. For students with an

eye to corporate management, GV offers a twelve-week intensive Diploma in Business Management to give students the edge they need to succeed. Based on a program from The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, this program includes classes in MS Excel and MS Power Point to prepare them for MS Office Specialist certification.

Students interested in the DIBM program should

talk with Kathleen Larkey at the Yaletown Campus, or email her at: klarkey@gvenglish.com. The next program starts on October 2, 2006.



Recent DIBM grads with teacher David Morton and Program Coordinator Kathleen Larkey



Marko Gstoehl



Liechtenstein Castle



Dawn Morris

Even the world's smallest countries choose GV!

Do you know this country? It's only 35 kms by 16 kms and is number six on the list of the world's 17 smallest nations. Its population is less than 35,000 people, most of whom speak a mix of Swiss German and an Alemannic dialect. It's located on the Rhine River, between the Swiss Alps and Austria. It's about the same size as Washington, D.C.

The answer, of course, is Liechtenstein, and this month Global Village is fortunate to have a student from this country studying here.

Marko Gstoehl works as a carpenter in Liechtenstein, and is studying English at the Gastown campus as part of his seven-month holiday, which includes

visits to Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, the Fiji Islands, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

According to his teacher, Maree Monahan, the other students in the class were fascinated to discover that one of their classmates was from such an unusual country, and they had tons of questions for him.

Liechtenstein has many similarities to Switzerland, which makes sense considering its close proximity to that country. Marko says that, in addition to sharing a common language, they have similar food and both use the Swiss franc as their currency. Liechtenstein is a part of the European Union.

Marko decided to come to Global Village when his friend recommended the school to him. Apparently, Global Village is famous even in tiny Liechtenstein!

Of his time at Global Village, Marko has positive things to say. "It's been a very good experience for me. I've learned a lot. I'd recommend Global Village to my friends, and I hope to come again in the future."

You can find more information on Liechtenstein at www.liechtenstein.li

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English in the Community: free conversation practice and a warm, happy feeling

If you're looking for ways to practice your English with native speakers in a real-life setting, Global Village has the perfect solution: volunteering!

Meetings for English in the Community are every Friday at 1:00 at the Gastown campus with Dawn, and at Yaletown with Inger-Lise. These meetings are to help students find volunteer opportunities with

charities, city events, and other organizations.

There are literally hundreds of organizations looking for reliable volunteers to help with fun and exciting events. Back in May, some Japanese students volunteered to help with translating and office work for the Vancouver International Marathon. Other GV students have volunteered for the Vancouver International

Wine Festival and the Trout Lake Lantern Festival.

So if you're interesting in getting some free English conversation practice and a warm, happy feeling from knowing you're helping others, talk to Dawn at the Gastown campus, or Inger-Lise at the Yaletown campus. Dawn can also be reached by email at dawnmlank@hotmail.com.

English can be funny. Be careful what you say!

When learning another language, there are a lot of chances for students to make some funny mistakes.

Here are some samples of the "Top 50 Funniest English Mistakes from New English Language Students" as listed on InnocentEnglish.com's web site:

Do you like this food? I made it from scratching!

I never liked mushrooms, but now they are starting to grow in me.

Do you like your coffee cremated?

I always ate lunch at school. But every day my mother made me suffer.

My bed has three blankets, and a large guilt my parents gave me.

My father met us at the airport and gave me a big hog. Then he hogged my wife.

Me and my brother share a small womb in the basement.

This morning, I was walking outside, when suddenly a big shower fell on me!

I am so eager to mate you!

Should I have a coma in the middle of this sentence?

How far should I tip the driver?

The cheerleaders threw up high into the air!

We have hated each other for so long. I want to borrow the hatchet.

Put the cabbages in salt water. Then sit in the sink until the morning.

Add two cups of ground flowers.

Next, chop all the vegetarians into little pieces.

Then add small feces of fish.

Don't forget to insult the soup.

Next, add a little Buddha and mix it all up.

When you are finished cooking, find a suitable bowel and eat it with chopsticks.

We were lovers, but now she is my biggest enema!

My relationship with my ax girlfriend was so painful.

Last night, when I ate dinner I started joking. My

friend hit my back very hard until I stopped. I was so lucky he was there!

My leg has been breaking for three weeks.

It is dangerous to smoke while you are becoming pregnant.

I probably should have gone to the doctor one ear ago.



Idioms Corner

The weather has been hot, hot, hot these last few weeks! If you're looking for a way to beat the heat, here are some cool idioms for you.

As cool as a cucumber (adj): Calm; relaxed; composed

To play it cool (v): to appear to be less interested in or excited than you really are.

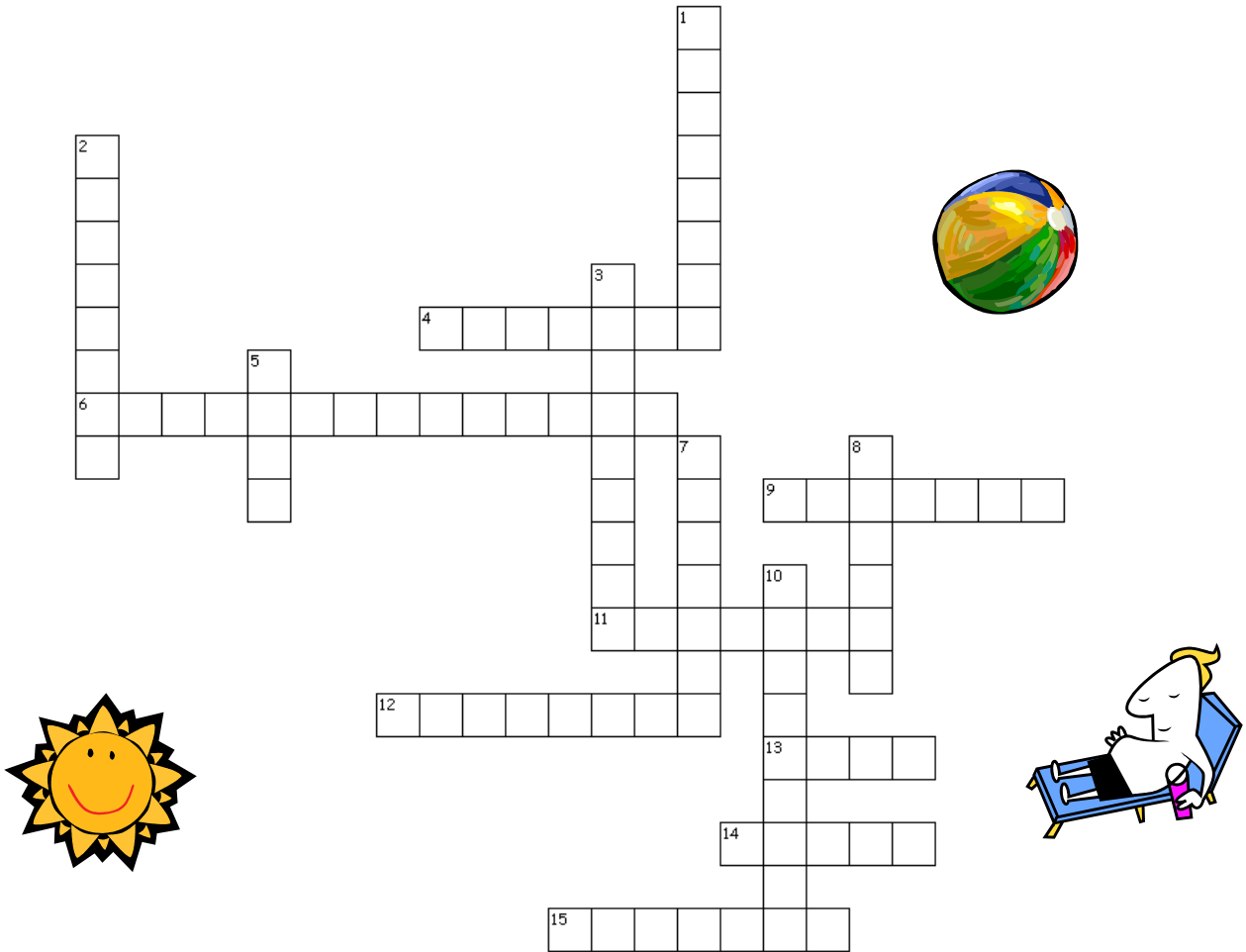
Cool it! (imperative verb): calm down! Relax! Take it easy!

To cool your heels (v): to wait for a judgment or decision

To lose your cool (v): to get angry or lose your temper.



Summer Activities Crossword!



Across:

- 4. Lying in the sun and getting brown
- 6. You're lucky if you have one of these keeping you cool in your house
- 9. You'll need a boat and lots of wind for this activity
- 11. If you don't wear sunblock, you may get a _____
- 12. If you like hot dogs and hamburgers, you should go to a _____
- 13. Many kids go to summer _____
- 14. The place where the ocean meets the land

- 15. A popular water sport in Hawaii and California

Down:

- 1. We can do this at the beach, pool, or lake
- 2. A big party in the city
- 3. Bright lights exploding in the sky
- 5. A place where people go to swim
- 7. They broke up at the end of August. It was a summer _____
- 8. a very small bathing suit for women
- 10. You'd better put this on or you'll burn!

GV teacher gives students a touch of the dramatic

The International Movie Database (imdb.com) is the Internet's biggest movie web site, with information on thousands of movies and actors. If you enter the name "Mike Cavers" into their search engine, you can read all about the distinguished acting career of one of Global Village's most well-known teachers.

Mike first discovered that acting was in his blood at age 15 when he appeared in various high school plays. After graduation, he went on to study acting at UBC, earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. "It was basically four years of acting training," Mike says. "We

learned everything: dance, singing, stage fighting, mime, and all the different acting styles."

As a professional actor, Mike has a long and wide-ranging list of credits. He has performed in everything from Hamlet and murder mysteries to TV shows and movies like *Highlander* in 1992 (playing an aristocrat) and *Live Bait*. He regularly works in live theatre (mostly in the evenings and on weekends), doing professional comedy, improv, theatre sports and MC'ing conventions and conferences. One of Mike's more unusual gigs was his recent hosting of a wine tasting convention

in Chicago!

Mike's association with GV began in the early days of the 90's. His first teaching job with the school was in the summer of 1991 when he was hired to teach a drama class. He returned in 1993 as a full-time teacher, and he's been with the school ever since. Naturally, Mike incorporates a lot of his acting training into his classes, using drama to help students learn and practice English in really fun and interesting ways.

Currently, Mike is writing his pièce de résistance — a TV comedy script about an ESL school!



*Mike Cavers.
Every day a new
drama!*



*Mike having fun with
some of his students.*

GV school of choice even for world's smallest nations

(continued from page 2)

Getting a student from the world's seventh smallest country seems pretty hard to beat. But a student from an even *smaller* country has also made GV his school of choice.

Narcis Morato, 17, comes from Andorra, a country located in the eastern Pyrenees mountains and bordered by France and Spain. Andorra is only 180 square miles with just over 64,000 people.

This is Narcis' second visit to Canada, his first being last year when he studied at GV Toronto. He enjoyed that trip so much that he wanted to experience life

on Canada's west coast as well. He came with a group of students brought over by the Red Leaf agency, which arranges study vacations for Spanish students every year. Many of these students come to GV.

Like Marko, Narcis' study experience at GV has also been very positive. He says, "I really enjoy studying English and talking with my homestay family."

After high school, Narcis plans to go to university and become an engineer.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ❖ Andorra has the highest life expectancy in the world, at 83.51 years!
- ❖ Spain and France are responsible for protecting Andorra, as the country has no military of its own.
- ❖ Only 33% of inhabitants hold Andorran nationality. The rest are mostly Spaniards, Portuguese, and French.
- ❖ The only official language of Andorra is Catalan, the language of the nearby Spanish region of Catalonia.
- ❖ Andorra is well known as a tax haven (a place where people pay little or no tax).
- ❖ Andorra's skiing is the best in the Pyrenees.
- ❖ Many people come to Andorra to buy cheap cigarettes!

TOEFL: Don't study to become a test taker

There are many situations in North America where students are required to take and pass the TOEFL test to demonstrate their English proficiency. However, there are many differing opinions on the best way to prepare for this test.

Teachers often find that some international students can pass the TOEFL test, but still have difficulty communicating in their classes. This is because some students ONLY prepare to pass the TOEFL, but they still don't have the skills to function in the classroom or in everyday life. In other words, they're good test takers, but can't apply

their English skills to real life.

The good news is that the TOEFL is being changed to actually test students' ability to produce language based on what they hear and read.

The best way for you to prepare for the TOEFL is to participate as much as possible in classroom activities. Reading for pleasure, volunteering in the community, and getting a job that requires interaction with native speakers will not only help you pass the TOEFL test, but will also give you a much more in-depth understanding of the language that you can't

get just from studying the TOEFL preparation book.

Adapted from "TOEFL Preparation: How and Why" by Randall Davis. The full text of this article can be found at <http://www.tips4students.com/toefl.htm>



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About Global Village English Centres...

When you study abroad and learn English at Global Village English Centres, you learn a new language while making new friends and discovering new cultures! Our English language

schools offer ESL/EFL courses for all levels, Cambridge examination preparation, TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, High School and University preparations, work experience and teacher

training courses. We also offer courses for children and teenagers, including residential summer camps and homestay/school-based teen activity programs.

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