

Julie Strunk: Looking to start one.

Paula TEixeira: I would like to start one

Luisa carnathan: looking to start one

luciechaumont: yes, run by volunteers at 10 of our branches

Elsie Tep: looking to start one in Danville, CA

Allen: Curious and looking to start one

Jennifer Dance: We've got 2 conversation groups

marylou puritz: Just curious, looking to start one....

Abby: I teach ESL at the community college but they may be losing that funding and we may start one at the library

Yer: looking to start one

Mark Akpaninyie: Just curious. Sounds like a great idea.

Joyce Fischer: Santa Maria Library- looking to start one possibly

Elizabeth P: We have one, but it is not at all well attended. Need advice on how to make it better!

jennifer songster: My volume is up and the difference between the two speakers is dramatic.

Chris: Have one, would like new ideas.

Katy Azevedo: just starting

PhoebeTerry: Have one, but need some more ideas!

Mary Kleemeier: I run one but its attendance is low so I'm looking for ideas

Michelle: hoping to get more interest...a more successful program hopefully

Carol Eyman: we may want to start one. Tried a few years ago and it wasn't well attended but willing to try again

Carmen: We are planning one soon!

Victoria Swinney: We have conversation "classes" as part of a Learning Center - looking for more ideas

Patrina: There is an ESL conversation group at my library, but I am interested in learning how to start a family ESL club with parents with kids who already speak English.

Abel Santibanez: I have a couple, hoping to improve, like always

Kyle Maier:starting one in September

Beverly Krakovec:qwew started an ESL conversation group in March

Jenny@GCLS:have one but not well attended

Kate McClory:We have one at three branches.

marty.halligan:have conversation 2 times week

Victor Castellanos:looking to start one. we have a lot of learners asking for more clubs

Alisa Adams:Yes. Here at Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy we have one twice a week. We want to hear your experiences and ideas in the hope to expand our program

millsk:We started an ESL Cafe about 3 months ago and are trying to expand

Steven Solis:I want to get more ideas on facilitating a new ESL Conversation Cafe

Gloria Husted: I am looking to star one.

Tim:I have 2. One in the library and another off site downtown

Sandy Mayer:Already have one but want to get new ideas

Amy:Just finished teaching my conversation group in fact. I'm always looking for new ideas.

katia pascoal:Im a libraryan and would like to know more about

Lola Paredes:We have an ESL Conversation Group every Wednesday that began May 4, 2016

Anu Singla:Starting one..

Diane Alexander:retired but may want to volunteer for one

Darlene:We have an English Conversation class with about 24 volunteer tutors and about 74 students weekly. It used to be all volunteer driven and looking for best practices, streamlining.

Richard Risemberg:Just started one, an dit's becomemuch more popular much faster than I had anticipated. Had to add a second unit! OURs is conversation oriented.

Anu Singla:Our's would be conversational too.

m:Mary Anne Arensdorf, North Hills, CA, Mid-Valley Regional Library

Richard Risemberg:My students really want to have their grammar and pronunciation gently corrected. We do sily things too, to keep everyone relaxed.

Patrina:are parents allowed to bring children in with them? Richard Risemberg:Some bring their kids to our classes. It's never been a problem. Elsie Tep:That's OK. Just move my volume bar up or down.

Richard Risemberg:Yes, I work a lot on idioms....

Tim:health & well being topics are always popular

Richard Risemberg:As the slide mentions: food really gets them going!

Abel Santibanez:Speaking of current events is also productive. Our library subscribes to the News For You, which is a newspaper designed for ELS students and literacy students in general.

Jennifer Dance:We love News for You and use it most weeks.

Richard Risemberg:Yes, I use News for You sometimes too.

Lois Miller 2:do you put them in certain levels?

Emily Weak:In Mountain View, we did not put them in levels

Emily Weak:But it might be helpful

Lois Miller 2:but then what if someone in the group cannot understand?

Luciechaumont:we do not put them in levels here

Richard Risemberg:In my groups. there are vastly different abilities, and I just try to make sure that the ones who have less experience in English get a little more practice.. Especially the shy ones...!

Emily Weak:The club worked best for people who were not very very beginning

Lois Miller 2:oh I see thanks!

Veronica:what is the name of the book that you mention that it is very helpful to use?

Emily Weak:but people are very generous with assistance

m:Mary/Mary Anne We tend to speak on current events, what we've done through the week, idioms, homonyms (especially), and News For You. We keep track of the new words we've learned the previous session to make sure the students know the correct meanings. Another thing we discuss are natural disasters and prep for them, especially earthquakes.

Rachel Schmidt:I agree!

Katy Azevedo:again, did anyone get the title of the reference book?

Rachel Schmidt:Sunnyvale Public Library had Library assistants help out also

Abel Santibanez:It might be helpful if there are enough volunteers and learners. Also, it can be beneficial if a lower level student can learn from the learners that might be a bit more advanced, but not so advanced that they get intimidated. Learners that are a little bit more advanced can model for the others.

Martina Tello:We just started ours with myself library assistant and an aide. So it doesn't

Amy:When you are using NFY do you have students read aloud or do they read it themselves and then discuss.

Martina tello:Sorry mean't to it doesn

Stanley Strauss:Here's the ISBN#: ISBN-10: 1479101583

Paula TEixeira:\$8.99 on amazon

Nicole Cuadra:Here is the Amazon link fir the book: [https://www.amazon.com/000-Conversation-Questions-Designed-Classroom/dp/1479101583?ie=UTF8&ref\\_=asap\\_bc](https://www.amazon.com/000-Conversation-Questions-Designed-Classroom/dp/1479101583?ie=UTF8&ref_=asap_bc)

Richard Risemberg:I have the read aloud.

Nicole Cuadra:\*for

Richard Risemberg:I have them read aloud.

Martina tello:doesn't need to be a Librarian

Rachel Schmidt:Thanks Nicole!

Nicole Cuadra::)

hilda lopez:Thanks Nicole!

m:Mary/Mary Anne: The students take turns reading from NFY and comment on what the article is about and that they understand all the vocabulary in the article.

Kate McClory:How do you promote the Conversation Groups. We have had ours for six years but only get 4-10 participants. Part of the problem is we can only have it once a month.

Richard Risemberg:I used home-made fliers on the lobby table, and the class just took off! Now word-of-mouth keeps its going. There is great need in Echo Park.

Emily Weak:We advertised a lot at the local adult school - a lot of people in classes liked to come to the club to practice

Rachel Schmidt:We use contant contact to send out email newsletters

Emily Weak:we also sent emails to local groups - the Russian Association, etc.

Rachel Schmidt:word of mouth

Elizabeth P:We have a growing population of non-native english speakers, and I've promoted our weekly convo group on our website, facebook, newletter, flyers at town hall, notice to local literacy volunteers, and flyers handed out to ESL students entering the school district to pass along to their parents. Still, we can't seem to get our group off the ground.

Emily Weak:and we had our staff talk it up to new cardholders

Richard Risemberg:Few of our attendees have email. I use phone texting to warn them of unexpected library closures etc. (From the sign-in sheet.)

marty.halligan:One technology I recommend is the RECORDED BOOK. Have the CD and the text. Read part of the text, then play the CD, then try to get the accent better. Just do this ONCE, then go ahead to next paragraph, next, next. Don't try to be perfect, but just get a little better. then a little more... Books and CDs are for checkout. do this at home....

Katy Azevedo:get a local news agency out .. good for them, better for you

Mark Akpaninyie:I am a library associate who is TESOL certified and has taught English as a foreign language for many years. I want to caution the suggestion that these ESL clubs need to only use native speakers. Not only is that exclusive to the conception of what a "real" American sounds like but it removes essential advice of learning that only someone who has learned English can only understand. An ESL learner can benefit from learning the common mistakes or pitfalls familiar only to fellow ESL learners.

Elsie Tep:The new British princess

Emily Weak:Mountain View also has a day worker's center, which serves a lot of spanish speakers

Joy W:can you talk about what is going on in the pictures in the presentation?

Mark Akpaninyie:caution against\*

Veronica:I was an ESL student when I came to USA and I believe it is necessary some type of structure to the class. Don

Veronica:Don't you think?

Joy W:that's a great idea

Abel Santibanez:Thank you for mentioning that, Mark.

Luisa carnathan:I believe Mark has a point. I used to have an ESL group and as a Spanish native I was able to give my group some advise

Steven Solis:Cooking,

Mary Kleemeier:how do you promote your ESL programs? I've had really low turnouts and have tried social media, local businesses' bulletin boards etc, and have maybe 4 people max

Patrina:billboard signs / street signs / signs on various business

Mary Kleemeier:Also I've reached out to local ESL schools for both adults & kids but it doesn't seem to help

Mark Akpaninyie:Holidays (American and ones from the native country): how you celebrate, the meaning, dates and times of the year, etc.

Richard Risemberg:BTW my fliers are bilingual (English & Spanish).

Luisa carnathan:We talk about gardening, and learned the name of kitchen utensils, We also talk about National Parks and camping equipment

millsk:We have done food, pets, jobs, family, seasons (springtime), coming to America and a few others.

Kate McClory: Pet peeves, school in your country, pets, gardening, music, travel is a great one for charades

Stanley Strauss:<http://eslforlibraries.weebly.com>

Darlene:We have been using Elizabeth Claire's Easy English News which is at about a high school reading level and has many American topics each month. It is only available Sept. through June but has had great short articles on current events, etc. We then have a volunteer create a "find the definition" sheet based on vocabulary in each monthly newspaper. It is also interesting to the volunteers and they always comment on how much they are learning too about American culture.

Amy:I bring publications about things to do in the area and then talk about it later when students visit some of the attractions.

Abel Santibanez:Listen to the learners, they will give you ideas. Last, week the group's topic was about the pros and cons of technology and somehow we began talking about grocery stores vs. farmer's markets. They pretty much planned the next session.

Darlene:Menus are fun to bring in and have students practice ordering. It is a little intimidating if a new American.

Richard Risemberg:I drew up a list of equivalences between common (idiomatic) phrases in English and similar phrases in Spanish. However, now I have two Koreans in class, so I will come up with something different.

Richard Risemberg:Pronunciation practice is big for all my students.

Rachel Schmidt:yay

Elizabeth P:Have any ongoing groups had this problem? We'll have one or two people show up for our group, and they are expecting a large group so they're a bit disappointed, so they don't return the next time. But another person or two will show up, and the cycle goes on and on. I can't seem to amass enough people to really give this program some vitality.

Mark Akpaninyie:Instead of using the language "speak English," I believe it is more inclusive and accurate to use English proficiency as in low/medium/high proficiency in English.

Mark Akpaninyie:And that changes for speaking, listening, writing, and reading

Luisa carnathan:I am planning to start an ESL group that will include parents and children.  
Any suggestions?

Amy:We also have a problem getting people to show up, and we get people showing up sporadically. With such a small class, I tend to have a plan B for just pair activities maybe.

marty.halligan:For pronunciation, try RECORDED BOOKS. free, varied.

Michelle:That was our issue, too. Getting people to show up in a number that made it worth it to them to come back. :(

Patrina:Thanks for sharing all of that information on hosting a family night Hilda.

Richard Risemberg:They need active pronunciation practice, with someone with a good ear listening. People of ten can't hear their own pronunciation and how different it is from US pronunciation.

Emily Weak:Luisa if you want to email me directly, I'd be happy to chat about parents and kids at ESL

Luisa carnathan:thank you

Emily Weak:just in case we don't have time for it here

Emily Weak:eweak@oaklandlibrary.org

millsk:Do any of you have suggestions on how to promote or get the word out about the ESL programs?

Richard Risemberg:Tell the ones who do attend to invite their friends and relatives.

marty.halligan:True, hard to hear yourself. Conversation class is good

Rachel Schmidt:I think that it is very important to have the class weekly

Rachel Schmidt:easier to promote

Rachel Schmidt:that:)

Richard Risemberg:My fliers state that all are welcome and we have no limits. And that they need no commit to a term schedule, just show up when they can, and it's perfectly all right.

Darlene:We start off the class with a group pronunciation drill and do it quite slowly, pointing out where tongue, lips, breath are for a particular letter. Because our students come and go, we encourage them to practice daily in front of a mirror. Again, our class was structured years ago around a more formal procedure. The students do like this part of the class and it encourages them to be on time. They don't want to miss it as it happens first thing.

Richard Risemberg:If you can add some comedy or just silliness.... My students seem really to love that.

Patrina:any ideas for starting a family ESL club? specifically geared for parents with school-age children?

Darlene:How do you keep the noise level down? That is our number one complaint.

Emily Weak:yes they do

Richard Risemberg:I try to keep the noise level up! Talk, laugh, learn....

Patrina:Thank you!

RiquiRicardo:I have found there can be some competitiveness for some English-learners demanding native speakers for the learners' bias against other immigrants.

Rachel Schmidt:Good idea!

Rachel Schmidt:Storytime

Rebecca Jauregui:Do you have English level groups with in your ESL classes. NO English, limited English and Advanced English?

Alisa Adams:Laundromats and community bulletin boards have come up as staff recommendations for outreach ideas

marty.halligan:Thank you, back on the desk....

Rachel Schmidt:it's just going to loud.

Paula TEixeira:Does anyone hold a monthly class vs weekly

Mark Akpaninyie:Do any of you all have an "Only English rule" at your ESL classes in an attempt to encourage as much English usage as possible?

Patrina:we will be offering a Spanish-language storytime, but I would like to start something more informal. Thanks for answering that question.

Elizabeth P:Great program, thank you so much

Katy Azevedo:Thank You!

hilda lopez:Thank you!

Mark Akpaninyie:Thank you!

Luisa carnathan:Thank you. Emily I will e-mail you about the family ESL

Yer:Thank you very much!

Emily Weak:thank you!

Darlene:We do have informal levels..beginning, intermediate, and advanced. This was at the request of the volunteers tutoring.

Ivette M:Thank you!

Anu Singla:Thank you!

Joyce Fischer:thank you

Elsie Tep:Thank you!

Nicole Cuadra:Wonderful! Thank you.

Alisa Adams:Thanks!

Kate McClory:Compelling Conversations: questions and answers on timeless topics by Eric Roth is a great source

Kyle Maier:Thank You

Gloria Husted:thanks!!!!

Richard Risemberg:Thanks much!

PhoebeTerry:Excellent webinar! Thanks so much!

RiquiRicardo:Danke sehr!

Abel Santibanez:Gracias

Darlene:Thanks! Great ideas!