

Lion's Voice

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Dear Readers,

After a busy and very productive period at the beginning of the academic year, I would like to welcome you all to the second issue of our Newsletter. The Academic team of City & Guilds would like to thank you all for the warm welcome we received in the 33 cities that we visited during the Seminar Tour.

City & Guilds was also present at the ECDL/ICDL International Forum, which was organized by PeopleCert, our parent company, in Athens on the 22nd and 23rd of October. You will find a full report of this large scale international event, which was attended by delegates from 148 countries, in the *Certification Times*, the brand new PeopleCert Newsletter.

In this issue of Lion's Voice you will find information about all the events that City & Guilds organised during the first months of the academic year along with the events that we have in store for you in the upcoming months. Important dates including upcoming exams, the learning psychology column as well as news about City & Guilds are also included in this issue.

Our feature article, written by Chryssa Klonari, is about the pleasures and benefits of reading; it discusses the advantages of extensive reading and tells us how to encourage and support learners to read more, read more effectively and benefit more from their reading!

The first three months of the school year are nearly over and as Christmas holidays approach exams do as well. I would, therefore, like to wish you all a successful end of this calendar year.

George Lampropoulos
Editor

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Σχεδιασμός - Εικαστική Επιμέλεια
Τμήμα Επικοινωνίας
& Εταιρικής Κοινωνικής Ευθύνης

Teacher's Corner

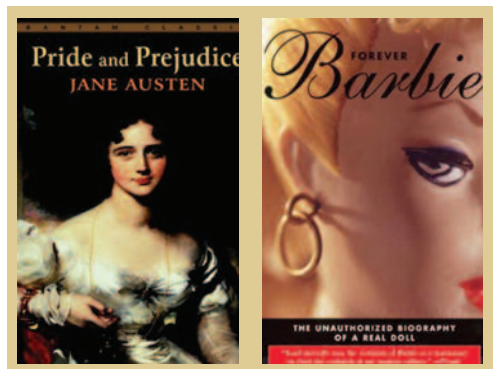
> No reading pain, no reading gain?

In the context of teaching modern languages, Harold Palmer and Michael West established the theory and practice of extensive reading (ER) as an approach to foreign language teaching in general, and to the teaching of foreign language reading in particular (Bamford & Day, 1997).

Many coursebooks engage students in reading activities that focus on the meanings of individual words and sentences rather than the meaning of the text from a very young age. The reading classroom has been invaded by exam focused activities instructing students to scan, skim, read to integrate information, read for general comprehension whereas reading simply for the sake of reading and enjoying a piece of written speech is considered a waste of time.

Students are being instructed to underline unknown words and highlight the point where the answer to the multiple choice question lies, transforming paragraphs and texts into predators ready to devour them in case they do not fully and completely understand the meaning of every single word in the text or have not spotted and circled the linking words that will 'help' them fill in the blanks with the missing sentences. Does reading have to be such a painful experience after all?

According to the extensive reading approach students are encouraged to read long texts of their own choice. Such reading material can be a singer's biography or the rules of the game of football rather than articles on the anatomy of arthropods or the largest elephant ever recorded followed by a set of multiple choice questions to check understanding.



Research suggests that students become more skillful and fluent both in spoken and written English at a faster rate if they read more books. Reading for pleasure provides students with confidence and fluency and can develop the students' vocabulary and knowledge of how the English language is used.

Modern readers, magazines for learners of English or e-books are an excellent way to motivate students to read extensively and enjoy themselves, acquiring a reading habit as a way of life. In practice, graded readers and magazines are ideal for language learners as their language level is simplified and graded for vocabulary, complexity of grammar structures and also by the number of words from elementary to advanced level. For instance, if one of my students is a formula fan and spends his weekends in front of the TV watching the race I would encourage him to begin by reading the 'Official Formula 1 Season Review' and if another student was a Barbie doll collector I would advise her to read 'Forever Barbie: The Unauthorized Biography of a Real Doll'. It's pointless to ask teenagers to struggle to read 'Pride and Prejudice' or 'A Tale of two Cities' if they have no interest in literature of that kind.

Books must be interesting and easy to read. Learners find it difficult to keep on reading if they have too many unknown words and using a dictionary while reading a pocket size book for pleasure on the bus or in bed is hardly advisable. On the contrary, learners should be persuaded to be more tolerant of unknown words and instructed to try and guess the meaning of a word in a particular context.

Setting up a class library or encouraging students to visit their local library is an excellent way to expose students to exten-

sive reading. They can borrow books they like and once they've started they will be addicted to finding out what happens next! Among others, the language teacher should be a reader role model, talk about the books she's read and introduce different genres. Our ultimate goal is to motivate students and make them want to read more and to make this happen a variety of reading material should be at the students' disposal.

Students can discuss in class about the books they have been reading but this should not become a chore or a stressful process like writing a summary or reading a book to answer ten comprehension questions during the Christmas holidays.

Extensive reading, a learner-centred activity will hopefully make students enjoy reading for the sake of reading and greatly improve their level of English resulting in better communication skills.



Chryssa Klonari
Academic Associate, City & Guilds

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> **The City & Guilds Teachers' Club**

When we started the City & Guilds Teachers' Club last year, we were not expecting that so many teachers would choose to become members: our Teachers' Club now has 12,000 members from all over Greece. I would like to thank all the teachers and language schools who have trusted us so far and go over some of the ways in which we are trying to offer more to the members of our Teachers' Club and to make membership more relevant to their professional needs.

Until now, the Teachers' Club has been able to offer the following benefits:

- An easy way for teachers and language schools to register their students for the exams through a special area of our web page.
- A bonus scheme that rewards teachers who recommend our exams to their students.
- Teacher development seminars that focus on ELT methodology issues as well as seminars giving information on our exams. So far, we have covered topics such as developing writing skills, using the dictionary, and developing speaking skills, in addition to our regular updates on the exams themselves.
- A detailed handbook for teachers, which was sent to the members of our Teachers' Club, including samples of students' extended writing and a DVD with 11 spoken test samples.
- Social networking events such as the Harry Potter Premiere in August, which was attended by hundreds of Teachers' Club members and their friends in Athens and Thessaloniki.

What we are planning for the future includes:

- A Teachers' Club Members area in our new website, where you will be able to find methodology tips, extra practice material, presentations on various aspects of the City & Guilds IESOL and ISESOL exams, as well as detailed information on examination administration and assessment
- Learning psychology seminars, exclusive to members of the Teachers' Club, to be run by our Associate, school psychologist Ms Despina Dimitraki, whose articles you have been reading in this newsletter. The first of these seminars is going to be on Learning Difficulties and details will be announced shortly.
- A series of teacher development workshops will be offered free of charge to our Members. Initially, these workshops will be held in Athens every other week and will cover various topics, such as teaching pronunciation, improving speaking skills, class management and teaching grammar. The workshops will be available on a first come first served basis to members of the City & Guilds Teachers' Club. Details will be announced shortly.
- Finally, there is life outside the classroom (although many of us don't usually have the time to take advantage of it). That's why our Teachers' Club support team is also working on various projects that will result in special offers and special terms for our members in association with bookshops, computer and software shops, travel agencies and other shops and organizations, so that there are more advantages to being a member than just teaching and testing support!

George Vassilakis

Academic Director, City & Guilds



We are, of course, open to suggestions, so if you've thought of something that you'd like the Teachers' Club to offer you, please let us know.

We are determined to make the Teachers' Club as attractive as possible and as helpful as possible and we know that it is only with your help, and your ideas, that we can do so!

Απλά Μαθήματα Σχολικής Ψυχολογίας

> Αρχές για τον χειρισμό της τάξης

*«Αντε βιαστείτε!
Γιατί είστε αργοκίνητα
καράβια;
Ελάτε, έχουμε πολύ
δουλειά σήμερα.
Δε θα προλάβουμε
τίποτα έτσι που πάτε.
Τι συμβαίνει με σας;
Γιατί κάνετε τόση φασαρία;»*

S.Cowley, 2007

Η κα Σεβαστή Επικριτικοπούλου κατάφερε να αγχώσει, να επικρίνει, να κατηγορήσει τους μαθητές της και να δημιουργήσει αρνητικό κλίμα πριν καν αρχίσει το μάθημα. Και βεβαίως δεν παράλειψε όπως συνηθίζει να υπονοήσει ότι οι μαθητές της είναι προβληματικοί.

Σε ένα άλλο σχολείο...

*«Ωραία, ελάτε μέσα όσο πιο γρήγορα
μπορείτε. Έχω πολύ συναρπαστικά
πράγματα για εσάς σήμερα, και χρειάζεται
να ξεκινήσουμε αμέσως το μάθημα
για να καταφέρουμε να τα πούμε όλα.
Μπράβο, δεν κάνετε και πολλή φασαρία.
Για να δούμε αν μπορείτε να είστε ακόμα
πιο ήσυχοι»*
S.Cowley, 2007

Η κα Πανωραία Επαγγελματιάδου γνωρίζει πολύ καλά τις βασικές αρχές για τον έλεγχο της συμπεριφοράς των μαθητών της και έτσι μετατρέπει τη διδασκαλία σε μια συναρπαστική εμπειρία. Στην πράξη οι περισσότεροι δάσκαλοι εφαρμόζουν τις αρχές για τον έλεγχο της συμπεριφοράς με αυτόματο τρόπο. Παρακάτω θα δούμε ποιες είναι οι βασικές αρχές για τον έλεγχο της συμπεριφοράς των μαθητών μας σε πρακτικό επίπεδο.



1 Ξέρω τι ζητάω

Έχω σιγουριά
Γνωρίζω ποιες είναι οι προσδοκίες
που έχω για τους μαθητές μου
Θέτω όρια

2 Γνωρίζω τι θα συμβεί αν δεν γίνει αυτό που ζητάω

Γνωρίζω πώς θα αντιδράσω.
Γνωρίζω ότι συγκεκριμένη συμπεριφορά επιφέρει συγκεκριμένη κύρωση
Αναφέρομαι στις κυρώσεις που ενδέχεται να υποστούν οι μαθητές μου
Επιβάλλω κυρώσεις αν χρειαστεί.
Όποτε όμως είναι δυνατό δίνω εναλλακτικές για να τις αποφύγουν οι μαθητές μου
Παραμένω πάντα ήρεμη και ευγενική
Γνωστοποιώ τις προσδοκίες μου για



τους μαθητές μου με σαφή τρόπο
Μιλώ ανοιχτά όταν η συμπεριφορά
των μαθητών μου δεν ανταποκρίνεται
στις προσδοκίες μου

3 **Είμαι πάντα δίκαιη και σταθερή απέναντι στους μαθητές μου**

Είμαι ήρεμη και σταθερή. Οι μαθητές
μου ξέρουν πάντα τι να περιμένουν
Το μάθημά μου ακολουθεί ένα στα-
θερό μοτίβο
Το κάθε παράπτωμα επιφέρει πάντα
τις ίδιες κυρώσεις
Η παρουσία μου δημιουργεί αίσθημα
ασφάλειας στους μαθητές μου

4 **Γνωρίζω προς τα πού κατευθυνόμαστε**
Το μάθημά μου έχει δομή και οι μαθητές μου γνωρίζουν
από την αρχή τι θα μάθουν στο μάθημα και για ποιο λόγο
χρειάζεται να το μάθουν
Τους εξηγώ τι θέλω να πετύχουν και ανακαλύπτουμε μαζί
στο τέλος του μαθήματος τι πέτυχαν

5 **Τα πας πολύ καλά**
Είμαι πάντα θετική
Αποφεύγω να κατηγορώ και να επικρίνω τους μαθητές μου
Η ειρωνεία και ο σαρκασμός δεν έχουν θέση σε καμία τάξη
Τιμωρώ τη συμπεριφορά και όχι το μαθητή μου
Αντιδρώ στην ανάρμοστη συμπεριφορά, προσφέροντας,
όμως εναλλακτικές λύσεις
Επιβραβεύω τους μαθητές μου
Θέτω νέους στόχους ■



Η Δέσποινα Δημητράκη είναι αριστούχος από-
φοιτος του Τομέα Ψυχολογίας και του Τμήματος
Φιλοσοφίας-Παιδαγωγικής-Ψυχολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών. Είναι κάτοχος του μετα-
πτυχιακού τίτλου Σχολικής Ψυχολογίας και
υποψήφια διδάκτωρ του Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών ως υπότροφος
του ΙΚΥ. Αποτελεί μέλος του Πανελληνίου Ψυχολογικού Συλλόγου.
Συνεργάζεται με εκπαιδευτικούς οργανισμούς και εκδοτικούς οί-
κους στον σχεδιασμό, οργάνωση και διεξαγωγή σεμιναρίων. Συμ-
μετέχει σε ευρωπαϊκά και διεθνή επιστημονικά συνέδρια.

Inside City & Guilds

> “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” premiere



City & Guilds organized a special event exclusively for City & Guilds Teachers’ Club members just before the beginning of the new academic year. The long expected “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” film was an excellent opportunity to get together just before the beginning of the new academic year. More than 700 members attended the viewings at the Star Cinema multiplexes in Athens and Thessaloniki and enjoyed the new film alongside City & Guilds representatives in Greece.

> Seminar Tour 2009

More than 2000 teachers have attended the City & Guilds teacher development seminars held all over Greece since the beginning of September. Our academic team have visited Ioannina, Arta, Agrinio, Xanthi, Kavala, Drama, Serres, Kozani, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Volos, Lamia, Athens,

Patra, Calamata, Rhodes, Herakleio, Chania, Kerkyra, Giannitsa, Veria, Katerini, Alexandroupoli, Trikala, Karditsa, Livadeia, Mitilini, Chios, Korinthos, Tripoli, Sparta, Nafplio and are packing their bags for the academic seminar in Chalkida on 20 November.

These seminars enabled teachers and school owners to gain an overview of the City & Guilds exams and become familiar with the changes that have recently been introduced. Also, ELT professionals welcomed with huge success both workshops on “How to Give Feedback and Help Your Learners Write Better” and “Using and Abusing the Dictionary”.



All participants received valuable material in the City & Guilds seminar pack which included among others the City & Guilds Handbook for Teachers accompanied by the new Speaking Test DVD, the first issue of Lion’s Voice, a correction and feedback kit, a certificate of attendance and exam preparation books kindly offered by publishers.

George Vassilakis and George Lampropoulos, presenters of the City & Guilds academic seminar in Athens, welcomed more than 500 ELT professionals on the 26th September, European Day of Languages.



George Vassilakis, Chryssa Klonari and George Lampropoulos meet school owners, teachers and publishers.

> **City & Guilds at the Autumn 2009 International Publishers Exhibition**

The ELT community did not miss out to visit the International Publishers Exhibition in Athens and Thessaloniki before the beginning of the academic year and be updated on the latest developments in foreign language education.

Over 5000 teachers and school owners visited the City & Guilds stand to meet the PEOPLECERT team, get information on the City & Guilds examinations and attend educational seminars designed and presented by the City & Guilds academic department. Mr. George Vassilakis, Academic Director of City & Guilds, welcomed visitors who congratulated him on his very successful workshop, "Do your students fear listening?"



Christina Kyrka, Director of Examination Administration Department, at the IP in Thessaloniki



From the left: Gianna Kontou, Stella Giampoura and Marina Petritsi, Sales & Marketing, at the IP in Athens

> **New Product Manager for City & Guilds**



Marios Molfetas, City & Guilds Product Manager

Marios Molfetas has a degree in Physics and an MSc in Business Management.

He has worked as an e-business Consultant and Business Development Manager as well as Researcher on e-business topics. He joined PeopleCert as New Business Development Manager a few months ago and he has recently taken over the City & Guilds Product Manager role.

In his new role, Marios will be looking after foreign language schools and teachers, making sure that the services offered by City & Guilds to the ELT community continue to be of the highest possible standard.

Latest News

> December Examinations

You can now register for the December IESOL and ISESOL examinations.

On-line Registration		Registering by Mail	
26 October-23 November		26 October-16 November	
December Examination Schedule			
IESOL Date	IESOL Time	Level	ISESOL Dates
12.Dec.09	09:00 - 12:00	C2	05.Dec.09-20.Dec.09
12.Dec.09	13:00 - 16:00	C1	05.Dec.09-20.Dec.09
12. Dec.09	17:00 - 19:00	A1	05.Dec.09-20.Dec.09
13. Dec.09	09:00 - 11:30	B2	05.Dec.09-20.Dec.09
13. Dec.09	12:30 - 15:00	B1	05.Dec.09-20.Dec.09
13. Dec.09	16:00 - 18:00	A2	05.Dec.09-20.Dec.09

The City & Guilds IESOL and ISESOL examinations will be administered in 33 towns all over Greece: Agrinio, Alexandroupoli, Arta, Athens, Chalkida, Chios, Drama, Florina, Giannitsa, Heraklio, Ioannina, Kalamata, Katerini, Kavala, Kerkira, Korinthos, Kozani, Lamia, Larissa, Livadia, Mitilini, Nafplio, Patras, Preveza, Rhodes, Serres, Sparta, Thessaloniki, Trikala, Tripoli, Veria, Volos, Xanthi. Please visit www.cityandguilds.gr to register online or follow the instructions to register by post.

> New site Launch



We're happy to announce the launch of our modern, fresh and user - friendly site. Visitors can register for the City & Guilds exams, download educational material, and get all the latest news and updates.

> Members Only

Don't miss out the next Lion's Voice issue to find out all about the professional benefits City and Guilds Teachers' Club Members can enjoy and the credits they can earn by registering their students through the City & Guilds exams.

> Slight Revisions to the Format of the IESOL Exams

Since fairness and reliability are key features of the City & Guilds exams, changes have been implemented in the City & Guilds exams, effective as of the next exam period, December 2009. Most changes, albeit slight, appear in the B2 Communicator level and some even slighter appear in the other levels, too. All

changes are part of an alignment project of the City & Guilds exams with the Common European Framework making sure that the exams are fair and up to the required standard. Looking at the new CEFR aligned B2 Communicator level, for instance, we notice that texts, both in listening and

reading, are longer and less dense with more input and context given to the candidate.

An update of the IESOL changes along with new CEFR aligned Practice Papers can be found and downloaded for free from our website www.cityandguilds.gr.

> More Informative Result Statements as of December

As of December 2009, students will be getting more (and more detailed!) information about their performance in our exams, so that they know exactly how well they did in each part of the test. More specifically, the new statement of result will contain the candidates' scores in each part of the test, as well as a more detailed explanation of their performance with regard to the various assessment criteria.

> Faster Results!

In our effort to further reduce the time it takes to issue results, we will be introducing, as of January 2010, a new answer sheet to be used by candidates during the exam. The answer sheet, which is being sent to all members of the Teachers' Club, is simple and straightforward, and will give us the chance to process students' answers much faster and issue results and certificates in a much shorter time.

> ECDL/ICDL International Forum

PeopleCert, the company that brings you City & Guilds in Greece, hosted the ECDL/ICDL International Forum in Athens this year on the 22nd and 23rd of October. You can read more about the Forum in The Certification Times, the brand new PeopleCert Newsletter. City & Guilds was represented by \ Christine Kyrka, Director of Examination Administration, Marios Molfetas, Product Manager, and George Vassilakis, Academic Director.