



English Express

Winter 2022

A new volunteer's perspective: The rewards of literacy tutoring cut both ways

By Ben Abramson

As a career-long journalist and lifelong word nerd, my passion for the language was always something I wanted to share with the world. So when I stopped working full-time as an editor in 2019, this was the first volunteering opportunity I sought. I was confident in my knowledge of English, but nervous because I had zero teaching experience.

By the time I finished training with Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County, I felt more comfortable, and the materials and methods gave me a solid framework to start. I chose to work first with a more advanced student, which helped me gain confidence.

Then the pandemic hit. I suspended work with a student who didn't want to meet remotely, so Karen Bridegam linked me with two new students eager to work online (I have since added a third).



Literacy volunteer Ben Abramson and student Marilu Nunez conduct a tutoring session via Zoom.

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President's Corner



Judith McGinty, President

I'm happy to report that Literacy Volunteers was awarded two Southwest Airlines round-trip tickets in the Florida Literacy Coalition's annual contest. Literacy organizations throughout Florida compete to be one of the winners chosen to receive airline tickets for fundraising. This is the fifth time since 2014 that Literacy Volunteers has been a winner. Please read the information in the gold square below to learn how you can donate and possibly win two round-trip airline tickets.

Literacy Volunteers is a member of Florida Literacy Coalition. Their website <https://floridaliteracy.org/> has many resources for literacy tutors and a link for adults seeking help with English, Reading, Writing, or GED exam preparation to find a literacy organization in their area. Our offices in the Venice and North Port Libraries are listed in their online directory.

Win airline tickets donated to Literacy Volunteers by

Southwest 

via the **Florida Literacy Coalition**

The winner will be notified on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Travel must be completed by 11/30/2022

Donate \$10

You may win two (2) Round-Trip Flights

Valid for travel on Southwest operated, published, and scheduled service.

The winner will be notified on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

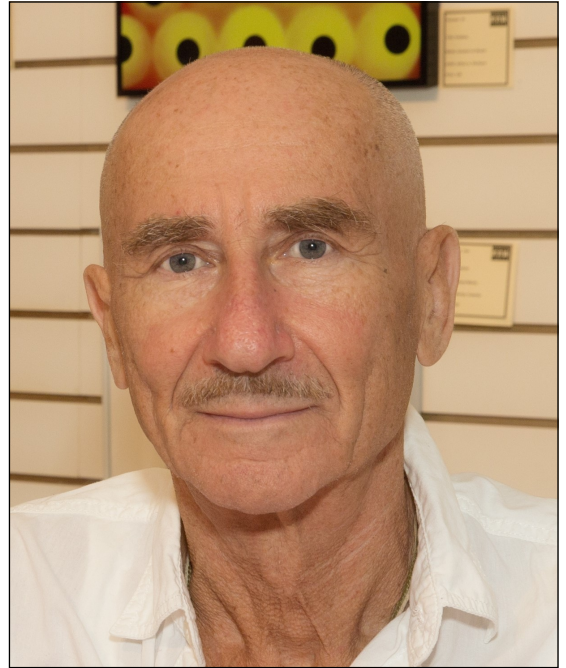
Travel Expiration Date: 11/30/2022

Send a check to Literacy Volunteers, 300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285 for one or more \$10 raffle tickets. Your name will be entered in the drawing. Include your email address, and you'll receive a photo of your ticket stub.

My Stages of Learning English

by Vladimir Teplitskiy

I never dreamed that something so simple could be so frustrating! You see, ten years ago I just moved from Russia and my English was not so good. I walked into a small café for tea. There were several people in front of me and in the café there was only coffee, tea, and some kind of cakes. Everyone ordered either coffee or tea. When it was my turn, I said, “one tea”. The saleswoman asked me, “what did you say”? I repeated, “one tea”. She said she did not understand what I was saying and I again repeated, “one tea”. So, she asked me again several times and then called the second saleswoman, who also asked me again several times. With the help of my gestures, finally, for the tenth time, they realized that I was asking for tea and they told me, “well, you should have said that you wanted tea!” I realized that I did not only want tea, but also wanted to learn English.



Vladimir Teplitskiy

The next stage...

I studied English in the library for several years and thought that I already understood and spoke well. A few years later, I took a taxi to Miami and was sitting in the back seat. The driver began to talk to me and asked me from which country I came to America, when I arrived, and so on. A lively conversation began. He asked if I had been to Miami. I told him that I was in Miami. After a while, he said something and I hear Miami and told him again that I had been to Miami and when I was there and what I did there. After a while, he said something again and I again told him about my trips to Miami. He turned to me, took an earpiece out of his ear and said: “sir, I’m actually not talking to you, but to someone on the phone.” I realized just then that I needed to keep improving my English.

Now, I am with other students at the North Port Library and have studied online. With the help of wonderful teachers, I hope to learn and get into the future with better English skills!

Tutor Chat Continuing Education Sessions via Zoom

February 2022

Developing a Sight Word Study

Thursday, February 24, 1:00 PM

Tips for incorporating activities that teach sight words into your lesson plans.

March 2022

Zoom Basics

Thursday, March 3, 4:30 PM

Demonstration and instructions for scheduling Zoom meetings with your student; practice sharing your screen and using the whiteboard in virtual lessons.

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Literacy Volunteers Speaker's Bureau

The principle aim of the Speaker's Bureau is to promote the goals and objectives of Literacy Volunteers by speaking to various social and nonprofit organizations in South Sarasota County. The main objectives while speaking to these organizations are:

1. To tell them who we are, what we do, and how we do it
2. To recruit volunteer tutors
3. To gain greater visibility in the community to reach adults who will benefit from obtaining literacy skills in English
4. To raise funds through donations

Currently we have two active members on the Speaker's Bureau. It will benefit Literacy Volunteers immensely if we have more volunteers for the Speaker's Bureau. When we have more speakers, we can give presentations to more organizations to spread the message about Literacy Volunteers. It would increase our chances to recruit more tutors and students. As the saying goes, when we take more shots at the goal, we increase the probability of scoring more goals.

Why do we need more students? It is obvious that better literacy skills will enable the students to enjoy a more productive life. What is easily overlooked is the benefit to the local community and to the country at large. As statistics show, there are more than 43 million adults in the U.S. who cannot read well enough to fill out an application or read a simple story to a child. If the literacy skills of these 43 million people are improved, it is estimated that it would add \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country. So, we can make a difference to the welfare of our country in a small way.

If you are interested in becoming one of our speakers, please contact Paddy Padmanabhan at: paddy0206@gmail.com

Venice Book Fair Blalock Park

(Nassau St. S. between Milan Ave. W. and Turin St. W.)

Saturday, March 26 (9:00 - 3:00 PM)

Browse the booths of authors.

Drop by the Literacy Volunteers booth to say hello and buy raffle tickets on two Southwest Airlines round-trip flights to any Southwest destination.

Friday, March 25 Writers Festival

Register at <http://venicebookfair.com/events/> to attend one or all four presentations at the William H. Jerve, Jr. Venice Public Library.

The suggested donation is \$20 per person.

Who Will Buy Your Book?	10:00 AM
How to Become a Drama Queen or King	12:30 PM
Mother/Daughter Writer Panel	2:00 PM
Write What You Know	3:30 PM



My Own Easy KIMPAP RECIPE (Korean Sushi Roll)

By Subin Carter, Adult Learner

Hello everyone...I'm going to share with you guys how to make an easy KIMPAP RECIPE. KIMPAP (김밥) is a commonly known Korean dish. 김밥 means in shorter terms, KIMPAP is a rice seaweed roll. This dish is made with steamed rice and other ingredients. There are many times where KIMPAP and sushi may be compared, but unlike sushi, KIMPAP uses many cooked or seasoned ingredients, such as rice that is seasoned with sesame oil and salt.

Anyway, KIMPAP is a popular picnic food in South Korea. I remembered when I made KIMPAP our kitchen smelled like toasted sesame oil all day, and everyone really liked it. It would be a great choice for vegetarians who are looking to try something new. Not only is it tasty, but also healthy.

What are you waiting for.....try my own easy KIMPAP RECIPE yummmmy....



Ingredients:

- *4pcs dried seaweed sheets (gim/nori)
- *4 cups cooked long grain rice
- *2 eggs
- *4 long carrot strips cut lengthwise in 1/3 inch
- *4 long yellow radish pickle (danmuji) cut lengthwise in 1/3 inch.
- *120g baby spinach
- *1 tablespoon sesame oil
- *2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- *4 long imitation crab sticks cut lengthwise in 1/3 inch

Directions:

1. Prepare all the ingredients before assembling rolls.
2. Beat 2 eggs and cook the eggs in a nonstick pan coated with cooking spray. Cut the eggs in 1/3 inch strips.
3. Cook the carrots with water for 3-4 minutes until firm.
4. Cook the baby spinach for 2 minutes in boiling water. Carefully squeeze the water out then add 1/2 tablespoon oil and pinch of salt.
5. Put 1-2 spoons of tuna on top of the layer of rice.
6. To assemble the rolls, place a cup of rice on top of each seaweed sheet (gim/nori). Spoon the rice edge to edge except for the top edge. Leave 1-2 inches unfilled at the top of each seaweed sheet.
7. Take each remaining ingredient and sprinkle evenly over the rice on each seaweed sheet.
8. Roll the KIMPAP using a bamboo mat, making sure to push down and pull back every time you roll a little.
9. Then cut the roll into 1 inch pieces.
10. Serve. HAPPY TUMMMMY.

A new volunteer's perspective -- Continued from page 1.

I can only imagine what it would be like to be in a new country during a frightening health crisis, so I tried to be a resource for all phases of the pandemic. I worked with materials from the CDC and local public health officials to help my students understand best advice and protocols and learn the necessary vocabulary to keep them and their families safe. Later, I helped them navigate the process to sign up for vaccinations.

I use a variety of learning materials - local news articles, nature guides, even poetry, but no topic has been more resonant than food and cooking. Find an article about iconic foods or recipes from your student's native country, and you will stir up moving stories about culture and family.

Zoom has been a blessing. My online lessons often start with the student reading aloud, from which I help them with pronunciation and vocabulary. Then I use worksheets for the areas I think they need to improve. There are some situations where it would clearly be easier in person. In training we learned how to show students how to form their mouths to make certain English sounds, which is hard to do on screen.

But I discovered the materials in the free ESL kits available in the libraries have handy photo guides with close-up shots of mouths forming sounds, so I had my students get them.

If I have one frustration, it's not with Literacy Volunteers or my delightful students, it's with the English language. Why are stomach and spinach pronounced differently? Or over and over? I often find myself apologizing for English's irregularities and explaining that many words and conjugations just have to be memorized.

My most gratifying moment came recently when one of my students applied for a retail job and asked if I would be a reference. When the hiring manager asked me how I knew the applicant, I explained that I was her tutor for LVSSC, and was impressed at her initiative wanting to work in a foreign language and country. The manager then told me that she herself had worked with a literacy volunteer when she had moved from Puerto Rico to Sarasota County a few years earlier, and thanked me for my service. My student got the job.

More Tutor Chat Continuing Education Sessions -- Continued from page 3.

March 2022

Laubach Way to English and Laubach Way to Reading

Thursday, March 17, 1:00 PM

Overview and instruction for how to use this classic method for teaching English and reading to ESL learners.

April 2022

Informal Decoding Assessment

Thursday, April 14, 1:00 PM

Learn how to assess students' phonemic awareness and phonics (decoding) skills using materials provided. Learn tips for how to use the assessment results to guide your tutoring.

TO REGISTER, EMAIL:

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Literacy Changes Lives



FIRST CLASS

Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

www.LiteracyChangesLives.org

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