

English In Georgia



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In the initial phase the course was piloted with a group of university students in Batumi (October, 2006; May, 2007). Train the trainer course that took place on November 17, 18, 24, and 25 in Tbilisi gave an opportunity to 10 school and university teachers from Tbilisi and different regions of Georgia - Gori, Rustavi, Telavi and Akhaltsikhe to prepare the training sessions, to deliver presentations on specific topics and micro-train

Editorial

Dear readers,

Another year flew by as ETAG and its members were busy teaching, learning, training, exploring new ideas and exchanging

experiences. It has been an interesting and fruitful year, busy as usual. Let the new 2008 be full of creative ideas and practices, professional growth, happy kids and teachers, joy, love and prosperity.

In this issue you will read about the trainings and events that took place during the last two months, branch activities, jokes and stories. On page 3 Tsisana Tsiskaridze is suggesting some useful websites for teaching English. Don't miss that! I wish you an enjoyable reading and happy holidays!

Tamuna Mardaleishvili
Editor-in-Chief

Contents

Academic Writing Course2
 ETAG Branches make difference2
 Online Resources3
 Have FUN with English.....4

ETAG offers a training course to Newly Qualified Teachers

MARINA CHKHIKVADZE
NQT Course Trainer

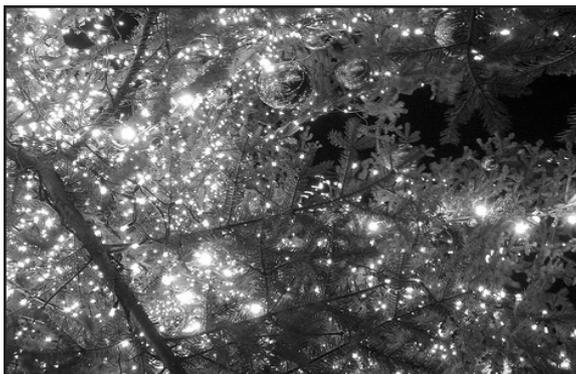
A 20-hour NQT (Newly Qualified Teachers) in-service teacher training course has been designed to assist and support the professional development of newly qualified teachers. It has been developed by ETAG and British Council.

Although the aim of this course is to give assistance to teachers who are just starting teacher's career, it is highly recommended for all English teachers who are interested and motivated.

The course designers are ETAG teacher trainers: Nelly Kukhaleishvili and Marina Chkhikvadze. Although the aim of this course is to give assistance to teachers who are just starting teacher's career and need support, ideas and information to plan, control and manage their classes and find it difficult to get their students work effectively, it is highly recommended for all English teachers who are interested and motivated.

using the materials in "Steps to Success" and "Trainer's Guide to the starter pack". A group of 4th year Ilia Chavchavadze State University students who are the participants of another project - "A Pre-service Teacher Training Course for Higher Education" were also involved in the training sessions. The trainees found the NQT course very interesting, informative and helpful.

The training course aimed at identifying teacher trainers or co-trainers to teach the course in their regions. The following trainers - Galina Dughashvili (Rustavi), Eka Tkavashvili (Tbilisi) and Marina Tertorovi (Gori) have been given approval to conduct the NQT course, several co-trainers will deliver the same course with the course designers.



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year to ETAG
 ETAG Offices will break for Christmas from December 27 to January 10.
 Saturday Meetings in Tbilisi Office will resume on February 16
 From 1 January ETAG membership is 15 Laris

Academic Writing Course

If you need it, you can have it at ETAG

JOHN SCAFIDI
Senior English Language Fellow

Developing Writing Skills is a 20-hour course where participants learn the basics of academic writing. Starting with the paragraph and its various types, students go through brainstorming techniques: such as free writing, outlining and using tree diagrams. Essential organization of paragraph construction (topic sentence, supporting sentences and concluding sentences) are then reviewed and practiced. Paragraph coherence (transitional devices), cohesion, unity and completeness are used next and students then move from paragraph writing to essay writing. Students then develop topic sentences to thesis statements and into introductory paragraphs using hooks, anecdotes, questions, quotes and statistics. Next paragraph supporting sentences are further devel-

oped into body paragraphs with a topic sentence, major and minor supporting sentences with concrete support and concluding sentences with further transitional usage. Devices for forming concluding paragraphs such as summarizing, making a suggestion, giving an opinion or a prediction are then investigated. All these skills are developed by students analyzing sample and model paragraphs and parts of the essay, and then with group and individual writing exercises. The students at the end of the course will be able to write well-organized paragraphs and a well-developed process and comparison/contrast essay.

To date, about 15 participants from all the



regional ETAG centers have attended the first 10 hours, and the second 10 hours will be given to those participants in the spring. Participants from Tbilisi completed all 20 hours on November 4, and currently the course is now being presented to Tbilisi State University professors which will end on December 18.

ETAG Branches make difference



Tbilisi

Murray Keeler, British Council Turkey ELT manager visited Tbilisi and Rustavi ETAG offices to further plan British Council ELT activities and consider British Council-ETAG future cooperation. ETAG board members spoke about ETAG's active role in the professional development of English teaching throughout Georgia.

Gori

Gori ETAG was visited by Gori University Head Zaza Tsotniasvili and Gori Education Resource Centre Head Giorgi Sosishvili. They were pleased with the atmosphere and promised to support it. During the month of October and Novem-

ber ETAG Gori was present at some events in different schools. Gori Public School No2 English teachers Nona Khizanishvili and PC volunteer Maritza Carmona conducted a Halloween evening for students. Halloween was celebrated in Khidistavi Public School as well. English teacher Natia Tlashadze had a lesson connected to the festival. The children in both schools were very active and they were involved in all activities with great enthusiasm and motivation.

On November 3 Maya Makharashvili conducted a session "Multiple Choice Questions in Reading". On November 17 Babi Kenchushvili had a meeting "Selecting the Right Language Test for Evaluating Learners' Achievements".

On December 1 Peace Corps volunteers Kelly Uphoff and Jeremy Baunam, ETAG Gori Manager Diana Japaridze and ETAG member Natia Tlashadze had a presentation about Peace Corps Georgia. Diana and Natia shared their experiences of working with Peace Corps Volunteers with teachers and answered their questions. Kelly and Jeremy presented an activity on Business English that involved all the teachers and they role played a lot.

On December 15 branch Head Marina Chalauri had the final Saturday session this term. After the meeting ETAG Gori together with Peace Corps Volunteers gave a Christmas party for ETAG members. They celebrated Christmas by different activities.



Kelly Uphoff and Jeremy Baunam presenting activities to ETAG Gori teachers

All the Saturday meetings in this term were interesting and involving. Teachers learned many warmer activities and new ways of teaching English. ETAG Gori staff will do its best to choose the topics for the sessions in which our teachers are interested in. Teachers are encouraged to use the opportunity and take part in the program.

Batumi

 ETAG Batumi Head Nelly Kukhaleishvili visited Head of Batumi Resource Centre, Gia Abuladze. She informed him about ETAG and its activities. Mr. Abuladze promised to inform the school directors about ETAG.

Nelly Kukhaleishvili had a meeting with Ajara Deputy Minister of Education, Shorona Makhachadze. ETAG Batumi Head gave a

detailed information about ETAG, the type of work ETAG does, our training courses and conferences. The Deputy Minister was very enthusiastic and interested and promised to pass the information to Ajara Minister of Education.

ETAG Batumi arranged a presentation devoted to ETAG, its teacher development programmes and qualified staff. The representatives of Ajara Ministry of Education, resources centres and educational institutions were invited to the presentation.

Rustavi

 The Minister of Education Maya Miminoshvili visited ETAG Rustavi office.

Rustavi Branch hosted a British Council Turkey ELT manager Murray Keeler and

British Council Georgia ELT development manager, Rusiko Tkemaladze. The branch head, the manager and local trainers spoke about the activities, teacher training courses, workshops, membership and library.

Galina Paposhvili and Nino Pasieshvili introduced some new activities from NQT course.

Mzia Skhulukhia, teacher trainer from Tbilisi, offered a very interesting workshop on Motivation and Personalities to Rustavian teachers on traditional Saturday Meeting.

Gvantsa Gogoladze and Khatuna Janjgava, young English teachers shared some activities from the Academic Writing Course conducted by John Scaffidi with other ETAG members.

On-line opportunities for English Language Teachers

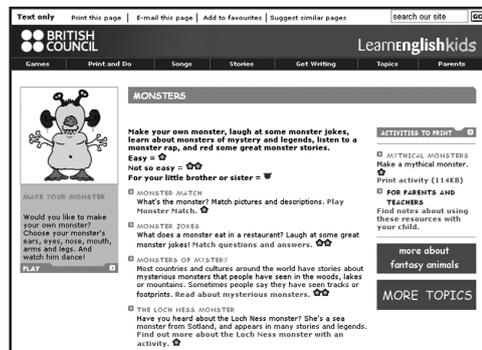
Suggested by Tsisana Tsiskaridze, ETAG Tbilisi Branch Manager

Learn English Kids is the British Council's website with free resources for young learners, and their parents and teachers. The latest materials on the site feature monsters, and you will find them here: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-topics-monsters.htm>

With these materials children can:

- make a monster online (and practice parts of the body)
- practice describing monsters
- read some monster jokes
- learn about famous monsters of mystery, such as the Loch Ness monster (who appears in a story!)
- read stories about Hairy Henry, the big green monster
- listen to a monster rap.

You'll also find a new traditional song for younger children - Ten Little Aeroplanes:



<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-songs-aeroplanes.htm>

Visit the new ELT e-reading Group webpage on the British Council Literature website. Texts are chosen from online sources. The group meets online and participants post their comments to a discussion board. For further information on the group and to join us, please visit <http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts-literature-creativereading-eltreading.htm>

Enjoy the resources!

The third grade book by Tatiana Bukia and Barrie Watson has been published and is available in the bookstore of the Publishing House

"21st" at the following address: Tbilisi Railway Station.

Underground Trade Centre 00qros Birzha"

Tel: 899 98 81 37 893 35 26 73

Contact Tatiana Bukia at 877 74 21 46

Wholesale prices:

"New 2000 Plus" (3rd grade)

Student's Book - 4.50 Workbook - 2.50 Teacher's

Book - 2 and C.D. - 1.50

Join ELTeCS!

ELTeCS (English Language Teaching Contacts Scheme) is an information-sharing and teacher development network. It is for teachers, trainers and academics, and other professionals with interests in English language teaching

Fill in the application form to join - at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/eltecs-join.htm> It's quick and free of charge.

Through ELTeCS, ELT professionals can make new contacts, share information, build their knowledge, and create partnerships.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES...

While walking down the street one day a US senator is tragically hit by a truck and dies.

His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

"Welcome to heaven," says St. Peter. "Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in," says the man.

"Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity."

"Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven," says the senator. "I'm sorry, but we have our rules."

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people.

They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes.

They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises...

The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

"Now it's time to visit heaven."

So, 24 hours pass with the senator joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

"Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity."

The senator reflects for a minute, then he answers: "Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell."

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage.

He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above.

The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. "I don't understand," stammers the senator. "Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?"

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning...today you voted."



Happy New Year

On the Western calendar, the start of the New Year falls on February 7, 2008 - The Year of the Rat. If you were born in 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996 - you were born under the sign of the rat.

Like the rat, you are always busily pursuing a personal goal or ambition, and are thus known as one of the hardest-working signs in the Chinese zodiac. For rats in 2008, any recent setbacks or obstacles can be overcome, so look forward to a year in which

to really shine, either personally or professionally.

Forever busy in pursuit of an ambitious personal goal, at times they may become difficult to work with since they are born perfectionists. Rats must ensure that every "i" is dotted before completing an assigned task. As a result, they are often successful financially, and are good providers for their family and those they cherish most dearly.

Loyal and loving, Rat people inspire loyalty in others who are close to them. They are essentially honest individuals and loath to betray a confidence. However, their quick wit and restlessness can sometimes lead to chattiness, and they can often be relied upon at large social gatherings for a good story or a juicy bit of gossip. Their energy levels and expert organizational talents are such that it is a rare thing to see a Rat person sitting idly by with nothing to do. They may even sometimes be viewed as opportunists who cajole others into helping them accomplish a great ambition. In their careers, Rat people can find much success as business leaders or politicians.

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