

# English In Georgia



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## Some Tips on Classroom Management

**JOHN SCAFIDI**, *English Language Fellow, US Embassy*

No matter how much time is spent on a well-prepared lesson plan, if the class is disruptive and unruly, the plan cannot be implemented and the goals will not be achieved. This is a problem for many teachers, especially those who are not experienced and teaching elementary and high school levels. With the switchover from a Soviet authoritarian style of education to a more liberal Western one, this can often be a most challenging and perplexing ordeal. Using a few simple techniques one can achieve a better-disciplined classroom. When entering the classroom don't compete with student chatter. Demand complete silence then tell students exactly what will happen during the class. Set time limits for student tasks/activities and include extra time at end of lesson for a student chosen activity. This gives students some ownership to what they are learning and at the same time serves as a motivator not to waste time. Circulate around the room and give students several minutes to get on task. Provide individual instruc-

tion in a quiet voice as needed and never interrupt the whole class while on task. Always model behavior that you want students to use. Be patient, prompt, courteous, enthusiastic, in control and organized. Use non-verbal cues such as facial expressions, body language or gestures and explain clearly what you want students to do with these cues. Sometimes teachers use a clicker or small bell to get desired results. Make the classroom

itself a warm and friendly place for students to go. Include some personal items, family photos, etc. Try to anticipate problems before their occurrence. If a problem does arise, use quiet and calm intervention. Don't have a student's misbehavior become the focus of the class. Make the intervention as inconspicuous as possible. Use assertive positive discipline. Lay out clear rules of positive behavior and consistently enforce

them. Refer to these rules as expectations and always use praise rather than negative reinforcement. When confronting a misbehaving student, focus on the behavior, not the misbehavior and give a clear description of what is expected of the student. By using some of the above techniques, all that time and effort in preparing your lesson will not be for naught.

**Using a few simple techniques one can achieve a better-disciplined classroom.**

- **Do not compete with student chatter**
- **Tell students exactly what will happen during the class**
- **Set time limits for student tasks**
- **Always model behavior that you want students to use**

## Lisa Harshbarger's final Georgian visit as RELO



**Lisa Harshbarger**  
US Embassy

On February 5, Lisa Harshbarger, the United States Department of State Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, visited ETAG Tbilisi office. She met with Rusiko Tkemaladze, ETAG Director, Cynthia Whittlesey, Sophie Bzishvili, US Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, ETAG board members and John Scafidi English Language Fellow. At this roundtable discussion current developments in the ELT field were discussed as well as new projects such as English at the Police Academy and possible projects for the SELF in 2008-2009.

Ms. Harshbarger appreciated ETAG's ongoing professional development workshops and expressed further cooperation between her office and ETAG in the future. She is appointed to be the new RELO for the Balkans starting August.

During her three day visit in Tbilisi Ms. Harshbarger also visited the European School, Iliia Chavchavadze State University, the Teachers' Professional Development Center at the Ministry of Education and Science and the Police Academy.

ETAG would like to thank Ms. Harshbarger for all the assistance she gave to ELT in Georgia and wish her success in her new RELO position in the Balkans.

### Editorial

Dear readers,

*Here comes the Spring issue with so many interesting news. It was definitely worth waiting. John Scafidi shares very useful notes on teaching and at the same time staying in control in the classroom. An award winning article awaits you on p.3 and there's a lot more to enjoy!*

Tamuna Mardaleishvili  
Editor-in-Chief

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# On-line Resources for YOU

Suggested by **TSISANA TSISKARIDZE**, ETAG Manager  
 Flip through the resources suggested below according to the topic of interest:

## FREE GUIDE TO UPDATED CAMBRIDGE FCE AND CAE EXAMS IN DECEMBER 2008

The University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations has made some revisions to the First Certificate in English (FCE) and the Certificate in Advanced English (CAE). The updated exams will first appear this coming December.

To help you get to grips with the changes, the Flo-Joe team has put together a FREE 5-part tutorial called 'Everything a Teacher Needs to Know About the New FCE/CAE'.

**The CAE edition is now available from this link:**

<http://www.flo-joe.co.uk/caexamguide.htm>

**and the FCE edition is here:**

<http://www.flo-joe.co.uk/fceexamguide.htm>

## RESOURCES ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

This month there are new resources about the topic of the environment including online games and activities, worksheets to download, songs and stories. Teachers will find flashcards for the classroom, and there are also tips for teachers about using the resources on the teaching English website:

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/download/children.shtml>

## CRITICAL LITERACY IN ELT PROJECT WEBPAGE

The Critical Literacy in ELT Project has a new webpage where you can find some background information on the project, useful links and also have access to the Critical Literacy discussion forum. The webpage is hosted by the British Council Brazil ELT Online Community. Visit at:

[http://www.britishcouncil.org.br/elt/\\_y2/c\\_critical\\_literacy.asp](http://www.britishcouncil.org.br/elt/_y2/c_critical_literacy.asp)  
 Enjoy the Resources!

## ETAG Branches make difference

### Gori

ETAG Gori renewed its traditional Saturday meetings on February 23. ETAG Gori staff introduced the whole term schedule of Saturday meetings and training courses.

Gori branch head Marina Chalaury spoke about presentation and she shared presentation making techniques with participants.

The same day Peace Corps Volunteers conducted annual contest in Writing Olympics to reveal creative writers



ETAG Gori teachers

them in their future teaching. ETAG Gori Staff and members would like to thank John Scafidi for his visit and a very interesting course.

ETAG Gori member Marina Terterovi won a grant. It is a follow-up grant of TEA program. The name of the grant is "Resource Center for Developing English Language for Students and Teachers". It will last till May.

ETAG Gori continues being helpful for teachers and welcomes everyone to Saturday meetings and training courses.



Peace Corps Volunteers

among school children from grades 6-11. ETAG teachers helped Peace Corps Volunteers and supervised the groups.

On March 1-2, ETAG Gori hosted Senior English Language Fellow John Scafidi. He conducted the second 10-hour course in Developing Academic Writing. Teachers were very pleased to have a chance to attend a course conducted by John Scafidi again. The workshop was very interesting and involving. All the materials were very useful and helpful. Teachers will use



Contest in making a Christmas picture

# Mona Lisa Just Keeps On Smiling

*NATIA SOPROMADZE, English language teacher at English Studies Department of Akaki Tsereteli State University won a contest with this very essay and the prize for this is nothing less than an honour of attending an IATEFL conference to be held in Exeter, Great Britain on April 5-12. It is important to point out that she was one of the two candidates selected worldwide. If you have wondered about what Mona Lisa's smile might mean, Natia has some answer.*

If you explain so clearly that no student can misunderstand, somebody will. No need to ask: "Any questions?" Startled eyes speak for themselves. And what do you do next? With a faint Mona Lisa smile on your face, you start all over again...

It is your choice. You have accepted a challenge becoming an English Language teacher. You started completing the duty with great expectations which turned out so hard to meet. If you already feel your confidence shattering, if you no longer can keep on smiling, then it is high time to take the course of LDEL (Language Development for English Language Teachers).

In December, 2007 together with 15 enthusiastic EFL teachers, I had the pleasure of attending a 40-hour LDEL training course in Kutaisi ETAG branch (English Teachers' Association of Georgia). The participants represented higher education

institutions: private, as well as state schools and English language centres. The session was effectively conducted by dynamic trainers Ms. Nino Nijaradze and Ms. Maya Alavidze. It aimed at boosting EL teachers' confidence in their command of English and practising a variety of useful activities to positively influence classroom teaching environment. The main themes highlighted at the training were:

**If you explain so clearly that no student can misunderstand, somebody will. No need to ask: "Any questions?" Startled eyes speak for themselves. And what do you do next? With a faint Mona Lisa smile on your face, you start all over again...**

the ideal teacher's profile, error correction, written work assessment, troublesome young learners, motivation in language learning, microteaching and the future of English.

First of all, each participant was asked to reconsider their strengths and talents as a person and as a teacher. Unbelievable as it may sound, we all appeared to be amazingly intelligent, self-assured, hard-working, insightful, entertaining, etc. And I thought to myself: How do our students manage to resist this overwhelming charisma and still fail to get inspired? Unfortunately, I did not have time to solve this tricky question because, apparently, the

trainer could not bear me staring blank in space. So she instantly involved me in a brainstorming activity on the ideal teacher's profile.

Through various engaging activities followed by heated discussions, the trainees finally arrived at a unanimous conclusion. In order to build up a special teacher's career, a priori you need professional competence accompanied by nerves of steel. However, apart from it, a teacher should find the necessary strength within to pursue self-initiated and self-directed personal growth. Because as O. Wilde says "nothing that is worth knowing can be taught".

To summarize, the course helped both novice and experienced teachers to better understand the complicated processes of teaching and learning, to perceive the importance of the English language in different aspects of contemporary life and to identify our major roles as promoters of a lingua franca. Last but not least, trainee teachers grasped how to feel at home in their English classrooms; we uncovered the secret of keeping a confident and enigmatic Mona Lisa smile against all the odds. We realized that if only we believe in ourselves and keep on smiling even when everything goes wrong, we are bound to succeed. As, in fact, no lesson is ever a failure, it is just an incomplete success!

## Question of Language - Idioms

1. You have to raise your voice a little when talking to him. He's a little hard of hearing.

- (a) stubborn
- (b) quiet when he speaks
- (c) deaf
- (d) distracted

2. I went to a real nice restaurant yesterday. The food cost was cheap and they served a lot of food. I had to ask for a doggy bag because I couldn't eat the whole thing.

- (a) package to store left over food so the person can take it home
- (b) dog bowl so you can give the rest of the food to your dog
- (c) special order where you get smaller meal sizes
- (d) kid's meal

# Question of Language - Idioms

(Continued from p.3)

3. Fabian was a doormat. No wonder his classmates were always giving him a hard time.

- (a) snob
- (b) geek
- (c) coward
- (d) chubby boy

4. I invited a friend to go to a street market by my house where they served some real good Japanese food. My friend's mom wanted to pay for her daughter's meal, but I insisted on paying for both our meals myself, her mom finally said: Ok, as long as we go Dutch next time.

- (a) I pay for your meal
- (b) you take me with you
- (c) you let me drive you there
- (d) we divide the costs

5. So, is everything plain as a pikestaff? Oh, yes indeed sir!

- (a) clean
- (b) clear
- (c) messy
- (d) in position

6. We are having a pot-luck dinner at Tim's house tomorrow. Everybody is invited!

- (a) dinner where everybody brings something to eat
- (b) dinner where everybody chips in
- (c) dinner where only soup is served
- (d) dinner where people eat and play games at the same time

7. I need everybody's help. The wedding is tomorrow and we haven't even started with the decorations yet. We have no time to lose.

- (a) been procrastinating
- (b) to remember what time it is
- (c) extra time
- (d) to start right now

8. Just keep your wig on. Everything is going to be alright, okay?

- (a) hold your wig so it won't fall off
- (b) get another hair cut
- (c) calm down
- (d) throw a fit

9. Kyle was saved by the bell when his sister walked in and asked him to take her to ballet practice.

- (a) rescued from an unwanted situation
- (b) detained from his duty
- (c) obligated to comply
- (d) obliged to cooperate

10. I would stay away from that guy if I were you, he has a screw loose.

- (a) is dangerous
- (b) is annoying
- (c) is a flirt
- (d) is crazy

Answer Key to idioms:

1. c; 2. a; 3. c; 4. d; 5. b; 6.a; 7. d; 8. c; 9. a; 10. d.

## ETAG will hold its Shida Kartli Regional Conference in Gori

14 June 2008

The theme of the conference is Modern Trends in English Language Teaching. We welcome proposals from colleagues wishing to make a presentation at the conference. An abstract of no more than 300 words should be sent to the central office [etag.tbilisi@caucasus.net](mailto:etag.tbilisi@caucasus.net) before May 25, 2008

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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