



# IELP Speaks: Voices from around the World



---

a product of  
the Intensive English Language Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock

---

Volume 1

Spring 2003

Edition 1

## <<< *FIRST Edition* >>>

The Intensive English Language Program would like to introduce its first edition of *IELP Speaks: Voices from around the World*, produced by the students and faculty. Articles and features were written by the students. Very little editing was done by the faculty, so there may be a few mistakes, but this is ok. We want the students' true writing to "shine through."

## *Here's a Riddle*

What walks on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?

*For the answer, look on page 8.*

---

## *The Director's Corner*

*by Dr. Alan D. Lytle*

April 1, 2003, was my one-year anniversary as Director of IELP. There have been many changes during this year: new teachers, new classes, new books, and a new curriculum. All of the students seem to enjoy and benefit from the new structure. I would like to thank each of the students (new and returning) for their patience during the transition. I would also like to thank all of the teachers (George, Sarah, Shayna, Mary Anne, and Megan) for all of their hard work in their classes and with making the IELP a great place to work and study. My hope is that IELP will grow and continue to be a place where students from around the world will come to study English.

---

## *Arkansas Facts*

*Information is from the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism*

### **How did Arkansas get its name?**

From the Quapaw Indians, who were called Akanseá by certain other tribes. The name means "south wind."



### **Why does the Arkansas state flag look like it does?**

The colors of the Arkansas state flag are red, white, and blue. The 25 stars around the border of the diamond indicated Arkansas as the 25th states admitted to the union. The diamond signifies Arkansas a the only diamond-producing state in the Union.



# *The Fellowship of the I-20*

by Daisuke Mizutani

I like travel because it always gives me new experiences. I have been a lot of experiences about travel; however, in my travel experiences, my recent trip was a really special situation. It was insane and hectic trip. Interestingly I really enjoyed that short trip.

Before the month of Spring Break, I asked my friend Russell about driving to Mexico, because I had to go out of the United States in order to replace my I-20, which is the application for international students, to come to the United States. I totally forgot the expiration date of my I-20; consequently, I lost my I-20 status. Therefore, as far as I'm concerned, my travel was not travel, almost it was a mission like a "the Lord of Rings".

Fortunately for me, Russell, who is my newest friend, agreed with my idea and he willingly said that he could drive all the way to Mexico because I can't drive, I even don't have a driver's license.

Before the week of Spring Break, Russell injured his right foot in a soccer game. It was a quite a serious accident; therefore, I almost gave up my trip to Mexico by car, because he had to have a surgery. Even the day before the trip, he was still using a pair of crutches and painkillers. However, he still tried to go to Mexico by car.

Russell and I watched some movies on Friday night. After that, we talked about our trip and he suddenly said that we should go to the Mexico right then. I thought it was kind of insane, but I thought it sounded really fun at the same time. Finally, we decided to go to Mexico from Saturday morning to Monday morning. To tell the truth, we decided only 3 hours before we left.

When we left Little Rock, both of us were already tired, because we had watched movies almost all night and we hadn't slept. Therefore, we had to take a nap only two hours after we started driving. Incredibly, Russell slept only twice and a total of 4 hours a day. Honestly, we didn't hurry to go to to

Mexico; so I don't know why we didn't get enough sleep. Even for lunch, we just ate Subway sandwiches in the car. We were probably excited or we were originally crazy. The first day, we just stopped at some gas stations, Wal-Mart, and Whataburger.

I have heard the name of the restaurant "Whataburger", but I have never been there. We were sort of hungry on Saturday night, so we stopped in Whataburger. I didn't expect high quality at Whataburger; however, I was really surprised at their tasty hamburgers. I couldn't believe that it was a fast-food restaurant. Not only me, Russell also ate Whataburger for the first time and he was impressed with them too.

We went across the border and visited Matamoros in Mexico on Sunday at 3 o'clock in the morning. I really didn't want to get involved in any trouble, and also we were tired; therefore, we decided to just cross the border and turn around immediately. In the city of Matamoros, a lot of people were drunk and yelling. Moreover, when we came back to the border and got in line, I saw a mountain of Hispanic people walking to the border. Therefore, the U.S. immigration was too crowded, and I had to wait for my immigration examination. Russell and most of the people were U.S. citizens, so they could pass immigration easily. However, the U.S. immigration officer took my fingerprints and picture on my turn, because my passport had some problems. Finally, I got states and come back to the United States. As a result, I stayed in Mexico a couple of hours and most of the time stayed in the U.S. immigration office.

After we came back to the United States, we went, without resting to South Padre Island, which is a famous beautiful resort in the United States. I didn't understand why Russell wanted to go to the beach so much because we were clearly suffering from lack of sleep. However, I understood the reason when we arrived there. It is a beautiful place; especially the sand of the beach was incredibly nice. We gathered beautiful seashells, and we saw the sunrise. After a while, we left the beach and went to eat breakfast in order to sleep well. After that, we found a good place to park, and we fell in asleep in the car on Sunday morning.

When I woke up, Russell was driving the car already. However, he still looked sleepy and tired. He told me that 30 minutes after we had started to take a nap, a police officer had come to the car and he had said that we had better leave the island. There was no other choice for Russell, so he drove the car one hour, then we slept again for a few hours eventually. On the way to the second nap, we stopped by a fruit shop. The shop owner gave us small cups of grapefruit juice as a sample and that was tasty. Finally, Russell bought a bag of grapefruits because they were really sweet.

We slept three hours, and then started to drive to Little Rock. We didn't buy any stuff in Mexico, so we decided to stop in San Antonio, and to buy some gifts for our friends. We visited a well-known church "the Alamo" in downtown San Antonio. We bought some gifts for my friends, and took a picture in front of the Alamo. The Alamo is smaller than I thought, and I couldn't imagine such a bloody war took place there.

Since before the trip, I had planned to treat Russell dinner in the good restaurant in order to show my gratitude. So, we decided to stop in a Texas steak restaurant in Austin. Everything was nice, such as the service, the atmosphere, and of course the food. I have never been to such a good restaurant, sincerely. The steak was tender and the seasoning was terrific. We felt that we were really happy, and I thought our trip was successful. I would say that it was the best steak I have had since I was born. If I have a chance, I want to go to there again. Unfortunately, Austin is too far from Little Rock.

After a dinner, we didn't stop except at gas stations, and we didn't take any naps. Finally, we came back to Little Rock on Monday at 4 o'clock in the morning without any accident. When we came back, Russell immediately went to bed and fell asleep. Within the 44 hours, Russell had slept only 7 hours and he had driven over 30 hours. I really appreciate his incredible work. On the Monday, I went by Suzanne Lee's office, but she didn't realize that I had already visited Mexico and come back by car within 2 days. Moreover, she said that it was insane. I totally agreed with her opinion. However, my trip

was not only insane, but also really exciting. I'm really happy that my I-20 doesn't have any problems now, I have good memories, and Russell and I became really good friends.

---

---

## *Dear Dr. Agony . . .*

*an advice column*

*Do you have a problem? Do you need some good, sensible advice? Well then you've probably come to the wrong place! The IELP Intermediate students have advice for every problem - sometimes good advice and sometimes not so good! Write your problems to Dr. Agony.*

•••••

Dear **Dr. Agony**,

I'm dying for my teacher. It is unbelievable the way she drives me crazy. I don't know what I am supposed to do, but I can't be like this. Tell me what I should do, dear Dr. Agony!

*Desperate Student*

Dear *Desperate Student*,

What you need to do is come to class on time every day and do your homework. Then she will not drive you crazy.

•••••

Dear **Dr. Agony**,

I parked my car between a couple of cars in the parking to of my apartment. When I reversed, I hit the neighbor's car softly. The car was not damaged, but the owner has become my enemy. What should I do?

*Friendly Guy*

*The Intensive English Language Program  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

Dear *Friendly Guy*,

In my opinion, you should have told the car owner about the accident. I think you will have to say, "I'm very sorry" to your neighbor. Then you'd better go the restaurant with your neighbor and them you will offer dinner to your neighbor. If you do that, maybe your neighbor won't be angry.



Dear **Dr. Agony**,

I am a student at UALR and I am living in South Oaks apartment complex. The problem is the apartment's parking lot lights are too bright and I can't sleep at night. I tried to put blinds on my window but it still didn't work. What should I do?

*Sleepless Girl*

Dear *Sleepless Girl*,

I think you should change your bedroom to another side that is darker. Maybe you can put black paper on the window to block the light from the window. You should do something like exercise that makes you feel tired and you will be able to go to sleep.



Dear **Dr. Agony**,

My problem is that I'm very handsome, so almost every woman likes me. When I look in the mirror, I'm so embarrassed because my face is perfect. Sometimes it's a big problem when I go out and everybody looks at me.

*Handsome Guy*

Dear *Handsome Guy*,

You should put a potato bag on your head every time you go out. Maybe you will have fewer problems.



Dear **Dr. Agony**,

I am a poor student who has fallen in love with my teacher. She is a wonderful person. But the problem is she is married. Her husband is a very bad man. He takes drugs and drinks alcohol. Many times he beat her and she needed to go to the hospital. Dr. Agony, I don't know what to do in this case: murder her husband or steal her and marry her.

*Desperate Lover*

Dear *Desperate Lover*,

First of all, you should tell your feelings to her. Is she has the same feelings, you and she can make a plan to kill him. Be sure to make a perfect murder. After you kill him, you can marry her. Good luck!



Dear **Dr. Agony**,

I am a student in IELP. I came here nine months ago. Right now, I feel so sad because I got homesick. I wish I was going to Korea. I wish I could meet my family and friends. But I have to learn more English. This problem is distracting me. What should I do?

*Homesick Boy*

Dear *Homesick Boy*,

Don't worry, I know your family and your friends are on your mind the whole time, and that it is a good idea to learn more English because that's your future. So enjoy your classes and learn a lot. I love ya. XXX

**IELP - UALR**

**Dear Dr. Agony,**

I'm going to talk about one of my classmates. His name is Jose. He eats something many times during class. Usually I don't have breakfast. So, when I see him, I feel hungry. It makes my stomach crazy. I want to eat the things which Jose eats but I can't tell him to please give me a piece of his cookie, candy, etc. If I do that, he would kill me. How can I control my stomach or my good friend, Jose?

Hungry Friend

Dear Hungry Friend,

It's very easy. You can get up early and eat a good breakfast, or you can ask him if he can give you a piece of his cookie. The problem is you are always silent. If you ask, many times you can receive a surprise.



**Dear Dr. Agony,**

I am an international student. I met a guy in the gym. He was talking with me but I didn't understand anything, so whatever he said I answered "Yes." Then, we came to my class and he made me embarrassed because he said "Are you ready? Let's go babe." I was very surprised when somebody translated what he said, so I answered "No." Now he calls me every day even when I said "No." I don't know what to do because he thinks I like him. What should I do?

Confused Girl

Dear Confused Girl,

First of all, I want to ask how old you are? And where are you from? You mentioned you are an international student. Do you have the experience of learning? When you go to school, then you learn knowledge, so when you go to a new place you should learn study new things! I think your problem is you say "Yes" too easily. You need to make sure what "Yes" means when you say "yes" to people, and they take your words too seriously. You need to tell him face-to-face and make it clear that you don't

like him.



**Dear Dr. Agony,**

I am a person who doesn't like American food. I live with my boyfriend. When I cook some food, I always cook Thai food. When my boyfriend cooks American food, I never eat anything that he cooks. Last week he cooked bean burrito for me, but I didn't eat it because I didn't like it. He threw all the food into the trash, and he was mad at me. Moreover, he didn't talk to me and he told me he would never cook anything for me anymore. Now I feel guilty that I didn't eat his food. We never talk to each other about what he likes and I like. What should I do?

Crazy Cook

Dear Crazy Cook,

You should have spoken about the kinds of foods you prefer. You should have explained your reason for refusing some foods. You must keep the friendship.



## *Little Rock's "Best Of"*

*by Rayed Al-Jomiej, Zuwaina Al-Saudi, Kazuki Ito,  
Volkan Komurcuoglu, and Xiaosong Wu*

*The Foundations class conducted a survey to find out the best places in Little Rock for eating, shopping, and tourism. These are the results for the people they surveyed.*

The most popular place for sight-seeing is the zoo. The second most popular place is the city parks. Other places mentioned are the Capitol, the art museum, and the Old Mill.

The most popular place to study is at home. Other places are in the library, in the student center, and at Starbucks.

The most popular pizza places in Little Rock are

Pizza Hut and CiCi's. The second most popular pizza place in Little Rock is Papa John's.

The most popular Italian restaurant in Little Rock is Olive Garden. The second most popular Italian restaurant in Little Rock is Macaroni Grill.

The most popular Chinese restaurant in Little Rock is Go Go China. The second most popular place is Chi's. Other popular places are FuLin's, Vincent's, and Fun Ree.

The most popular Mexican restaurant in Little Rock is Cozymel. The second most popular Mexican restaurant in Little Rock is El Acapulco.

The most popular place for fast food in Little Rock is McDonald's. The second most popular place to eat in Little Rock is Wendy's. Other popular places are Burger King, Subway, Sonic, and Taco Bell.

The most popular outdoors place is Maumelle Park. The second most popular outdoors place is Pinnacle Mountain.

The most popular event in Little Rock is playing soccer. Other events are the fair and the B2K concert.

The most popular department store in Little Rock is WalMart. The second popular place to shop in Little Rock is Dillard's. Other popular places in Little Rock are Sears, Target, JC Penny, and Sam's.

The most popular place for clothes shopping in Little Rock is WalMart. The second most popular place is Dillard's. Other popular places are Burlington, Old Navy, Target, and JC Penney.

The most popular grocery in Little Rock is Kroger. The second most popular grocery in Little Rock is Sam's Club. The third most popular grocery in Little Rock is Harvest Foods.



*IELP Spring Potluck - February 2003*



*Hesham's never late for lunch!*

---

---

## ***WEATHER REPORT***

### ***April 27-May 3***

High temperatures late in the week will be in the upper 70s. Low temperatures late in the week will be in the upper 40s. Weather will be dry and partly cloudy.

# Latest Gossip

by "Ghost Writer"

- \* Kasia is rumored to be DAtIng a new guy. And, her favorite song right now is "Da, Da, Da"
- \* Rayed is looking for an American girlfriend. Anyone interested, please call the *IELP Speaks*.
- \* Students may have seen Alan driving his luxury turtle - specially designed for slow travel. Just ask the Arkadelphia highway patrol.
- \* According to our sources, Lan's favorite TV show is *The Simpsons*, and her favorite Simpson is ...
- \* During Spring Break, the Panama City police reported seeing Tan, Hesham, and Kasia lying on the floor a lot. They weren't sure why. Maybe something they drank?
- \* Who has a "sugar daddy" who flies her to Memphis? Anyone with information leading to an answer to this question, please call the editor of the *IELP Speaks*.
- \* The IELP reporters are trying to find out if Tomoko has a new boyfriend yet. If anyone has any information, please email the editor.
- \* Teachers in IELP reported that one day in March, Dong Hyun was unable to attend class due to a mystery "illness". A classmate reports that he slept on the sidewalk with his wine bottle.
- \* STOP PRESS! On Monday, April 14th Mahadi was heard saying two words. Everyone is watching him closely to see when he will speak again.
- \* Witnesses reported seeing Jin in a restaurant with TWO women!
- \* Intermediate student, Jose Antonio, in a desperate attempt to improve his grade, proposed to his teacher last week. He was refused, and if the teacher's husband finds out, will never be seen again.
- \* Estey's neighbors in South Oaks have been complaining again. However, this time they say that she is too quiet.
- \* Hyung Jin is looking for a new girlfriend. He AIMs to find someone better than his old one.
- \* We hope that Daisuke will wake up early enough for the final exam. Could everyone please call him at 1-800-WAKEMEUP on the morning of the exam to make sure he gets out of bed?
- \* Our sources at the Electric Cowboy tell us that IELP's best sportsman is frequently seen there with

a drink in his hand.

- \* According to our hunting correspondent, Jose is ready for the next hunting season. George, be careful - there may be an "accident."
- \* The "cat-lover" teacher cleaned her car for the first time in history last Friday for the conference. Clearly she is more worried about what the Arkadelphia teachers think than about what we think.
- \* Competition: Anyone who can guess where Tan's third tattoo is, and what it means, will win a date with Tan.
- \* The Intermediate students report that they are very "sad" that Sarah is leaving Little Rock in the fall. Meanwhile, having heard that she is going to teach Pre-university in the summer, they are all planning to fail the final exam.

---

---

## Humor

by Lan Tran

What is the Capital?

- A: Hey. What's up?  
B: Nothing much. How about you?  
A: I am very good today. I talked with my friend this morning, and I cannot believe that he asked me a very stupid question.  
B: So what did he ask you? Tell me how stupid it was.  
A: He asked me what the capital of Arkansas is! Can you believe it? I was born here and have been here for 20 years. How can I not know the answer?!
- B: So . . . what did you say?  
A: It was easy; everybody knows the capital of Arkansas is "A."  
B: What???
- A: Oh, then he asked what the capital of America is.  
B: And . . . what . . . did . . . you . . . say?  
A: Oh, it was easy. Everybody knows the capital of America is "A!"



*George Peters -  
teacher*



*Sarah Taylor - teacher*



*Shayna Pollock -  
teacher*



*Suzanne Lee -  
immigration specialist*

## *IELP Course Schedule*

**Summer 2003** May 27 - August 8, 2003

**Fall 2003** August 25 - December 12, 2003

Fall A 2003 August 25 - October 10, 2003

Fall B 2003 October 13 - December 12, 2003

**Spring 2004** January 12 - May 7, 2004

Spring A 2004 January 12 - March 5, 2004

Spring B 2004 March 8 - May 7, 2004

*(including 1 week of Spring Break)*

**Summer 2004** May 25 - August 6, 2004

*Note:* Fall A 2003 and Spring A 2004 cannot be used to progress through the IELP levels and cannot be used for UALR admission.

---

---

## *Here's a Riddle Answer*

A man. In the morning (when the man is a baby), he crawls on two hands and two knees. At noon (when the man is an adult), he walks on two feet. In the evening (when the man is very old), he walks on two feet and uses a cane (walking stick).

---

---

## *Classes*

### **Foundations**

Rayed Al-Jomiey Kazuki Ito Xiaosong Wu  
Zuwaina Al-Saudi Volkan Komurcuoglu

### **Intermediate**

Boyka Bolor-Erdene Yuan Han An Woo Nam  
Hyung Jin Cho Tomoko Kasuya Esteysi Quiroz  
Jesus Parra Ivan Evtimov Kweon Jae Lee  
Jose Antonio Sologuren Nitiporn Sukyimnoi

### **Pre-university/TOEFL**

Haydar Akbulut Niclas Hesselgren Kira Lee  
Hesham Al-Madhrabi Jeries Horani Daisuke Mizutani  
Tan Beken Dong Hyun Kim Leah Shafirstein  
Chimgee Davaadorj Tae Jin Koo Mei Song  
Mahadi Gani Kasia Kuczynska Lan Tran

---

---

## **We'd love to hear from you!**

Write or e-mail us at:

Intensive English Language Program  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
2801 South University Avenue  
Stabler Hall 304  
Little Rock, AR 72204

telephone: (501) 569-3468  
fax: (501) 569-3581  
e-mail: [ielp@ualr.edu](mailto:ielp@ualr.edu)  
web: <http://www.ualr.edu/ielp>