

ESL Summer Intensive

NEWSLETTER

Baseball: A Game for Everyone



Baseball is more than a stadium sport

One of the highlights of summer is taking in a baseball game with friends. For many ESL students, baseball is a new experience and a chance to learn a little about

American culture.

Baseball is a sport played between two teams of about nine players each. It is a bat-and-ball game in which a pitcher throws a ball toward a batter on the opposing team. The batter attempts to hit the baseball

with a bat. A team scores runs only when batting, by advancing its players past a series of four markers called bases arranged at the corners of a ninety-foot square, or "diamond."

While it's a very exciting sport to watch in a baseball stadium with crowds cheering, what makes baseball most enjoyable is that it can be played anywhere by anyone.

People from all walks of life can play the game in parks, schools, as part of amateur leagues or even in their own backyard with friends.

It's no wonder baseball is regarded as "America's pastime."

Upcoming Events:

- 7/27—Homewood Movies, 8PM; Movie in Little Italy, 9PM
- 7/27—Orioles vs. Yankees Baseball at Camden Yards, 6PM
- 8/3—Certificate Ceremony/ International Lunch, 11AM-1PM

REMINDER!

Don't forget to bring in a traditional dish to share with faculty and classmates at the International Lunch and Certificate Ceremony on August 3.

To submit pictures or articles for the newsletter email esl@jhu.edu

ESL Students Set Sail

For many people, there is nothing more relaxing than an afternoon out on the water.

ESL students got to experience the thrill of sailing a boat in the fresh breeze this summer and for many it was an incredible adventure.

Faculty from ESL as well as the Language Teaching Center came out to enjoy a day of leisure on the harbor. Students got to do



ESL and LTC faculty join students for an afternoon of sailing

more than just sit and enjoy the water though, as some were lucky

enough to be able to hoist the sail and feel like a part of the "crew."

Student Yue Li said after a sailing trip that he hadn't felt that relaxed in a long time.

If you missed out on this summer's sailing trips and would like to go on your own or with new friends, visit www.getawaysailing.com for information.

Student Essay

Values Behind American Proverbs and Their Chinese Equivalents

Yangfan Phoebe Liu

More or less, every culture has its own

proverbs, which reflect the values people share within the culture. As a Chinese student studying in the United States, I would like to try to compare and contrast some American proverbs and their Chinese equivalents. The similarities and dissimilarities between them give us interesting information about the American and Chinese values and also hint at the possible interactions between them.

Some proverbs are exactly the same in English and Chinese, reflecting common values between the two cultures. For example, both Americans and Chinese say "Strike while the iron is hot" and "Time is money". Though I am not sure about the origin of these proverbs, since China is much older than America, and there are a lot of old Chinese sayings and poems telling people to treasure today but not to wait for tomorrow, I am inclined to believe these were spread to other cultures from China. Whatever the provenance origins, the bottom line is that we both accept these proverbs and the values behind them without questions. We treasure time, we grasp opportunities, and we work as hard as each other.

Some American proverbs remind me of their Chinese equivalents, but I find they actually emphasize different values when I analyze

them closely. Americans think "A man's home is his castle", whereas Chinese believe home is a man's bay. A Castle is hard and powerful, but also somehow cold and dark. Compared with a castle, a bay is much softer, warmer and more peaceful. If we say an American man is a fighter, when he comes back to his castle, he controls everything



ESL student discusses common proverbs such as "time is money"

inside, and goes on fighting with the enemies outside, though of course, under the protection of his castle. How about a Chinese man? He is a navy soldier or a battleship. As long as he comes back to his bay, he stays away from the storms and the wars outside. Here he not only can get protection but also can have a good rest. Instead of controlling his bay, he is replenished here, getting all kinds of resources including supplies and munitions. From the two words "castle" and "bay", I can definitely see the different concepts about home between American men and Chinese men.

What seems most interesting for me is the subtle variation in the ways people apply similar proverbs. American culture is forthright. People are encouraged to speak out if they feel uncomfortable about anything. Therefore, they say, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." Generally, it is a positive expression. Grease is necessary for better work, so asking for it is reasonable. This is absolutely different from traditional Chinese culture. However, in modern times, young Chinese have assimilated this thought from western culture. When a graduate thinks his work deserves more money, he would show his boss what he did and what he can do, and then talk about his salary. If he gets what he wants, people may say "The crying baby gets the milk". Can you tell the difference here? Chinese people admit he deserves it, but they have a problem to accept the way how he makes it work. They will probably talk about him as a noisy and naïve baby.

Obviously distinctive values in diverse cultures lead to different proverbs, but at the same time, we still communicate and share many things based on common human virtues. In one word, cultures are organic not static. They are also related and interactional, instead of isolated or opposite. Appreciate the similarity, respect and understand the dissimilarity, and then we can enjoy the beauty of cultural diversity.

Word Scramble

Unscramble the word and check the next issue to see if your answer was correct.

I E N S V T N I E