
PALS ECHO

Program in American Language Studies of Rutgers University-Newark

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Free time!

Bambina Esposito, Italy
Richard Gomes' Basic Writing

When I have free time I like to paint. I also like to go to the movies, listen to music and go to parties. Another thing I enjoy is to go shopping. I love shopping! When I go to the mall, I like to see the clothes, the jewelry, the shoes and the bags. I spend a lot of money to buy these things, but I usually relax when I go shopping. I like to travel because in the world there are a lot of places that one person can see. For example my favorite place is Dubai. One day I hope to travel to this city. I also like to dance because it is a lot of fun and I like to go to the museums because my passion is art. As you can see, I like to do many different activities in my free time.

My busy week!

Alexander Orozco Rodriguez, Colombia
Richard Gomes' Basic Writing

During the week, my days are very busy. I always wake up very early in the morning at around 4:15am. I pray in the rosary of the Virgin Mary, and then I go jogging for about 45 minutes because I like to stay healthy. I usually have my breakfast at home but sometimes I eat breakfast at a restaurant. Immediately after my breakfast, I go to school to study English. I often cook in my house because sometimes our chef cannot come. I always make Colombian food, so my friends are very happy with me because they are Colombians. I rarely make Italian food, but I could do it because when I was living in Colombia, I learned how to cook different kinds of food. Finally at night I go to bed around 9:30pm. I never go to bed late. As you can see, every week is very busy.

Staying Healthy!

Kubilay Ozbek, Turkey
Richard Gomes' Basic Writing

I do several things to try to stay healthy. I never smoke or drink alcohol. I usually sleep eight hours every night. I rarely eat foods that have a lot of sugar or fat and I don't eat very much at night. I never use drugs and I also don't sunbathe at all. I go to the gym every weekend. I like to exercise and practice sports a lot so I play table tennis, basketball and soccer. I also take a walk three times a week. As you can see, I practice a lot of sports in order to stay healthy.

All I Want

María Enid Peña, Dominican Republic
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

All I want is someone to love
Someone to share my life

All I want is someone to love
Someone to give me wings
Someone to make me fly

All I want is someone to love
Someone to be my eyes
Someone to be my voice
Someone to be my strength

All I want is someone to love
Someone to laugh with
Someone to live with
Someone to dream about
Someone to stay with me to the end

All I want is to love for the first time

I Don't Understand

Tulay Kalebek, Turkey
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I don't understand
why people don't smile when they see each other
why people aren't happy with little things
why people are angry with each other

But most of all
why lessons are difficult
why people must be hungry
why people grow up

What I understand most is
why birds are flying
why cats are grumbling
why sunlight warms us up

I Remember

Lili Liu, China
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I remember my father waited for me at the school gate
I remember my father taught me how to sing
I remember how happy we were when we sat together
And talked about my college life

I remember how delicious my mother cooked food
I remember my mother visited me when I got my job in another city
I remember my achievement when I used my salary to buy gifts for my parents

Even though now we are not living together
I remember everything about my parents

Mirror

Leticia Chajon, Brazil
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I look at my face
I don't find it in the mirror
I don't see my bright eyes
When I look at my face

I try to find my power
The power in my soul
The energy in my life
I don't find my face

I don't recognize myself
Just in three years my life has turned to hell
I don't remember when it started
But I know it's time to stop

I understand it's true
Because I'm lost in my mirror
I need to find again my face, my life
I look for a flashlight in the mirror

I try and throw my eyes
And bring with me the power to start my life again
When I look in the mirror
And say, "Hey, it's you."

I Don't Understand

Angel Gamba Malagón, Colombia
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I don't understand
why this world is crazy
why people think that all is easy
why things happen without a reason

But most of all
why sometimes life is difficult
why we are different
why hypocrisy is a modal for some people

What I understand most is
why envy impairs some people
why the light of life is far from the world
why we can't understand the mystery of life

I Remember

Indira Vergel Fernandez, Colombia
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I remember this night in the boat
I remember its name was Kumbia
I remember when midnight struck
And the sky sang a song for me

I remember the next day in the morning
I remember when the sun touched my skin
I remember when I saw the sea

Even though this was not a dream
I remember this night in the boat

I Remember

Melike Karca, Turkey
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I remember the rain
I remember your smiles in the silence
I remember how we walked together
hand in hand in the night under the moonlight
And how I feel smooth

I remember one hot summer night
I remember just you and me at the beach
I remember we drank the wine in sips
I remember you sang me a romantic song when you
were looking in my eyes, hugging me

I Don't Understand

Yelda Aydogdu, Turkey
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I don't understand
why babies cry continually
why people don't invent teleportation
why I'm not rich

But most of all
why I must learn English
why I can't eat everything that I want to
why animals don't speak

What I understand most is
why people must learn English
why I should be devoted to my boyfriend
why big fish eat small fish

All I Want

Bruna Arantes, Brazil
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

All I want is someone to stay with me
Someone to give me a long hug

All I want is someone to stay with me
Someone to understand me with just one look
Someone to be there when the party's over

All I want is someone to stay with me
Someone to wake me up with a kiss
Someone to say to me that I'm beautiful when I wake up
Someone to complete the part that I don't have

All I want is someone to stay with me
Someone to sing with me in the car
Someone to caress my face and look at me like it's the first time

Someone to see the sunset with me
Someone to say I love you when I don't really deserve it

All I want is to be part of your heart and have you in my life

I Remember

Suceti Martinez, Ecuador
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I remember your first smile, your first cry
I remember your first hug, your first yawn
I remember your first steps
And your first fall

I remember your first night in my hands
I remember my first night I looked at you
I remember when you went to school

Even though now you're grown up
I remember your first word, "Mom"

All I Want

Natalia Ramirez, Colombia
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

All I want is someone to dance with
Someone to feel the music with love

All I want is someone to dance with
Someone to fly in the notes
Someone to take the route with a waltz

All I want is someone to dance with
Someone to follow without rushing
Someone to have a good compass
Someone to hold my hand until the end of the dance

All I want is someone to dance with
Someone to teach me the passion with every dance
Someone to show me the right step
Someone to know how to pull up when I come to stop
Someone to dance all my life

All I want is to dance and dance with the same guy

All I Want

Jose Rodriguez, Colombia
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

All I want is someone to teach me the way of holiness
Someone to speak always the truth

All I want is someone to teach me the way of holiness
Someone to listen to the big necessities of people
Someone to walk in the way of peace

All I want is someone to teach me the way of holiness
Someone to bring me hope when everything is lost
Someone to show me true happiness
Someone to smile through the difficulties

All I want is someone to teach me the way of holiness
Someone to trust and increase in faith
Someone to raise me in good virtues
Someone to show mercy to those who make a mistake
Someone to encourage me in hard times

All I want is to gain deep knowledge and love of God every day

I Remember

Eun Ji Son, Korea
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I remember the winter we met
I remember the ring we shared
I remember the stuffy weather when we went to the park
And although the weather was not good, we were happy

I remember the campus where we studied together
I remember the time we worshipped together
I remember the foods we made together
Even though it was tasteless

I remember every day we were together

I Am

Jessica Caravjal, Colombia
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

I am afraid of snakes
I am afraid of their eyes
I am afraid that they will bite me
I am afraid that they will strike me
I am even afraid when they are near me

I am afraid of life
I am afraid of lies
I am afraid my eyes can't see
I am afraid my heart can't beat
I am even afraid that my body can't breathe

I want to smile
I want to fly
I want to dance
I want to love
I even want to be strong

All I Want

Ersin Has, Turkey
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

All I want is someone to awake in me
Someone to see, then touch

All I want is someone to awake in me
Someone to feel me
Someone to enjoy life with

All I want is someone to awake in me
Someone to be hopeful as much as me
Someone to come in peace to me
Someone to give her heart to me

All I want is someone to awake in me
Someone to smile at life
Someone to live eternally
Someone to not take life seriously
Someone to join my world

All I want is an angel who loves me

I Would Like to Tell You

Tanut Techavisesa, Thailand
Jessica Wilson's Low Intermediate Writing class

My old friend,
I would like to tell you
You are selfish
You tell me
you are generous
You tell me
I am the best friend
You tell me
You can do anything for me
I would like to tell you
You are a stupid guy and also selfish
Ridiculous
I really want to tell you to improve
your personality to better make friends
Don't expect everyone to do good things
for your whole life
Give good things to others,
Then that one will return other good things to you

My Perception of President Obama

Marisol Garcia's Low Advanced Writing
Iris Carrillo, Peru

I really don't know too much about politics because I never care. It is rather boring for me. However, in this occasion, that situation changed because all of the things that are happening around me are affecting my life. Also, Obama captured young people's attention, like me.

President Obama started out on January 20, 2009 with an exciting ceremony. I noticed that a lot of people in the United States of America put all their hope for the future of the country in this man. I see a special enthusiasm in Black and Hispanic people because Obama is not the classic *gringo*, or White, President. He is the first Black President ever.

President Obama's speech was very clear and he said that changes are coming. These changes are going to take time and he needs everyone's effort as a nation. I really love the transparency and honesty that he transmitted to his listeners.

In conclusion, most Americans are very happy and proud to have an intelligent and prepared Afro-American as the President of the United States of America.

The Presidential Inauguration

Marisol Garcia's Low Advanced Writing
Hyunju Kim, Korea

It was my first time watching a presidential inauguration in the United States. In fact, four years ago, I had the chance to see George Bush's inauguration, but at that time, I did not want to spend time watching it.

However, on January 20, 2009, President Obama's inauguration was so special for both Americans and other people outside of the USA because it was an historic day.

I was impressed that most Americans had interest in watching and participating in their new president's inauguration. Lots of people were in Washington, D.C. to hear his speech. I felt that Americans, who live in the USA, really love their country and have respect for their president.

As I saw this presentation, I felt ashamed of myself. In fact, last year I voted during Korea's presidential election. The new president was chosen and appeared in front of his precious public. He spoke his inaugural address, like Obama did, but at that time I did not watch or hear his address because I was not interested. Therefore, when someone said that Obama's inauguration was historical, I regretted not paying attention to my own president's inauguration.

Now, not only the USA, but also all the world is facing a serious situation with economics. It is certain that the early days of President Obama's life will be hard. In spite of the serious situation, as he became president, I saw that the USA was ready to change. First of all, I saw different races gathering at his inauguration. When I saw the musical performance by Black, White, and Asian people, I felt that the world will be one.

It was a really precious experience for me. By watching President Obama's ceremony, I feel like loving my country, too. I really appreciated watching it.

My Experience as a Child Psychologist

Marisol Garcia's Low Advanced Writing
Miriam Morales, Ecuador

When I was a student in college, I had the opportunity to work with children that had conduct, learning, and autistic problems. I discovered that I liked this type of work, so I decided to become a child psychologist.

First, I started working as a teacher for regular children and then I had the opportunity to work as a therapist for autistic children. I had good experiences with two autistic children who had different types of behavior.

The first case is Paolo was a teenager who liked drawing and painting cartoons. One day, I had to give a presentation on didactic material about his family. I was not ready for the presentation, so my coworker told me that Paolo knew how to draw and paint. I gave Paolo his family picture so that he could draw them. He took the picture and slowly started saying, "I, Paolo, mother, father, Julia, my sister." He then closed his eyes and started painting a cartoon of the picture. Paolo was obedient and had good manners.

The other case involved Jorge, another teenager that liked sports. Jorge had two different behaviors for school and home. In school, he felt free because he could express himself with his hands, make sounds, scream, and balance his body. At home, he was not permitted to express himself as he did at school.

In conclusion, Paolo is a passive autistic child while Jorge is an extroverted autistic. Therefore, autistic children can have different types of behaviors and personalities.

My Favorite Activities

Marisol Garcia's Low Advanced Writing
Danny A. Pabón, Colombia

If you have a special imagination and a lot of worlds, magic places, and people in your head, show them to the real world; give us a story or tell us those things in a song. This is what I think.

One of my favorite activities is to spend a lot of time alone looking at the sky, landscapes, flowers, trees, or anything that can transport me to another place. During that "ecstasy," I love to write a lot of stories or thoughts about life, spiritual life, and everything that comes to my mind. I enjoy this activity so much. It is my special way to get out of reality; it is a special way for me to think about my life when I feel that I am in a deep pool where there is nobody that can help me; it is a special way to talk or write to God, asking him, "What about you?"

On the other hand, when your hand is unable to write, and in your head are a lot of words that want to be said, it is really good to relax and permit those words to come out in a song. This is my other favorite activity. When I give the words permission to come out, they always come out in a song. I love to sing because when I don't have words to express the feelings in my heart, the best way to show them is by singing.

If you are like me, a simple man with a big imagination and a lot of things in your heart and mind, then take your time and write a story that will change the lives of others or sing a song that will touch people around the world.

My Two Favorite Sports

Marisol Garcia's Low Advanced Writing
Ingrid Davila A., Ecuador

I enjoy my time off practicing two sports; one of them is very artistic and the other is very extreme, but both are exciting and demand dedication and effort.

My first favorite sport is ice skating, which is very artistic and demands more work because you need to take some ballet classes to improve your flexibility and movement coordination. After that, you need to start practicing with roller skates so that you can control your balance. When you have accomplished these steps, you are ready to skate. You also need to buy the equipment necessary for the sport. You must buy a pair of skates in the right size with covers to protect the blades and prevent accidents. You must also use special outfits for better flexibility.

When I started practicing this sport, it was very expensive and difficult to access, because the equipment and the classes that you need to take cost a lot of money. You need to pay the cost of maintenance in the skating ring if you would like to continue on the team.

The next sport that I practice is free falling. I like this sport because I feel a lot of freedom. Sometimes, I like to imitate birds when they are flying, but I know the danger that this sport represents especially when I jump higher than six miles. I also know that I have to use the right equipment to help me land safely on the ground.

My first experience in this sport was very exciting. I remember the instructor telling me,

“You have two seconds to jump. When you jump, open your arms and breathe through your nose and exhale from your mouth. Do not allow the air to enter your mouth. When your colleague opens his parachute, you count to ten and open yours, keep your feet together and relax.” The instructor added these words: “forget the stress” and when he finished talking, I was in the air. Oh my God! I enjoyed this moment as I enjoyed my life. I was very happy, nervous, and I felt butterflies in my stomach.

At the end of this great moment, I evaluated my life and thanked God for the gift of life.

My Favorite Things to Do

Marisol Garcia’s Low Advanced Writing

Pablo Inoa, Dominican Republic

I like the game of baseball. When I was a child in my country, the Dominican Republic, playing this sport was my favorite activity. I remember when I played with my partners, some of who became big prospects, but only one of them became a professional and now he has earned more money than every one of us childhood friends put together! In spite of this situation, I studied civil engineering and my other friends are professionals, too. I still follow the baseball big leagues in the United States on television or sometimes I go to Yankee Stadium to watch the games.

Another thing I like to do is read the newspaper on the internet. Everyday, I have to keep myself updated with information because I have family in the Dominican Republic—this way, I have an idea of how they are doing.

In conclusion, there are a lot of things that I would like to do, but life is very expensive in this country and it is difficult when you have a big family. I just don’t have enough available time.

The War Between America and Iraq

Bonnie Harley’s TOEFL Preparation Class

Nida Polat Cimorelli, Turkey

I am from Turkey and I would like to discuss the war which is between America and Iraq. This event affected my country very deeply. I will try to explain the biggest two reasons, why the war affected my country.

Turkey has a very good strategic location which makes Turkey an intermediary between Asia and Europe. Also, Turkey is partly in Asia and partly in Europe. Turkey was stuck between America and Iraq. Iraq is the closest neighbor of Turkey. However, America has been a good friend of Turkey for a long time. We have lot of exportation and importation with each other.

If your neighbor has a big war, whether you like it or not, this affects your country. Turkey does not want to destroy its entire relationship with America. To go to Iraq, America needed to pass through Turkey, but they did not allow that because if we allowed that, it would mean Turkey is in war with America automatically. We would like to continue being a good friend to America. However, we would like to stay out of the war to protect the relationship we have with Iraq.

Additionally, the country of Turkey has a lot of Kurdish citizens. Some Kurdish citizens have been living in Iraq for a long time. During the war, numerous Kurdish people tried to come to Turkey because they wanted to be in a safe place. The Turkish population is large enough just for

the Turkish People, and the Kurdish people who have been living in Turkey already.

Also, the Kurdish people who are living in Iraq would like to create their own country taking a piece of land from Turkey. This has been the Kurdish people's dream of utopia for a long time, but they have a good opportunity right now, and it is a major threat for Turkey. We have a good population of Kurdish people and they like to join with the Kurdish people who are living in Iraq. The Turkish soldiers have to fight with PPK. PKK is a terrorist organization which has been established by Kurdish people. The Turkish people and the Kurdish people are losing hundreds of soldiers every day.

I hope the war will end soon because the war is destroying the Turkish-Kurdish relationship. We do not want to see any war close to our country.

Facing Moments

Rozan Himmoud, Venezuela

Bonnie Harley's TOEFL Preparation Class

Many times in life we have to face moments that we do not like - moments that give us feelings of sadness or stress. While in other moments, we experience feelings of happiness and joy and everything seems to be perfect.

However, it is normal to go through moments when everything seems to be very difficult and bad, but after a while, everything ends up in a very good way or better than we had expected. For example, one year ago, when I moved to The United States, everything seemed to be very bad. I neither had friends, nor spoke the language and I moved to a country that differs from my country in many different aspects, such as weather, food, lifestyle, culture and more. At the beginning, I felt bad and frustrated. I cried and wished to go back to my country and continue my life in the way it was there before I moved. After a while, I started to study English in the ESL program of Rutgers University and I started to meet people from many different countries and share time with them, learning new things about the lifestyle of people around the world. Moreover, I began to learn how to do things by myself and I started to get used to the new things that I was facing in my life.

Today, in February 2009, everything has changed in my life. What seemed to be the worst thing in my life ended up as one of the most wonderful experiences that I have ever had. Nowadays, I am sharing time with people from everywhere. I have met a lot of people in the program who have helped me a lot and have become my new family in The United States, while I am learning a new language. I am more independent and now I feel that I do not have limits to reach my goals and what I desire.

Life is a box filled with surprises and new experiences; we have to deal with them and to learn the good things about life. Life is a game where everybody has to do their best to win and succeed, no matter how hard it seems to be or how much we have to work for it. It is a game where not everything seems to turn out the way we want, but in the end it always brings something good for us.

The Good Aspects of a Long Commute

Emery Huang (Te-Sheng Huang), Taiwan
Bonnie Harley's TOEFL Preparation Class

Commuting by train to school almost every day seems very difficult to some people. It is no doubt that getting up early and coming home late will cause me to be extremely tired. However, I have become addicted to the train commute. The main two reasons I have fallen in love with taking a train are the people and the scenery along the way to Newark. Every morning, I meet almost the same group of people at the waiting room of the train station. On the train, I am beginning to be familiar with some faces, as if I know them well. In fact, we are still strangers to each other and have not spoken with each other yet. I like to watch people- how they dress up, what they are read or how they feel.

The other thing to enjoy during the train commute is the scenery. When it is a snowy day, the whole landscape turns into white, which I will not see in my home country. Sometimes you can see some animals running around in the forest. When the weather gets warmer, the snow starts to melt, the buds of trees are on the tip of the branches being ready for the spring time, and the whole world becomes hassle and bustle. People do not really notice the subtle changes around them. These are some things I enjoy doing and will keep doing while commuting by train to school

The PALS Echo is devoted to presenting the writings of our intensive English language students.

Program in American Language Studies (PALS)
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
152 Conklin Hall, 175 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102-1814

Phone: 973-353-5013 Fax: 973-353-1438
Email: pals@andromeda.rutgers.edu Web: <http://pals.newark.rutgers.edu>
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