

Volunteers: Joyce-leader, Libby, Phoebe, Mary, Debra

Students: Yun Young, Mika, Xi Lin, Rainbow, Hyunju, Jing Sun

EEN: p. 5: Heroes and History;
Begin at "The Horrors of Child Labor"

We welcomed a new student, Yun Young, originally from Korea, who has lived in the US for 17 years and would like to polish her English skills.

Class began with some tongue twisters. Joyce provided a list of several for the students to take home, in order to practice some difficult sounds. During class we practiced the 'W' sound with two 'W' focused tongue twisters.

We reviewed vocabulary words from the upcoming reading from Easy English News and students participated in discussion based on these words. Joyce explained that the addition of 'ed' or 'd' at the end of a word may indicate that word is in past tense; i.e., immigrate/immigrated convince/convinced. Also touched upon the fact that the word 'refuse' changes from noun to verb based on syllabic emphasis.

After vocabulary word review, volunteers read today's article, a paragraph at a time. After each reading, conversation was encouraged and we had some good student participation.

After the break, we briefly touched on the difference between Open-ended and Close-ended Questions. Roll-played an example of each and noted how to keep a conversation moving using Open-ended questions.

Two of the students roll-played using Open-ended questions and kept a conversation about food and grocery shopping going until halted by the leader – they could have kept going!

A question by Phoebe to the students: What are areas of conversation that would be most helpful for the teachers and volunteers to discuss in class, such as would it be helpful for us to explain how Americans talk to each other in different situation? Are there everyday life situations where they feel they really need more assistance in developing conversation skills?

*** Medical terminology and going to the doctor's office *** was the number one concern of a situation that they find most difficult here in the US.

One student shared the difficulties she had in having to have a procedure done at a doctor's/dentist office and how her husband had to translate for her as she did not understand the description of her problem and the procedure that would be done to fix it and the aftercare. The students expressed that doctors don't spend much time with patients; the volunteers noted

that many nurses are very helpful in answering questions before/during/after seeing the physician.

An idea would be to try to have a class (or more, if necessary) to work on this and hopefully bringing in a medical doctor/nurse to help facilitate learning medical terminology, going over some common ailments/procedures.

Lastly, Joyce asked the students to describe childhood games that they played. Rainbow, Yun young, and Mika talked about a game that sounded similar to jump-rope but using a longer, larger rubber band that the girls jumped over and sung songs to go with the jumping; it sounded similar to when young girls in this country play jump rope and have different songs to go with a particular game they play with the jump rope.