



Literacy Volunteers
of Somerset County

Connections: A Student Newsletter

Volume 2 – June 2020

This issue features funny stories that have happened to our students either because of misunderstandings with language or because they were still learning about the culture and customs here.

This story below was written by Rocky (pictured with his tutor,



Dennis and I met in February 2018, it has already been 2 years! I really appreciate Dennis's dedicated help in learning English. I am also very thankful for the English learning platform provided by LVSC.

In our class, we always enjoy the interesting WORD JUMPING when I was asking questions about my new words:

Rocky: What is the difference between STARVING and HUNGRY?

Dennis: Starving can be an exaggeration for hungry When Rocky said he is "starving to death", he is not really going to die

Rocky: What is EXAGGERATE then?

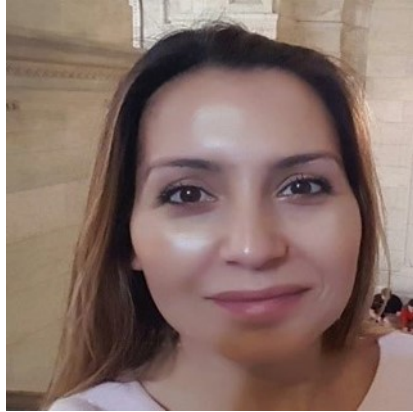
Dennis: Like "His face turns as red as a beet, figuratively speaking of course."

Rocky: What is FIGURATIVELY and BEET?

Dennis:

That's really funny and happened all the time. I can learn a lot from the word imagination and sometimes Dennis learned something like what a CMU is in my field (I am an architectural designer) as well.

The next stories were submitted by Esen:



Hi everyone! My name is Esen and I am from Turkey.

My first experience is, when we first came to the United States we moved one of the apartment communities in Watchung. It was the second day of we were there, my husband left for work. A couple of hours later the fire alarm went off. I didn't know what to do because back in Turkey we didn't have a fire alarm system. I started to panic because I didn't know what was going on. I just grabbed my two daughters and exited the apartment. When I went out I didn't see anyone. My daughters and I walked to the playground nearby and stayed there for an hour. After an hour we wanted to go back to the apartment and check what was going on. We saw one of the maintenance guys and asked him what was going on. He said that they were checking the fire alarm system in the apartment, and there was nothing to worry about. I was so glad to hear that and we safely went in our house.

My second story is, when we first came to the United States, we went out. We were running out of gas and my husband told me should stop by one of the gas station and fill up our tank. Then we stopped by one of the gas stations. My husband told me to give him some cash to pay for the gas. I gave him one hundred dollars. He told me it's too much and we only need \$30 to fill up the tank. I was so happy to hear that because back in our country the gas prices are so high.

My third experience was confusing two English words. I had just learned the word **fault**, meaning a break in the earth where an earthquake can happen. However, I got confused and said that I knew someone who experienced an earthquake because she lived on a **blame**.

Ocean submitted the story below:



Hello everyone, I am Ocean Li, I am from China. I appreciate this opportunity to share something from the bottom of my heart to you.

I still remember that when I came to the United States, I went to Five Guys the hamburger's store to order a meal. I feel frustrated because I confused about the menu with different kinds of personal adding things. That's quite different from the McDonald's. When the staff asked me, "Do you want this? Do you want that?" Just because I don't know what did he mean, so I can only say no. As a result, I only got two slices of bread with a piece of meat between them, that's absolutely a too boring hamburger.

When I took part in the LVSC, my life in America changed. I remember when I introduce myself at the first class, I was not sure people understood my words. But Lydia and the whole class encouraged me to keep talking and practicing.

Due to the global pandemic, we have to meet by Zoom. At the first visual class, Yorlenny said "Ocean, your English have improved a lot. " Which made me too glad to say a word. At that moment, my tutor Maureen pop up my head. Without her patient teaching and effective method of learning, I couldn't reach that. Please let me take this chance. I would like to thank all the great teachers and my dear classmates. I have been a student with LVSC for half year, I have join the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday conversation group at the Somerset County Libraries.

Dear friends, whether you are new to the United States or have been here for a long time. As long as you want to improve your English level, never is too late, welcome to our class. There are countless surprises waiting for you!

This story was submitted by Tracy (pictured with her tutor Andrea):



Hi everyone! My name is Tracy Ho and I'm from China.

I have an embarrassing funny story because of my English accent. I used to work in the restaurant. One time a customer came pick up his order, and I had to repeat what is his order was, I said, "One order of plain broccoli." He looked at me and said, "Pink broccoli?" another customer said, "When you come home the broccoli will turn pink." then they laughed. I was upset with myself, but also I felt that it was a funny story.

Kathy (pictured) sent the following story that happened to a friend:

A friend of mine was looking for a restaurant, but she didn't know how to ask for it. So, she went up to a local person and pointed to her mouth, hoping to give the idea that she wanted to eat. After some more gestures, the local person drew a map on the piece of paper and gave it to my friend. When she followed the map, she pulled into the parking lot for a dentist office! The person had misunderstood why she was pointing to her mouth.



Sunny submitted the next two stories:

Hello everyone! My name is Sunny Lee, my family is from South Korea.

I want to share two stories with you, one is mine and the other is my husband's story.

When I lived in Indianapolis, I had been only a few months in the US. My next-door neighbor, Mary was very amiable and taught me what I need to know living the US. She told me that I was the first Asian neighbor in her life.

One day, she asked me if we could go out, because the day was called "Girls Day". She took me at Olive Garden restaurant, and there were 9 women including me. I was the only Asian woman who wasn't good at English, the rest of women were native English speakers. The waitress and others spoke very quickly and ordered. When it was my turn, I pointed at a dish on the menu and then the waitress asked me, "Soup or salad?"

However, I understood it as "SUPER SALAD?", so I answered " Super salad is too big to me (I already knew that American portion is too big), I want a small salad" Everybody laughed and I didn't know why they laughed.

Mary slowly explained the reason to me. I was embarrassed and my face turned red. Even now, I still have trouble understanding fast English.



My husband likes jogging. He goes to Duke Island Park to jog two or three times a week. One morning, he was jogging at the park and noticed two teenager girls. When he approached them, they blocked him and said, "Don't go, there is a copperhead".

However, he understood as "A COP AHEAD", so he said, "It's okay to me".

He wanted to keep running. The girls stubbornly blocked him with opening their arms and explained about copperhead that is a poisonous snake.

That day, he learned what copperhead is. When he got home, he searched copperhead on the internet.