

## TUTORÍAS POR INTERNET

Soledad Ibarra

Esta experiencia comenzó como una extensión casi natural y sin planear en mis clases habituales con los alumnos de los cursos de Adultos 3, ya que las horas de clase nunca son suficientes para la inabarcable riqueza de lo que algunos cursos en particular quieren incorporar. Por eso, utilizar el correo electrónico como extensión de lo dado en clase se fue dando como necesidad y fue natural utilizar un medio que está haciéndose masivo y cuya utilidad es indudable. El proyecto comenzó al formalizar este apoyo por Internet y generalizarlo a todos los cursos de Adultos 3, para los alumnos que concurren a sus clases habituales semanales en la Escuela. Lleva ya dos años de exitosa implementación.

Al final de cada semana, los alumnos reciben en sus direcciones de mail un trabajo práctico-teórico que resume lo realizado en clase con la profesora del curso. Con esta tutoría que reciben practican lo visto en la semana en cuanto a teoría y luego ejercitan lo aprendido. A esto se suma un acertijo final cuya respuesta les llega en el trabajo práctico de la semana siguiente. Agregamos, a pedido de los alumnos, algunos ejercicios breves de escritura, ampliación de vocabulario en diferentes áreas y otros.

Los alumnos responden a la práctica, a los ejercicios y al acertijo a lo largo de la semana. La profesora virtual recibe sus respuestas por correo electrónico también, y corrige, hace comentarios, brinda explicaciones y ampliaciones de temas que surgen de cada uno de sus trabajos, en forma personalizada. Si los alumnos tienen más dudas, las hacen llegar a la profesora por el mismo medio, y así sucesivamente.

En el año 2005 se amplió este proyecto a los cursos de Jóvenes 6 y First Certificate, dado que dichos cursos representan un nivel de punto de inflexión en el aprendizaje que los conduce a un nivel más alto en el que se requiere un saber más específico de la lengua. La introducción de la posibilidad de rendir los exámenes internacionales, implementa también una nueva modalidad de ejercitación a la que los alumnos deben adaptarse. Se necesita de mucha práctica y seguimiento en este sentido para que los alumnos se sientan confiados con la nueva modalidad de trabajo, nuevos tiempos y nuevos requerimientos para poder demostrar sus conocimientos de inglés en un formato diferente.

En estos cursos también se da énfasis a la parte escrita aumentando la carga de tarea de este tipo, para que los alumnos afinen su idioma, se expresen más genuinamente y amplíen la riqueza de su vocabulario. Las tutorías fueron una excelente práctica en ese sentido. La tarea de los alumnos en clase y por Internet se aunó en un trabajo final que consistió en una revista de interés general, de Jóvenes 6 "Teen Territory ,Issue 2, October 2005", íntegramente realizada por ellos, en donde se incluyeron sus escritos de clase y de las clases virtuales.

En estos cursos se obtuvo muy buena respuesta, gracias a lo cual la Escuela cuenta con un material interesante, atractivo y pertinente para ser reutilizado en el futuro

Las tutorías por Internet, además de ser un trabajo arduo pero gratificante y por demás interesante, resultaron ser una muy buena ampliación de las clases de Inglés entrando de alguna manera a los hogares y lugares más privados de los alumnos, para que éstos se sientan cómodos, se tomen su tiempo para meditar sobre lo aprendido en el momento del día en que les sea más conveniente, se sientan libres de preguntar y dudar, y obtengan una respuesta adicional a la de las clases regulares, personalizada y a medida.

A continuación y como forma de ilustración, adjunto una tutoría ejemplo de cada curso (respondida por un alumno y corregida). Son tres tutorías elegidas al azar ya que en los tres cursos el contenido de cada semana variaba siendo de carácter más creativo, más gramatical, más adecuado para expresar opiniones o más teórico, según lo dado en la semana en el curso regular, los pedidos o necesidades de los alumnos, las noticias de actualidad del país y la variedad natural que incluimos para que el trabajo sea más motivante.

## **Bibliografía**

- Diarios y revistas de actualidad (traducidos si no estaba en Inglés).
- Búsqueda en Internet de fábulas, cuentos cortos, historias reales o ficticias.
- True Stories in the News. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced editions. Longman.
- Test your Vocabulary volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4. Penguin. Peter-Watcyn Jones.
- Discussions A-Z. CUP. A resource book of Speaking activities.
- Target Vocabulary 1 & 2. Penguin. Peter-Watcyn Jones.
- English Vocabulary in Use, elementary, intermediate and advanced. CUP.
- Instant Grammar Lessons. ITT. Allan Battersby.
- Material given in London University in abroad course.
- Advanced Language Practice. Heineman.
- Chicken soup for the Soul by Canfield and Hansen.
- Chicken soup for Teenage the Soul by Canfield and Hansen.
- Chicken soup for the Teenage Soul II, by Canfield and Hansen.
- Chicken soup for the Woman's Soul by Canfield and Hansen.
- Practical Idioms. NTC. Berman and Kristen.
- Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus by John Gray.
- Longman English Grammar. Longman. Alexander.
- Mind Bending Lateral Thinking. Lagoon Books.
- First Certificate English. Nelson. W. Fowler.
- Grammar Practice for Intermediate Students. Longman.

Anexo

## Internet classes – First Certificate

Welcome to English cyber-world!! It has probably been a long time since you last spoke English... more than three months? So let's warm up!

Sit back, read and enjoy this true story! 😊

### **The Princess and the Pea**

Once upon a time there was a prince who wanted to marry a princess; but she would have to be a real princess. He travelled all over the world to find one, but nowhere could he get what he wanted. There were princesses enough, but it was difficult to find out whether they were real ones. There was always something about them that was not as it should be in a Princess. So he came home again and was sad, for he would have liked very much to have a real princess.

One evening a terrible storm came on; there was thunder and lightning, and the rain poured down in torrents. Suddenly a knocking was heard at the city gate, and the old king went to open it.

It was a princess standing out there in front of the gate. But, good gracious! what a sight the rain and the wind had made her look. The water ran down from her hair and clothes; it ran down into the toes of her shoes and out again at the heels. And yet she said that she was a real princess.

"Well, we'll soon find that out," thought the old queen. But she said nothing, went into the bed-room, took all the bedding off the bed, and laid a pea on the bottom; then she took twenty mattresses and laid them on the pea, and then twenty bedcovers on top of the mattresses.

On this the princess had to lie all night. In the morning she was asked how she had slept.

"Oh, very badly!" said she. "I have scarcely closed my eyes all night. Heaven only knows what was in the bed, but I was lying on something hard, so that I am black and blue all over my body. It's horrible!"

Now they knew that she was a real princess because she had felt the pea right through the twenty mattresses and the twenty

bedcovers.

Nobody but a real princess could be as sensitive as that.

So the prince took her for his wife, for now he knew that he had a real princess; and the pea was put in the museum, where it may still be seen, if no one has stolen it.

There, that is a true story.

**Now, think about the story and choose the best answer for the following questions:**

1- Why couldn't the Prince find a real princess at first?

- Because there were no Princesses to be found.
- Because they were all ugly.
- Because they didn't quite act like Princesses.
- Because he was too picky.

2- What did the woman in the rain look like?

- She was elegant and gracious.
- She was soaking wet and a mess.
- She looked like a real Princess.
- She was a blue-eyed blonde.

3- What did the Queen do to find out the truth?

- She put a pea on top of all the bed mattresses and covers.
- She put a pea under the woman's pillow.
- She gave the woman peas for dinner.
- She put a pea below all the bed mattresses and covers.

4- Why did the woman sleep badly?

- Because she felt the little pea through the covers.
- Because she felt the little pea through the pillow.
- Because the mattress was hard and uncomfortable.
- Because she had eaten too many peas for dinner.

5- What did they conclude?

- That a real Princess wouldn't feel the pea.
- That only a real Princess could have felt the pea.
- That a real Princess wouldn't have said she slept badly.
- That a real Princess could never be alone and lost in the rain.

**WONDERFUL MARTIN!!!! PERFECT ANSWERS 😊**

### **Writing. Your opinion matters**

1- Can you think of a better way to find out if the woman was a real Princess?

How?

They could have checked her genealogical tree. But then, there wouldn't have been any story to tell.

2- Would you like us to have Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses in Argentina? Why?

I think it's dangerous to play with this idea in our country, since our democracy is still weak.

3- Do you think, as the Prince, that it is difficult to find someone to marry? Why? Getting married is easy. The difficult thing is to continue being happy with your wife or husband as years go by. (THAT'S A VERY INTELLIGENT ANSWER)

4- What things do you consider important in a person for you to marry him/her? If I had something like a list of characteristics I expect to find in a woman, I would marry a concept rather than a person. (VERY WISE AGAIN)

5- What "test" would you try on him or her to know if they are the right person to marry?

I don't have a test for choosing a wife. But I'm sure I wouldn't marry a woman who liked that kind of tests.

EXCELLENT ANSWERS MARTIN!!! VERY WELL EXPRESSED! ☺  
IT HAS BEEN REALLY INTERESTING TO READ YOUR WORK... YOU ARE VERY WISE AND WITTY MAN... VERY DEEP TOO... NICE TO HAVE YOU AS A STUDENT ☺  
YOU REMIND ME OF YOUR BROTHER A LOT...

---

### QUIZ OF THE WEEK

You will receive a quiz once a week and the answer next Saturday.  
Are you good at quizzes? Let's see... we'll start with an easy one.

What is the next letter in this series?

O T T F F S

The answer is:

Oh, sorry. I read the answer by chance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tutorial. I won't do it again.

**HONEST TOO!!! 😊**

---

Juniors 6 – escuela de lenguas  
Internet class number 8

Today, let's enjoy reading a fable!  
Sit back and read this story. Think about the moral it teaches you.

The Lion and the Mouse

A LION was awakened from sleep by a Mouse running over his face. Rising up angrily, he caught him and was about to kill him, when the Mouse piteously begged:

"Please, if you

would only spare my life, I would be sure to repay your kindness."

The Lion laughed. How could such a small creature save his magnificent life? Because the poor mouse made him laugh, he let it go.

It happened shortly after this that the Lion was caught by some hunters, who tied him by strong ropes to the ground. The Mouse, recognizing his roar, came and chewed the rope with his small teeth until the lion was set free. The mouse then exclaimed:

"You ridiculed the idea of my ever being able to help you, expecting to receive from me no repayment of your favor; now you know that it is possible for even a Mouse to benefit Lion."

**What do you learn from this story? What is the conclusion? Do you agree?**

...From this story i learn **THAT** no matter who, one has to have mercy specialLy with those who are in an inferior possition than you and also you dont know when **u** might need to ask for a favour ,and it's well known that when u ask for a favour **IT** is nice when they hear **u** and they help you

**EXCELLENT ANSWER ROD!!! 😊**

**REMEMBER WHAT I ALREADY TOLD YOU ROD: CAREFUL WITH THE USE OF "U" FOR "YOU". IT IS VERY INFORMAL AND NOT APPROPRIATE IN ALL CASES!**

---

Now, let's work with words! And enlarge our vocabulary.

At the end of each line you have a word in brackets. Complete the sentence with an appropriate word of its family.

- a) The Lion showed the Mouse his kindness when he set it free.  
(KIND)
  - b) The Lion exploded in laughter after the Mouse's words. (LAUGH)
  - c) It's difficult to make a comparation **COMPARISON** between a mouse and a lion. (COMPARE)
  - d) The hunter's brutal action has no defence. (DEFEND)
  - e) The Lion never regretted his decision. (DECIDE)
  - f) The Lion was confident of his strength. (CONFIDENCE)
  - g) The Mouse's explanation was very reasonable after all.  
(REASON)
  - h) The tiny Mouse left it's small feet **FOOTPRINTS** on the sand.  
(FOOT)
  - i) To this day, the Lion and the Mouse continue to be friends.  
(CONTINUITY)
- 

## **GREAT VOCABULARY WORK ROD**

---

Quiz time!

**Previous quiz:**

**Number 7:**

The doctor was he boy's mother!!

**New quiz:**

You are driving a small car with only two seats, a coupé. You are in a long desolate route. It is raining a lot.

Suddenly, in the rain you see three people:

your best friend, the love of your life and an old little woman who is very ill.

What do you do????

I'd probably kiss the love of my life **AND** tell her to wait a sec that i'd be back in few minutes after that i'd shake my friend's hand telling him **THE** same and then i'd take the ill lady to the hospital (i can be such a nice guy sometimes) ha ha.

JAJA ROD, YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!!!!!! 😊  
THIS QUIZ HAS NO CORRECT ANSWER... IT IS PERSONAL, SO, YESSS, YOU ANSWERED CORRECTLY I GUESS!!! 😊 IUPIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII HURRAAAAYYYY!!!  
JAJA ANYWAY, I GUESS THERE IS A BETTER ANSWER... BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME 😊

---

### ADULTS 3. Internet class 24. Escuela de Lenguas

Before going on to Unit 11, let's revise everything together again, ok?

**Read the following story and complete the blanks with one of the options in the box below.**

TIP: Read the whole text first, to understand the general idea, and then go on to complete the blanks, it will be much easier! 😊

The first one has been done as an example. In the first blank, the correct answer is letter a) from the possibilities below.

## **A NEW MAN**

How can you be a new man? Ask Roley McIntyre. He (1) a in Northern Ireland. Roley McIntyre was big. He was very big. He weighed 600 pounds \*.

For lunch Roley (2) b (habit in the past) ten pieces of bacon, four eggs, ten potatoes and fried vegetables. For dinner, he ate meat and more potatoes, and after dinner he always ate dessert. Before he went to bed, he (3) a a few sandwiches and some chocolate cake.

Roley (4) c a normal car. He was too big! He didn't fit in the front seat. Roley had a special car. It didn't have a front seat. Roley (5) a his car from the back seat.

One day Roley (6) c to the doctor. The doctor said, "Mr. McIntyre, you have a special car. Now you need to buy a special coffin – a coffin for a very big man. You (7) b (express obligation) weight. If you don't lose weight, you (8) b **C** soon."

Roley was afraid. He went on a diet. For breakfast he started eating cereal with nonfat milk. For lunch he ate beans on toast. For dinner he ate fish and boiled vegetables. His wife helped him. She (9) b (obligation) healthy food only. She didn't let him eat cakes and sandwiches anymore.

Roley began to lose weight. Week after week he (10) b **C** pounds. He felt better. He could walk now, and sit in normal chairs, and go through normal doors. He felt (11) c **C** than before. He was happier.



Roley (12)\_b)\_A the diet. He continued to lose weight. In 18 months he lost 400 pounds\*.

Now, people don't look at him strangely in the streets. Now, he buys his clothes at normal shops. Now, he can play sports. Now, he has a normal car!

Now, he is a new man.

\* 272 kilograms      \* 181 kilograms

Possible answers:

1-	a) lives	b) used to live	c) was living
2-	a) ate	b) used to eat	c) eats
3-	a) ate	b) used to eat	c) eats
4-	a) was driving	b) drives	c) couldn't drive
5-	a) drove	b) has driven	c) made him drive
6-	a) go	b) used to go	c) went
7-	a) make me lose	b) have to lose	c) lose
8-	a) die	b) would die	c) will die
9-	a) eats	b) made Roley eat	c) had to eat
10-	a) have lost	b) loses	c) was losing
11-	a) healthy	b) the healthiest	c) healthier
12-	a) didn't stop	b) doesn't stop	c) stops

GREAT WORK ELEONORA!!!! ☺

**Happy start of springtime!** ☺

**Quiz time!!**

Answer to previous quiz:

Emptiness, nothingness (la nada).

New quiz:

The police discovered the body of a man, with a cassette and a gun by his side.

The police put the cassette in a musical equipment, pressed play and heard a suicide message and then the sound of a gun.

The police were now sure that it was a murder, not a suicide. Why?

Because if he recorded the cassette and then shot himself he couldn't take **OUT** off the cassette of the musical equipment because he was already dead.

**EXACTLY!!! QUICK THINKING QUIZ GIRL 😊**

---