



Bear Class ESL G3-4 April Newsletter

Welcome to the new Bear Class ESL Grade 3 and 4 monthly newsletter for April.

This month we continue our journey to become the best English students we can be. We've had a great semester so far with the students showing great application and understanding of the material we looked at. We have a good group of students who mostly like to contribute and join in during class. We have a few quiet students who do not really speak a lot so I focus on encouraging them to speak loudly and clearly, and generally join in more.

Core Material - Reading

We read the reading book everyday. I am very strict when it comes to reading time. Everyone sits down and we read together following the words with our fingers.

Often the kids will have questions about the story and about words they don't understand. I positively encourage questions about the reading material to make sure they understand.

Alongside the reading material, the students have a word list each week. The words from the list are selected from the reading material. When the students are first introduced to the new vocabulary most of them are unsure how to pronounce the words, let alone understand their meanings. So, as a class we go through the wordlists and I explain what they mean. Sometimes this can be done on the big TV via Google. I have found this to be a fantastic tool to help the students understand more easily. Week 1 Unit 4 Week 2 This unit is called 'Meet the Challenge' and looks at different ways to face and overcome challenges or difficult situations. The story is called 'The Impossible Pet Show' which looks at how we all have skills and talents. We might be artistic or smart, good at sports or music and how we can use these skills to help others. Someone might find an activity difficult so we can use our skill to teach them and help them improve

Week 2-4 Unit 4 Week 3

This unit is called 'Meet the Challenge' and looks at different ways to face and overcome challenges or difficult situations. The weekly concept is about adaptations and how animals adapt or change to meet challenges to their habitat. The story is called 'Gray Wolf! Red Fox!'

Grammar

The majority of our lesson time is spent reading the Core Material reading book. However, a portion of the lesson will involve completing a grammar exercise using a grammar workbook.

Grammar lessons usually involve a discussion about the task, accompanied by some examples. Students complete the task and help and feedback is given.

The tasks vary in length. Most lessons comprise of the students completing a page in their text books. Once they have completed the task they can move on to the next page.

Week 1 Unit 4 Week 2 This unit looks at contractions which is a shortened form of two words. We use contractions to make our speech more natural and less formal or 'like a robot'. For example, is not=isn't or has not=hasn't. We add an apostrophe to take the place of one or more letters. We also use an apostrophe with a possessive noun to show ownership. For example, "The girl's toy" or "Tr. Eamonn's pen." We have to be careful not to confuse the use of apostrophes with contractions and possessive nouns

Week 2-4 Unit 4 Week 3 This unit looks at 'helping verbs' which is a verb word that 'helps' the 'main verb' which is an action verb. This verb tells us what the subject is or does while the 'helping verb' helps show the main verb. For example, "I have baked cookies." The 'helping verbs can be have, has, had depending on the subject and the tense of the sentence. The forms of the 'be' verb such as is, are, am, was, were, will are also helping verbs. For example, "I will help you." We also review the use of quotation marks which show when someone is speaking.

Composition

Composition Class is a fantastic opportunity for the students to do some creative writing. It's quite a short class, just once per week but it gives them a chance to think for themselves and write creatively.

A topic is chosen for them such as '*What I Want to Do When I Grow Up*', after which we have a discussion and suggestions are made as to what they might write. After the initial draft is finished, their compositions are marked and returned ready for the rewrite the following week.

Week 1 This composition is called 'Dear Mayor.' We are going to write a letter to our mayor to tell them about things you like or dislike about our town or city. We can ask them to change or improve something or add more of the good things like parks. The students need to give reason why they have chosen these things.

Week 2-4 This composition is called 'Personality Traits.' How well do you know yourself? Sometimes we know ourselves from what our family or friends tell us. Do you have a strong personality? Are you friendly, helpful or stubborn? Tell us about yourself.

Keynote Presentations

The Keynote activity involves a different topic where the students research and create an interesting and informative presentation which involves questions or statements and information relating to the topic. The students can supplement the information with pictures and graphics to make it visually stimulating.

This concludes the monthly newsletter for April.

As always if you have anything you would like to discuss with me, please feel free to leave me a message in the weekly communication books.

Until next time, see you soon.

Teacher Eamonn.



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歡迎家長閱讀三四年級四月月報。

這個月我們持續英文學習的旅程，希望孩子個個成為優秀的學生。到目前為止孩子們都展現了很好的應用、理解我們使用的教材。大部分的孩子在上課時都很踴躍參與；少部分較少發言的孩子，我會鼓勵他們大聲清晰的說話，並且上課多參與。

主題閱讀

我們每天都會上閱讀課。在閱讀時，我對孩子的要求較嚴格，他們要坐好、一起朗讀時手要指著字。

孩子們通常對於課文中的段落和單字會有不懂的地方。我非常鼓勵孩子們針對不了解的地方提問。

除了閱讀主教材外，我們也使用每週的單字表。這些單字都是出自於閱讀教材。剛看到新的單字，孩子們會不確定發音是否正確或單字的字義。因此，我們會一起念這些單字，並且解釋單字的意思。有時，我們也會透過 google 的功能在電視中撥放。我認為這是個不錯的工具，幫助孩子更容易理解。

第一週 第四單元第二週 這個單元的主題是「迎接挑戰」。我們將了解克服困難和面對挑戰時有哪些不同的處理方式。本篇文章叫做 The Impossible Pet Show(不可能的寵物秀)。我們將了解自己有哪些技能和才藝天賦，也許有藝術天分或特別聰明、擅長運動或音樂，以及如何利用這些技能去幫助別人。有些人不擅長在活動中表演，我們也可以教導他們一些技能，解決他們的問題。

第二~四週 第四單元第三週 環繞這各單元的主題「迎接挑戰」，我們將檢視有哪些不同的方法來克服挑戰與困難。這各星期主要的觀念是適應，我們可以了解動物是如何適應或是改變來面對挑戰、適應棲息地。這一篇的故事主題是‘Gray Wolf! Red Fox!’（灰狼！紅狐狸！）

英文文法

我們大部分的時間主要是在閱讀上。然而，有一部分的課程是使用文法課本練習文法。

文法課中，我們會先討論文法的主題並給予一些例子。孩子們在完成練習後，老師會給予一些意見。

每次文法練習的長度各有不同。大部分都需完成一頁，一旦孩子完成後，他們可以繼續寫下一頁的練習。

第一週 第四單元第二週 在這個單元我們將學習縮寫，通常是兩個字較為精簡的組合。我們常將它用在很自然的演說、非正式的場合且不會像機器人說話般單調。例如 is not=isn't or has not=hasn't 在兩個字中間會加入分撇號取代一到兩個字母。我們也會使用撇號在所有格的名詞上。例如“The girl's toy” 或 “Tr. Eamonn's pen.” 這兩者在使用上要特別留意，才不會將縮寫和所有格的撇號搞混。

第二~四週 第四單元第三週 在這個單元我們將學習輔助動詞，它是用來幫助主要的動詞。動詞告訴我們主詞做了什麼；而輔助動詞則是在協助顯示出主要的動詞。例如，“I **have** baked cookies.”這裡的輔助動詞視主格和時態的情況而定，可以是 have, has, had。原形動詞 be 的這些型態 is, are, am, was, were, will 也是輔助動詞。例如“I **will** help you.” 我們也會複習引號的使用，顯示出說話者的說話內容。

英文寫作

在寫作課，孩子們擁有絕好的機會創作文章。雖然這堂課的時間較短，一星期一堂課，卻有機會可以思考並在寫作上發會創意。

寫作的主題像是「長大後我想做的事」。我們會先做腦力激盪、討論寫作的方向。在初稿完成後，老師會批改並交還給孩子，下週將訂正錯誤、再寫一次訂正後的文章。

第一週這篇作文的主題是「親愛的市長」。我們將寫一封信給市長，告訴他對於我們的城市有哪些是你喜歡和不喜歡的地方。對於有缺失的部分，我們可以請他們做改善；或是增加一些目前有的設施如公園。孩子們需要提供一些理由來支持他們的論點。

第二~四週 這次的作文題目是「個人特質」。你對於自己認識多少？有時我們透過家人和朋友來認識自己。你有很強的個人特質？你是個友善、喜歡幫助他人或是固執的人嗎？告訴大家關於你自己。

主題簡報

這堂課包含了多元的主題，孩子們需要製作有趣又具有知識內涵的簡報內容。簡報中可以包含和主題相關的問題、直述句和資訊。透過圖片、數據圖表孩子們也讓簡報內容更加豐富，增加了視覺的效果。

以上是四月份小熊班的月報。

若各位家長有事想與我討論，都歡迎您再連絡簿中留下您的意見和想法。

下回見！

Teacher Eamonn.