

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

1. Teacher Training Workshops Schedule

Please sign up in advance to attend a particular event **at ETRC** at the circulation desk, by phone (044) **425-77-75**, by e-mail: etrc_kyiv@yahoo.com, or send a text message to 067 230-7619. Please visit our website at www.etrckyiv.com and Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/etrc.kyiv>

***English Language Fellow Seneca Ryan conducts teacher training workshops at the America House Kyiv on Tuesdays, with their repeats at the ETRC on Fridays** (*Please read the detailed schedule below*).

Please note that if you attend eight sessions by the end of June 2017, you will receive

a certificate recognizing your commitment!

*** The American English Webinar Series Course 5 continues in February**

The course of webinars covers a variety of topics for teachers of English or future teachers of English around the world.

As the number of work stations that can access the webinars is limited in Ukraine, we invite all those who are interested in participating in these ELT webinars **to register as members of a viewing group at ETRC**. We will join the webinars on one of our computers and project the video on a screen so that the participants could get a better view and an opportunity to fully engage with the webinars.

!!! If you attend four sessions out of six from the webinar series, you will receive a certificate of attendance!!!

*** Series of teacher training workshops “Effective Methods of Teaching English” by Maryna Tsehelska will take place *once a month during the academic year 2016-2017*.**

NB!!! Workshop 1.6 “Teaching Environmental Protection” will take place on Wednesday, February 15 at 4:00PM.

At the end of the course, certificates will be given to those, who will attend at least four workshops and will share their own ideas about the techniques.

About Presenter: **Maryna Tsehelska** works as associate professor at Kryvyi Rih Pedagogical University and she also is the director of the “Educational Centre

“Interclass” – a language school, where English is taught through concept mapping. She is a Fulbright alumna, TESOL-Ukraine vice-president and has presented at numerous scientific and practical conferences.

Please read Maryna’s invitation: “In this series of workshops I would like to share some techniques and strategies of teaching English, which could be called “cognitive” or “brain-friendly”, but in order to avoid the discussion around the terms, I would call them just “effective.” These techniques are a combination of modern cognitive pedagogy ideas and my and my colleague’s observations and reflections of English teaching and learning. We use them to teach English at the “Educational Centre “Interclass” (Kryvyi Rih) and they are used by our partners in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv and Sarajevo. As we go through the main points, I hope that participants of the workshops will try some of the ideas and share the results.”

***Training “Unconventional Frameworks for Speaking Clubs**



English Language Fellow Seneca Ryan will conduct training on creating exciting, unconventional English speaking clubs on **Saturday, February 18, at 10.30 - 12.30AM.**

This is a *public event, open to anyone interested* in running speaking clubs, but pre-registration is required <https://goo.gl/S4Pwqx>. **The deadline for registration is February 16, 2017.** (See detailed information below.)

*** Clubs in February:**

- **ETRC Joined «Україна Speaking» Campaign: Youth Film Club** welcomes you on Thursday afternoons, **February 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 3:00-6:00PM** to watch and discuss popular American movies. Post-viewing discussions will be moderated by psychologist and lecturer **Jimmy Hill** from the United States.

- **ETRC Joined «Україна Speaking» Campaign:** psychologist and lecturer **Jimmy Hill** will also moderate **Discussions Clubs** on life skills on Wednesday, February 1, at 4:00PM and Tuesdays, February 7, 14 and 28 at 3:00PM.
- **Anna Suprun**, psychologist and handmade artist, will help you to create felted decorations on Monday, January 13, at 3:00 PM.

DETAILED SCHEDULE OF ETRC EVENTS

a) Teacher Training Workshops

- English Language Fellow **Seneca Ryan** conducts teacher training workshops at the America House Kyiv on Tuesdays at **4:00PM**, with their *repeats* at the ETRC on Fridays at **4:00PM**.

- Follow the schedule of the **America House Kyiv** at <https://www.facebook.com/americahousekyiv/events> and <http://www.americahousekyiv.org/events/!!!>

Wednesday, February 1 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM *Webinar 5.2 “Using News Sources in the EFL Classroom”*

Webinar Description:

As technology becomes more mobile, online media is everywhere. In this webinar, teachers learn about ways to use news sources to enhance English language learning, in particular vocabulary development, pronunciation, and pragmatics. The presenter will also share level-appropriate, open-source examples of journalism.

Presenter Bio:

Eve Nora Litt is a language specialist in the University of Pennsylvania's English Language Program (ELP). Eve recently contributed to the development of the English for Journalism MOOC created in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Office of English Language Programs.

Friday, February 3 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM *Workshop* “**Error Correction Strategies and Activities for English Teachers**”

Presenter: **Seneca Ryan**, English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

For many teachers, error correction is one of the most challenging aspects of teaching English. Teachers often express confusion about how and how often to provide corrective feedback for their students. Furthermore, correcting a student using an ineffective approach can lead to decreased motivation and ultimately be counterproductive to student & teacher goals. In this session, we will share some helpful strategies for addressing classroom errors, which can support students in the language learning process.

Monday, February 6 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM *Workshop* “**Education 2.0: Using the Latest IT Technologies in Education**”

Presenters:

Dominik Letner (Poland), Translator of English, English Teacher, Personal Development Coach, Writer.

Kostiantyn Krasnolutskyi (Ukraine), Interpreter, Business English tutor, TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC Coach.

Kostiantyn Krasnolutskyi and Dominik Letner conduct workshops on a variety of topics, including critical thinking, time management, business English, communication skills, emotional intelligence, negotiation skills, stress management, behavioral skills, and more. These workshops are conducted in Polish, English, Russian and Ukrainian.

Event Description: Language teachers often admire modern technology by using smartphones to communicate with friends, ordering things via the internet or watching YouTube videos about drones which can fly in groups. However, when it comes to their job, they still provide students with hundreds of pages copied from various books. The 21st century students have higher demands, they want to be entertained and remain up-to-date with the latest inventions and designs. Therefore, the teacher should also apply modern their technology during the class. The language teaching sector is ready for such a leap by providing many applications and programs to facilitate the teaching process. Some teachers may argue that applying modern technology in class is a sheer waste of time and energy. However, we dare to say that it is much easier to find the right application

and much more entertaining for the students to learn with their tablets instead of books and notebooks. For this reason, we dare you to visit our workshops, then use the latest devices and application and see the outcome. We can guarantee that using the Education 2.0 approach will exceed your expectations in terms of classroom performance. ***Please bring your gadgets as there will be an interactive part!!!***

Friday, February 10 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM ***Workshop “Using Drama to Enhance the English Classroom”***

Presenter: **Seneca Ryan**, English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

Drama is a great way to enliven the English classroom. Active and unpredictable, it can provide students with opportunities for artistic expression while enhancing their speaking and listening skills. In this session, we’ll look specifically at Readers Theater and improvisation activities, both of which help create an exciting English learning experience for students of all ages.

Wednesday, February 15 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM ***Webinar 5.3 “Voice of America: Current Event Activities in the English Language Classroom”***

Webinar Description:

In today’s globalized world of the 24-hour news cycle, teaching current events has become more important than ever for the English language classroom. In this webinar, participants will learn how to use resources from Voice of America to teach current events in their English language classroom. Participants will be exposed to the different educational podcasts and teaching content provided by Voice of America, as well as the strategies for incorporating these tools into their lessons.

Presenter Bio:

Philip Dierking began his career as an English teacher in France, and has since gone on to teach and train teachers in Djibouti, Togo, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, and the United States. He currently is a writer and content developer for Voice of America, Learning English. His interests include pedagogical issues in under-resourced classroom environments, including teaching to large classes and gender equality in the classroom. Originally hailing from Juneau, Alaska, Philip holds an MA in TESOL from the University of Washington.

Wednesday, February 15 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM ***Teacher Training Workshop 1.6 “Teaching Environmental Protection”***

Presenter: **Maryna Tsehelska** works as associate professor at Kryvyi Rih Pedagogical University and she also is the director of the “Educational Centre “Interclass” – a language school, where English is taught through concept mapping. She is a Fulbright alumna, TESOL-Ukraine vice-president and has presented at numerous scientific and practical conferences.

Workshop 1.6 Description: In the previous workshop we moved from theory to practice using as a basis the topics that had already been discussed and adding a new one – “Climate and Biomes”. This workshop will take “Climate and Biomes” as a basis, and add to it “Environmental Protection” as it is a rather widely discussed but also a quiet “boring” topic. We’ll see how it may be structured and become more understandable and how it may be a basis for further discussion.

Key points:

- 1) Quick revision of the techniques for effective teaching.
- 2) “Climate” and “Geography” as basic topics.
- 3) “Environmental protection” – key categories and their development.
- 4) Using thinking skills for talking about the topic.

Friday, February 17 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM ***Workshop “Best Practices: Collaborative and Reflective Strategies for Teachers”***

Presenter: **Seneca Ryan**, English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

This is a theory-based workshop in which we will explore a variety of best practices that consistently demonstrate improved outcomes for student and teachers alike. Trainees will also discuss some techniques used in other countries, which are gaining notoriety and later work together to find solutions to common classroom challenges.

Wednesday, February 22 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM ***Workshop “Practical exercises for a visual tool “Grammar House””***

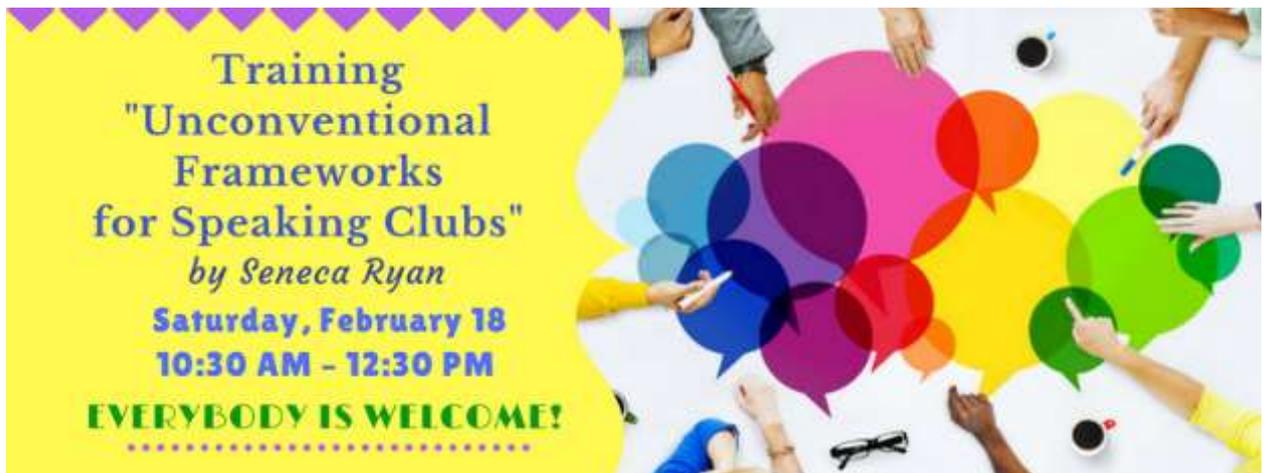
Presenter: **Maryna Chernyavska**, Teacher of English with more than 30 years of working in education; Fulbright Alumna; Author of a visual tool “Grammar House” and stories “Magic ABC.”

In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of practical exercises and activities which could be used with a visual tool Grammar House (GH). GH reflects how people who speak English see the world around. All 16 Verb Tenses structures are found on the GH in three time spaces – present, past, and future. The GH enables mastering Verb Tenses one by one or all of them at a time in real situations that require the usage of various grammatical structures. The participants of the workshop will be able to use the model of the GH in practice.

Friday, February 24 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM *Teacher Training Workshop “Best Practices in Teaching: Student Voice”*

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: *Student voice* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Student_voice) has become a focus of general education worldwide. As a metaphor for student engagement, increasing student voice in the classroom allows students more autonomy and responsibility in their learning. This workshop will explore the importance of student voice and provide some easy activities to immediately incorporate student voice into a language learning classroom. PRESENTER: **Joey Fordyce** is an English Language Fellow at South Ukrainian Pedagogical University in Odesa. She has over 10 years of combined TEFL experience teaching in Taiwan, Spain, Greece and Ukraine. In addition to a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics and a Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Communication, Joey has also completed multiple TEFL trainings and has a CELTA certificate from IH Barcelona. In the United States, Joey holds an elementary education teaching certification and is endorsed to teach English Language Learners (ELL) K-12 in the public school system. Her workshops focus on current best practices in education and how to apply them in the EFL classroom.

b) *Training "Unconventional Frameworks for Speaking Clubs"*



Saturday, February 18 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM *Training "Unconventional Frameworks for Speaking Clubs"*

Presenter: **Seneca Ryan**, English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State

Thinking of starting an English speaking club? Or just looking for fresh ideas for your existing group? Join us for this special session on creating exciting, unconventional English speaking clubs.

We'll be sharing dynamic activities that give participants maximum speaking time and introduce strategies for creating comfortable environments conducive to speaking practice.

This is a public event, open to anyone interested in running speaking clubs, but pre-registration is required <https://goo.gl/S4Pwqx>. **The deadline for registration is February 16, 2017.**

Please note!

- Seats are limited.
- All participants will be provided with a pack of documents that includes materials, the follow-up survey and a link to join the Facebook page just *after* February 18th.
- If you plan to lead a speaking club, you have the audience but do not have premises to hold the event, the ETRC can offer you its room on the open day.

Accept the challenge, fill the form and welcome to ETRC on Feb 18!

c) **ETRC Joined «Україна Speaking» Campaign: Youth Discussion Club**

In February, **Jimmy Hill**, M.ED., Counselling Psychology, and a Lecturer at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland, will moderate discussion clubs on **Wednesday, February 1, at 4:00PM** and **Tuesdays, February 7, 14 and 28, at 3:00 PM.**

All interested are welcome!!!

Wednesday, February 1 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM **Discussion Club “Health and Nutrition”**

Nutrition is an exciting and interesting topic for many but it can be pretty frustrating at times with trends and beliefs changing constantly. Join the discussion club with Jimmy Hill, explore controversies in nutrition, and learn some guidelines for healthy eating and lifestyle.

Tuesday, February 7 from 3:00 – 4:45 PM **Discussion Club “Job Interviewing Skills”**

We will discuss how to prepare for a job interview, how to make a great first impression, how to answer tricky questions, and more. Psychologist Jimmy Hill will give you useful tips and answer all your questions related to the topic.

Tuesday, February 14 from 3:00 – 4:45 PM **Discussion Club “Managing Emotions”**

We will explore coping strategies for dealing with uncomfortable feelings and thoughts which we might experience at work, in relationships, in stressful situations, etc. Psychologist Jimmy Hill will give you useful tips and answer all your questions related to the topic.

Tuesday, February 28 from 3:00 – 4:45 PM **Discussion Club “Difficult Bosses and Coworkers”**

Conflict is inevitable in workplace settings - conflicts can arise between co-workers, supervisors, and subordinates or between employees and customers, suppliers, etc. Managing conflict is a key management competency and we should study and practice effective conflict management skills to maintain a positive workplace environment. Psychologist Jimmy Hill will give you useful tips, discuss examples of conflicts and resolutions, and answer all your questions related to the topic.

d) Women's Club Schedule

Monday, February 13 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM ***Women's Club Handmade Master-Class on Felting***

Moderator: **Anna Suprun**, psychologist, hand-made artist

If you are fond of hand making, we invite you to join warm women's club atmosphere and participate in a master class on felting.

e) ETRC Joined «Україна Speaking» Campaign»: Youth Film Club

In February, Jimmy Hill, M.ED., Counselling Psychology, and a Teacher at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland, will moderate film club sessions on Thursdays, February 2, 9, and 16 at 3:00 PM.

Thursday, February 2 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM “**Exam**” (2009) (Runtime 101 min.) *with English subtitles.*

Motion Picture Rating (MPAA): Not Rated. See all certifications at http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1258197/parentalguide?ref=tt_strypg#certification

Starring Adar Beck, Gemma Chan, Nathalie Cox

The final eight candidates for a highly desirable corporate job are locked together in an exam room and given a test with one question. It seems simple yet confusing that soon, tensions begin to unravel.

Film Club Session to mark Black History Month:

Thursday, February 9 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM “**Glory**” (1989) (Runtime 122 min.) *with English subtitles*

Certificate: R. See all certifications at http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097441/parentalguide?ref=tt_strypg#certification

Starring Morgan Freeman, Denzel Washington, Matthew Broderick, Cary Elwes

Robert Gould Shaw leads the US Civil War's first all-black volunteer company, fighting prejudices of both his own Union army and the Confederates.

Thursday, February 16 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM “**Before Midnight**” (2013)
(Runtime 109 min.) *with English subtitles.*

Motion Picture Rating (MPAA): Rated R for sexual content/nudity and language. *See all certifications at http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2209418/parentalguide?ref_=tt_stry_pg#certifications*

Starring **Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy**

Before Midnight is a 2013 American romantic drama film, the third in a trilogy featuring two characters, following *Before Sunrise* (1995) and *Before Sunset* (2004). It has been nine years since we last met French-American couple Jesse and Celine. They now live in Paris with twin daughters but have spent a summer in Greece on the invitation of an author colleague of Jesse's. When the vacation is over, Jesse begins to question his life decisions, and his relationship with Celine is at risk.

Thursday, February 23 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM “**Florence Foster Jenkins**” (2016)
(Runtime 111 min.) *with English subtitles*

Certificate: Rated PG-13 for brief suggestive material. *See all certifications at http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4136084/parentalguide?ref_=tt_stry_pg#certifications*

Starring **Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant, Simon Helberg**

The story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress who dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice.

- **Please sign up in advance** to attend a particular event at the circulation desk, by phone (044) 425-77-75, by e-mail: etrc_kyiv@yahoo.com, or send a text message to 067 230-7619.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) MEET THE WORLD’S TOP B-SCHOOLS (20-minute Meetings with Top MBA Admission Directors in Kyiv!!!!)

Please read below an invitation from our partner GURT.ORG, a portal of socially active citizens.

We invite you to meet with representatives of some of the best business schools in North America, Europe and Asia which participate at the event organized by the “*Access MBA One-to-One*” program, that will be held in *Kiev on February 13, 2016*.

If you are interested in business, most likely you have already discussed the possibility of obtaining an MBA or EMBA degree for your career. Now you have an

opportunity to learn how to do it!

Access MBA One-to-One event in Kiev

WHERE: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kyiv, str. A.Tarasova 5

WHEN: Monday, February 13, from 16:30 to 22:00

Meet with representatives of some of the best MBA and EMBA programs, including:

IMD EMBA

ESMT Berlin

IE Business School

Vienna University of Economics and Business

SDA Bocconi

Please find more detailed information at http://www.accessmba.com/kiev-mixed/index.html?ui=XWF9SE1484878598&utm_source=Internet&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Gurt

Register here TODAY!

http://www.accessmba.com/kiev-mixed/index.html?ui=XWF9SE1484878598&utm_source=Internet&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Gurt

b) Online Courses from University of Oregon

The [University of Oregon](#) (UO) *American English Institute (AEI)* is a unit of the [College of Arts and Sciences](#). Since 1978, the American English Institute has been a leader in English language teaching, research, and service on the [University](#)

[of Oregon](#) campus and around the world. The AEI is known the world over for its online and blended or "hybrid" programs and courses for English language learners and teachers. In the past 20 years, more than 160,000 participants from over 200 countries have engaged with our world-class faculty. Many of our e-instructors hold Doctoral degrees and all hold Master's degrees. They have been trained in providing quality online and hybrid education experiences.

- **Students** learn to use English well.
- **Teachers** improve the ways in which they teach English.
- **All of us** to better understand each other's cultures!

For questions regarding any of our online courses or other programs, please [contact us](#) at <https://aei.uoregon.edu/>

Massive Open Online Courses

A MOOC, or Massive Open Online Course, is a free online course available for anyone who wishes to register. The class is divided into parts called "modules." Each module unlocks when the previous module has been successfully completed by the student. Participants in the MOOC can earn special badges and digital certificates.

Additional Services

Our MOOCs offer [Conversation Partners](#) as an additional service. Conversation partners help participants practice their English idioms, sentence structure, and knowledge of American lifestyle and customs

Please find information about some of the courses below.

TELL YOUR STORY IN ENGLISH: READING & WRITING SKILLS FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Feb 27 - Mar 26, 2017

In this course, you will develop English language skills by reading and writing personal stories. You will learn to write sentences more accurately, choose the right vocabulary, and organize ideas more clearly to tell a story that others enjoy reading. You will meet and work with other English language learners from around the world while improving your English for academic or professional purposes.

NB! One of the Course co-developers is Tom Tasker, ETRC SELF 2010-2012!

THOMAS TASKER

Co-developer

Thomas Tasker is an ESL instructor at the American English Institute at the University of Oregon, specializing in academic writing. He has taught in the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Ecuador and the Marshall Islands. His research focuses on teacher learning through a sociocultural perspective. He holds a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in Applied Linguistics.

<https://www.canvas.net/browse/uoregon/courses/tell-your-story-english-1>

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

Feb 27 - Mar 27, 2017

This course is designed for nonnative speakers of English. It will provide a basic foundation for academic scientific writing. It incorporates the building blocks of good writing in English language scientific journals, especially those based in the United States. Module topics include: using appropriate grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and avoiding plagiarism. Participants can receive digital badges for completion of each module and overall completion of this course.

<https://www.canvas.net/browse/uoregon/courses/intro-to-scientific-writing>

Please find more courses at <https://www.canvas.net/>

c) Quiz in English Brainiacs Kyiv # 1- Educational and Entertainment Project

A new intellectual quiz-game in English “*Brainiacs*” is announced in Kyiv!

It means, that apart from answering the questions covering the English language, culture, people, movies, interesting facts, you will have the opportunity to communicate in English! Show us what you can, UPgrade your knowledge and learn something new!

Brainiacs – an educational activity organized in the form of an intellectual game, where participants enhance their speaking skills via communication in English while providing the answers to the questions suggested for a specific game. Participants don't necessarily have to speak English very well. You come to learn something – we teach something :)

Please find detailed information at <https://www.facebook.com/brainiacskyiv/>

To register your team please follow the links: <https://goo.gl/forms/dXjny0icgvF2qznw1>

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EVENTS

On January 16, Maryna Tsehelska, an Associate Professor at Kryvyi Rih Pedagogical University, Director of the “Educational Centre “Interclass”, and TESOL-Ukraine Vice-President, conducted the 5th workshop from her series of monthly workshops “Effective Methods of Teaching English.” On the example of topics “Food and Meals” and “Healthy Lifestyle”, Maryna demonstrated how to create concept maps and teach topics at elementary and intermediate levels. Participants praised Maryna’s workshop for sharing new approaches in teaching vocabulary and ideas for stimulating thinking skills in students.

On January 20, English Language Fellow Seneca Ryan conducted a workshop “8 Great Ice Breakers for the EFL Classroom” at ETRC. Participants put to the test fun and engaging activities and games aimed at helping students feel comfortable in the new classroom and get to know classmates better. Attendees enjoyed the workshop and praised Seneca for equipping them with effective tools for creating a positive and productive learning environment.

On January 23, Maryna Chernyavska, a Teacher of English with more than 30 years of working in education and Fulbright Alumna, came to ETRC to conduct a workshop on a visual model “Grammar House” invented by her. Maryna explained the structure and functions of Grammar House and shared sample activities which could be used with Grammar House to help students grasp English tenses better and use them correctly in real-life situations. The workshop brought together teachers from schools and higher educational establishments as well as a group of 20 first-year students from the English Philology Department of Taurida National V.I.Vernadsky University.

On January 27, Eva Pavlenko, Project Manager at LanguaMetrics, and Igor Guryanov, Chief Technical Officer at LanguaMetrics, returned to ETRC to demonstrate more possibilities that interactive online books LanguaBooks

offer teachers and students. At the workshop, participants learned how to implement popular western method Guided Reading with the aid of LanguaBooks, the digital books that speak, listen and teach, provide detailed reports and are absolutely free for Ukrainians.

On January 18, the first webinar from the fifth series of webinars American English Webinar Series was broadcasted at ETRC. The webinar on the topic “Fun with Grammar - Language Learning through Games” attracted a lot viewers who learned a variety of grammar games aimed at engaging students in grammar activities and helping learners internalize grammar structures.

In January, Jimmy Hill, M.ED., Counselling Psychology; Guest Lecturer at the American Common Law Center at the Taras Shevchenko National University and Assistant Professor at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, moderated three discussion clubs on life skills at ETRC. On January 11, Jimmy and participants discussed how to achieve their goals in career, relationships, health and personal development in 2017; On January 18, Jimmy facilitated a discussion on the role animals played in our lives, and on January 25, attendees learned more about the importance of engaging in prosocial behavior on a daily basis.

In January, ETRC organized two film club sessions also moderated by Jimmy Hill. Jimmy showed and discussed with participants two must-see American classic films “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “The Wizard of Oz.”

SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

February – African American History Month/Black History Month

Black History Month is observed each February in the United States of America as a time of special awareness of African Americans’ contributions to the nation throughout its history and the contributions of Africans to world history. Public schools focus on important events and individuals related to African American history, many businesses put up special displays, and pop media such as television engage in a month of programming to highlight black history.

<http://www.historynet.com/black-history-month>

<https://www.who2.com/list/black-history-month-biographies/>

February 2 – Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a popular observance in many parts of the United States which falls on February 2. Legend has it that on this morning, if a groundhog can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter; if it cannot see its shadow, spring is on the way. Although some states have in some cases adopted their own groundhogs, the official groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, lives at Gobbler’s Knob near Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/groundhog-day>

February 14 – Valentine’s Day

Valentine's Day is a festival of romance that celebrates love and relationships. Celebrated on February 14th, it is often marked by giving gifts to and spending time with loved ones.

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/valentines-day.html>

<http://www.yourtango.com/201167466/9-unconventional-valentines-day-ideas>

<http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2013/02/10-strange-wonderful-valentines-day-traditions-from-around-the-world/>

http://busyteacher.org/classroom_activities-vocabulary/holidays_and_celebrations/saint_valentines_day-worksheets/

<http://www.fluentu.com/english/educator/blog/valentines-day-esl-activities/>

February 20 – Presidents’ Day/Washington's Birthday

Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on *the third Monday of February*. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president.

http://www.officeholidays.com/countries/usa/presidents_day.php

February 20 - Day of the Heavenly Hundred Heroes (Ukraine)

Heavenly Hundred Remembrance Day (or the Day of the Heavenly Hundred Heroes) is an official commemorative day in Ukraine observed on February 20. It was established in 2015 by President Petro Poroshenko as a tribute to courage, willpower and fortitude of citizens who sacrificed their lives in the course of the Revolution of Dignity.

<https://anydayguide.com/calendar/410>

YOUR EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

11 Delicious Detox Water Recipes Your Body Will Love

Regular H₂O can easily be transformed into delicious detox water by adding fruit, vegetables and herbs. As the ingredients soak, powerful nutrients will release

into the water. While all detox water recipes aim to flush harmful toxins from the body, certain ingredients add additional benefits.

<http://guthealthproject.com/11-delicious-detox-water-recipes-your-body-will-love/>

1) **6 Ways To Sneak Nutrition Into Your Holiday Meals**

Eating a nutritious holiday meal doesn't mean you have to feast on raw kale. There are plenty of little culinary tricks you can employ to boost the nutritional value of your holiday meals without compromising on flavor.

<http://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-27640/6-ways-to-sneak-nutrition-into-your-holiday-meals.html>

TIDBITS FROM THE INTERNET

1) **Infographic: These 5 Words are Making You a Weaker Writer**

Writing is often represented as a sort of mystical skill, a talent that only few are blessed with. But as any professional writer knows, writing is far more craft than art. Simply knowing the rules of writing already puts you ahead of the game, and learning a few simple tricks can make your writing infinitely more powerful. *GrammarCheck* put together this list of five words/phrases that make your writing weaker, and also provided some suggestions for what you can replace those words with.

<http://www.grammarcheck.net/weak-words/>

2) **6 Fabulous Games to Get Your Students Speaking**

Many ESL teachers find that their students are timid speakers or reluctant to participate in class discussions. It's only natural. After all, they are trying to talk in a language they are still working on learning. When you want to get your students to speak up, try one of these fun and simple games.

<http://busyteacher.org/16508-speaking-6-fabulous-games-teach-students.html>

3) **10 Skills You Need to Succeed at Almost Anything**

Success, however it's defined, takes action, and taking good and appropriate action takes skills. Some of these skills (not enough, though) are taught in school, others are taught on the job, and still others we learn from general life experience. Below

is a list of general skills that will help anyone get ahead in practically any field, from running a company to running a gardening club.

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/featured/10-skills-you-need-to-succeed-at-almost-anything.html>

USEFUL RESOURCES

1) English Grammar

On EnglishGrammar.org you'll learn all aspects of the English written language, enabling you to improve your writing skills in both personal and formal communications. If you subscribe to their newsletter, the new articles on grammar and writing will be sent straight to your e-mail box.

<http://www.englishgrammar.org/>

2) The Farlex Grammar Book

The Farlex Grammar Book is a comprehensive guide consisting of three volumes: English Grammar, English Punctuation, and English Spelling and Pronunciation. Inside, you'll find clear, easy-to-understand explanations of everything you need to master proper grammar, including complete English grammar rules, examples, and exceptions—plus a grammar quiz at the end of every topic to test what you've learned. Volumes I and II, English Grammar and English Punctuation, are available now, and Volume III on Punctuation and Spelling will be added soon, so be sure to check the link for updates!

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/The-Farlex-Grammar-Book.htm>

One

By Shawnee Kellie

One word can spark a moment,

One flower can wake the dream;

One tree can start a forest,

One bird can herald Spring.

One smile can bring a friendship,

*One handclasp can lift a soul;
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One cheer can obtain a goal.*

*One vote can change a Nation,
One sunbeam can lift a room;
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One look can change two lives;
One kiss can make love bloom.*

*One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer;
One hope can raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.*

*One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true;
One life can make a difference,
One life is me and you....*

