



Dear Colleague,

May is an exciting time of the year. Flowers are starting to bloom. The weather is getting nicer. Summer is just around the corner. In this month's issue, we will talk about the positives and negatives of computer generated images, saving for retirement, and some grammar and speech fun. The first week of May is also Screen-Free Week. This is a great time to get outside and enjoy springtime activities.

We are quickly approaching the end of another exciting, knowledge seeking year. Only the May and June issues are left until fall. If your program ends in May, have a wonderful summer! We are so glad you took us along on your education journey this year. We hope you'll subscribe again next year! Make sure you are signed up for our email list to receive news and updates on pricing for next year. If your students are moving on from your class, encourage them to subscribe to *Easy English NEWS* for home delivery, or ask for it at their local library. Remind them there won't be a July or August issue. If your program doesn't end in May, we're so glad we'll see you next month. We will have another great issue coming for you!

Carol Brigham

Is that picture real? (page 1 and 9)

Objectives: Students will be able to describe what artificial intelligence is. They will be able to identify how they use AI programs in their daily lives. They will be able to list three positives and three negatives of AI image creator programs.

Procedures: Find out from students what they know about AI already. Ask questions such as: *Do you have anything in your house that uses artificial intelligence programs? Some examples might be robot vacuums, smart devices like appliances and thermostats, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, etc. How does AI help you in your daily lives?*

Read the article together as a group. Discuss how artificial intelligence learns and how it helps people do jobs every day. Ask questions such as: *How do artificial*

intelligence programs learn? How does an AI image creator program work? How would you get the computer to create a picture for you? What are some problems with AI image creators? What are some benefits of AI image creators? Do you use AI image creators? Stress that AI image creators that are used on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and others use their photos to generate different pictures. It can be fun to see what you look like as a cartoon character, holiday animal, or famous work of art, but they may be giving away their privacy by using the app. It is important for them to read the privacy statements before they agree to let these programs use their pictures.

Saving for retirement (page 1 and 5)

We have addressed a lot of topics so far in our money series this year. Retirement may be just around the corner for some students. For others it may be so far away that they don't think saving for retirement applies to them. However, the earlier people start considering how they want to retire the better. Starting retirement savings sooner rather than later allows more time for their investments to grow. Even if students don't start saving for a while, they can think about how they want to spend their retirement and how much those plans may cost them.

Objectives: Students will be able to describe what retirement is. They will be able to identify what activities people might do in retirement. They will be able to identify three ways to save for retirement.

Procedures: Establish how much students already know about retirement in the U.S. Find out how retirement in the U.S. is different from retirement in their home countries. Ask questions such as: *What is retirement? Do you know anyone who is retired? How do they spend their time? What is it called in your country when someone stops working? How is this different from what people in the U.S. do when they stop working?*

Read the article. Have students note things they did not know about Social Security and saving for retirement. Ask questions such as: *What would you like to do when you retire? How much money do*

you think you will need to pay your bills? How much money do you think you will need for your other plans (travel, hobbies, etc.)? What did you learn about saving for retirement that you didn't already know? Are you using any of these methods to save for retirement? If students are working, ask questions such as: Does your employer let you save for retirement? What retirement benefits can you get through your job? Do you participate? Does your employer match your contributions each month?

Events in May (pages 2 and 3)

Calendar: Elicit from your students any special days celebrated in their countries in May. Also, ask who has a birthday, anniversary, or other celebration in May. What school events will take place in May? Have students write these directly on a blank calendar.

May Day: Ask what students do in their home countries on May first. Do they celebrate International Workers' Day? May Day is a traditional English holiday greeting spring, with beauty queens, parades with flowers and floats, and a dance around a maypole.

Mother's Day: Have students talk about the person who "mothered" them. (Kept them alive when they were too small to take care of themselves. It might be their mother, stepmother, aunt, father, grandparent, foster parent, etc.) Have students write their own memories of someone who mothered them, or, how they mothered their own children. *What are your plans for Mother's Day?*

Cinco de Mayo: If you have Mexican students in your class, ask them to tell how they celebrate *Cinco de Mayo*. Bring in Mexican music or videos of Mexican dancing. Have students locate Mexico on a large wall map, and find the border, the rivers, the areas in the U.S. that have Spanish names. Have some advanced students research the Battle of Puebla, and report to the class. Discuss how the outcome of a battle can change the course of history. If the French had won the battle of Puebla, our neighbors might be speaking French, not Spanish.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Have students locate

Asia on a world map, and name the countries. Also look at the Pacific Ocean and identify various islands. What is your school doing to mark this month?

Ask any Asian or Pacific Island students in your class to demonstrate a skill from their own culture. Examples: teach how to use chopsticks, do tai chi or karate moves, explain feng shui concepts, flower arranging, writing characters or letters in Asian languages, etc. Discuss these sayings of Confucius on education: *Ignorance is the night of the mind, and a night without moon and stars. Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses.* Do they agree or disagree?

How does this Confucius' saying help teachers to teach? *I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.* Elicit the names of famous Asian people that students may know. (See a long list at [Wikipedia.com](https://www.wikipedia.com).)

Kentucky Derby: Have students heard of the Kentucky Derby? Some of the horses that may be running this year are: *Forte, Angel of Empire, Tapit Trice, Two Phil's, Lord Miles, Derma Sotogake* (from Japan), *Kingsbarns, Raise Cain, Rocket Can.* Students can see past races of these contenders at [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Search for: "Kentucky Derby 2023" (plus the name of the horse they like).

Assign an optional homework assignment to watch the derby on TV. Build horse and racing vocabulary: *filly, colt, jockey, starting gate, favorite, long shot, And they're off!, in the lead, back stretch, finish line, purse, odds, win by a length, win by a nose, etc.*

Teacher Appreciation Day: Have students write an essay about a teacher they had here in the U.S. or in their home country who helped or inspired them.

Armed Forces Day: Talk about the various branches of the Armed Services. Ask if any students have been in the armed forces in their home countries. *Was it voluntary or required? Was it men only, or men and women?* Talk about the sacrifices that people in the Armed Forces make for their country. Remind young men in your class that they must, by law, register for Selective Service when they become 18, and register again if they move before the age of 25. If they don't register, they can lose eligibility for student financial aid, job training, and jobs in the Federal government. They must register even if they are not citizens.

Memorial Day: Read the article. Discuss: *Why is it important to remember people who have sacrificed their lives for their country? Does anyone in the class have a family member in the Armed Forces?* Invite a veteran (call the VFW) or National Guard person to speak to the class about the work of the Armed Forces or the importance of Memorial Day. Point out that it is also patriotic to work for peace and to show respect for all sides. Encourage students to watch any parade planned for your community.

This is your page (page 4)

Read the stories and discuss any applications in their own lives. Ask questions such as: *What special sayings do you have in your language? What things did you do to help you learn English? What things have you done in the U.S. to help you make friends? How is driving in the U.S. different from driving in your home country? What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?*

Former president indicted (page 5)

Objectives: Students will be able to tell which former president was indicted. They will be able to tell why this is historic. They will be able to tell what charges led to the indictment.

Procedures: Read the article. Have students answer questions such as: *Which former president was indicted? Why did District Attorney Bragg look into his files? What was he charged with? What will happen next?*

America the Beautiful (page 6)

Objectives: Students will be able to tell where Cape Lookout National Seashore is located. They will be able to tell what animals live there. They will be able to list activities that visitors can do there.

Procedures: Have students look at the pictures and describe what they see. Read the article together. Ask questions such as: *Where is Cape Lookout National Seashore? What people used to live there? Why is the lighthouse important? What do people do at Cape Lookout National Seashore? What animals live there?* Have students plan a trip to Cape Lookout National Seashore. Have them decide what they would like to do and see there.

Grammar fun- "to" or "to the" (page 7)

Objectives: Students will be able to correctly use activity nouns such as school,

church, gym, bed, and court. Students will be able to tell when to use "the" with these words and when "the" is not necessary.

Ask a Speech Coach (page 7)

Most English language students can understand the function of final *s* to indicate plurals, third- person singular present tense verbs, and possessive forms. However, to remember to use them is a problem, and it's slow to become habitual. Frequent practice is often necessary. For some, the distinction between /s/ and /z/ needs practice. After practice in the article, note the difficulties your students have, and review, if necessary a few minutes every day for a week, and then once a week.

Screen-Free Week (page 10)

Objectives: Students will be able to tell how much time they spend on screens, and tell what they might do instead during a week without them.

Procedures: Draw a pie chart on the board and discuss the 24-hour day. Demonstrate your own time allotments and fill them in on the chart in different colors if you have them. Sleep, work, travel to work, preparing meals, eating, showering and hygiene, exercise, homework, TV, cleaning, and social media time if any. Ask students to make their own pie chart. Have them work with a partner to tell how much time they spend on each activity. Teach the structure: I spend x hours (or minutes) sleeping/eating/talking to friends each day. What will they do when the time on the pie chart for TV, Internet, Facebook, etc. is free? Brainstorm more ideas for non-screen activities.

ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. d | 16. T |
| 2. b | 17. T |
| 3. c | 18. F (three) |
| 4. a | 19. F (10) |
| 5. c | 20. T |
| 6. c | 21. I (ferry) |
| 7. c | 22. A (copyright) |
| 8. b | 23. D (discounts) |
| 9. a | 24. B (hobby) |
| 10. d | 25. E (hike) |
| 11. F (May) | 26. F (constellations) |
| 12. T | 27. C (ancestors) |
| 13. F (Asian) | 28. G (highway) |
| 14. F (Mexican) | 29. J (fake) |
| 15. F (six) | 30. H (witnesses) |

May 2023 Quiz I

Choose the best answer. Write its letter on the line in front of the number.

- _____ 1. What does artificial intelligence use to do tasks and solve problems?
- a) people
 - b) machines
 - c) screens
 - d) computer programs
- _____ 2. Which of these things is NOT an AI app?
- a) Siri
 - b) paper calendar
 - c) Alexa
 - d) Google Assistant
- _____ 3. What do AI image creators make?
- a) self-driving cars
 - b) grocery lists
 - c) digital pictures
 - d) retirement accounts
- _____ 4. What laws does Getty say AI image creators break?
- a) copyright laws
 - b) internet laws
 - c) privacy laws
 - d) business laws
- _____ 5. Why can AI image creators be dangerous?
- a) They make digital pictures.
 - b) They learn from pictures on the internet.
 - c) People use them to scam other people.
 - d) They can be used on phones and computers.
- _____ 6. What is retirement?
- a) when someone uses AI technology
 - b) when someone loses the Kentucky Derby
 - c) when someone stops working
 - d) when someone asks for help
- _____ 7. What retirement savings is through an employer?
- a) traditional IRA
 - b) ROTH IRA
 - c) 401(k)
 - d) Social Security
- _____ 8. What is a tax that goes into a fund for people who are retired?
- a) traditional IRA
 - b) Social Security
 - c) ROTH IRA
 - d) 401(k)
- _____ 9. What retirement account is taxed before you put the money into it?
- a) ROTH IRA
 - b) 401(k)
 - c) Social Security
 - d) traditional IRA
- _____ 10. Which activity is screen-free?
- a) playing video games
 - b) reading an ebook on a tablet
 - c) checking social media
 - d) taking a walk around your neighborhood

Quiz II. Events in March

True or False? Write “T” for true, and “F” for false. If the sentence is *false*, write a word to replace the underlined word to make the sentence *true*.

- _____ 11. March is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

- _____ 12. Mayday is a code word for disaster.

- _____ 13. The great teacher Confucius had a strong influence on Mexican culture.

- _____ 14. Cinco de Mayo is an important holiday for Asian Americans.

- _____ 15. There are three branches of the United States Armed Forces.

- _____ 16. The U.S. Armed Forces are all volunteers.

- _____ 17. The Kentucky Derby is the first horse race in the Triple Crown.

- _____ 18. The Kentucky Derby is for five-year-old horses. _____
- _____ 19. Someone must work for 40 years to get Social Security benefits.

- _____ 20. Social Security is not guaranteed.

Quiz III. Building Vocabulary

Write the letter of the best word for each sentence.

Word List

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A. copyright | F. constellations |
| B. hobby | G. highway |
| C. ancestors | H. witnesses |
| D. discounts | I. ferry |
| E. hike | J. fake |

- _____ 21. The people had to take a _____ to get to the island because there weren't any roads.
- _____ 22. _____ laws protect the ownership of an artists's or writer's work.
- _____ 23. Stores give people _____ during special sales.
- _____ 24. Sam's favorite _____ is fishing.
- _____ 25. Bill likes to _____ in the woods.
- _____ 26. _____ are shapes made out of the stars in the night sky.
- _____ 27. Julie's _____ came to the United States from Germany.
- _____ 28. People take the _____ to drive from one city to another.
- _____ 29. The _____ flowers were made of plastic.
- _____ 30. The _____ testified in court about what they saw and heard.