

February 15th, 2005

Mr. William Jackson
EASY Representative
1122 East Pike Street, #1413
Seattle, WA 98122-3934
Email:

FAX: (425) 669-4417

Dear Mr. Jackson

It is my pleasure to share with you a little bit about how I have made good use of the EASY language learning system and materials. I am currently teaching a population of displaced agricultural production workers in Quincy, Washington. The students are a very mixed bag of ages and educational backgrounds, and are entirely of Hispanic backgrounds. Their English language proficiency is also extremely varied. I have worked with some for nearly seven months now; others have attended only a month or two during different periods of their return to employment.

My objective in this course is to instruct the displaced workers in the English needed to return to work in the agricultural sectors of our region, while at the same time preparing them to engage in further vocational education offered by our retraining program. I have used the EASY system to supplement the vocational ed curriculum that already exists in our program. I am pleased to tell you that the students and I benefit from EASY in many ways. I will attempt to share a few.

The Worksheets are easy to reproduce. Whether a student attends for a week, or six months, they always get their hands on supplemental ESL work in class, as well as work to take home every day they attend my class. I give the students a separate folder specifically for "EASY work."

The Worksheets are written very clearly, with instructions that match the students' ability levels. The excellent diagrams included in the worksheets immediately overcome the need for lengthy explanations or translation. Additionally, the "Worksheet, Homework, Quiz" process for each unit provides ample practice sheets to ensure that the topic is thoroughly learned.

The Teacher's Guide has also provided many fun and inventive ideas in the presentation of the content, even though I admit to not conforming to the prescribed order due to my own curriculum taking priority. Just this week, the students greatly enjoyed the games and activities I derived from the manual when reviewing how to give street directions. Last week, when reviewing body parts, we enjoyed the prescribed Simon Says game more than once! I'm always amazed at how much fun adults can have when learning English!



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The EASY Videos have been asked for time and time again. As I only have one set, I do not allow the students to take them home. In class, I have regularly used the videos to both present and review content. Often, I have used the video with one group, while engaging a different level of learners in direct instruction. The videos do an excellent job of presenting content in a very clear, repetitive and enjoyable manner. As I first mentioned, when students ask for a video to take home, I can only suggest that they find other ESL series at the library, or to watch more English television! I know that if I had numerous copies, they would always be checked out by these eager students!

The Videos are also very well matched with the in-class and homework worksheets. I often replay the video segments while the students are doing the worksheets in class. Repetition, repetition, repetition! Repetition, especially for the older language learner, is essential, and these lively, funny, colorful videos are never dull, even after five or six screenings!

In conclusion, thank you for the opportunity to share how EASY has benefited my instruction in the ESL classroom. It is my hope that EASY becomes available to more instructors and students as I believe it works. Our program has recorded impressive advances in language acquisition over these past seven months, and I believe the EASY method and materials have been a strong, contributing factor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via SkillSource, or to drop by at the Quincy Community Center to visit with some of the students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Lucas".

Paul Lucas
Instructor