



Torrance Newsletter

January

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2012

WELCOME TO ALL NEW & CONTINUING STUDENTS!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Year's Resolutions	2
Education in Korea	3
Modern Soccer	3
Gangs in El Salvador	4
Christmas Time	5
Salon vs Barber	6
And more.....	☺

Thank you for choosing Language Systems as your place to perfect your English skills. We hope you enjoyed your break and are ready for the new term! We are very excited for all the positive changes in 2012! Please see Sylvia or Hideka if you have any questions or concerns about anything.

What's Happening This Month?

- * 1/3- Orientation for new students @ 9:00 am
- * 1/3- Afternoon & Evening Classes begin (1:30 pm & 6:00 pm)
- * 1/4- Morning Classes Start (9:00 am)
- * 1/6- Join your new friends for a nice dinner at the Lazy Dog Café in Del Amo Mall. Meet at school at 5:30 pm
- * 1/16- No School! National Holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.
- * Every Wednesday- Beach Workout! Sign up & see Tina for more details.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Orientation M&A Classes Start	4 Morning Classes Start	5	6 Welcome- Back Dinner	7
8	9	10 Futsal Soccer	11 Beach Workout	12 Study Session	13	14
15	16 MLK Jr. Holiday	17 Futsal Soccer	18 Beach Workout	19 Study Session	20	21
22	23	24 Futsal Soccer	25 Beach Workout	26 Study Session	27	28
29	30	31	More details available at the Front desk! SIGN UP! JOIN THE FUN!			

New Year's Resolutions

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes.

Here are the ten most common New Year's Resolutions in the United States. Do you have some similar promises?

1. Start Exercising - After a season of too many cookies, candies and holiday parties, it's only natural that a vow to lose weight and get fit would follow. Each January, fitness clubs offer deals and promotions to those who want to keep their promises.

2. Quit Smoking - So you want to quit smoking? Good luck. Only an estimated 15% of people who try to quit manage to stay cigarette-free six months later.

3. Learn Something New - You'd love to play the piano. How great would it be to really know how to cook? Resolving to learn something new is exciting: the world is full of fascinating facts, skills and talents. And the process of discovering them, not just the end result, is enjoyable and rewarding.

4. Eat Healthier and Diet - During the holidays, everything we eat is pretty much awful for us: eggnog, fudge, chips and dip, cheese balls. It's time to eat healthy. We promise to swap eggs and bagels for granola and oatmeal breakfasts; eat lean, protein-rich salads (nonfat dressing on the side, please) and fruit for lunch; cook fish and brown rice for dinner and serve it up with a side of spinach. It all sounds so good and possible on Jan. 2.

5. Get out of Debt and Save Money - After a difficult financial year (and the always budget-unfriendly month of December), consumers might try to stop spending and promise to manage their debt more effectively. Some tips are to allow yourself to eat

one dinner out a week. Take a sack lunch to work most days.

6. Spend More time with Family - Everyone's busy these days, it's true. But family is important, and the beginning of the year is an ideal time to reconnect with family that you haven't seen in a while.

7. Travel - A new year and a new world of opportunities to explore — and places, too. Travel of some sort is on almost everyone's agenda, and some of the first things we tend to think of in a new year are those exotic destinations we'd hope to seek out. Take that road trip to rugged Nova Scotia, ride a hot-air balloon over the strange terrain of Cappadocia, go on your first ocean cruise.

8. Be Less Stressed - It's not a bad idea to resolve to be less stressed. Less stress can make you healthier and happier.

9. Volunteer - It may be a new year, but there are still old problems in the world. To start out on the right foot, you may resolve to lend a helping hand. You can help build a house, care for an animal, distribute food to the hungry, tutor a student. Volunteering could be the resolution that keeps on giving — to yourself and to others.

10. Drink Less - After the morning of Jan. 1, it's not surprising you probably wish you drank less. Drinking less is undoubtedly good for you: it's better for your health, your wallet and probably your reputation.

We asked some teachers, staff members, and afternoon students about their own New Year's Resolutions. Here's what they said:

IN 2012

I WILL...

Tina: stay healthy and always have a positive attitude

Emily: be a good new mom

Bhumika: travel more, learn to cook new things, & go to karaoke more often

Monica: travel more, lead a healthier lifestyle, & learn a new language

John: go to bed early, improve my English, & make more money

Sylvia: wake up early every day & be a better cook

Bruno: try to be more organized & make plans for the future

Joel: improve my English

Yoshi: get buff **Betsy:** do more yoga

Davi: be more friendly and open-minded

Education in Korea

The one thing I really want to change about my country, Korea, is the educational atmosphere. For years, I attended school in Korea, including the elementary, middle, high school and college levels. From my experience and many Korean people's view, the educational system in Korea is not desirable. I can daringly say that it's not effective, and it's awfully competitive.

To be specific, Korean students have to stay in school three or four hours more than students in foreign countries. Besides, most students go to several private schools even after attending regular school. To make it worse, they normally stay up late doing homework or complementary studies until they go to bed. However, they are not even competent although they've been studying intensely like this.

As a result, there are many more adverse effects than advantages in the current education environment. For example, parents have to pay fairly high tuition rates for private schools, and students don't get to be creative because they spend hardly any of their time on activities they are really interested in. Furthermore, their health gets worse because they barely exercise. They sit at a desk for most of the day, and they don't get enough sleep at night.

Therefore, something must be changed in the educational system in Korea. First of all, we have to value diversity and respect all kinds of occupations so that children can spend time not only studying, but also doing creative and enjoyable activities. Secondly, school hours should be adjusted to the worldwide standard in order to allow children the liberty to do whatever they like in their free time. Lastly, the quality of public schools ought to be improved so that parents don't have to send their kids to private schools. By doing these things, students will be motivated to work at preparing for their future more creatively and enthusiastically.

By Hyekyung Level 6 Eve



Modern Soccer: Why are there some people still against it?

What does the term 'modern soccer' mean? Why do some people say that? Many people don't know that soccer has evolved greatly since it was first created. It gradually became more and more popular until it finally emerged as an official team sport which everyone could watch and play without thinking that it would ever change. Nowadays, soccer is totally different and some people are against that evolution which is always referred to in Europe as 'Modern football'. In the following paragraphs, I will explain why those changes made soccer less popular for that part of population.

Soccer was created hundreds of years ago by British students. Indeed, they played during their breaks with a ball made with paper. They set up markers in the area to signify when a goal was scored, and everyone could play and watch. Soccer became more and more popular until it was turned into an official team sport. At that time, soccer was affordable for any kind of population. It was played everywhere and people enjoyed their time in stadiums or on the playground. However, for many years now, this sport has started to change and become modernized. In fact, this sport is no longer popular in developed countries. For example, major teams pay their players a great deal of money, and prices for tickets to watch a game are way too expensive. Most average people can't afford to see a game.



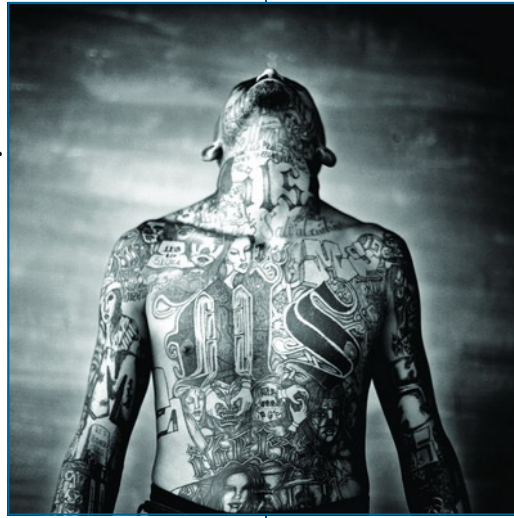
The most recent example of how modern soccer has changed involves the main organization called FIFA, and their decision to award the World Cup Tournament to Qatar in 2022. Many people pretend not to understand the reasons why FIFA gave the most important event in soccer to a country where the weather in summer doesn't allow you to go outside, human rights are not respected, and where everything is controlled by the prince. The reasons FIFA gives for their decision include the desire to help professional soccer develop in this country, and to help the country grow. The one reason the organization doesn't mention is the money; everybody knows Qatar has a lot of money and money is the main reason for everything in soccer nowadays. The primary focus of each team in the developed countries is to make profit and create a good image in the whole world. As a result, they raise ticket prices and sell many different kinds of merchandise to increase their profits, no matter what happens to the population who can't afford all of these new things.

By Marc- Level 7

The Power of Gangs in My Country

Gangs are a real problem in my country. But who or what are gangs? In my country, gangs are composed of groups of young people between the ages of 12 and 30. They dedicate all their time and energy to doing vicious things like scaring, stealing, and killing regular Salvadoran people. By the year 2007, it was estimated that these groups had up to 30,000 members, which made them more numerous than the regular Salvadoran army and police combined. After four years, I can easily estimate that those numbers have increased at least 50 %.

Since their beginning, the gangs have been characterized as extremely dangerous, cruel, and deadly to their victims. They do not take into consideration if you are a boy of two years old, or a lady of 90 years old. If you or your family has a problem with them, they will certainly kill you, as cruel as it sounds. Their reign of cruelty began during the Salvadoran civil war in the nineteen eighties, when about 500,000 Salvadorans immigrated to the United States. Living here in the U.S., they had to associate with one another to protect themselves from other local Mexican or Black gangs, who were teasing them for being so naive. They brought with them the savage practices of the civil war, which made many of their members subject to deportation. All these individuals, who were deported back to El



Salvador, started to plant the seeds of their violent ideology and way of living among the youngsters, who eventually increased in number to today's sad reality.

The Salvadoran gangs in the United States are considered to be the most dangerous of all the others. The Salvadoran Gangs in my country kill about 13 to 15 people each day. For a small country such as mine (7 million inhabitants and only 13,125 square miles of territory) this astounding homicide rate makes it the second most dangerous country in all the world; even more dangerous than countries who are facing civil conflicts such as Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. One month ago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation disclosed a file in which it reported that Salvadoran undercover gangsters have infiltrated the U.S. Army, Marines and other prestigious American security corps.

For me, these facts about the reality of my country are both upsetting and sad because there is no real hope that this problem will be solved for at least the next 50 years. I cannot see any way for this to come to an end. The politicians, the judges, the army, the police, and every other institution in my country have been infiltrated by this criminal association. Indeed, they can no longer be considered a simple group of vandals. They are beginning a new stage in their existence; they are becoming a real criminal organization, as fearsome as any terrorist group, even Al-Qaeda or Hezbollah. **By Oswaldo Level 6 eve.**

Join us on facebook

Join the group to stay updated on events & activities, connect with classmates & teachers, see the latest pics, & learn new idioms! Search for:

"Language Systems-Torrance"

follow us on **twitter**
LSITorrance



CHRISTMAS TIME



It is the most special time of the year for everybody. Young people, teenagers and even elder people usually enjoy this holiday. Why? The reasons are clear; because of the magic that we feel, the colors of the environment, and also the happiness that people share with each other. All these things are noticeable during the holiday season.

Firstly, you can see children and young people living Christmas time as a unique moment in their lives. They look surprised receiving and opening gifts they asked for with sincere enthusiasm, playing with them for hours or even days without taking care of the time. For teenagers it is also a good time because they can proudly show off new clothes and gifts to their friends in the New Year. Elder people see this time differently because they don't really care as much about the gifts as the young do, but joining with family and having a good time together is something that they appreciate and will never forget.

Secondly, families meet to happily decorate their houses inside and out by placing colorful and fun stuff all around. They enjoy these activities together. It is also gratifying to visit different cities or to go out and walk around looking at all the decorations in the streets. You realize that there are countless kinds of ambiance you can find.

Finally, you can feel the happiness of this magical environment in which everybody is more active than usual and has a fever to buy things that they don't even need. They may find nice stuff for the house and will buy it even if it is pricy. It has become kind of necessary to spend money on cool things at Christmas. It might be a waste of money, but the reason is that everybody has family, friends, and people to give gifts to, and this is a particular time when people see each other more often, meet for lunch or dinner, and just have big celebrations for fun.

I would like to encourage everybody to enjoy this time because it only happens once a year. You have the chance to spend more time with your family and friends or at least talk with them, and you could make somebody happy with your gift.

By Cristina —Level 6

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE

The one thing which usually bothers me the most is cultural difference. I have been in the U.S. for almost 7 months. Although I have become accustomed to life here, I still have difficulties understanding and following the American way of life. I often feel bothered by this. Actually, it is not the big things that bother me, but rather the small things. For example, I registered at the 24 Hour Fitness Center in August in order to exercise. At that time, I paid for two months, the first and the last, in order to start my membership there. I went there every two days. I kept going until early September, but then I stopped going. Even though I felt that I was wasting money, I was so busy that I could not find the time to work out.



As time passed, I thought about the gym less and less. In the middle of October, however, I got some surprising and upsetting news from the gym that I had to pay for September, October, and November. Because I hadn't cancelled my membership yet, they charged me for an additional month. When I went there to ask why, they explained their reasons to me, but I still couldn't understand. In the end, I had to pay for all three months. I think this incident was caused by cultural difference.

I still have much trouble understanding American culture and customs in many cases. Sometimes I feel upset and inconvenient, but I know everything will work out better for me in the future.

Tae-yeon Level 6 eve.

Hair Salon VS. BarberShop

Do you usually go to a hair salon to cut your hair? Are you one of those who belong to this exciting new trend? Today, hair salons are an important part of people's lives. People no longer see any value in the existence of barbershops, which are considered old fashion. According to statistics in developed countries, eighty percent of the population, including men, now goes to hair salons. How has the hair salon changed people's minds about going to barbershops, which people used to like? There are three main reasons why barbershops have become less popular; variety, quality, and opportunity.

First, hair salons provide people with plenty of choices for their hairstyles. It is obvious to see that people's demands on their hairstyles are becoming more unique and individual these days. Humans have always obsessed over being the first person to discover and accomplish a new thing in any aspect of their lives. Because of this environment, people also try to have their own character so their appearance can be different than others. Still, a hair salon is a place which perfectly caters their services based on people's needs as well as their desire for diverse colorings, extensions, and many types of ever-changing permanent waves.

Second, hair salons consider their top priority to be maintaining and improving the condition of the customer's hair. Even if people want to expand their own character through their hair, they want to keep the originality as long as they can. It is known that using special chemicals to change hair



© Michael Walters / Heritage-Images

color or style is harmful to the health of the hair. However, hair salons have devised efficient solutions such as hair spas and special hair treatments. People do not need to be worried about the condition of their hair anymore.

Finally, hair salons have an unlimited future regarding their service and economy. Basically, hair salons are not limited or told what to provide there. They incorporate everything that is related to beauty as part of their services; for example eyelashes. This does not seem like something that matters in their business. Nevertheless, these days, all hair salons have workers who specialize in making eyelashes beautiful. Surely, barbershops also have extra services to offer the customers, such as a shaving mustaches or beards. However, people who go to hair salons are not required to struggle with finding the appropriate store for the other beauty categories. The more they bring the optional beauty services into their business, the more customers they are going to acquire. Hair salons have more opportunities to include other beauty services as well as increase their economic potential.

In conclusion, hair salons have become something that people cannot live without in this decade. Barbershops are limited in their potential because they lack the variety, quality, and opportunity necessary to compete. If barbershops do not become aware of people's demands regarding their beauty, and think of a solution, hair salons will take over all fields in beauty someday. **Level 7 Takao**

Futsal Indoor Soccer

Enjoy the exciting game of Futsal every Tuesday evening at

Continued from page 7...

The foundation of facebook is sharing information. People share their comments, notes, pictures, videos. The problem is that people share too much. All too often people forget that the web is a public place, and comments or photos posted can be embarrassing to family, friends or colleagues. Some people who don't want to share their comments or photos become upset about sharing these with other people whom they don't know. Too much sharing can negatively impact various relationships.

There are all kinds of ways third parties can access personal information. For instance, you may not realize that when you play popular games on facebook, such as farmville, you authorize an application to be downloaded to your profile. Every time you take those popular quizzes you may be giving information to third parties without even realizing it. Moreover, the site is constantly under attack from hackers trying to spam millions of users, or harvest their data, or run other scams. In my experience, I have gotten email from dating web sites that had acquired my personal information and my picture from facebook even though I never join the web site.

While facebook has provided us with an easy means of keeping in touch, sharing our lives, and helping develop relationships, it has negative effects. People have a lack of physical interaction in their real life because they spend too much time communicating in cyber space. Also, facebook is based on sharing information, so there is a risk to privacy and a danger of stealing personal information. We should be aware of the negative facts of online social networks, and we should use facebook as only one of the convenient communication tools at our disposal. On the other hand, not only the company of facebook but also other social network service companies should have stronger systems to defend personal information.

Level 7 Eonkoun Amy

The Benefits of Cohabitation

What are the benefits of cohabitation? People generally believe that unmarried couples should not live together before they get married. However, many unmarried couples are living together nowadays. There are three main benefits of living together before marriage; understanding each other, role playing married life, and saving money.

The first benefit is that the couple can get to know each other deeply. While they are just dating, they only see their partner's good points. It is like they see everything through rose colored glasses. It is hard to find their bad habits. Through cohabitation, they can find their partner's good points and bad points as well. They will not be surprised or shocked to see their partners' bad habits after getting

married. If your partner is not appropriate for you, you can separate from him or her. This preliminary knowledge can decrease the divorce rate among newlywed couples.

The second benefit is that cohabitation can be a role playing exercise that prepares them for married life. Women can practice being housewives so that they will know how to do housework and other daily chores. Men can also practice being husbands. They can learn how to protect their families and how to accept responsibility. If they learn how to live together before getting married, their married lives will go more smoothly.

The third benefit is that the couple can save money for their future. Most people leave their parents' home when they become adults, so they need to manage themselves. However, it is hard for them to manage their lives if they are entry level employees. If the couple lives together, they can combine resources and lower costs. As a result, they can afford to save money for their marriage and wedding.

In conclusion, living together before getting married might be tough on a couple, but it is a chance to make sure that you and your partner are appropriate for each other. It is also a chance to experience married life with your partner through role playing. Furthermore, you and your partner can economize your incomes and prepare for your future life. In addition, they will improve themselves as human beings through cohabitation. Accordingly, the couple should live together once before getting married.

Misai Level 7

