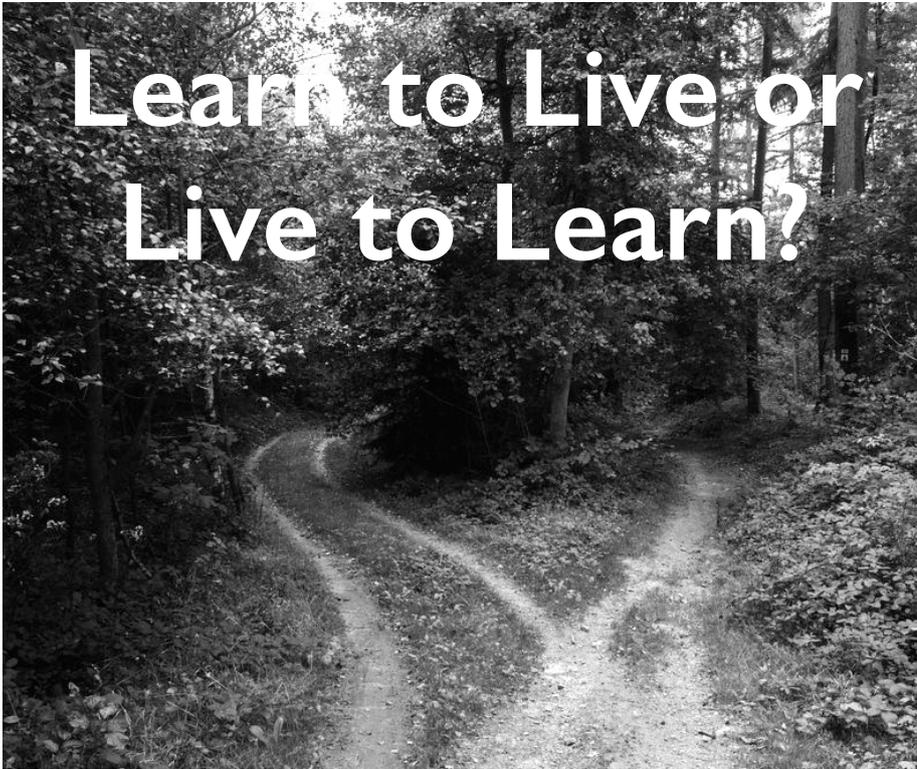


STUDENT VOICE

THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE CENTER • FES

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Learn to Live or Live to Learn?

Jens Lelie / Unsplash

Soukaina Loudghiri
Intermediate 6

For ages, the binary question of life has been asked more and more, “Do you live to work or work to live?” Do you live to eat or eat to live? And so on. Such existential questions have become recurrent in my mind so much that I question myself as a student, and what I’m doing with my studies. Am I living to learn or learning to live?

Since birth, our parents have been teaching us how to eat, walk, talk; and later, how to study and learn. They have been concerned with preparing us for survival, which we question by learning many things.

Here I feel that, without learning, it’s impossible to lead a decent and peaceful life. I mean that education distinguishes us as humans and prepares us, the next generation, for civilization. In this sense, I can’t have a good job or a good living if I’m not well-educated or have good qualifications.

We see people now burning themselves or sacrificing their lives for not getting jobs, especially those with higher education diplomas. However, to what extent are we going to relate our studies to making a living? Don’t we see students who learn for their diplomas, but forget what they have learned by the time they get a job?

In fact, it’s high time we changed our view of studying and engage in life-long learning that can help us and our world. It’s so selfish of us to study, graduate, work, and start looking for money, forgetting the reason behind education and why we are here on this earth.

Also, if we believe in living to learn, we will love what we do, we will excel, and we can get the best posts—jobs and positions with passion, and not just for personal needs or greed, all in the pursuit of happiness. It depends on how we see our lives, and how much we learn, to help not only ourselves, but also others.

Dare to Dream Big

Zineb Haloui
Advanced 2

Being a big dreamer doesn’t mean that you walk around with your head in the clouds, or that you are just wasting your time and looking for something that can never become a reality. It means that you’re seeking a purpose for your life, and it means that you’re becoming fulfilled in the process.

Essentially, dreams are not what we see when we are sleeping, but they are what keep us awake. They are the goals and visions that fire our hearts and saturate our souls with joy at the very thought of them. They are our destiny and our reason for living. Dreams don’t drive you; they draw you.

Some people are always trying to pre-



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vent us from our dreams by saying that they are too much, that we have to dream smaller and try to come back to reality, but trust me, nothing is impossible.

The word *impossible* itself says, “I’m possible.”

Furthermore, God is here with us wherever we go, whenever we want, so never listen to people who aren’t chasing their dreams because they will always bring you down. Remember, if your dream is not coming true, perhaps it’s because you just need a bigger dream!

So, are you dreaming big enough?

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FIND YOUR VOICE. Send your writings to alcstudentvoice@gmail.com.



An Interview with: Touria Elkihel

Lamiaie Bougandouf
Intermediate 5

Student Voice: *Are you from Fes?*

Touria Elkihel: No. I'm from Oujda, but I've been living here for years now.

SV: *Tell me about your life as a student. Where did you study?*

TL: Well, I was born in Jerada, a small city 60 kilometers from Oujda. So, for my primary school and junior high school, I had the chance to study in French schools. Then, I went to a boarding school in Oujda for high school. From Oujda, I came to Fes to study English at the University of Sidi Mohamed Ibn Abdellah.

SV: *What did you study?*

TL: During high school, my majors were French and English. At university, I majored in English literature. Then, of course, after graduating, I started teaching English.

SV: *How old were you when you first became interested in English?*

TL: Well, actually, it really started when I was 13. My English teacher had chosen me to represent the school where I used to study, and I was therefore sent to London for 2 months. The trip was organized by the Ministry of Youth. There were twelve students from different Moroccan cities. It was such an interesting and exciting experience that my parents decided to send me there every summer until I was 16.

SV: *How long have you been teaching English?*

TL: Modesty aside, I am an old hand! Just kidding. I mean, I had been teaching English in public school for years before I

started working at the ALC.

SV: *How long have you been a teacher at the ALC?*

TL: For about 13 years now.

SV: *How is teaching at the ALC different from teaching at other schools?*

TL: It's totally different here. The students' motivation, the class sizes, and the general environment make it fun and enjoyable.

SV: *What would you be doing if you weren't a teacher?*

TL: Well, I started my career as a teacher, so I can't imagine myself doing a different job. I really love teaching.

SV: *What qualities do good teachers have?*

TL: Teaching is an excellent and challenging career, full of personal rewards and a chance to encourage and support others to achieve their maximum potential. Therefore, there are many qualities and skills that create an effective teacher. In fact, a teacher should be committed to students; communicative, so as to encourage effective two-way communication; compassionate, caring, and empathetic; flexible, dependable, honest, and authentic in working with others; determined to find any means necessary to reach all students, no matter the challenge.

SV: *And what qualities do good students have?*

TL: Self-discipline, because it leads to the foundation of being a good human being, which is the pre-requisite for serving the country. Perseverance. Without it, it's impossible to be successful. Responsibility, because if you aren't responsible, how can

you expect to be an icon for others? Curiosity, because it makes learners love the discovery of learning.

SV: *What is the role of the teacher in the classroom?*

TL: I think a teacher should no longer see his primary role as being the king of the classroom. The most respected teachers have found out how to make students passionate participants. In fact, students work harder when teachers give them a role in determining the form and content of their schooling.

SV: *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

TL: *Humility.* In spite of its various interpretations, it's widely seen as a virtue in many religious and philosophical traditions.

SV: *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

TL: *Discrimination.*

SV: *Which word do you overuse?*

TL: *Excellent.* It reminds me of my first English teacher. She kept encouraging us by using this word.

SV: *What's your motto?*

TL: The best of all things is to learn. Money can be lost or stolen; health and strength may fail, but what you have committed to your mind is yours forever.

Join the conversation.

Want to interview a teacher?

Email alcstudentvoice@gmail.com.

Message *Student Voice* on **Facebook**.

Get in touch with **Jennifer**.

Congratulations to the Winter 2015

ALC-Fes Merit Scholars



Every ALC-Fes Merit Scholar receives a 100-percent reduction in tuition for one term because of his or her outstanding academic performance.

Beginning 1 Kamal Alaoui Chrifi

Beginning 2 Nadia Qataa

Beginning 3 Youssef Zemmouri

Beginning 4 Wissal Afarfar

Beginning 5 Zineb Akoudad

Beginning 6 Hajar Benaicha

Beginning 7 Samir Bounasr

Intermediate 1 Jaouad Boutahricht

Intermediate 2 Rim Benjelloun

Intermediate 3 Manal Rhazi

Intermediate 4 Adil El Alami El Merchoussi

Intermediate 5 Salma Alaoui Moustain

Intermediate 6 Mouna Badouri

Advanced 1 Maha Alilou

Advanced 2 Yassine Mimoh

Advanced 3 Latifa Hajji

Advanced 4 Fatima Zahra Dkhissi

Advanced 5 Ghita Chemiaa

Advanced 6 Hajar Benzakour

The ALC-Fes:

A Window Through Which
You See the Real World

Meriam Zahouane

Advanced 6

I've written about several topics in my life, including hope, love, and many other things. I remember that I didn't feel the pleasure or have as much motivation to write about such topics as I do now while I'm writing about the ALC-Fes.

It's an American Language Center, but it's not only about languages. By studying with people of different ages and professions, I learned that even though people have differences, they become equal when it comes to learning and having the same objective.

By having a different teacher every session, I was amazed by their different, brilliant ways of teaching and knowing each student's personality during the term. I feel like I talk to psychologists, and not teachers. I was so fascinated by their excellent, yet different methods of teaching that I wouldn't feel the time at all.

By listening and speaking only the language we are learning, I realized that it's essential that we struggle to speak in order to learn it more quickly. In conversation classes, we learn to be good conversationalists. We learn how to respect others' points of view, and how to disagree in polite ways.

By attending the great and rewarding activities, such as English Lunch, which is my favorite one, and clubs like Movie Club, Book Club, Music Club, Drama Club, and Cooking Club, I learned many things. I got to know new people from different cultures. I also became more comfortable speaking English. In addition, I learned a lot of vocabulary. On the other hand, I've become more self-confident and sociable. I have made many friends.

By being a member of the Community Service Club, I learned a lot of things about humanity and the value of cooperation. By helping people in need, and making them happy, I realized the real meaning of life. By listening to others' problems and suffering, I learned to be thankful. I also became

aware of how life is both tough and beautiful at the same time. I learned to love life as it is. I realized that the more we immerse ourselves with people, the more we become understanding and the better we get at dealing with people who have different ways of thinking. Volunteering with the Community Service Club gave me an opportunity to know myself and explore what I'm able to do.

Since I'm about to finish studying at the ALC, I'm about to cry, but I will never stop attending the activities I love. I feel like it's my second home. I feel that I have no better place to go, but here. Whatever I say about this wonderful place won't be enough to describe it.

I would like to thank the Director and the teachers for the great effort they make to help students learn. Thank you, ALC.



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TRIUMPH

Ikrame Yahyaoui

Intermediate 5

The day is here, and it's all yours. You have waited for this day to come for a long time. You have always been trying to think of how you're going to make it, then, suddenly, it arrives. Are you going to fail or succeed?

You, yourself, decide either you really want it. Believe it or not, it *is* your choice. Be sure that this day is going to be your **triumph**. But, if you think you still need more experience to make a decision, then, "Thanks for playing. I hope you'll have a chance next time!"

Never mind other people's thoughts about your decisions. If you feel comfortable with them, then brother, you have got a target to bring down. I'm certain that if you want it with the spirit of a real fighter, then you'll get it right between your hands.

Once you achieve it, you'll be tasting that flavor of happiness mixed with love, peace, and all positive and sincere emotions and feelings.

Be proud of what life has rewarded you with, from all the work you did, from all your suffering, and from your thirst to get it. Once you get your own day, call it a **triumph!**

The Best Moments of my Life: A Love Story

Ali Bendabhia

Juniors 8 Advanced

Grandchildren, I will tell you about one of the best and worst times in my life.

I still remember that the best moment of my life occurred the day I met my love.

She was the first person to trust me completely, the first to love me unconditionally, the only person I was ever able to share anything and everything with. We would have done anything for each other.

There was the day we got engaged, the day we got married, and the day we had our daughter. Those were wonderful days, but every day with her contained the best moments of my life. My best moments were unforgettable.

And, I can also say that the worst moment of my life occurred the day she died. In this life, we all have good and bad moments, so we should enjoy every happy moment, and try to forget all the bad ones.

The Summit

Haroun El Yaakoubi

Intermediate 1

Don't look back,
The road isn't far.
Keep walking,
It's not the time to give up.
Life isn't a hard task,
It's too short,
But it's enough to get to the top,
On the divergent roads.
Make the perfect choice,
And choose the bright way,
Although time is hard,
It's not the end of life,
The road isn't far.
The summit is the worthiest,
But time goes quickly.
Struggle and fight,
Put your weakness down,
Follow the stream,
Catch your dreams,
Life isn't a hard task.

Untitled

Anass El Moudni

Intermediate 3

When I was connected by Wi-Fi,
I felt like a mountain, very high,
Flying, owning the sky,
Like a butterfly.
On Facebook, I met a girl, very shy
When I said hi,
She said good-bye,
Then I started to cry
with just one eye.
She said, Why?
I said, because you forgot my birthday
in July,
And I will die,
While you cry and sigh,
On your handsome guy.

ANSWERS: Going Green
1. monster 6. horn
2. thumb 7. grass
3. pickle 8. trees
4. golf 9. cool
5. peas 10. light

So High

Khaoula Mrabt

Advanced 4

Flying so high in the sky,
Feeling like a butterfly,
Refusing to put her feet on the ground,
Because she's frightened of
that horrendous sound,
Which is ordering her to come down.
She became sad, always afraid,
She didn't want to grow up,
She just wanted to stay childish,
Free from all that's going
to put her behind bars,
Forbidding her from everything

which is babyish,
From those things
that are proving her candidness,
Obviously, she's fed up
with being detained.
It's time to rebel, revolt, and rise up,
There's no need to hide anymore,
Which means fight and
confront the status quo for sure,
After all, she decided to stand up,
Came to forget about
her conventional personality,
Made her own waves
so as to impose her authentic identity.

Going Green

Find the missing **green** words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden **across**, **down**, and **diagonally**. Answers are on page 4.
What other **green** words can you find?

E	R	U	T	A	N	O	C	O	O	L
Q	S	E	M	R	H	K	E	D	M	I
T	G	Z	K	P	X	O	A	T	J	G
K	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	P	U	H
E	I	P	L	U	R	K	T	N	Z	T
P	B	B	H	F	E	Y	H	S	P	Q
E	A	G	R	E	E	N	D	L	I	E
A	R	G	R	A	S	S	A	Y	C	O
S	W	Y	J	V	O	C	Y	G	K	T
V	T	H	U	M	B	W	A	X	L	Z
N	R	I	D	L	A	R	E	M	E	H

- Another name for jealousy: the **green**-eyed _____ (7 letters)
- If you're good at gardening, you have a **green** _____ (5 letters)
- When you have a problem, you're in a _____ (6 letters)
(HINT: It's a sour **green** vegetable that's delicious on shawarma.)
- The **green** is an important part of this sport: _____ (4 letters)
- If you're similar to another person, you're two _____ in a pod.
(4 letters) (HINT: It's another **green** vegetable that's small and round.)
- Someone with little experience is called a **green** _____ (4 letters)
- "The _____ is always **greener** on the other side of the fence" means that others' lives always seem better than ours. (5 letters)
- A proverb about hard work: "**Money** doesn't grow on _____." (5 letters)
- If you stay calm during a stressful time, you're "as _____ as a **cucumber**." (4 letters)
- You can get permission, or you can, "get the **green** _____." (5 letters)