

STUDENT VOICE

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Teachers: ALC vs. Public School

Marwa Salhi
Advanced 5

Although the ALC and public schools have existed for many decades now, it is irrefutable that the ALC wins hands-down due to the quality of teaching that the ALC teachers provide their students. Consequently, you find that more students are attracted to the ALC teachers rather than public school ones.

Both sets of teachers, fortunately, pour their souls out when it comes to bringing knowledge and doing their best at educating the students that enroll in their classes. For in-

stance, they both make sure to explain the lesson in ways that captivate the minds of their students; hence, making the class more engrossing for them. On another level, both ALC and public school teachers may have had similar academic careers, or even may have crossed paths at a certain point in their lives. Essentially, pedagogy is something that they share in common at some level.

Obviously, ALC teachers tend to use more technologically advanced methods to teach, which is believed to plant the seeds of knowledge better and faster for the students,

unlike public school teachers who seem to lack “innovative” methods to build up the lesson. Moreover, ALC teachers rely on movies, plays and really fun discussions to increase the dynamic of the class. On another level, students might also present a real challenge to the public school teachers, which would eventually discourage them.

Overall, both ALC teachers and public school teachers of English are noble people with brave hearts. However, if students ever had the choice, their hearts would utterly want to be enrolled at the ALC.

Why I Love English

Imane Hmamed
Intermediate I

Each one of us has a favorite language, and mine is English. I still remember the first time that I studied this magnificent language. It was at the ALC. Honestly, I wasn't very interested in English, but that has changed. At the end of summer, my friends dumped me, and I was pretty lonely, so I got depressed. The only way to get better was to read books and watch movies in English. That completely worked, and I felt so good.

So, that's why I like English; it has changed me into another person. You could say that English is important to me because I want to make my mom's dream come true. My mother has a B.A. in English, but she didn't finish her career in order to take care of her family. Briefly, I'm really thankful for learning English.

Teaching Is an Art

Houria Elouazzani Touhami
Advanced I

When I was a child, I used to look at my teachers from a different perspective. For me, a teacher was a symbol of authority, power, and superiority; thus, I was always afraid of discussing or opposing the teacher's opinion. As soon as I became an adult, and as I encountered many teachers in my life, I realized that a teacher

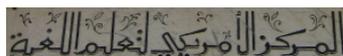
is simply someone who helps students grasp information, although this process is not as easy as it seems.

Someone who has a passion for teaching devotes his or her time and energy to doing this mission perfectly. Teachers are like artists; sometimes they have to act, other times they have to draw or sing, or may be tell jokes to keep their students

motivated and engaged. Moreover, being a good teacher is not only about knowing your stuff, but also about getting someone interested. I had a really great experience as a student when I first came to study at the ALC. I was really amazed and fascinated by the techniques that the teachers here use in the classroom. They are com-

TEACHING continues on page 3

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An Interview with: Taoufik El Ayachi

Student Voice: *Where are you from? Are you originally from Fes?*

Taoufik El Ayachi: No, I am not. I was born in Beni Mellal. My family moved to Fes when I was six months old, and I have been living in Fes since then.

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

TA: I first went to Imam Malik Primary School. Then I studied Junior High School in Ibn Al-Banna in Fes. After Ibn Al-Banna, I went to Ibn Hazm High School, where I studied for three years and got my High School Certificate. For university, I went to Sidi Mohammed Ibn Abdallah University to study English. After I got my B.A. in Linguistics, I left the university and moved to Rabat to study at a teacher training school, the Faculty of the Sciences of Education, where I studied to be a teacher of English. When I got my teaching certificate, my career as a high school teacher started. Three years later, I went back to Sidi Mohammed Ibn Abdallah University in Fes for a one-year study to get the DEA degree (Diplôme des

Etudes Approfondies), a degree that is kind of equivalent to the Master's degree nowadays. Immediately after this, I went on for an M.A. degree. Then, right after that, I started preparing a Ph.D. in Comparative Syntax. In 2006, I got my Ph.D. It was at that time that I decided to join tertiary education. I am now an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the School of Arts and Humanities, Moulay Ismail



© Taoufik El Ayachi

University, Meknes.

SV: *Have you ever lived outside Morocco?*

TA: No, I have never lived outside Morocco. All my studies were in Fes. However, I had the opportunity to benefit from a Teacher's Training Program in Boston for six weeks.

I have also attended two TESOL conferences in the USA.

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

TA: I started teaching at the ALC in 1990. It's strange...! It seems as if it were yesterday. Time flies!

SV: *How long have you been a teacher in life?*

TA: I have been a teacher for thirty years now. My teaching experience includes both high school teaching and university teaching.

SV: *When did you decide to become a teacher? Why did you choose teaching?*

TA: I have always wanted to be a teacher. It's one of the jobs that has always had a special appeal to me.

SV: *What do you enjoy most about teaching?*

TA: I love it when I feel that I am useful to my students, especially when I meet their needs, requirements, and expectations. I also feel happy when I help them learn something for life.

SV: *Describe your teaching style in three words.*

TA: Facilitator, delegator, and motivator.

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

TA: The student-centered approach that is adopted here, as

well as the type of students you get to teach, is a blessing. It's also a place where English is taught communicatively, and where students and teachers cooperate to make the most of what is available to them. I should add here that the teaching equipment we have here helps us to do a good job.

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

TA: Empower students, inspire them, and teach them how to learn.

SV: *What qualities do good teachers have?*

TA: Patient, hard-working, empathetic, organized, knowledgeable... the list is long!

SV: *What qualities do good students have?*

Diligence, politeness, and willingness to learn.

SV: *If you weren't teaching English, what would you be doing?*

TA: Working as an army officer.

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

TA: Cooperation.

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

TA: Procrastination.

SV: *What word or phrase do you overuse?*

TA: "Forget about it."

SV: *What is your motto?*

TA: "Be the type of person you want to meet."

Dreams of a Moroccan Student

Chaymae Senhaji
Intermediate 5

To dream is a human right that is taken for granted. You can't find a person without a dream or vision. The only difference is how big our goals are, and the way we try to make

them happen. I am inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and love his quote, "I have a dream." That's what made me doubt the word, "impossible," and change it to "I'm possible."

Since my early years at primary school, I have been

dreaming of helping others to live in better conditions. In time, my dreams have changed and become bigger and bigger, but more rational after realizing the difficulties of life and the obstacles that might interfere with my old objectives. I

have met different people that have influenced me, seen many events, gotten scared sometimes, and felt optimistic at other times. I started to know what I want and have started to work for it, believing that there

DREAMS continues on page 3

How to prepare for a job interview

Fatima Zahra Echlouchi
Beginning 6

Dress for the interview

When you are applying for a job, it's always important to be neat, tidy, and well-groomed, and to present a positive image to the employer. Don't wear jeans or short, tank tops, crop tops or anything low-cut (like

the power to decide, on the spot, if you should be considered for any vacancies.

Look everyone in the eye and smile. Looking people in the eye will telegraph alertness and smiling will signal friendliness.

Speak clearly and say *please* and *thank you*. Make sure the



World Relief Spokane / Creative Commons

shirts or pants), or too short (especially skirts).

Choose subdued colors, like blue, brown, black, or gray. Make sure your hair and fingernails are well-groomed. For women, wear a skirt suit or pant suit along with closed-toe shoes and subtle makeup. For men, wear a dark-colored suit and tie and dark-colored shoes.

Show courtesy to everyone during the interview

Make sure you show respect for the receptionist or other seemingly low-level employees because they may have

people you talk to during the interview can make out what you're saying. Talking audibly with good enunciation tells people you're confident, while good manners tell them you're considerate of other people.

Keep things short and simple

Your answers should be short and simple. Don't use slang or off-color humor during your interview. Don't criticize your former employer.

After the interview

Shake hands with the interviewer and exchange pleasantries.

DREAMS continued from page 2
is no gain without pain.

Now, I dream to learn, to graduate, to seek more knowledge, and to help my community. I have opted for business because I have seen many economies falling, people going bankrupt, and children starving. I have seen how

people suffer because of loans, gambling, and mismanagement of money. Thus, I dream of majoring in economics so as to give a helping hand, to share my knowledge through projects for people to invest money, earn more, and help each other more in a solidarity circle. I want to write books for countries to save

their economies, for families to maintain a happy life, and for young leaders to get inspired and follow their dreams. I have a vision to set up a worldwide food bank for those who die of hunger, projects for beggars and people with disabilities, alongside workshops for youth to find their way to success in life

by avoiding delinquency.

I know that we can all fail on our way to success, and yet I believe that failure is the first step towards success. I will keep dreaming and following such visions as a Moroccan student that believes that together, we can lead our country to development.



If You Could Do Anything

Zineb Haloui
Advanced 2

If you could do *anything* in the world, what would it be? This is a question that has often been asked of me since I was a child, and I have always answered the same: "I will be an expert accountant." Ever since I was eight years old, I have dreamt of it every single night.

Even when I was in primary school, when I returned home, I would see my aunt working at this wonderful job. She was always surrounded by papers and a computer, making calculations, making phone calls with her colleagues, and

talking about accountancy and the company's share price.

Actually, this job requires being professional in accounting and all that is related to finance, so as I said, I want to be surrounded by papers. I want to be a professional accountant.

This is the subject that I really love, even if, sometimes, people try to break my dream by saying, "It's so difficult to be an expert accountant. Try to find another dream." But no one and nothing has the power to stop me from doing it. As I have said, and as I will always say, "If I could do *anything*, I would I be an accountant."

TEACHING continued from page 1
pletely different from the ones my school teachers use: being funny, friendly, modest, and creative. These are some of the precious qualities that ALC teachers have.

So, I would like to thank you, ALC teachers, for shaping my view about teachers, for diversifying your roles, and for drawing the real picture of a teacher-artist. Keep up the good work.

The ALC-Fes *Student Voice* publishes writings, drawings & photos from ALC, ALIF, & local university students.
Email alcstudentvoice@gmail.com or give your submission to Jennifer.



Watching TV by D.Reichardt / Creative Commons

Earthquake!

Mohamed Amine Benaboud
 Juniors 8 Advanced

I remember, my kids, when I was about 14 years old; it was the worst day of my life. Everything began on New Year's Eve, on a very cold and rainy night. Everyone was happy. I was watching TV. Suddenly, I felt an earthquake, a very dangerous earthquake. I was scared because I was alone at home.

The TV fell down. I was really terrified. I couldn't move. The lights went out, so I couldn't see anything. Everything was black. Suddenly, the earthquake stopped. I tried to turn on the lights, but the electricity was still out. I knew that it would be the worst day of my life. Finally, I knew that being alone at home isn't very cool at all.

Aliens: A Cautionary Tale

Omar Benjelloun
 Juniors 8 Advanced

When I was fifteen-years-old, I was tired of following my parents' orders. One day, I decided to leave home, and to build my own future. It was 2 a.m. Everybody was sleeping. I took my bag, I opened the back door, and I left the house. The weather was freezing, windy, and rainy at the same time. I walked for two hours, until I found myself at a big mountain.

Suddenly, I saw a green light appear from between the

stars, and the wind grew stronger. I looked up. I was exhausted from walking, and scared at the same time. I saw the biggest thing I had ever seen. It was a UFO, built of strong metal. I saw that it was flying, so I understood that the aliens were going to kidnap me.

They took me on their plane. They were green and ugly. I was screaming and shouting. They tortured me. They made me suffer. So, kids, don't ever think of leaving home.



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Find **COLORS** in the puzzle.
 Use 10 **COLORS** to complete the idioms.

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

- You don't want to "kill the goose that lays the _____ eggs," because if you do, you'll destroy something that can make you rich.
- A "_____ -letter day" is a day full of happy memories.
- When you're jealous of someone else, you're "_____ with envy."
- You can talk and shout "until you're _____ in the face," but the situation won't change.
- You can accuse a hypocrite of being "the pot calling the kettle _____."
- When someone "sees the world through " _____ -colored glasses," he or she thinks the world is better than it actually is.
- A person who is born with wealth and privilege, but who doesn't work hard at all, is "born with a _____ spoon in his (or her) mouth.
- Someone who is afraid or who lacks courage is sometimes called " _____ -bellied."
- When you tell a " _____ lie," you say something false because you don't want to hurt someone else.
- A " _____ area" is something that is difficult or impossible to define, because it's not black and white.

OTHER COLORS		ANSWERS	
olive	10 gray	5 black	1 golden
tan	9 white	4 blue	2 red
scarlet	8 yellow	3 green	7 silver
plum	magenta	6 rose	8 brown
pink	brown		
turquoise	navy		
	mint		