

Family Literacy Outreach Program Newsletter



August is upon us! Children are still running free from school, corn on the cob and watermelons are plentiful, and ice cream is still the best thing to help us cool off!

For learners heading out on holidays with their families we have a U2 **road trip song** for you to share with them to get them singing, and since all of the learners in FLO are renting their homes, we have a **City of Vancouver**

survey for you to pass along. Renters' opinions matter! And speaking of surveys, we need to **hear from YOU** about your experience as a volunteer in this program - see the survey link below.

Memory plays an important role in learning and hopefully you will find some useful tips to consider when planning your next session. Also in this newsletter: the VERY best website for offering **typing practice**, and take a look at the free **professional development** courses offered to us through Coursera.

FYI - For Muslims learners, August 9 starts the Islamic New Year, or the [First of Muharram](#), beginning at sundown.

Volunteer Survey Time



It is that time of year when you give your feedback to us about your experience as a volunteer in Family Literacy Outreach. **Your feedback matters** - we use it to help shape the future for other volunteers, and to know what we do well and what we can improve. You will have received the survey in an email. You can also access it [here](#).

Photo: *Tales for Tots* - a small group of five Family Literacy Outreach learners gathered together to share and then write stories about themselves. [Story Studio](#), a non-profit, provided learners with materials, and Rebecca their executive director facilitated the group. Good times!

Survey for Renters

All of the learners in the FLO program are in rental housing - and the city needs feedback so they can better understand renter needs in Vancouver.

The survey asks questions about what legal, financial, and COVID-relief related services renters have previously accessed, and also what supports renters might want to see more of! Try focusing a lesson on housing and renting which perhaps leads the learner to complete the survey in their own language (or English)!

Complete the survey online at <https://shapeyourcity.ca/renter-centre>. **This survey must be completed by August 13.**

Professional Development



Have you heard of [Coursera](#)? Personal and professional development courses offered on all sorts of topics - all for FREE. Here are a couple that relate to language learning. Both take about 12-14 hours complete, and there are several helpful reviews written by those who have taken both programs.

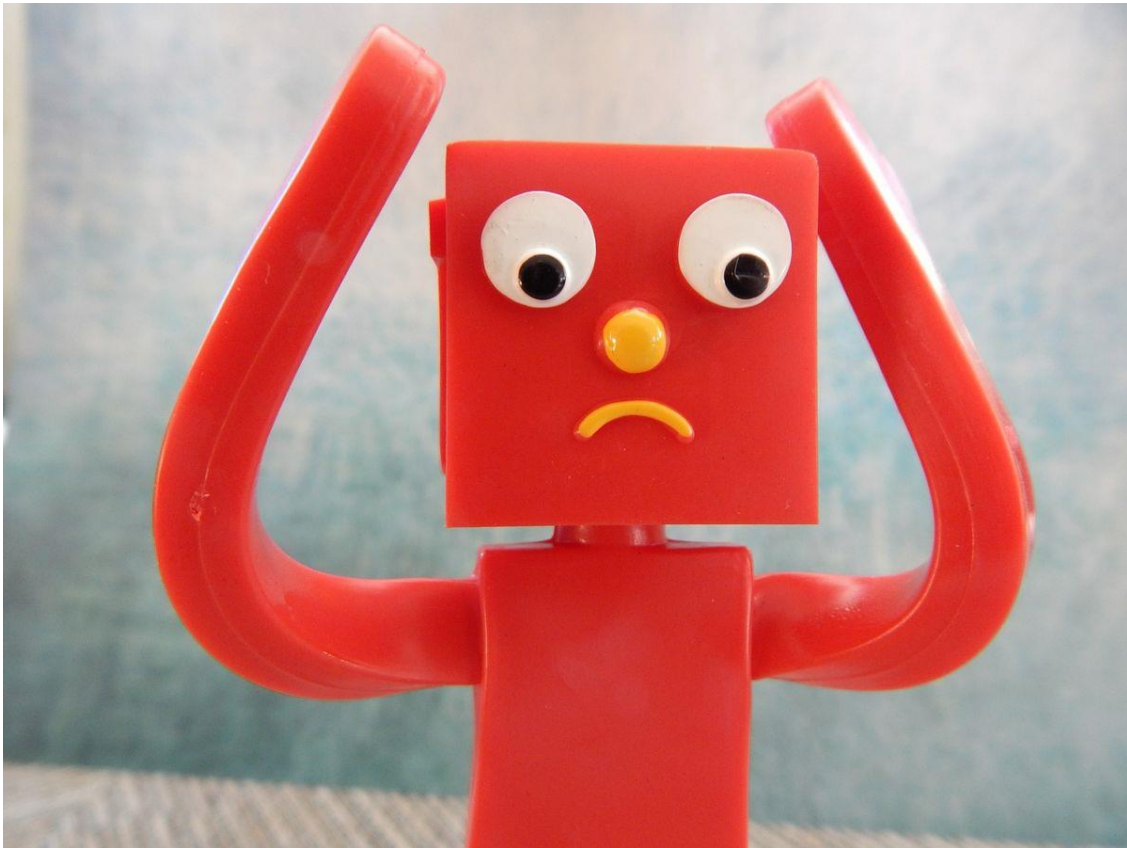
[Teaching ESL Online](#) - Arizona State University

- Audit only (no access to quizzes, full access to videos and readings)
- Good option, lots of useful content on lesson planning
- Course focuses on teaching experience ONLINE

[Teaching ESL Reading](#) - University of London

- Totally free
 - Less content, bit more limited focus to just the teaching reading portion of ESL.
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Helping Learners Learn



How can I remember that?

Memorization can give anyone a headache. But memory is inextricably tied to learning. This article, [How to Tap Memory Systems to Deepen Learning](#) gives us a better understanding of how the brain works and provides tips on teaching someone new information. It includes things like:

- Offering brain breaks
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- Use the jot-recall technique
- Teach learners how to engage in active recall
- Celebrate “Desirable Difficulties”

Road Trip Sing-Along

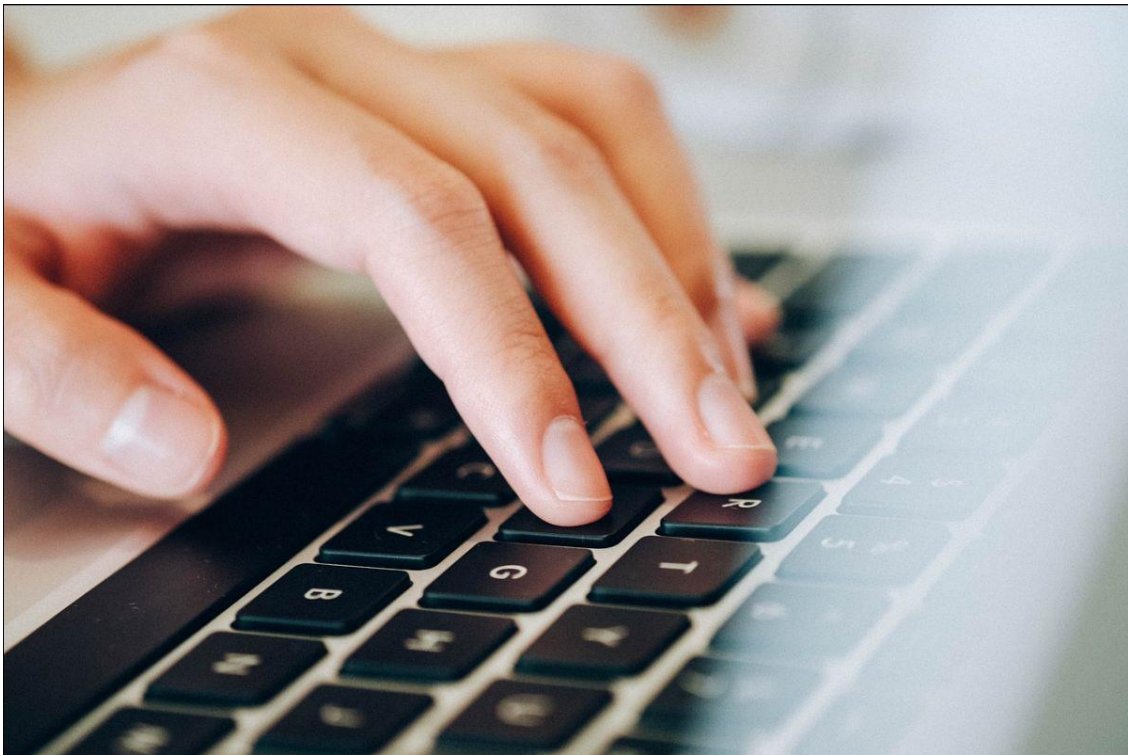


U2, an Irish rock [band](#), became famous in the 1980s. They went on to establish

themselves as not only one of the world's most popular bands, but also one of the most innovative. Lots of info on their wiki. You could talk about this one as a **great road trip song** and the lyrics are in the video, making it pretty easy to introduce and start singing in your session!

Thanks to Nella, one of the FLO tutors, for this lesson idea.

Typing Practice



We are making a shout out for the very BEST digital literacy support website - [Typing.com](https://www.typing.com) because they are so much more than just a typing practice website!

You will find many lesson ideas for your learner - at all levels:

- Typing Lessons, Tests, Games (great for intermediate level)
- Email Rules and Manners
- Writing Letters
- Basic Professional Writing
- Internet Surfing Tips

The typing games are great fun and many of the lessons start off with a video - slow speech and the good visuals help make learning interesting and fun. Once you or your learner registers - everything is FREE. You may have to put up with a few ads but the free version has all the functionality of the paid version. **This website gets 5 stars!**

Tracking Sheet Reminder

Send Morie your JULY tracking sheet!

Thank you for your efforts as a tutor. We really appreciate you for all you do.

Yours truly,

Morie Ford

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Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House acknowledges and honours the fact that our community lies on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Coast Salish territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

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