

# The TIES Gazette

EDITION 8 AUGUST 2011

**T**ennis, ice-cream down the Strand, BBQs, Cultural Festival, climb the hill (Castle Hill) and a forum about beach safety were some of the things we did at TIES during August. We began the month with a Friday afternoon session of Tennis at the North Ward tennis courts.

We had representatives from several different countries including: the Seychelles, Nepal, South Korea, Japan and Australia. Yvette gave an informal coaching session on Tennis basics before we had several games of doubles. It was a great way to finish the first week in August and everyone had a great time.



The following week we enjoyed an 'Aussie BBQ' (barbecue) at the Strand beach. The Strand is a beautiful clean sandy beach located about 10 minutes from our school. We often have BBQs close to the Rockpool on the Strand as it is a nice way to share some Australian culture with our students whilst giving them an opportunity to use their new learnt skills in speaking English in a more informal and relaxed environment.

We had some marinated chicken shishkabobs as an entrée and then delicious steak burgers for our main meal. It was great sharing an enjoyable meal with our students and their families. After dinner, we visited the Cultural Festival.



The Townsville Cultural Festival is an annual event which attracts visitors from near and far. It showcases the amazing diversity of cultures living in Townsville. Students

[www.tiesnq.com.au](http://www.tiesnq.com.au)

tried some Greek 'Honey Puffs' for dessert (Yum!) and then watched some of the performances on the main stage. Some of the Korean students were especially impressed with the Brazillian Samba performance. The Cutural Festival is a wonderful celebration of the many different cultures who live together in Australia in harmony.

Yvette arranged an interesting and informative forum about beach safety, which was delivered by an Australian lifesaver. He brought a range of handouts and spoke with the students about things they should consider when going to the beach for a swim. Some of the girls got dressed up in the iconic 'red and yellow' to re-enact what to do at the beach when in trouble.



Overall, we had a really enjoyable time during August with our students.



We added another ESL song to the TIES YouTube channel (*That I Know Is True*) and some online activities which you can print out and do with some friends. You can find out some more information about the Blog and updates below.

Kit and Yvette

## News, Events & Updates

I have already mentioned most of the news and events for August, so I will go through the ESL song '*That I Know Is True*' in more detail here. Yvette and I wrote the song to practice and reinforce the Present Simple tense in English with our students. There are quite a lot of songs which incorporate Present Simple, but we wanted to put a few more references into one song.

Present Simple is used for several reasons in English including: Permanent situations, Facts, Timetables and Schedules, Habits and Routines and specific Verbs which express opinions, states and feelings. Therefore, we tried to include examples of as many of those situations in the song as we could so that students could practice all aspects of the tense. The lyrics to the song

are below with each of the different uses of Present Simple coloured to represent their use in Present Simple.

## That I know is true – by Kit Perry and Yvette Remilton

She said her plane **leaves** at eight, but she's always late  
 I'm waiting for her now at the airport gate  
 I'm usually the first to call, the first to break  
 I sometimes **try** to wait, but I **guess** it's just fate

What do you **do** when you're not around?  
 Where do you **go** when you're out of town?  
 Who do you **become** when you **go** away?  
 What do you **think** when you **come** to stay?

I **love** the way you smile when we first **meet**  
 It **feels** so good and so complete  
 I **try** to block my thoughts, like you **say**  
 'Cause when you're away you say it's just the same

[Chorus]

I **remember** that...  
 the Earth **is** round and the sky **is** blue  
 the sun will rise tomorrow and so will you  
 that I **know** is true (x4)

[Chorus]

As you can see, there are many uses for the Present Simple tense, and hopefully our song gives you a chance to practice the tense and learn some new vocabulary at the same time. You can find some Crossword, Word grab and Gap fill activities on the blog as well as a video of the song which goes with the activities.

Don't forget to leave a comment on the [TIES YouTube channel](#) or on our [Study English Blog](#) if you enjoy the song.

Permanent Situations

Facts

Timetables & Schedules

Habits & Routines

Opinion, State & Feeling Verbs

Underlined words are keywords for Present Simple

## Student of the month

Yvette chose student of the month for August and decided to award it to Soyoung. Soyoung joined TIES about 2 months ago and has consistently worked hard during that time. She is always happy and smiling in class and is very welcoming of new students to TIES. Soyoung is from South Korea and came to Townsville with her husband and son earlier this year. Yvette chose Soyoung because of her dedication to her study, her kind and caring nature and because she is such a positive person to have in the classroom. Thanks Soyoung! ☺



## “Grandma’s section”

Grammar this month is about an often difficult aspect of English for students to master. Although it usually doesn't have much impact upon understanding and meaning, it is still very important to get them correct. I am talking about – **Articles!** (The **A, An, The** and **(-)** types of articles...as opposed to those found in newspapers and magazines...)



### Articles in English

Articles are used in many different ways in English and there are a lot of exceptions, which can make them tricky at times. Articles are used to introduce nouns and we have 3 main types: The Indefinite Article (A and An), The Definite Article (The) and The Zero Article (-). Below is a list of the common usage, as well as some exceptions.

**A / An**

#### The Indefinite Article

We use a/an when 'we don't know which one' because it:

- is one of many things  
*He is **a** teacher (= there are many teachers)*
- is not unique  
*I bought **a** computer yesterday*
- is being mentioned for the first time  
*I met **a** new person at work today*

*The*

### The Definite Article

We use *the* when 'we know which one' because it:

- identifies one and only one noun  
*Look at **the** Kangaroo over there* (= one specific Kangaroo)
- is unique (or unique in a specific situation)  
*Julia Gillard is **the** Prime Minister of Australia* (= there is only one)
- is being mentioned for the second time  
*I found a wallet today. **The** wallet is brown and made of leather.*

*(-)*

### The Zero Article

We use (-) when we are talking about things in general:

- with the names of people and places (\*many exceptions)  
*This school was started by **Kit Perry** and **Yvette Remilton***
- using plural or uncountable nouns  
*What is your favourite subject?*

\*For a list of exceptions please go to our [Study English Blog](#)

## Funny bits...

**A** Few students said they enjoyed the Aussie slang from this section last month, so here are a few more **little gems** – a small story or piece of interesting information...

- An **earbasher** is someone who talks non-stop
- To give someone a **fair go** means you give them a chance
- To **be flat out/chat** means you are very busy
- To not have **the foggiest** means you have no idea
- To go **full-bore** means the maximum – very fast
- A **galah** is a silly person (also an Australian parrot)
- **Goodonya** is an Aussie term meaning well done

## Odds & Ends & Next Month

**S**eptember is nearly upon us, which marks the start of the Spring in Australia. September is a beautiful time in Townsville with the weather starting to warm up a bit and beautiful clear sunny skies. As always, keep safe and let us know how you are. – Kit and Yvette