

DECEMBER 2014

TUTOR NEWSLETTER



Adult Literacy



and Basic Education

Aoife McCormack **County Adult Literacy Organiser**

This short message is to wish you a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

We have achieved a lot together in 2014. This newsletter is filled with stories and examples of the great work that is taking place right around the county.

I particularly want to highlight the great work carried out by Maggie O'Sullivan Graham and Paula Tiller in developing our wonderful website www.kerryabetutors.ie. This resource is to help you in your work and was developed at the request of tutors. I really hope that you find it helpful in supporting you in your role. This was officially launched by the CEO Mr Colm McEvoy and mini launches are currently taking place.

I also want to thank Mary Swaine and the tutors in the Listowel centre for all their help during the recent move. It was unexpected and disruptive, but I wish to acknowledge your flexibility at the time. I hope you and your learners will all be very happy in the new centre.

Each year I write about the change that has taken place over the past year. Over this year, like many others, we have witnessed fast change in the Adult and Further Education sector. The most significant change this year was the publication of the SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2014 - 2019. The overall aim of the Strategy is to develop a world class integrated system of further education and training in Ireland which will promote economic development and meet the needs of all citizens. Literacy and Numeracy is mentioned throughout the Strategy and Section 6 focuses on Literacy and Numeracy as well as Active Inclusion. The implementation of this Strategy will direct our work over the coming years.

Late December we are moving the centre in Tralee so please bear with us as we move. We are very happy to move to a bright new building at Aras an Phobail, where there will be lots of activity and many neighbours. We hope to be fully operational in the New Year.

I wish you all every happiness at Christmas and in 2015.



Cahersiveen Centre News

Deirdre O'Shea Fitzgerald,
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Greetings Everyone,

I am sure that you are all looking forward to the Christmas break. Thank you to all tutors and 1:1 volunteer tutors for your commitment and dedication to the service. Look forward to seeing you all at our tutor coffee morning on Wednesday December 17th at 12pm.

Level 2 Essential Maths - Quantity and Number (M2NO5)

The following are the themes and topics covered in the above module:

- Have you got Maths Eyes? Numbers in Everyday Use
- Recognise numbers up to 100
- The concept of sequencing and patterns
- Place value of digits - from recognising units up to 1 billion
- The Language of Mathematics - Add, subtract, multiply, divide - class discussion on other words that have the same meaning. Everyday problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Words and Symbols - linking common words to symbols - cross match words and figures
- Calculator - using the calculator for everyday transactions
- Estimation - purpose, rounding up and rounding down, estimating prices and distance

ITABE

Our ITABE programme was delivered in Tech Amergin in Waterville. Karis Goggin and Eileen O Flaherty were the tutors on the programme.

The programme focused on reading, writing, non - verbal communication skills and numeracy skills in particular. In reading the group read *The First Confession* by Frank O'Connor. They most enjoyed this humorous story. Short stories are a great way of encouraging and introducing reading to learners who might be daunted by completing a full book. The group then read the book *Sive* by John B. Keane. Again, we were fortunate in that this coincided with the Abbey Theatre production company showing the same play in Siamsa Theatre in Tralee. The learners thoroughly enjoyed this play as part of their reading assignment.

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Castleisland Centre News

Deirdre O'Shea Fitzgerald,
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Greetings Everyone,

It's that time of year again when we are all looking forward to the Christmas break after a busy term. Thank you to all our tutors and our 1:1 volunteer tutors for the commitment and energy you bring to the service.

NALA Student Development Fund:

Castleisland NALA SDF event was held on October 15th and our learners attended "Just Cooking" with Mark Doe in Firies.

Mark Doe of "Just Cooking" gave a demonstration on preparing healthy nutritious food and basic cooking techniques. Students assisted Mark in the demonstration which students gained valuable and practical knowledge. Some new recipes on healthy eating and nutritional knowledge were learned. Students really enjoyed the event and the food that was prepared.

How did this event benefit the Students own development?

- Self-esteem and confidence increased
- Valuable knowledge on healthy eating and nutrition
- Being able to work with others (Team building skills)
- Working as a team to make the event happen & applying their learning in the classroom



*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the
lighting of a fire.*

W.B. Yeats

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Dingle Centre News

Bill McConnell
Adult Literacy Organiser

Hello agus fáilte go dtí notaí as an Daingean.

Our Autumn term is coming to an end and with it another year. We have had a few successes this year most notably with Melody Hunt and her achievement in gaining the Internet Skills FETAC Level 3 module with tutor Laurence Jones. We have had a new tutor, Peter Keane, assigned to our centre and he is taking on the Communications FETAC Level 3 learners here in the Dingle centre. We wish him every success.

Other courses currently finishing up for the year are the 'Computers Through Irish for Older People' and the 'Computers Through Irish for Parents' which took place in Ventry and were tutored by Sharon Ní Chonchúir. And we are planning to expand our literacy service once again into the Halla Le Chéile in Clahane in the New Year with a course in computers through Irish there also.

Alongside these courses we also have our DEIS 'Healthy Eating on a Budget' cookery class which features speciality dishes with Christmas in mind. This class is run in partnership with An Scoil Iognáid Rís in Dingle.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to our group and one to one tutors for the excellent work being done on the Dingle peninsula and wish them every success in the New Year.

Míle buíochas.

Is mise le meas,



Melody Hunt receives her FETAC
Certificate for Internet Skills Level 3

Kenmare Centre News

Maggie O'Sullivan Graham
District Literacy & Education Organiser

Autumn is always a busy term for us here in Kenmare and this year we are delighted to have increased learner numbers once more. We now have two ESOL groups, and a new creative writing group, in addition to the groups running over the last few terms. Some new voluntary tutors joined the team, and are working well with learners now, which is always fantastic to see. Thanks so much to them and all the tutors who work so hard during the year.

Our creative writing group is made up mostly of learners who attend 1:1 tu-

tion, and some from other groups including ITABE and family learning. All of them had expressed an interest in writing stories. One young learner told me last year "I've a head full of stories, and my dyslexia keeps the stories locked inside. I want to write and let them all out". So the group was set up this September, and is off to a great start. The group tutor, Eleanor Neff, has used the exercise on [Page 6](#) with them, and it went down really well. It would work well in any writing group as an exercise to help learners to develop their word power.

[Continued on Page 6](#)

Diary of a New Tutor

By Aline Meijnhardt, Kenmare Centre



I discovered very early on that even a little praise is a huge source of motivation for my learner. Unfortunately, I also learned very early on that the predominant reason for this was the almost complete lack of encouragement my learner had received in any previous education forum. As is frequently quoted, "a little goes a long way," and this is certainly true in the context of praise and recognition.

A piece of friendly advice I gave my learner, a young lady, was advice which was once passed on to me- the old maxim of "anything worthwhile is difficult

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Writing Tips by Eleanor Neff

Show, Don't Tell -

Source: <http://www.writingforward.com>

Show, don't tell is often doled out as writing advice, and it frequently appears on lists of writing tips. It even has its own Wikipedia page! It's actually a simple idea. The best way to explain it is to show, rather than tell, someone what it means, and I don't think anybody's done that better than Anton Checkhov:

Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.

You can tell your readers that two characters met and were instantly attracted to each other, or you could show the characters meeting, making eye contact, and checking each other out. He gulps, she bats her eyelashes, and readers get the picture.

When you *show*, you're using words to create a scene that readers instantly **visualize**. They can fully imagine what you're showing them.

Tell

Kate was tired.

It was early spring.

Charlie was blind.

Sheena is a punk.

James was the captain.

Show

Kate rubbed her eyes and willed herself to keep them open.

New buds were pushing through the frost.

Charlie wore dark glasses and was accompanied by a seeing-eye dog.

Sheena has three piercings in her face and wears her hair in a purple mohawk.

"At ease," James called out before relaxing into the Captain's chair.

Show, Don't Tell

It was a freezing night

John and Susan had a fight.

Killarney Centre News

Mary Concannon
Adult Literacy Organiser

Another busy term and year draws to a close at Killarney ABE. It is appropriate to reflect on our happenings and achievements during the term. I am delighted with the sterling work that is carried out in the centre and I am so lucky to have so many talented tutors teaching in the centre. I want to thank you all most sincerely for your cooperation, enthusiasm, your concern for the learners and above all for your friendship. Our learners are constantly giving me positive feedback about their tutors and there is no greater barometer than that. Some of the highlights during the term are:

Learning through Gardening Level 2

Adult Learning Australia requested the use of this programme for their learners. We are delighted that this programme which was designed, developed and pioneered at Killarney ABE had gone international. Our colleagues in Australia have taken the programme and are using it as part of their suite of adult literacy programmes. This programme was developed and written by Jane Savage and Elaine Clifford.

Radio recording of 'The Let Down'

The Let Down came about as a result of a themed literacy programme which learners from Lime Grove attended. Tom Crean was the subject and as a result of this programme, one of the learners wrote a play about Tom Crean. The play was recorded at the Radio Kerry studio in July by John Herlihy. Congratulations to Neilus, who wrote the play, all the participants, Elaine, Mary and Gerry who made this dream a reality. We have nominated this project for an AONTAS 2015 Star Award.



Recording Studio – Radio Kerry

Better World Books – LEAP Grant

Killarney ABE was successful in reaching the final of this competition. The final part of the competition was based on Facebook voting. We finished fourth overall.

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Killorglin Centre News

Jenny O'Reilly
Adult Literacy Organiser

We had a busy and challenging year here at the Lodge. QQI (Quality Qualifications Ireland) replaced FETAC— just one of the many changes. We continually strive to maintain the highest standards and to offer a service that meets the diverse needs of our students. I thank all our tutors who gave their time and the gift of tuition this year and wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Good health in 2015.



Helping students in the face of challenge

Billy lives eleven miles from Killorglin on a remote mountainside three miles from the main road. He is handy around engines but to keep his van on the road he needs some new parts which he can't afford right now. Getting to Killorglin is an ongoing challenge for him and sometimes he doesn't make it. Sean cares for his two small children while his partner, the main breadwinner, is at work. Mick and Katie both work irregular shifts making it difficult to stick to a regular tuition time.

Against such barriers students need well-founded achievable goals, however small, so that they keep focused and have strong incentive to keep coming.

The Vikings in Killorglin

During the 9th century Viking ships carrying upwards of 400 warriors sailed up the river Laune on tidal water to approximately one mile beyond the town and disembarked at a green field south of the former Liebig factory on the Killarney road. A long boat could carry 30 men so this was a substantial fleet. Their mission was to raid the treasury of the local king in Aghadoe. They headed North for the road to Aghadoe which runs parallel to the N72 Killorglin Killarney road— which of course did not exist at that time. They had, however, been sighted and local warriors waited to ambush them near a ring fort in Anglont where the road that runs alongside the factory joins the road to Lismacfinnan and on past Kerry Woollen Mills to Aghadoe. 400 Viking warriors reportedly died in the battle that followed. The fate of the Irish warriors was not reported but one presumes that they fared better having had the advantage of surprise.



The fort was levelled for farming in recent years but some trees remain and the field is known as Cnocna Fhóla (The Hill of the Blood)

Source: Donnchadh Ó Corráin, UCC

Add interest to your class with a 'starter'

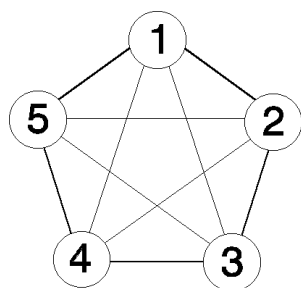
Ideas for 5 and 10 minute starters from Australian tutors Beth Marr and Sue Helm

Jenny O'Reilly, ALO, Killorglin Centre

Starters

Using a 'starter' at the beginning of class gives a few minutes for everybody to settle down and can help to introduce a particular topic. Depending on the starter used you can encourage discussion, get an idea of skills students already have or have some difficulty with and most importantly you can have fun! Take care to ensure that no one feels threatened by the activities.

23 or bust



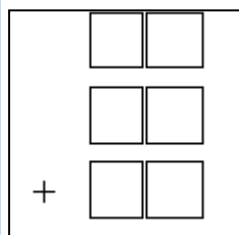
Students take turns to move a single counter around the pentagon. Students keep a running total of the game (not just their own total) and the winner is the one who can achieve a predetermined total (23 say). To go over that total is to go bust! Practises basic addition and subtraction similar to Black Jack.

Ladders



Each student draws ten boxes in the form of a ladder. Tutor throws two dice numbered 0 to 9 which generates a 2 digit number. Students have to decide which position to write the number such that the larger numbers are above smaller numbers. Students are out when they cannot write a number in the correct space in the ladder. The range of numbers generated can be adapted to include negative numbers.

Out of the hat



Cards numbered 0 to 9 are put into a hat or similar. As a number is picked out of the hat students decide which of the squares they will place that number. The idea is to make the total 120 - nearest wins.

Number Spiders

Some spiders are drawn on the board before students enter the room.

Number in the middle is the table you are practising.

Either the operation on the leg or the answer in the foot is given.

Students have ten minutes to complete the spiders.

Double It

Begin with one, double it, double it again and so on. How many numbers in this sequence can you write down before 5 minutes has been called?

1, 2, 4, 8, 16 ...

100 Words

Using A=1, B=2, C=3 etc. convert the letters in a word to numbers and find the word total; e.g. CAT = 3 + 1 + 20 = 24.

Find a word that totals 100 (or any other total). (Possible answers Telephone, Excellent, Telescope, Squares, Numeracy)

Extension.... even numbers count as positive numbers, odd numbers count as negative. Could extend to multiplication. May choose to use calculators.

Rectangles

How many rectangles are there in this diagram?

(answer 60)

Number Hangman

Tutor or student writes the blanks for a sum on the board

e.g. _____ = ____

Students guess symbols and numbers that go in the spaces. Wrong answers, draw parts of hangman.

Multiplication tables interactive practice sheet

A simple excel for computer practice. Cells light green when the answer is correct, red when not. It includes a record sheet for timing and a random quiz. Email Jenny: kals@eircom.net for a copy

Tralee Centre News

Maeve Tuohy
Adult Literacy Organiser

Hello and Goodbye from Eden Court!

Hope this finds you all in good health. You will have heard by now that we are on the move again! We are moving from Eden Court to Aras an Phobail (off Dean's Lane) before Christmas. I e-mailed a route map to all who have e-mail addresses and have paper copies at Eden Court for anyone who wants one. The new Centre is bright and has a spacious atmosphere and I think we will settle in very quickly. We will be sharing the building with other organisations so the Aras will have a community feeling.



Classes will commence at the Aras week commencing Monday 12 January but the office will be open from 5 January - you are welcome to drop in for the grand tour and a cup of tea.

The Initial Tutor Training Programme will be completed this month. I would like to welcome five new Volunteer Tutors to the Tralee scheme - Anne, Bríd, Bridget, Geraldine and Sarah. I hope that you will enjoy your new role and find it rewarding.

I would like to say a sincere Thank You for the dedication and commitment you have given to the service throughout the year. I am looking forward very much to working with you in 2015.

**Wishing you a very Happy Christmas
and great New Year!!**

We continue to run themed literacy courses through Family Learning Programmes. The photo below shows a group of students on a Family Cookery Course in a local school. On the right is tutor Trassa O'Connor who brings numeracy and literacy to life in all aspects of the course.



Tutor Support News

Isabelle Dumont



Welcome to the 16 new volunteer tutors who completed the Initial Tutor Training Programme in December. Tutors are to be commended for sacrificing their Saturday mornings and making the commitment to join our existing team of volunteer tutors who devote their time and energy to the service.

John Leahy will be delivering an eight session in-service in Tralee for tutors struggling with the new technology of mobile devices. The in-service will likely begin after the term break in February, but I will be sending out more information about this in January.

January is the month of renewal and in Tralee we are looking forward to settling into our new home. It is only a stone's throw from our old location, but if you are unsure about where we are, I can send you a map with directions.

I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable holiday!



**Initial
Tutor
Training
Programme**





Six Book Challenge

The Autumn Six Book Challenge is already gathering momentum. Twenty nine learners have signed up and announcement of the winners will be held on Thursday, 11th December. All participants will receive a certificate. Eason's, Killarney have kindly sponsored two prizes.

Themed Literacy

Earlier this year, Jane Savage worked with learners making spoon and finger puppets and using the experience for them to practice their Literacy, Numeracy, Communication and IT Skills. This is a fun way of introducing new teaching/learning opportunities for learners.

Tutor Get together

I am planning a tutor get together on Thursday, 8th January, 2015 - something to look forward to in the New Year. The session will be approximately two hours. Some of the topics to be covered are: sharing of resources (worksheets, websites, apps, books, etc.); Literacy workshops (presentations by tutors who attended workshops overseas which were funded by Grundtvig); Launch of Kerry ETB (ABE) website; use of iPads; NALA's Distance Learning Worksheet.



Finally, I thank you for your hard work and dedication over the past year. I wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas and prosperity in the coming year.

Diary of a New Tutor by Aline Meijnhardt
Continued from Page 5



before it inevitably becomes easy." This enabled her to understand that we would encounter difficult and demanding sessions and stumbling blocks along the way. However, rather than viewing this as a deterrent, we view it in a positive light because when we are focusing on something which is difficult, it means we are overcoming the difficulty. We are conquering it. Most importantly we know that before long it will become something so familiar that any initial fears will be forgotten. A sense of achievement will follow.

I am constantly trying to hone in on what techniques work best for my learner. Yet often the best successes are those which I had not anticipated at all. It was apparent my learner enjoyed and thrived on puzzles, games, crosswords etc. yet I could never have foreseen what a huge success the dictionary would be. No sooner had I introduced the dictionary than she brought this skill home to her young family, and now, as a group, they are all actively seeking and looking up words to which they do not know the meaning. Incorporating our work into her family life, I feel is perhaps her greatest reward. She is now teaching them little tidbits and in many ways educating her children and husband. Something which I imagine fills her with great pride.

Do I make mistakes? Certainly. Being a little too hard on myself is undoubtedly an offence I am guilty of. I berated myself incessantly at one point as it was only during our tenth session together that I discovered my learner could not recite the alphabet. I had assumed up until that point that she was familiar with the alphabet simply because she seemed au fait with letters. Not only did this experience teach me not to make assumptions, it also reinforced the point that she is not the only learner in our sessions- us tutors are also in many respects engaged in a learning experience.

Keep it enjoyable, build up a rapport, vary the workload and you will find that there is never enough time in a single session with your learner.

The **Education, Training and Opportunities Fair** took place at the Brandon Hotel in Tralee on September 18, 2014.

People seeking career opportunities were treated to a number of talks including Jimmy Deenihan, TD. Minister of State for the Diaspora; Jack O'Connor, Kerry Minor Team Manager and former Kerry Senior Team Manager; and, Sean Gallagher, Entrepreneur and former Dragon's Den investor. There were also Skills Demonstrations in Culinary Arts; Health Care and pre-Nursing; Beauty, Nails and Holistic Therapy; Animal Care and Dog Grooming; Construction; Furniture Making; Art, Craft, Design and Music.



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Education, Training and Opportunities Fair

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Adult Literacy and Basic Education sets up display table at the fair.



Castleisland Centre News

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DEIS:

Elaine Barrett delivered Scéalta le Chéile in the Castleisland Family Resource Centre. The project has had a positive learning outcome. The aims of this project are parent/child developing their basic Irish through reading and creating themed posters or collages on areas of everyday life. This project provides parents with a low education level with the opportunity to learn basic Irish to support their children in school.

Tosnaimid ag foghlaim sa bhaile

ITABE:

Our ITABE group completed a full Level 2 Certificate in General Learning (P2GLO). This is a huge achievement and it has given them the confidence and encouragement to continue with their learning in achieving a full Level 3 major award - Level 3 Certificate General Learning 3M0874. This is their goal.



**Wishing you all a
wonderful Christmas and New
Year...
Míle Buiochas!**

DEIS Stitch & Sew Project

In this project which was delivered by tutor Sharon Sheehan in S.N.St. Iosef, parents were involved with their child in planning and designing their project. Literacy & numeracy skills developed through parent/child journaling their project and developing their piece (apron) by use of measurement, addition and subtraction.



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year!!

Did you know!
The word *listen* contains
the same letters as
silent?

A person who never
made a mistake never
tried anything new.

Albert Einstein

SOCRATES QUOTES

www.brainyquote.com

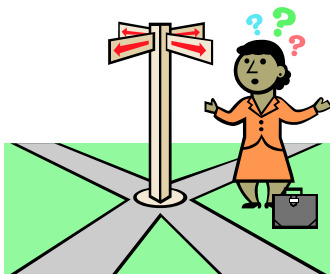
The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.

There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance.

To find yourself, think for yourself.

The secret of happiness, you see, is not found in seeking more, but in developing the capacity to enjoy less.

Let him who would move the world first move himself.



When nothing goes right go left.



Writeon.ie



Write On is a programme developed by NALA that offers learners the opportunity to broaden their reading, writing, numeracy, computer and personal development skills. Learning is offered at Level 2 and Level 3. You can use the site as a teaching and learning tool with your learner or apply for FETAC accreditation at Level 2 or 3.

Please note, if you complete work with your learner and intend to apply for FETAC accreditation through NALA, before registering your learner on the Write On website, **please inform** your ALO so we can ensure your learner receives certification.



An online tutoring course about the Thinking Through Mathematics resource. You need to set up a login and password but it is all free.

www.ncetm.org.uk/online-cpd-modules/ttm

Link to the whole list of Maths4Life booklets.

www.nrdc.org.uk/publications

Link for teaching use of calculators.

www.nrdc.org.uk/publications

Link for tutor training materials about how you can be more aware of the common errors learners make.

www.aloscotland.com/alo/viewresource

Useful Links and Resources

Numeracy

John Leahy's I.T. Blurb

Shopping Online

Shopping online saves time, effort and money. You will need to have access to an email account to communicate with online retailers. You will need to have access to an email account to communicate with online retailers. You will also have to create an account with the online retailer such as **Amazon** or **EBay**, but not always. A credit card is most common, but you can also use **Pay As You Go** cards such as **3V** or **O2**. For extra security, associating your credit card with **PayPal** protects all aspects of your credit card details as the retailer receives your payment through PayPal.

EBay is a world wide community of retailers. Some of the sellers produce counterfeit goods but don't let this put you off—if you know your product you will be OK. There is also a minimum of a seven day return policy but you must pay for the cost of returns.

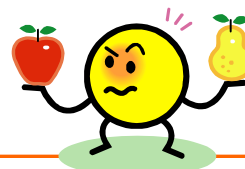
Amazon sell items directly themselves but also have a world wide community of retailers. Amazon would not be synonymous with counterfeits. Their own returns policy is 30 days and they will pay for the costs of returns if the error is on their side.

Useful ESOL Link

This link offers theme based stories. The stories are aimed at ESL learners but can be used with literacy learners as well.

www.esl-literacy.com/readers

One of the hardest decisions you'll ever face in your life is choosing whether to walk away or try-harder.



A set of coloured overlays is available in your centre. Ask your ALO if you would like to borrow a set to use with your learner.

Shopping for new Computer Devices

John Leahy's I.T. Blurb

All the jargon that goes with computer specifications can seem overwhelming, especially when you are in the market for a new laptop or tablet. You simply want the best deal you can get but don't want to be landed with a lemon. I was shocked recently when I saw a laptop for less than €500 and discovered that the spec was less than that of my two year old smartphone. With regards to purchasing an extended warranty on that new device, does the retailer just want more of your money? Any new computer should last for many years if it is well looked after. Listed below are the two major points that will prepare you to compare like with like. **Screen Quality** (more **pixels** the better) and **Battery Life** (more **mAh** the better) are also key.



CPU & GHz: Brains of the computer. The speed at which the CPU (Central Processing Unit) can calculate information is measured in GHz (Gigahertz). The faster the CPU the better. **Cores** behave like mini independent CPU's—the more Cores the better. For example, Quad (4) at 1.5 is better than Dual at 1.7.

RAM: When a computer processes information it needs Random Access Memory to temporarily store the results. The more RAM, the more processes can be stored at the same time. **SRAM** is quicker to access than **DRAM**.

Security

John Leahy's I.T. Blurbs



Always make sure that your Smartphones and Tablets are protected with an **Antivirus** (protects you from harm) and **Firewall** protection (protects you from intrusion). Public Wi-Fi is PUBLIC. Wi-Fi is free in any good hotel or airport. There are criminals who set up their computer as an Evil Twin (fake hotel Wi-Fi) and lay in wait for an unsuspecting patron to connect to the Evil Twin and enter sensitive information such as credit card details. When setting up your own Wi-Fi or using somebody else's, **WPA2 PSK** offers the highest level of protection at the moment. Use different **Passwords** for different accounts. Use a mix of characters uppercase and lowercase. DO NOT use names! Password protect your phone as it does contain personal information. If Grandma's Facebook (Social Networking) is public your posts to Gran are public too! The whole world can see. Letting everyone know you are soaking up the sun in Lanzarote lets everyone know your house is empty. Only exchange sensitive information such as credit card details & use websites that begin with **HTTPS** (Secure Socket Layer). If you request an email from your bank requesting you to login to your account, do not click the link in the email. This could be cyber criminal Phishing. Navigate directly to your bank website via your address bar and login there instead.



Adult Literacy & Basic Education in **Tralee**
is moving to a new location. As of January 2015
our new address is:

Aras an Phobail
Off Dean's Lane
(behind the Public Library)

GRUNDTVIG WORKSHOP

Initial Literacy for Speakers of Other Languages: Research, Policy and Practice

Vox, Oslo, Norway, June 2nd to 6th, 2014

By Mieke Byrne, ESOL Resource Worker

In June 2014 I travelled to Oslo to participate in a workshop run by the **EBSN Academy- European Basic Skills Network**. The **European Basic Skills Network (EBSN)** is a non-profit association gathering policy makers and policy providers engaged in basic skills training for adults. Initially the network was set up to focus on four of the main basic skills: literacy, numeracy, digital competence, oral communication and language competence for immigrants. The purpose of the workshop was to explore pedagogical approaches and delivery of initial literacy courses for speakers of other languages. The discussion focused on the needs, challenges and recommendations regarding policy implications in the areas of teacher training, organisation and the development of methods and materials for initial literacy training. The participants in the workshop included researchers, teacher trainers and educational policy makers from Scotland, Hungary, Spain, Belgium, Iceland, France, Croatia and the UK. The workshop provided insight into recent research and development in the field of initial literacy for immigrants and a deeper understanding of the need for better systems of professional development for teachers in the field.



Issues facing Irish Policy in this field

- Adequate assessment which meets the needs of immigrants with no or extremely low literacy levels
- Lack of research into the special challenges involved in teaching literacy to speakers of 2nd languages
- Little or no provision for the initial and continuous professional development of teachers for this target group.

Analphabetic is understood as the total inability to read or write, despite some contrary views which prevail across Europe today, many countries are still experiencing this phenomena. Results of the PIAAC survey carried out in 2013 are by now well documented. Ireland ranks 15 out of the 24 participating countries with 17.9% or about 1 in 6 Irish adults below level 1 on a five level literacy scale. (Level 1 or below – those who can, at best, read relatively short texts to locate a single piece of information that is identical to the information given in the question or directive or to understand basic vocabulary).

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DID YOU KNOW!

[www.did-you-knows.com](http://www.did-you-know.com)

8% of people have an extra rib.

Perth is Australia's windiest city.

The flag for Libya is unlike any other being a solid green colour.

Goldfish can see both infrared and ultraviolet light.

The fortune cookie was invented in San Francisco.

Cats have over 100 vocal chords.

A group of rhinos is called a crash.

Brazil covers 50% of the South American continent.

A group of kangaroos is called a mob.

Hippopotamuses have killed more people in Africa than any other animal.

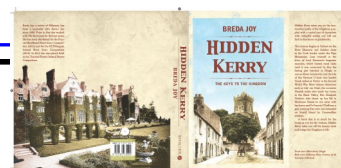
**Contact
Infor-
mation**



If you have recently changed your email address or phone number please inform your Adult Literacy Organiser and Isabelle.
as soon as possible.

Hidden Kerry by Breda Joy

Tutor, Killarney Centre



This book is a series of colourful stories about people and places in Kerry. The stories and characters in this book are off the beaten path and ones you have not likely heard before — like Lily van Oost, the Flemish artist who made her home in the Black Valley, or the plot in Dingle to rescue Marie Antoinette. The stories are a wonderful resource you can use with all level of learners—creative writing exercises, read alouds, paired reading. There are photos in the middle of the book as well that enrich the stories.

Available at all good bookstores—€19.99.

Continued from Page 21

Initial Literacy for Speakers of Other Languages: Research, Policy and Practice

However, the problem with immigrants is more acute. Many migrants including those arriving in Europe from countries outside the continent are actually completely unable to read or write. There is little research into the special challenges involved in teaching initial literacy to speakers of 2nd languages and little provision of the initial and continuous professional development of teachers for this target group. There is little recognition that most of the existing literacy training for the target group happens in less than favourable conditions where the language training is one the learner does not yet master. This creates a dichotomy of language versus literacy.

"Immigrants with a foreign-language background have significantly lower proficiency in literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments than native-born adults whose first or second language learned as child was the same as the language of assessment, even when other factors are taken into account." OECD Skills Outlook 2013.



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Launch of Literacy & Basic Education Website www.kerryabetutors.ie



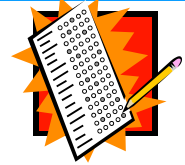
By Maggie
O'Sullivan Graham
&
Paula Tiller

The Kerry ABE tutor web site was officially launched in June 2014 by our CEO, Colm McEvoy. The aim of the site is to share great resources between tutors. It was a labour of love produced and designed by Maggie O'Sullivan Graham (Kenmare DLEO) and Paula Tiller (tutor). The site is intended to be easily accessible with each category representing a learning strand within Adult Basic Education and reflecting the Kerry ABE logo. There is a dedicated page per category with a section entitled 'good sites to visit' with links to useful resources on the web. Soon each page will also have shared resources - we are inviting our experienced tutors to share what has worked well for them, and this content will be online in the New Year. Tutor newsletters will also be available for download as well as information about training events. If you have a great resource that you would like to share please contact your local organiser with the details for inclusion. The web site can be viewed at www.kerryabetutors.ie.

Continued on Page 26

HOW GOOD IS YOUR GRAMMAR?

www.syntaxis.com

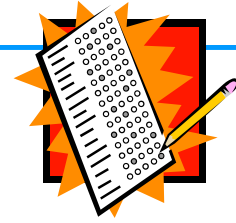


1. Martha is one of the few people who _____ how to operate the equipment.
A. knows
B. know
2. The number of lawsuits _____ increasing.
A. is
B. are
3. Which of the following phrases is punctuated correctly?
A. a long confusing speech
B. a long, confusing speech
4. _____ either of you available to give the talk tomorrow?
A. Are
B. Is
5. In which of the following sentences were only *some* of the reports in question discarded?
A. John threw away the reports, which were from 1999 and 2000.
B. John threw away the reports that were from 1999 and 2000.
6. Jack Smith, _____ my uncle has always admired, was recently arrested for insider trading.
A. whom
B. who
7. Which of the following questions is correct?
A. Who's driving to the seminar, and whose car is whose?
B. Who's driving to the seminar, and who's car is who's?
C. Whose driving to the seminar, and whose car is who's?
D. Who's driving to the seminar, and who's car is whose?
8. Which of the following contains an error?
A. Because it was raining, we held the annual company picnic inside.
B. Because she had left her laptop at home, she didn't have access to her files.
C. Because he had far too many PowerPoint slides.
D. All of the above.

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How Good is Your Grammar

Continued from Page 24



9. She spoke to Agnes and _____ about the upcoming meeting.
- A. me
 - B. I
 - C. Myself
10. How many commas does the following sentence require?
- The company introduced a revolutionary healthcare plan on February 23 2006 at its headquarters in Dubuque Iowa.*
- A. 0
 - B. 1
 - C. 2
 - D. 3

Answers to How Good is Your Grammar

- 1. B
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. B
- 5. B
- 6. A
- 7. A
- 8. C
- 9. A
- 10. D

DID YOU KNOW!

www.did-you-knows.com

The ears of an elephant are used to regulate body temperature.

The Arctic Ocean is the smallest in the world.

Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

Reindeer hair is hollow inside like a tube.

Your skin is the largest organ making up the human body.

Cows don't have upper front teeth.

Black on yellow are the two colours with the strongest impact.

Every day is a holiday somewhere in the world.

Launch of Literacy & Basic Education Website



The Value Technology brings to Learning A Celebration of International Literacy Day

Dublin City University

Monday 8 September 2014 - 10.00 am to 4.35 pm

By Elaine Clifford and Jane Savage
Tutors, Killarney Centre

The following is a summary of speakers at NALA's conference:

10.00 Chair: *Kevin O'Rourke, Head of eLearning Support and Development, Dublin Institute of Technology*

10.10 Address by Mr Damien English, TD - Minister of State at the Departments of Education and Skills and Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Special Responsibility for Skills, Research and Innovation.

10.20 A European perspective on digital learning, digital literacy and inclusion
Jim Devine, Devine: Policy | Projects | Innovation

Main points to note from Jim's presentation:

The connecting of people with information. He mentioned Khan Academy; MOOK - dictionary of street talk - (see www.urbandictionary.com.)

Personal Advocate - learning together/social element and the need to connect Learners with resources online. The class is central and he stressed the importance of connected learning - mobility and the twinning of centres for combined projects.

10.40 Blending technology into adult education
Tom O'Mara, Distance Learning Coordinator, NALA

Main points to note from Tom's presentation:

Blended learning always there - using a newspaper in a classroom environment. Now digital technology has enhanced the area of blended learning. The needs of the learner to materials can be matched using their Internet.

'Literacy' now includes using IT - it's pervasive and essential for communication.

Drop in/drop out learning is the way of the future - people can learn at night or whenever it suits them.

10.55 Lifestyle factors, including lifelong learning, may help to prevent dementia and promote brain health.

Dr Sabina Brennan, Director, Neuro-Enhancement for Independent Lives (NEIL) Memory Research Unit, Trinity College Dublin

Main points to note from Sabina's presentation:

Excellent presentation - hellobrain.eu (app also available) Brain health is equally as important as say dental health. Dementia - there's a new case every four seconds. Memory doesn't necessarily get worse with each birthday and with these facts we can encourage adult learners who feel they are too old to learn certain things.

11.30 Pathways to participation in the digital world

Leo Casey, Director, Centre for Research and Innovation, National College of Ireland

Main points to note from Leo's presentation: DESIRE to learn.

'Tazmania' is an example of a specific learning desire - people talking about it one wants to go there too. Literacy - difficulties in participation. Learning identity made in school - informal courses keeps this identity for learners also.

'Pathways rather than Highways' to learning, use a practical approach - identify what learner wants to do and do it. An example of this would be booking holidays. Be participative - send emails to comment on radio programmes. Many learners have the experience of being outside of the digital world - it represents something they're not part of.

11.50 Technology-enhanced Learning for Community Education: Case Study

Mirjam Neelen, Pedagogical Researcher, Learnovate Centre, Trinity College Dublin

Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., is one of the world's leading researchers in the field of motivation and is the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology at Stanford University. Her research has focused on why people succeed and how to foster success. She has held professorships at Columbia and Harvard Universities, has lectured all over the world, and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



*Her scholarly book *Self-Theories: Their Role in Motivation, Personality, and Development* was named Book of the Year by the World Education Federation. Her work has been featured in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Boston Globe*, and she has appeared on *Today* and *20/20*.*

12.10 Panel discussion

Very little time for Q&A/Discussion

Workshops - after lunch

Workshops for adult literacy, numeracy and technology tutors and managers:

Using social media in adult literacy settings: What tutors can do -
Peter Cleary, Tipperary ETB

Using social media in adult literacy settings: What tutors can do

This workshop will explore both tutor and student development using social media. We will look at how tutors can use social networks as personal learning networks (PLN). It will also show tutors how to support students who want to use social media networks to improve their learning.

Easy ways the Internet can bring a buzz to learning

This workshop provided tips and websites. The facilitator demonstrated the exercise of having fun planning a holiday with learners, she elicited the many different resources available digitally from the calendar to Google street view, as well as YouTube for recipes, song lyrics for Cloze exercises, the 1901 & 1911 Census, Photobox, Dropbox and Microsoft Powerpoint.

Overall, an excellent conference with inspirational presenters.