

ENGLISH TEACHER TO GO!

February/March 2012

Newsletter No 9



PRESENT PERFECT: a grammar note

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

The Present Perfect tense can be very confusing for English learners because this tense does not exist in all languages.

Now is the "perfect" time to review this tense. :-)

When we use the PRESENT PERFECT it means there is a connection between the past and the present.

Let's look at the idiom **to be up to** (which is just another way to say "to be busy with; occupied with; engaged in").

If you ask me: "*What have you been up to?*", it means you want to know what I have been doing recently.

I must answer your question with the Present Perfect Continuous tense.

Present Perfect Question:

What have you been up to?

Present Perfect Continuous Answer:

I've been missing you.

In this case, the Present Perfect question and the Present Perfect Continuous answer indicate:

An action or situation that started in the past and continues in the present.



February Conversation Café Schedule:

**Saturday, February 18 at
2:30PM Casual Discussion:**
What Have You Been Up To?

**Saturday, February 25
at 2:30PM**
Hot Topic: Las Vegas – Sin
City

**Saturday, March 3
at 2:30PM**
Hot Topic: Gambling &
Prostitution

**Saturday, March 10
at 2:30PM**
Hot Topic: Shoplifting

*Time = GMT +1

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The Conversation Café is pleased to present **HOT TOPICS!**

HOT TOPICS! is an Online English Course to help you:

1. Improve your spoken English.
2. Meet friends from around the world.
3. Improve your reading skills.
4. Learn to write essays.
5. Improve your listening skills.

This course, valued at only \$90USD is **free** to “English Teacher To Go” private lesson students.

NOTE: Only private lesson students and students who pay the course fee will receive written and verbal feedback from the instructors.

All others are welcome to participate in the Conversation Café as independent learners.

All participants are encouraged to form language-learning groups (see page 3).

Please join us!



The conversation cafes were fun, useful, enjoyable, interesting... And the teacher is the best. Thanks Michele!!!

By: Josefina Girabal Guitart



1. Join the Conversation Café

WIZIQ membership is free. Register as a [WIZIQ member](#).



2. Download [the HOT TOPICS 1 Textbook](#) (Press CTRL + Click).



3. Send an e-mail to teacher.michele.chester@gmail.com and in the body of the email write: “I want to join!”

4. You will receive your invitation to the Café Conversation.

What is **HOT TOPICS**?

Hot Topics is a textbook for adult learners of English that contains articles on thought-provoking and controversial topics.

With the help of Cheryl Pavlik's book **HOT TOPICS**, the Conversation Café will introduce you to the :

“collaborative language learning method”

This method encourages you to form language-learning groups with one or more language learners.

Because this course is designed to help you practice the 4 skill areas of English (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), you will complete the following for each topic.

Step 1: Independent Reading Articles 1 and 2. Read two short articles and note new vocabulary words. Do brief exercises.

Step 2: Meet in the online classroom with co-learners and instructor to answer any questions you have about the Hot Topic articles 1 and 2 and related exercises.

Step 3: Social Reading Article 3. Contact a study partner (via Skype, MSN, Facebook, Gmail Chat) to read together Hot Topic article 3.

Step 4: Meet in the online classroom with co-learners and instructor to share your opinion and debate the Hot Topic.

Step 5: If you wish, you may write a short essay about the Hot Topic on the English-teacher-to-go.com Website. Private Lesson students will receive feedback from the instructor.

Who should Enroll?

This course is for (open-minded and tolerant) intermediate to advanced speakers of English who enjoy working together with others and who need to improve their speaking, listening, and writing skills for work, academic achievement, or personal development.