

# Elizabeth Claire's E-News - November 2009:

## Thank You Time

Hello All, and welcome, New Readers!

(Remember, you can unsubscribe at any time by clicking here: [Unsubscribe.](#))

Things are cooking around here, and it's more than just the turkey! Our new website is getting ready for launching, while November *Easy English NEWS* and its *Teacher's Guide* have gone to press. I've been making preparations for a workshop presentation on Passionate Eclecticism in the Teaching of Reading at the New York State TESOL in White Plains, New York on November 13, 14. If you're a New York ESL teacher, and planning to go to the conference, please come to my workshop and stop by my booth to say hello, and get a free gift.

Remember, I want to hear from you, too. Let me know what's working in your classes, who your new students are, and what challenges you face this year. I'll read them all, as I like to be informed about school situations.

## This month's E-News Contents:

[How many words are in the English language?](#)

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### How many words are in the English language?

This seems like a very simple question. However, no one has answered this.

It is impossible to accurately count the words people speak and write.

First, what do we mean by *words*?

Should we count variations of a word? *See, sees, seeing, saw, seen*? Are these five words? Or one word with four tense markers? How about *unseen*?

Should we count all the meanings of a word? *Run*, for example means to go fast; it also means operate a machine or a computer program. As a noun it can mean a score in baseball, or a long tear in a stocking. Dictionaries have dozens of meanings for run. Does each meaning of run count as a word? What about *runner* and *rerun*?

Should we count *snow, man, and snowman* as three words or two?

Should we count *run over, run into, run out of, run up, run on* as five words, even though each "word" has two words in it? These, and many others seem to be "two-word words."

What about proper names of people, places and things?

Are abbreviations words?

Do we count idioms as "words?" such as *to quit cold turkey* which gives us a meaning that requires three words to express.

What about medical terms and scientific words that very few people use?

And then, we'd have to decide what we mean by *English language*.

Do we count very old and obsolete words that no one uses anymore? Do we count words used only in Australia or only in the U.K., or only in the U.S.? Are they "in" the English language?

What about slang words that are only used among teens or the army, or sports or in jail?

Each dictionary maker decides on which words to include. College dictionaries generally include around 200,000 head words. They don't count derivative words as extra words. That is, *see, saw, and seen* are one word by them. But *unseen* is another word.

The largest dictionary of English is the Oxford English Dictionary. The OED lists 616,500 word-forms.

By any measurement, however, English has more words than any other language. We'll explain *why* next month.

Sources: <http://www.worldwidewords.org/articles/howmany.htm> ;

[http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford\\_English\\_Dictionary](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary)

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## Special Offer: FREE! ESL Phonics for All Ages, Book One

November 2009 is Thank You to Our Subscribers Month.

Without subscribers, Easy English NEWS would have no audience and I'd have no job. Nor would the 12 full or part-time or free lance office workers, copyeditors, managers, and computer

techs whose living is based on *Easy English NEWS*. I thought that the best way to show thankfulness to you is to give you something free.

From now until November 30, 2009, pop over to my website and follow instructions for getting your free *ESL Phonics for All Ages, Book One: Beginning Consonants*. Free shipping. One free sample per customer.

Try *Book One* out with a non reader to see how it works.

If you are delighted, and want more, come back before November 30, 2009, and order at our great introductory discount prices: \$7 per copy for any of the *ESL Phonics for All Ages Student Books*, one through five. The usual price is \$11 per book. This sale won't be repeated, so stock up now. (Stock up for next year too.)

Of course, if you already use *ESL PHonics for All Ages*, and know it works, you can just stock up now.

[Click here to read more about ESL Phonics for All Ages, and to get your free copy or to order.](#)

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### When will my subscription to Easy English NEWS end?

Starting around February, many people call us to ask when their subscription to our newspaper ends. We're glad to let you know, if you email us, but for faster results, take a look at your label when your November *Easy English NEWS* comes, and jot the ending date down. There is a code on the top line of your address label telling the beginning and ending dates of your subscription, and the quantity. Example: 9/09 – 5/10 35 means: your subscription began in September and will expire in May, and you get 35 copies per month. We send out ONE brightly colored reminder with your last shipment, so you can remember to renew.

Unlike many commercial magazine subscriptions that depend on money from advertisers for part of their income, who send out a series of mailers and postcards asking you to renew, we keep costs down by asking that you renew when you get that reminder. This has worked well, and we haven't had to raise prices or fill up pages with ads. Many companies request ads in EEN, and all are politely turned down. Thus 95% of the space in the newspaper is content for your classes. I count on increased circulation to take care of rising costs.

One of my goals is to have every high school, community college, and adult ESL program in the country know about *Easy English NEWS*...you can help. Tell colleagues about us and send them to our website to request a free sample. We can send free samples for all of the ESL

teachers, reading teachers, Basic Ed teachers, and Bilingual teachers at your or their school.

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## Easy English NEWS for November 2009

- November's current events feature article is "**The U.S. Supreme Court begins new term**" helping students understand a bit about the court, what it does, how it decides a case, and a sample case, plus calling attention to our newest justice, Sonia Sotomayor.
- Life in the U.S.A. **Shopping for clothes, part I**-- vocabulary and conversation about men's, women's, children's sizes in clothing.
- **Covered Events in November are**
  - **American Indian Heritage Month**
  - **All Saints' Day; All Souls' Day**
  - **El Dia de los Muertos**
  - **Election Day**
  - **Veterans Day**
  - **The Great American Smokeout**
  - **Thanksgiving**
  - **Black Friday**

Ask Elizabeth features a discussion of reasons the U.S. is so slow to change to the metric system. ([Click here for a printable Metric/US Measuring system conversion chart.](#))

A brand new feature we hope to continue is "**Your Health**" by the well-known Dr. Majid Ali (which I rewrite in easy English.) The first column: What is Health? A motivator for discussion, and great start on vocabulary building in the area of health.

*America the Beautiful* shows a popular November tourist attraction: **Plimoth Plantation**

*Heroes and History* features *the life of Squanto*-- how he came to learn English, and how and why he helped the Pilgrims to survive.

Plus the regular features: This Is Your Page (readers' stories), Ask Elizabeth, Funny Stuff, Idioms, Crossword Puzzle, Let's Talk about It, and Word Help.

[Click here to learn more about Easy English NEWS.](#)

**Did you miss our previous E-News? They are stored for your convenience at our website. [Click here.](#)**

Subscribers to our 12-page monthly newspaper, *Easy English NEWS* receive a monthly teacher's guide with background information on the stories and three reproducible quizzes.

[Click here for this month's Teacher's Guide.](#)

Also available free at the website is a printable

**24-page HOW TO Use Easy English NEWS in your ESL Classroom.**

This is a comprehensive guide, showing techniques to use with beginning students, intermediate, and advanced, and with 10 reproducible, generic student activity sheets including self evaluations that you can use each month. [Click here for the HOW TO.](#)

Your comments are most welcome. [Click here to send a message.](#)

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