



American Sign Language Teachers Association  
POB 9244, Rochester, NY 14692-9998  
Return mail to: POB 480, Boiling Springs, NC 28017-0480

### Certification Changes!

by Keith M Cagle

The ASLTA Board in January 2006 has approved an important motion to grant the Provisional and Qualified certification holders to have more extensions. The extension fee has an increment of \$50 for each extension successively. For example, if you have 1st extension, the fee is \$100. If you want 2nd extension, the fee is \$150. If you need 3rd extension, the fee is \$200. The former policy was the limit of one extension for Provisional certification and two extensions for Qualified certification.

You can download the Provisional and Qualified evaluation package from our ASLTA website at <http://www.aslta.org>, and begin work on it. You must go through and pass the Provisional evaluation first, before you can begin with the Qualified evaluation. You cannot do both Provisional and Qualified evaluations at the same time. After we receive your Qualified evaluation package, our office will mail you an

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*Check the website for current information between newsletters:  
[www.aslta.org](http://www.aslta.org)*

### Email Lists Serve You

by Alysse Rasmussen

ASLTA recently established an email list, asltamembers@yahoo-groups.com, so that it could contact ASLTA members with important information and updates.

While some members took advantage of the email list to further their professional development, other members objected to the quantity of email dealing with "how-to" topics.

Because of overwhelming number of member complaints regarding non

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## Job Announcements

Position Title	Name of School	Location	Application Deadline
<i>Know of a job? List it in <a href="http://www.aslta.org">www.aslta.org</a></i>			
Part-time (1 40 min elective) Intro to ASL & Deaf Culture	Hauppauge High School	Hauppauge, NY	Not stated
Instructor/Tenure Track	Keuka College	Keuka, NY	May 15, 2006 till filled
Visiting Professor	Utah Valley State College	Orem, UT	Not stated
Visiting Professor	Utah Valley State College	Orem, UT	Not stated
<a href="#">Instructor/Assistant Professor</a>	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Bloomsburg, PA	none

For more job announcements, go to: <http://www.aslta.org/job/index.html>

## Conference & Workshop Announcements

Date	Conference	Location
<i>Know of a job? List it in <a href="http://www.aslta.org">www.aslta.org</a></i>		
June 14-17, 2006	Intertribal Deaf Conference	San Carlos, AZ
June 29-July 3, 2006	NAD (National Association of the Deaf)	Desert Springs, CA
Oct 18-21, 2006	CIT (Conference of Interpreter Trainers)	San Diego, CA
Nov 17-19, 2006	ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages)	Nashville, TN
Dec 27-30, 2006	MLA (Modern Language Association) Convention	Philadelphia, PA
February 16 - 18, 2007	<a href="#">FASLTA 2007 Annual Conference</a>	Orlando, FL
November 2007	ASLTA 4th Professional Development Conference	Tampa, FL

For more conference and workshop announcements, go to:  
<http://www.aslta.org/workshops/index.html>

## Reports

### Officers

#### President: Glenna Ashton

The Board and members have many ideas and concerns in what they want to see happen in ASLTA. These desires have been consistently the same in the areas of professional development, certification, and recognition. As our field changes and matures, there is more for us to keep up with and to do in order to be good teachers.

All organizations share common concerns of getting more people involved, training new leaders for offices and committees, and increasing the quality of services via advocacy. ASLTA, NAD, RID and CIT share these concerns although we each have our own specific issues and viewpoints. Thus, we are talking about networking not only within our own groups but with other groups as well. There can be power in numbers when we come together on an issue, especially if it is a legislative concern. Here I believe ASL teachers are in a unique position as we have connections to these and many other groups.

We have gone further and developed connections to other foreign language organizations through memberships in JNCL – NCLIS and ACTFL. We are now investigating the possibility of joining MLA. These are all national umbrella organizations of the many language associations joining to work on issues of common concern such as education, funding, legislation, and professional development.

Changes in many areas of our lives have multiplied and speeded up living in today's world. The field of ASL linguistics, research, and teaching is no exception to the forces of change and information cornucopia. Thus, no one can be complacent at whatever level of knowledge and skills they possess. This includes you and me – Deaf, hard-of-

hearing, late-deafened, hearing, college-educated or not, ASLTA certified or not, even Ph.D.s, no matter who you are. It is critical for all of us to keep up with this ever-expanding field. Examples of recent professional development opportunities include the March 22 – 24 conference at Gallaudet University, "Revolutions in Sign Language Studies: Linguistics, Literature, Literacy" and the April 6-8 conference at Utah Valley State College, "Deaf Studies Today: Simply Complex" in addition to the upcoming 2006 NAD and CIT conferences.

Being a professional organization does not mean working for certification only, encouraging an interest in the process, yes, but it is not the only goal. The usual goals of a professional organization involves bettering ourselves by sharing information, learning about new materials, methods, and assessments, keeping up with research, networking with other teachers, advocating for qualified teachers. In short, doing the things all professional/teacher organizations does, and we need YOU to be an active, involved member!

#### Vice President: Tom Riggs

The Board has been busy doing quite a bit of brainstorming on innovative ideas and projects for ASLTA. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud their motivation. I'm glad to see this motivation being carried on from the former board members (Leslie, Laura, Bill, Judie, you, Trix and me) to the new board members. I can assure you that they are doing their very best for the best interest of ASLTA members. I am absolutely certain that Leslie Greer, our previous ASLTA President, is pleased to know of the wonderful dynamics of our new board members because Leslie wants to see

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ASLTA to continue to be stronger and more visible.

In addition, I am also glad to see that our members attended the NPDC in Las Vegas. This in turn gives us full support to continue to make our organization a success. I can't imagine what we would do without ASLTA. And without our membership we wouldn't have our organization! Your support is absolutely essential to our organization and to the teachers of ASL across the country.

You can continue to make this organization stronger and more visible by talking to other ASL teachers about ASLTA and its certification systems. You can also share our webpage address: <http://www.aslta.org>. Please share with them about the importance of professional growth of ASL, linguistics, teaching methodologies, and Deaf Culture so that they can teach their students using the right approaches.

There are also interpreters throughout this country that you may wonder where they got their ASL communication skills? We all know that YOU are the ones who can help make them succeed as interpreters for the Deaf community. Without you, they could end up with a different attitude about ASL and Deaf Culture.

I would like to rephrase John F Kennedy's quote in his presidential inaugural address in 1961: "Ask not what ASLTA can do for you, ask what YOU can do for ASLTA"

Go ASLTA!

#### **Treasurer: Betti Bonni**

See page 9, *Financial Statement*

#### **Secretary: Dorothy Wilkins**

Motion 1 - ASLTA Conference to be held in the spring instead of fall - failed.

Motion 2 - ASLTA President consider appointing a professional certified person to represent ASLTA at any non-ASLTA ASL-related conferences - passed.

Motion 3 - The L2 curriculum be transferred

from the Gallaudet Dept. of Education to the ASLTA's webpage - passed.

Motion 4 - ASLTA to contact American Medical Association to create a national policy stating that ASL be the babies first, second, or primary language - passed.

Motion 5 - ASLTA to create representative positions to coordinate K-12 and college interest groups - passed.

Motion 6 - The ASLTA Evaluation team will create a new team of L1 evaluators using ASLPI - passed.

Motion 7 - ASLTA to appoint 2 new chairs - one for the national curriculum project, and one for the legislative project.

Motion 8 - President elections to be held now and then complete motions - passed.

Motion 9 - recess to continue in the evening - passed.

Motion 10 - Board to appoint Treasurer for the remainder of the term - passed.

Motion 11 - ASLTA appoint a committee to work with states and legislatures to implement ASLTA teacher certification - passed.

Motion 12 - ASLTA set up a committee to investigate developing a praxis test for K-12 or 9 - 12 (Foreign Language) - passed.

Motion 13 - Different registration packages for different options - referred to conference committee.

Motion 14 - ASLTA to work with MSM Productions for conferences permanently - failed.

Motion 15 - ASLTA conference participants, Deaf and hearing, to use ASL as the official language - passed.

Motion 16 - NCATE (National Council on Accredited Teachers Education) to require ASLTA certification for the college professors - passed.

Motion 17 - ASLTA establish an ASLPI committee with Dr. Eddy Laird as chair - passed.

#### **Standing Committees**

##### **Evaluation Chair: Keith Cagle**

See page 1, *Certification Changes!*

##### **Professional Development Chair: Trix Bruce**

Hope you all have fun teaching ASL all the time! We are thrilled to see our active members visiting, sharing events, and

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## Tips

### Teaching Tips

If your students need help convincing their colleges that ASL is a real language, you may want to direct them to Sherman Wilcox's link:

<http://www.unm.edu/~wilcox/ASLFL/univlist/univlist.html>

### Professional Development

ASLTA's professional development focus isn't limited to ASL. Anything related to making you a better teacher applies. Check out [www.aslta.org](http://www.aslta.org) for more details.

### **ASLTA Denim Shirt Available!** (delivery expected 4 to 6 weeks)



\$30 for S, M, L, XL; \$33 for XXL  
Send check, credit card, or  
money order to  
ASLTA, POB 9244  
Rochester, NY 14692-9998

## FAQs

### FAQ 1

The ASLTA website has a complete list of all the state laws about ASL.

### FAQ 2

The ASLTA website has all the forms you need for the provisional certification. You can print them out at home and get started on your certification today!

### FAQ 3

ASLTA has published four position papers. All four of these papers are available online. The topics are: Class Size, Class Meeting Frequency, Guidelines for Hiring American Sign Language Teachers, and Code of Ethics.

### FAQ 4

ASLTA maintains a list of local contacts for individual chapters. In many cases you can link directly to their websites through the ASLTA chapter page.

### FAQ 5

ASLTA maintains an online membership form for yourself or your friends.

### FAQ 6

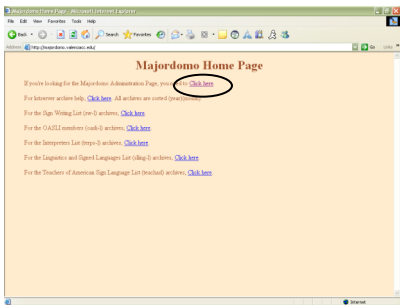
ASLTA's website is filled lots more useful information. Check us out at <http://www.aslta.org>.

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“business of the organization” emails, ASLTA is requesting that members who wish to interact with other sign language teachers use TeachASL, a free email list that was established back in 1997 for exactly this purpose.

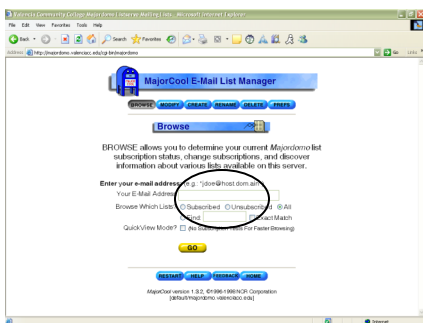
The TeachASL list, along with the Sign Language Linguist list (SLLing-L), the Interpreters list (Terps-L), and several other Deaf-related lists, is housed by Valencia Community College in Orlando, FL.

To sign up for any of these free lists, go to:  
www.majordomo.valenciacc.edu.



Click on the first link (administration). Enter your email address, select ALL, then click on GO.

Select the lists you want to receive. There are three choices for each



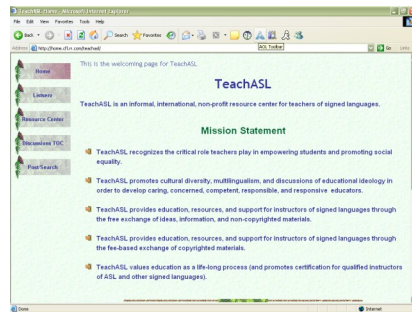
list. The first choice for each list means that you will receive the emails as they come in.

The second choice, digest, means that you will receive the emails in one giant email each day.

The third choice (no mail) means you must go online www.majordomo.valenciacc.edu and use the archives to read the emails.

TeachASL is open to anyone who has an interest in teaching sign language and only has two simple rules: “play nice” & “participate”.

For more information about TeachASL, go to: www.teachasl.org.



## Keeping Track of Your Professional Development

ASLTA uses normal clock hours, so it's easy to keep track of your Professional Development. Just count the number of actual hours you are engaged in learning activities in workshop or conference sessions.

Maintain your own records.

No special forms required, or use the calendar on page 2.

Content areas are broad as ASLTA encourages professional development for all levels and aspects of teaching.

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job announcements through our website. We are continuing to improve our website for anyone to find out more details about upcoming events and job announcements. If you have any new positions or events, please feel free to share with us.

We wanted to thank our ASLTA webmaster, Matthew Disch, for all of his time putting together in our website through these past months. We have decided to keep all the "old postings" in different link for anyone to refresh career resume or seek different presenters to provide a workshop in your area.

We would love to share with you on the tips of creating a workshop flyer.

A workshop flyer would give important details for any participants to be interested in coming by the following:

- 1) the date and time available
- 2) title of workshop
- 3) educational objective
- 4) the presenter
- 5) the location
- 6) the clock hours available
- 7) the affordable or reasonable fee
- 8) special notes: lunch, bonus, networking, benefits
- 9) hosted by which organizations, sponsors, funds
- 10) contact information

Again, thank you for all of your patience and your sharing input with us. It is amazing to see the growth in our organization. Looking forward to all of your information sharing with us. All my best, enjoy learning much as you can!

### Chapter Chair: Pat Beech

At the ASLTA Conference in November 2005, I agreed to take over the Chapter Liaison Chair position from Laura Thomas. We are still in process of changeover. Please bear with us while we go through the transition.

Before I proceed, please join me in giving a big applause to Laura Thomas for

being the ASLTA Chapter Liaison during 2001-2005.

I sent out emails to the chapters around February 25, asking for updates. Here are the replies (as of March 31):

#### Active:

- Arkansas ASLTA currently has two vacancies -- PDC and Secretary.
- Chesapeake Bay ASLTA will have an election of new officers soon.
- Colorado ASLTA has new officers.
- Florida ASLTA just had a conference, and has new officers.
- Frederick Chapter ASLTA (Western Maryland) has new officers.
- Illinois ASLTA officers are still current. However the president moved to Maryland. Illinois ASLTA hopes to have an election during spring.
- Lilac Chapter ASLTA (Rochester NY) hopes to have new officers in late spring or summer.

- Massachusetts ASLTA officers are still current.
- Minnesota ASLTA has new officers.
- New York Metro ASLTA officers are still current.
- North Carolina ASLTA has a new URL. It is <http://www.ncasla.org/>.
- Oregon ASLTA - I'm still waiting on list of new officers.
- Pennsylvania ASLTA has new officers.
- San Diego ASLTA will send me updates.
- Texas ASLTA is working on getting new officers in July.
- Wisconsin ASLTA has new officers, and hopes to have a website in late spring or summer.

#### Inactive:

- Arizona ASLTA
- Dogwood ASLTA hopes to be reinstated soon.
- Kansas ASLTA was dissolve in 2005. Not able to get information on: New Mexico ASLTA
- No replies from:
  - Indiana ASLTA
  - Kentucky ASLTA
  - Michigan ASLTA
  - Missouri ASLTA
  - Ohio ASLTA
  - Oklahoma ASLTA

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## ASLTA News Forecast

by Alysse Rasmussen, editor

The ASLTA Board is working hard to keep the membership informed. As you know, copies of all important documents are being put online.

The ASLTA Board also listened to your suggestions. Within a few months it should be possible to keep a copy of the current issue of the ASLTA News online.

Since many of you have requested more regular contact with the organization as a whole, the board sought a volunteer to serve as editor with the goal being to publish three or four issues on a regular basis each year.

The biggest problem for the new newsletter editor (appointed March 2006) has been to determine the printing schedule. As the editor, she favors three issues a year. As a member, she favors four. (So far, it looks like member needs are outweighing editorial ease.)

So, having lost the battle with herself, the new publishing schedule for the ASLTA News will be every four months.

January

April

July

October

**DONATIONS** deadlines will be

June 1st (July issue)

September 1st (October issue)

December 1st (January issue)

March 1st (April issue)

**DONATION** amounts are

\$150 for full page

\$100 for 1/2 page

\$75 for 1/4 page

Checks for advertisements should be sent to

**ASLTA**  
**P O Box 9244**  
**Rochester, NY**

**14692-9998**

with a follow-up email to the ASLTA President: [president@asлта.org](mailto:president@asлта.org).

Camera-ready copy in the form of MS Publisher, MS Word, jpg, gifs, or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) are to be sent directly to the newsletter editor as an email attachment. Please send duplicate copies (just to be on the safe side to both [aras-muss@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:aras-muss@mail.ucf.edu) and [AlysseR@aol.com](mailto:AlysseR@aol.com)).

Please help ASLTA by advertising. The more you advertise, the more articles we'll be able to print.

Speaking of articles and announcements ... the deadline for articles and announcements will be the same as the advertising deadlines (the first of June, September, December, and March).

All articles and announcements must be sent to the ASLTA president for consideration. The email address is [<president@asлта.org>](mailto:president@asлта.org). She will forward the selected materials on to the newsletter editor who will include them on a "space available" basis.

Articles about teaching, learning, and/or research in the areas of 1st and 2nd language acquisition, Deaf culture, Deaf community, Deaf history, Deaf life, et cetera, are being sought. Please consider submitting

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in a good standing. If you haven't paid your 2006 ASLTA membership renewal, please contact Mark Jones, coordinator of ASLTA membership at [membership@asлта.org](mailto:membership@asлта.org)

We are seeking to train six new evaluators, possibly in this coming summer. They must have Professional certifications. If you are interested in becoming a new evaluator, send your vitae and letter of intent to me,

**Keith M Cagle**  
**ASLTA Evaluation**  
**P O Box 1687**  
**Boiling Springs, NC 28017.**

## ASLTA Financial Statement

by Betti Bonni, Treasurer

**October 31, 2005**

Balance of ASLTA Funds  
\$89,875.53

**November 30, 2005**

Balance of ASLTA Funds  
\$90,056.87

**December 31, 2005**

Balance of ASLTA Funds  
\$65,842.11

**January 31, 2006**

Balance of ASLTA Funds  
\$67,417.53

**February 28, 2006**

Report pending

**March 31, 2006**

Report pending

**2007 ASLTA  
PDC  
FLORIDA**

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exam.

Some of you have asked me how long until you get the results on your evaluation. The average has been no more than 90 days from the day of receiving your package to the day of sending you the letter of result notification. On a few occasions, there were some delays for several reasons.

We can't process the evaluation if you haven't included your check with your evaluation package, or if you are not in a good standing with your ASLTA membership.

I notice that there are patterns in

some re-evaluations or failures on evaluations. They are:

- 1) course syllabus where course description, goals/objectives and evaluation/grading criteria need to be connected to each other clearly;
- 2) need to explain and demonstrate several different teaching methods for introduction of ASL vocabulary, grammar and Deaf culture;
- 3) need to explain in depth about evaluations for different skills and knowledge in ASL classes; and
- 4) explain in depth about your reasons for selecting particular curriculum and supplemental resources for your ASL classes.

I would strongly encourage your local / state chapter to provide the professional development workshop/training focusing on development of course syllabus, teaching methodology, evaluation and curriculum.

Few of you have asked me when will we provide next Professional level interviews. We will have the interviews at our next ASLTA conference in 2007 in Florida.

Our evaluation office will mail you a new annual valid stamp after we get a verification from the ASLTA membership office that your ASLTA membership still is

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- Utah ASLTA
  - Washington ASLTA
- Need to get e-mail information for:**

- South Dakota ASLTA
- Shenandoah Valley ASLTA

**Those that are interested in becoming chapters:**

- DC ASLTA
- DFW ASLTA
- Georgia ASLTA
- New Hampshire ASLTA

I will give updates to the ASLTA Webmaster for the ASLTA Chapters web page. Please do keep me posted with updates. You can e-mail me at [chapter@asлта.org](mailto:chapter@asлта.org). Thanks.

#### Ad Hoc Committees

#### ASL Honors Society Report: Jason Zinza

The American Sign Language Honors Society completed bylaws and charter expectations for implementation in the 2006-2007 academic year. ASLHS is no longer restricted to K-12 programs. All ASL programs are now eligible.

The purpose of the ASLHS is to recognize high achievement in ASL studies and encourage life-long learning for all students.

ASLHS is pleased to announce that in addition to stringent GPA requirements, students seeking graduation honors must also complete community service performed for the benefit of the Deaf World.

Graduation honors conferred by the ASLHS are special honor cords for students who have studied ASL for 1-2 years with a minimum B+ average, and the Laurent Clerc Medal for students who have studied ASL for 3 years with a minimum B+ average. More details to follow.

If interested, contact any ASLHS members: Jason E. Zinza [jzinza@gmail.com](mailto:jzinza@gmail.com), Cheryl Zuckerman, [cztech@gmail.com](mailto:cztech@gmail.com), Tricia McCarthy, [deafinitelyasl@aol.com](mailto:deafinitelyasl@aol.com) Kelcy Browder, [kbrowder@peoriaud.k12.az.us](mailto:kbrowder@peoriaud.k12.az.us)

#### ASLPI Report: Eddy Laird

Eddy's daughter was seriously injured recently. We have not asked for a report. We do, however, ask for your prayers for him and his family.

#### Upcoming Conferences

##### NAD

<http://www.nad.org/site/pp.asp?c=foINKQMBF&b=181514>

ASLTA is not formally sponsoring workshops for this event; however, ASLTA members are encouraged to attend and present. Keep track of your own hours.

##### CIT/ASLTA

<http://daphne.palomar.edu/aminer/CITconvention2/Default.htm>

ASLTA will have an ASL Teacher Track at CIT. ASLTA members are encouraged to attend and present. Keep track of your own hours.

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#### Donations

full page = \$150

½ page = \$100

¼ page (this size) \$75

ASL / Deaf Businesses show your support.

ASL Clubs advertise your wares!

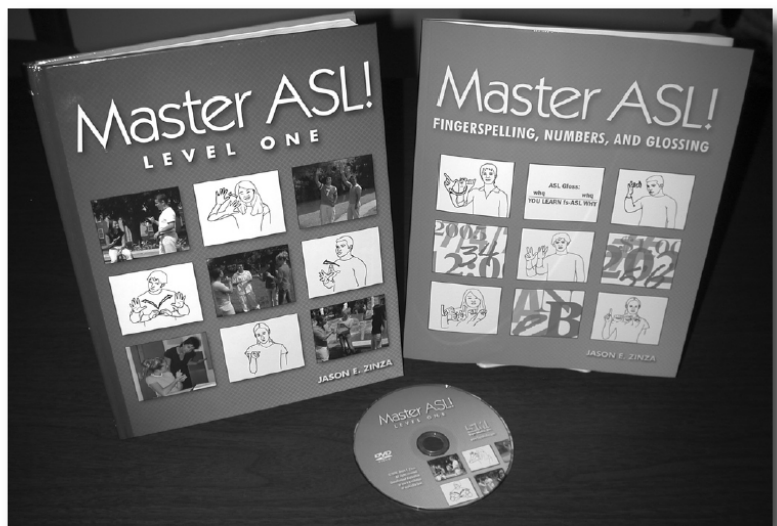
Help ASLTA publish more articles by sponsoring our news with a donation for advertisement.

ASLTA, POB 9244, Rochester, NY 14692-9998. See page 6 for more details.

**Attention!**  
**ASLTA Members**

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phone 1-800-475-4756.**



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1. **Balanced approach** - Grammar, communication, and culture is presented in logical sequence to develop language skills and cultural appreciation for student success.
2. **Support** - High standards and expectations are combined with the support students need to develop confidence and communicative competence:
  - a. Specific skills are presented in short, clear explanations and followed with targeted exercises and communication activities.
  - b. Consistent lesson structure elicits active communication use.
  - c. Common challenges and problems are addressed before students become confused or frustrated.
3. **Differentiated learning** - Wide variety of exercises and activities elicit language use for learners with different abilities.
4. **Increased language usage** - Vibrant, full-color illustrations captivate attention and encourage language usage.
5. **Student appeal** - Content reflects contemporary audiences with ethnic diversity throughout and current vocabulary designed for immediate use.
6. **Up to date information** - Cultural, social, and technological information for today's audience.

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