

Moorpark College ESL Self-Placement

Moorpark College offers a range of classes in English as a Second Language, to meet students' different goals. There are two different programs: Everyday English for work and social life (**General ESL**) and Academic English for school (**Academic ESL**). Read the information below so you can choose your best place to start. If you're still not sure, you can contact the ESL Coordinator, [Daniela Guevara](#). You can also contact ESL academic counselor [Giselle Ramirez](#).

This is the sequence for **General ESL** classes

1. ESL M901 (High Beginning)
2. ESL M902 (Low Intermediate)
3. ESL M903 (High Intermediate)
4. ESLM904 (Low Advanced)

This is the sequence for **Academic ESL** classes

1. ESL M11/911 (Academic Reading & Writing I)
2. ESL M12/912 (Academic Reading & Writing II)
3. ESL M13/913 (Academic Reading & Writing III) & ESL M40/940: (Academic Oral Communication)
4. ESL M01A (College Composition for ESL) (transfer-level class equivalent to English C1000)

English Classes

If you graduated from a US high school, or if you think you may be ready for a regular English class, please complete the English Self-Placement Guide. The English self-placement guide can be accessed through this weblink: <https://tinyurl.com/MCEnglishGuide>

What ESL Classes Does Moorpark College Offer?

A. **Everyday ESL:** ESL M901, M902, M903, M904.

These are free eight-week classes that meet two hours a day, two days a week. Student must also complete homework online. These courses are designed to improve your listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills for everyday life and work. Students work with the teacher, a tutor, and each other on grammar, reading, writing, vocabulary, and conversation. You can repeat these classes as many times as you like. Students who complete two noncredit classes receive a certificate of completion.

B. **Academic English (Credit):** ESL M11/911, M12/912, M13/913, ESL M40/940, ESL M01A.

These are college-level ESL classes. They meet 2 ¼ hours twice a week. They prepare students to succeed in college classes in English and other subjects. They address all aspects of English: listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a college level. Students work with the teacher, a tutor, and each other on advanced grammar, academic vocabulary, paragraph and essay writing, and class discussions. These courses cannot be repeated.

Should You Choose General ESL or Academic ESL Classes?

1. What is your goal in learning English?
 - A. **General ESL** - Improve general English skills to perform everyday tasks (holding a conversation, writing short messages, reading paragraphs)
 - B. **Academic ESL** - Improve academic English skills to complete a degree/certificate program or transfer to a university.
2. How many years have you studied English?
 - A. **General ESL** - 1-2 years
 - B. **Academic ESL** - More than 2 years
3. How many years did you study in a US high school?
 - A. **General ESL** - 0-1 year
 - B. **Academic ESL** - More than 2 years
4. Choose the statement that best describes your listening and speaking skills.
 - A. **General ESL** - I can understand simple short conversations about common everyday topics: work, family, shopping, school, and food. I can ask and answer questions about these topics and people usually understand me.
 - B. **Academic ESL** - I can understand conversations and discussions about common and advanced topics: news, politics, culture, and other subjects. I can share my ideas about these topics in conversation.

Choose the statement that best describes your reading and writing skills.

- A. **General ESL** - I can complete common reading and writing tasks in English: grocery lists, a short introduction about myself, job application, hospital forms.
- B. **Academic ESL** - I can read and understand newspapers and websites in English. I can write sentences and paragraphs about a topic.

If you answered 3 or more of these questions with “A”, you should enroll in **General ESL** classes. If you answered 3 or more questions with “B”, you should enroll in **Academic ESL** classes.

What Level of Readings Will Each Class Cover?

Here are samples of the kind of reading assignments you can expect in each class. If you can read and understand the paragraph easily, go to the next higher class.

A. Everyday ESL

ESL M901: High Beginning

My Goal

I am a nurse’s assistant, but I want to be a nurse. That is my goal. There are three steps I need to take to reach my goal. First, I need to learn more English. I need to learn new vocabulary. Second, I need

to take classes at the community college. I want to take classes for my nursing certificate. Third, I need to study very hard. Maybe I'll be a nurse in three years.

ESL M902: Low Intermediate

The Best Restaurant in My Town

The best restaurant in my town is Pharo's Burgers. It is a small family-owned restaurant that serves delicious American food. Before the restaurant opens, there is already a line of people waiting outside. Pharo's offers many classic breakfast options, and my favorite is the vegetarian omelet with potatoes. When I have breakfast there, I see the owner talking to many of the customers. He is very friendly and so is his staff. Even when he is out of the restaurant, people greet him. He donates profits from the restaurant to community projects, such as parks and education programs. Last year, he purchased uniforms for the middle school's soccer team. For these reasons, I believe that Pharo's Burgers is the best restaurant in my town.

ESL 903: High Intermediate

A Problem with My Neighbor

I have a problem with my new neighbor. Every day, he wakes up at 5 o'clock in the morning to mow the lawn and vacuum his house. Even though I close all my windows, I can still hear the noise from the lawnmower and vacuum. Not only that, but he also plays loud music while he works! I've talked to him about his impolite behavior several times, but he maintains this routine despite my complaints. I have spoken to other neighbors about our new neighbor, and they agree that his behavior is inconsiderate. I contacted our local police department last week and they issued him a citation. He paid the fine and continued vacuuming! I plan to call the police every day until this problem is fixed.

ESL 904: Advanced

Rosemary

Rosemary is an herb that is commonly used in home remedies. Many people cut rosemary leaves to make hot tea. This tea is used to treat upset stomach, heartburn, nausea, and vomiting. In addition, rosemary provides many health benefits. For example, it can boost the immune system and improve memory performance. Rosemary oil has become more popular in recent years. This oil has a strong rosemary aroma that can relieve stress and improve mood.

Although rosemary can be healthy, it is not safe to consume large amounts. People should always be careful about using

medicinal plants

B. Academic ESL

ESL M11/911: Academic Reading and Writing I

In this class, we read the graphic novel, [*I Was Their American Dream*](#) by Malaka Gharib.

ESL M12/912: Academic Reading and Writing II

In this class, we read the young readers' edition of the novel, [*Dear America: The Story of an Undocumented Citizen*](#) by Jose Antonio Vargas.

ESL M13/913: Academic Reading and Writing III

In this class, we read the young readers' edition of the novel, [*The Distance Between Us*](#) by Reyna Grande.

ESL M01A: College Composition for ESL

In this class, we will read the novel, [*A Dream Called Home*](#) by Reyna Grade.

What Level of Writing Assignments Will Each Class Require?

Here are samples of the kind of writing assignments you can expect in each class, along with examples of successful responses. Read each prompt (assignment): do you feel comfortable writing a paragraph about this topic? Then, read the student answers: can you write at this level? If you write confidently at one level, go on to the next higher class. Remember that you will have the teacher and a tutor working with you on these assignments.

A. Everyday ESL

ESL M901 Writing Prompt:

Write a paragraph about one of your goals. Include three steps you need to take to reach your goal.

Student Model:

My Goal

I want to be a clothing designer. There are three steps I need to take to reach my goal. First, I need to buy a sewing machine and learn how to use it. Second, I need to take design classes at the community college. Third, I need to apply for work at a design company. I hope I can become a designer in a few years.

ESL M902 Writing Prompt:

You live in an apartment with a few problems: the kitchen sink is broken and the toilet is

clogged. Write an email to your landlord and ask him to repair the issues.

Student Model:

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am the tenant in apartment 18A. I am very upset about the issues in the apartment. I am writing to you because my kitchen sink is broken and the toilet is clogged. Could you please send a repair person to the apartment this afternoon?

You can contact me at 805-553-1112 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your help. Sincerely,

Ricky Wang

ESL M903 Writing Prompt:

When people get older, they usually make changes to stay healthy. Write a paragraph explaining three major changes you have made to stay healthy.

Student Model:

My Healthy Habits

When I turned 30, I made a few changes to my diet and exercise routine. First, I stopped drinking soft drinks every day. Now, I drink a lot more water and I only drink one soda during the weekend. Second, my doctor told me avoid smoking, and I am trying to quit. I used to smoke two packs of cigarettes per week, but recently, I have only been smoking one cigarette a day. Third, I am eating more vegetables with every meal. I did not use to eat vegetables at all. Instead, I used to eat a lot of meat and potatoes. After making all these changes, I lost fifteen pounds and I feel much healthier.

ESL M904 Writing Prompt:

Think about a wish that you have for yourself or someone else. Then write about two positive and two negative results if your wish came true.

Student Model:

My Wish

One of my wishes is to be a famous singer. If I were a famous singer, I would have lot of money. I would not have to work as a security guard any longer. Also, I would travel a lot and meet many interesting people wherever I perform. However, being a famous singer also has disadvantages. I might not have enough free time to do regular things, such as buying groceries or going to the beach. I

think I would be stressed because people would gossip about me and the paparazzi would follow me around. Despite these disadvantages, becoming a famous singer is still my biggest wish.

B. Academic ESL (Credit Program)

ESL M11/911 Writing Prompt:

For this writing assignment, you will reflect on the assigned readings and your personal experiences. You will write a 1-paragraph paper explaining two perspectives on ONE (1) of the following topics:

- Melting pot
- Mosaic
- Diversity
- Biculturalism
- Globalization
- Include evidence from class readings and your personal experience.

Student Model:

Benefits and Challenges of Biculturalism

Being bicultural means being part of two different cultures, and people have different opinions about it. Most people believe that it is a positive experience that can help create unique forms of art and cuisine. For example, in the article, “One World: One Culture?” Pakenham et al. explain how American rap music has spread to other parts of the world. They write, “In 2006, rap came to Afghanistan in the form of a local artist, DJ Besho... Like many artists in different countries, DJ Besho has taken music from one culture and made it his own style (4). In other words, artists such as DJ Besho have taken parts of American culture and combined it with their own culture to create a new musical genre. Now, young Afghanis can listen to rap in their own language and feel more connected to this musical style that originated in the US. Another example of artistic cultural fusion is Korean tacos. When I was a student at CSULA, many people used to wait for the Korean taco truck to arrive on campus. The taco truck sold beef bulgogi and kimchi wrapped in corn tortillas, and many students enjoyed this combination. These examples show that biculturalism can have positive effects on art and cuisine. On the other hand, some people believe that biculturalism can lead to inner conflicts and cultural alienation. For instance, in the essay, “The Struggle to be an All-American Girl,” Wong explains how difficult it was for her to grow up as a Chinese girl in America. She writes, “When I was ten years old, I had more important things to learn than copying difficult Chinese characters...the language made me feel embarrassed” (2). In this story, Wong does not embrace both of her

cultures. Instead, she feels ashamed of her Chinese culture and wants to be American only. In other words, biculturalism can lead to inner conflicts. Another example is from the article, “One World: One Culture?” Pakenham et al. explain how Indian workers must become bicultural so they can do their jobs more effectively. They write, “As Indian workers take on western names, wear western clothes, and even organize a western time zone, they can become alienated from their own culture” (2). The authors argue that biculturalism has made Indian workers feel disconnected from their culture because they are forced to “Americanize.” These examples demonstrate that biculturalism can have many challenges. Because of globalization and increased immigration, I predict that biculturalism will become more common. Even though it has many challenges, being bicultural is beneficial because it allows people to learn from each other and embrace different perspectives.

ESL M12/912 Writing Prompt:

You will write a **2-paragraph Response Essay** expressing your opinion on ONE (1) of the following topics. Your opinion must be supported with quotes from the book and/or personal experience (anecdotes).

1. Vargas decides to distance himself from his biological family and become closer to the adults in his school. Do you think he made the right choice? Explain.
2. Vargas decides to tell everyone that he is gay because he does not want to live a lie. In other words, he is more public about his sexual orientation than his immigration status. Do you agree with his decision to “come out” gay publicly?
3. **Vargas eventually tells everyone that he is undocumented even though his lawyers tell him that this will affect his chances at getting citizenship. Did he make the right choice?**
4. Vargas travels to Washington DC twice even though it is risky. Do you think he made the right decision?
5. At the end of the book, Vargas explains that people can be citizens even if they do not have official paperwork. Do you agree with Vargas’ definition of the word “citizen”?

Student Model:

Vargas Should not Tell People He is Undocumented

Vargas tells everyone that he is undocumented even though his lawyers advise him not to. I disagree with Vargas’ choice because this decision impacted his chances of getting a greencard and it put his life in danger. First, Vargas’ immigration case became too complicated because he was public about his undocumented status. For example, Vargas’ lawyers ask him, “Jose, are you going to print that you’ve done things that are ‘unlawful’ in the New York Times...Jose, the moment you publish that, we cannot help you” (81). Even though his lawyers did not agree with his choice, Vargas published the essay. This means that he will have a harder

time getting a greencard. Another example is from my personal life: when I was growing up, many of my family members were undocumented. They always told me, “Never answer any questions about immigration because they might come to the house and ask for our papers.” From a young age, I knew that being quiet was safer for undocumented people. If anyone from the government knew about my family’s undocumented status, my family members might lose their jobs and have a harder time getting greencards later. These two examples show that it would have been better for Vargas to keep his immigration status a secret.

Second, Vargas’ essay puts his life in danger. After the essay is published in the newspaper, many people start saying negative comments to him. To illustrate, he explains how one man grabbed his shoulder and said, “I didn’t know illegals fly first class” (88). Vargas explains that he felt “violated” and “mad” (88). Even though Vargas is a large man, he still feels violated when the white man grabs him. This example shows that many people could hurt Vargas because they disagree with his opinions on undocumented immigration. Additionally, Vargas explains that tensions about immigration started to increase after Donald Trump became president. His lawyer friends advised him to “prepare for the worst-case scenario: not only getting detained, but also getting deported” (124). Vargas even states, “...it wasn’t safe” (125). Because many people know about his undocumented status, Vargas could be the target of detention or deportation. His life in the US becomes more difficult because he cannot even have a permanent address. His apartment manager advises him to move out because he cannot protect Vargas if immigration officials come to arrest him (123). Vargas did not make the right decision when he told the world that he was undocumented. This decision affected his opportunities of getting a greencard and made his life dangerous. Because of his actions, I predict that Jose Antonio Vargas will remain undocumented for a long time.

ESL M13/913 Writing Prompt:

Your final essay assignment will be to write a **5-paragraph argument essay** about a topic related to *The Distance Between Us*. You must include quotes from the book and evidence from research in your essay. Select ONE (1) of the following topics:

- Reyna has a difficult time adjusting to life in the US. After reading more about her experiences, do you think that moving to the US was the right choice? Explain why or why not. (research: culture shock, immigrant assimilation)
- Reyna, Mago, and Carlos want to have their parents in their lives, but Mami and Papi are not ideal parents. Do you think that the children are in a better situation with Papi or Mami? Explain your answer with clear reasons. (research: neglectful parenting, abusive parenting, generational trauma)

- At the start of the story, Mami and Papi move to the US without their children. Do you agree that Mami and Papi made the right choice to immigrate without their children? Explain why or why not. (research: left behind children, parental migration)
- When Mami leaves, she asks Mago to be “the little mother.” Do you agree with Mami’s decision to make Mago into “the little mother” for Reyna and Carlos? Explain why or why not. (research: parentification)

Student Model:

Papi is a Better Parent than Mami

In the book, *The Distance Between Us*, Grande explains how Mago, Carlos, and Reyna want to live with their parents; however, Mami and Papi are not ideal parents. Mami abandons the children for boyfriends, and she only worries about herself. She is also unstable and does not visit her children often. Papi is an aggressive and abusive alcoholic who beats his children. On the other hand, Mami spends time doing fun activities with the children and takes them out of the house while Papi is a more consistent parent that cares for the children’s basic needs. Even though Papi is not an ideal parent, he is the best parental figure for the children because he brings them to the US to have more opportunities and he is more financially stable.

First, Papi is the best parental figure for Mago, Reyna, and Carlos because he brings them to the US to have more opportunities. When they first arrive to the US, Grande comments, “To others, Papi’s apartment may have seemed small, but to us, after living in a one-room shack with Abuelita Chinta and my uncle, it was a palace...it had thick solid walls that made me feel safe and protected in a way I’d never felt before” (149). This quote shows that the children feel more secure in Papi’s house than in their old house in Mexico. Their living situation is much better because they can sleep in a stable, well-built home that will not flood and does not contain any scorpions. Even though the children love Abuelita Chinta, Reyna feels more protected in Papi’s house than her shack. Research shows that, “For many Latinos, the United States offers a chance at a better life...Majorities also say that the US has better conditions for raising kids, access to health care and treatment of the poor, according to a Pew Research Center national survey of 3,375 Latino adults conducted in March 2021” (Lopez and Moslimani). In other words, most Latino immigrants believe that their children will have better living conditions and access to resources in the United States. Papi also agrees with this idea, and he brings his children to the US so they can benefit from the opportunities in this country. In sum, Papi works hard so his children can live better lives in California.

Second, Papi is a better parent because he is more financially stable than Mami. Grande explains, “Mila and Papi

owned a four-plex apartment building on Granada Street” (149). “Mami lived in a tiny room big enough for a bed, a dining table, a refrigerator, a TV stand, and boxes of clothes piled against the wall” (212). These quotes indicate that Papi owns real estate and even makes money by renting apartments to other people. He, Mila, and the children live in a one-bedroom apartment with basic amenities, such as a shower, bathroom, and kitchen. On the other hand, Mami lives in a tiny room with her new husband and two children. She has to share a bathroom with other people in her building. It will be difficult for Mago, Carlos, and Reyna to live in this situation with Mami. Research also shows that, “Children are more likely to face mental health problems if they grow up in a family that is low income or has significant debt” (Abrams). This means that Mago, Carlos, and Reyna might develop emotional problems if they live with Mami because she is low income. It will be stressful for them to live in a room with four other people. It is better for the children to stay with Papi. In sum, Papi is more financially stable, so he is the best choice for parenting the children.

Some might argue that Mami is a better parent because she spends a lot of time with the children in Mexico, and she comes back to them before Papi. These critics explain, “She now visited us on Sundays” (102). “Mami said, ‘Let’s go to el zocalo’” (96). These quotes show that Mami visits the children and does fun activities with them. It is true that Mami spends some time with the children, however, she only visits only once a week, and this is not enough to be a present parent. Also, after a while, Mami abandons the children and allows them to leave Mexico with Papi. To illustrate, Mami’s brother tells her, “‘You aren’t taking care of them, Juana...Let them go, Juana. It’s for the best...’Fine,’ Mami said at last to my uncle. ‘If they want to go with him, so be it.’” (123). In other words, Mami’s brother can see that Mami does not care about the children. She allows them to leave Mexico with their father and does not show any emotion when they leave. She does not tell them she loves them or that she will miss them. In sum, while Mami might show the children some attention, she is not the best parent for them.

Papi is a better parent than Mami because he cares about his children’s future and provides for them financially. Mami spends some time with Mago, Carlos, and Reyna, but she is not a stable parent. She always expects other people to care for the children. Papi is not perfect, but he provides a stable home for the children and encourages them to do well in school. I predict that the children will have a close relationship with Papi because they are happy to live with him. However, they will have a distant relationship with Mami because she abandons them.

Works Cited

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ESL M01A Writing Prompt:

For this assignment, you will write a **4-page literacy narrative**. This means telling a story of how you learned to read, write, or communicate. You can write about an experience learning English or another language. Because this is a short essay, **I recommend that you focus on a SINGLE event that happened over a brief period of time**. Some sample topics include:

- any early memory about writing or reading that you recall vividly
- someone who taught you to read or write
- a book or other text that has been significant for you in some way
- a reading/writing-related event at school that was interesting, funny, or embarrassing
- a writing or reading task that you found (or still find) difficult or challenging
- a positive language learning experience
- the origins of your current attitudes about reading and/or writing
- learning the "language" of a new skill, hobby, or subject (e.g., learning and using the terminology of a new sport, technology, game, or specialized topic).

Student Model:

World of Immigrant, World of Silence

As an immigrant moving to the United States, it was very difficult to adapt to a new environment. My first feeling after migrating to the United States was that I was living in a new world. I needed to learn everything from the beginning. I was born again after I took off the plane. I felt like I was deaf. I couldn't understand people when they would speak to me, nor could I respond to them easily. My broken English put me in trouble and even caused my feelings to get hurt sometimes. This misery lasted approximately a year. A warm feeling like an immense wave which threw itself to hit the shore, filled my heart to talk and then stuck in my throat because I

didn't know how to express my thoughts and feelings in English. I wanted to talk about people, events, problems, but could not say anything. The moment I would attempt to speak, people would stare at me and question what I was trying to communicate. Language is the key to unlocking a giant door to a culture and its people. If this door does not open, the entire world will begin to resemble an enormous cage. My attempts in opening this door began with three words: yes, no, okay.

English is taught in Iran as a second language beginning in middle school. My grades in school were always high, and I never had any problem with learning and understanding English. I could understand about 60-70% of English movies easily. I was so optimistic when I got on the plane to come to the United States. I never thought it would be my major concern when I got here. The first American that I spoke to, was an African American woman in Dubai at airport security checkpoint. I was so nervous and excited for every new experience that I was going to have. I was observing everything with curiosity. Different people from different cultures were standing in lines, waiting to get on the airplane. At the security section, the officers had the most respect for US-citizens, and they could pass easily from a different line without hesitation. The second-long line was for everybody else without the dark blue awesome passport of the United States, "The Key to The World!" It was my turn. I took off my shoes and put them with my backpack in a basket. Then I followed them with my eyes until they disappeared. I passed the security and at the other side, a young black lady started to talk to me. I couldn't understand even one word of what she was trying to say, but I didn't want to look stupid either; so, I responded, "yes!" She looked at me cautiously and took me to another room while she was holding my possessions. Another security officer followed her inside the room, and they began to talk.

They swabbed a wet paper on my clothes and backpack and tested the paper in a machinery. I was breaking down. I could hear my heart beat. I was pushing my numb fingers into my cold hands. My main concern was how should I talk to them? I never felt devastated like that before. Me, without shoes, cold, scared, standing over there, wasn't the experience I was looking for. They removed everything out of my backpack and threw away my brand-new body lotion that I had just purchased the other day. I took a deep breath and cried, "It's just a lotion!" She looked at me without any sense of sympathy in her face and replied, "Excuse me?" I tried to stay calm and speak my best English. "It's just a lotion, it's brand new, I bought it yesterday," I cried while I was trying to convince her, but she didn't even understand one word of what I shouted. She whispered something else and gave me my

backpack. The conversation didn't go anywhere because we didn't understand each other. I put on my shoes, took my backpack and left the room frustrated, while I was trying to not lose my self-confidence. This happened again and again for a whole year. Whenever I wanted to order food, I remembered the security lady's face and then placing my order was a disaster. The poor guy was doing his best to understand what this alien that just arrived from another planet was trying to say, and most of the time I would get a wrong order. After a while, I figured out a way to expand my compact conversation with people. When they asked a question, I would randomly say yes or no, and if they got surprised of my response, I would change it immediately; or I would just shake my head and say, "okay" which means I completely understand what you're saying when I didn't.

The minimum benefit that this strategy had for me was that I could expand my conversation more slightly. I could at least feel that I had some kind of conversation to people. I still couldn't open the door, but I could pull out the curtains and look outside of my silent world. It was such a great feeling to pretend to understand the dialogues. It helped to build my self-confidence, but I could also easily stick in a trap whenever someone was asking me a question that needed a specific answer, and I needed to explain my opinion or go through details.

I still feel the shame of what happened when I was pregnant, and my husband's friend was trying to be courteous to me and make a conversation about the baby. She asked a question about the baby's outfit and waited for my answer. She asked, "Show me his fancy outfits!" "Now I'm stuck! What the heck is the fancy outfit?", I talked to myself. I squinted my eyes and shook my head slowly to the right and left. She tried to explain what outfit means by playing pantomime; She was looking at her blouse and pulling it to up and down ridiculously. It was clueless. She smiled at me and left the room. I was so squeezed in my heart that I can't understand such an easy word; I couldn't handle a two minutes conversation with somebody. I was stressed out every single time I wanted to speak. Talking is supposed to be joyful; obviously not for a bilingual person. "There must be a way," I was thinking, "There must be a reason why I don't have any progress in my English." I thought about how excited I was when I wanted to move here and how everything started right after I talked to the security in the airport. I thought if the first one was somebody else maybe everything would be better than this; maybe I could talk like everybody else and understand everything. Suddenly I noticed the root of my language issues. I was scared. I tied the fear of the security to the speaking English, and my brain froze of this cold feeling right after that. I tried to overcome my fears, so I started to

go out more and talk to people whenever I had a chance. I talked to our neighbors, people in the grocery store, bank, doctor's office. I noticed when I tried to copy American accent, nobody understood. I tried to speak without any accent and surprisingly people understood me much better. I tried to listen to people carefully when they were speaking together and began to memorize simple conversations. Most of the conversations during the day are repetitive. For instance, I used to go to Starbucks every morning to order coffee and egg bites. After usual greeting, the cashier would ask, "How can I help you?" Then I would say, "I want a coffee with sugar & cream," "what size?" "tall is fine," I would answer. The questions and answers are usually the same, and it's not hard at all to order the food if you prepare yourself for the questions they usually ask. My small world got more enormous every day. Eventually I overcame my fears.

Immigrant world, since day one, is full of words that never stated and conversations that never happened. It's really hard to live among people whose attitudes change as soon as they figure out your English is not perfect. I believe any bilingual who decided to move here, someday had to stand in front of a security guy and tried to be brave and powerful to break the walls and doors to the new culture. My journey started with three simple words; somebody may not even know one word. Bilingual people face different challenges every day in their lives, situations that are very easy for natives. Those raised in the United States with English being their primary language will never know the difficulty they will face standing at the airport security line and waiting their turn, wishing for a smooth welcome to the United States.

I believe that all doors will eventually open someday, but it requires tremendous effort and dedication to learn every single word and learn the rules of the new world. I would not be able to speak if I did not overcome my fears. Rather, I would be trapped in my silent world. The road is still very long, but at the end it is gratifying to experience a world full of familiar words and expressions. I am truly honored to have been given this opportunity and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Which Class Should You Take First?

Now that you've thought about which class best suits your needs, you can enroll in your chosen class - [Class Schedule](#).

Most classes combine two different levels, so there's a balance of support and challenge. The classes are offered in sequence:

Fall semester:

1. **General ESL** - ESL M901/902 (combined) in the first 8 weeks, M902/903 (combined) in

the second 8 weeks.

2. **Academic ESL** - ESL M11/12 & ESLM911/912 (combined) 16 weeks
3. **Academic ESL** - ESL M01A 16 weeks (transfer-level class equivalent to English C1000)
General ESL -
Academic ESL -

Spring semester:

1. **General ESL** - ESL M902/903 (combined) in the first 8 weeks, M903/904 (combined) in the second 8 weeks.
2. **Academic ESL** - ESL M12/13 & ESL M912/913 (combined) 16 weeks
3. **Academic ESL** - ESL M40/M940 16 weeks

Congratulations on choosing the best place to start your ESL classes at Moorpark College! Whatever you decide, the instructor will be there to guide and support you in your learning.