EDITORIAL
A belated Happy New Year to all our readers from everyone here at the LINC Home Study office! I hope one of your New Year resolutions is to make significant progress with your English language skills, by giving yourself adequate practice in the use of the language. One of the ways in which you can improve your English is by getting more involved in the larger community around you. To find out what’s going on at your end, click on www.whatsup.ca and get the latest news about interesting things to do in your area – whether you live in Barrie or in Windsor. During these cold winter months it is also not surprising that a lot of us feel depressed and suffer from what is commonly referred to as the winter blues. So getting active and doing stuff can keep those blues away during the cold and often dreary winter days. Exercise is a great way to boost your mood. Also try doing something new, something that is different from your routine. For example, you can add some new decorations in your home, rearrange your furniture, prepare a special meal by involving your family, or organize your living space (clearing clutter can be calming for your mind). Why don’t you share your ideas for the winter months with us. I’m sure you have different ideas for not allowing the weather to get you down. Till our next issue, stay warm.

Subhadora Ramachandran
Home Study Coordinator

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR
The Chinese New Year is the first day of lunar calendar, usually at the end of January or the beginning of February. This year is on February 9. The Chinese New Year is the most important festival in China. Usually the people begin to prepare food and gifts for the new year in the beginning of lunar December. With ready food, people will have more time for leisure. The parents will buy new clothes for children, flowers for girl, and fireworks for boy. Usually every family member will get new clothes, shoes, and scarf, just like this. The eve dinner is very rich; every member of the family will get together enjoying the dinner. People enjoy the dinner at the same time waiting for clock strike 12. After 12 striking, in city people will wish each other, in countryside people will light firework for the end of last year. The next morning they will wake up very early and light firework for New Year. It is said that the family, which get up earliest will be very lucky in the New Year.

On the New Year day, the children wearing new clothes say happy New Year to parents and grandparents, the adult will give the New Year money to them. When I graduated from university I got the New Year money from my father last time, that year he gave me one dollar. Some people will get the new year money from elder generation until they get married, the first year of marriage they will get more the new year money for the end of single from
parents and relatives. From second year of marriage they will have no more the new year money.

During the festival, people always visit each other, and have dinner together. They don't have to work, just accompany family members, enjoy food, enjoy talking. People spend money more generously than other time, their happiness is as the spending money more much than other time. The new year festival ends on the fifteenth January of lunar calendar. On the day Children will hold lanterns walking on the street. The street will be decorated with so many colorful lanterns. You can see lanterns wherever. January 15th is the Chinese valentine day, young people date at the night and watch all kinds of lanterns.

Some youths not stay at home just visiting each other as before, they chose traveling or making sports with friends during the holiday, for example bowling, camp, dive in. The tradition is changing slowly by slowly.

Feng W.
Level 4
Susan's student
Hamilton Region

LINC HOME STUDY PROGRAM

I'm in this program since three months ago, I feel happy because you give me the opportunity to study in my home.

I study in the website but sometime the grammar is not enough for me to understand the unit that I study.

My teacher is excellent, he sends me by Internet these units where the explanation is easier and I understand everything.

Thanks for understand me.

Diana P.
Level 4
Marek's class
Niagara Region

HOME STUDY

When I first came here about two and half years ago, I tried to attend a LINC class. But it was not easy. There were two reasons why the classroom LINC program didn't work for me.

First, every English class had one strict rule, 'attending the class everyday'. There was no exception. But I had to take care of my daughter who was in kindergarten and went to her school every other day. There was a choice; I quit the LINC school and take care of her or she quits the kindergarten'. The choice was quite simple. I quit the class and my daughter was able to continue her school.

Second, the LINC classes had many students who had various English levels and skills. Some students were good at spoken English and some were good at written English. I was at level four at that time. But my reading and grammar were over level four while other skills like writing and speaking were about level three. As a result, the classroom lectures, which were focused on reading and grammar, had no use for me. I still remember that the first rule the teacher tried to teach me was the tense of verbs. She told me that verbs have three forms - past, past perfect, and present. After I quit the classroom program, I was trying to find out ways to improve my English. There was a weekend program, but the waiting list was endless. There were books and CDs for self-learners but that had a problem. I just repeated the same errors again and again for I had no idea about what an error was. And finally, I found the LINC Home Study Program. There was no reason to hesitate. I made a call and was successful in getting into the program.

This program, LINC Home Study, has been a perfect solution for me. First, I am free from any schedule. I don't need to change my schedule to attend English classes, to hurry to my daughter's school, and to put top priority to the LINC class hours. Instead, I can use my time more effectively and efficiently. I can have a full time job, a part time job, a temporary job; I can do a night shift and attend meetings with people to set up my own business. Actually, last week, I could meet several people to set up my new business on a morning time when otherwise I would be in a classroom.

Second, I could get a customized program. This is well due to my teacher. As I mentioned above, I needed to improve my writing and speaking. My teacher recognized my situation and immediately gave me many customized lessons. She even offered me a free writing course—I could write anything in English and she will correct errors on my writing. What a great chance to improve my English!

The LINC Home Study Program is superior to the conventional classroom program in its flexibility. The flexibility of time is very important especially to students in a...
situation just like mine. Examples such as mine prove the superiority of the LINC Home Study program. My English has improved very much. Look at this writing. This is what I could not expect to write about a half year ago. It happened within less than a half year. In my opinion, I have improved my English much more than I could do during the past one and half year’s struggle before I started the Home Study Program.

Keeman S.
Level 5
Atika’s class
Hamilton Region

MY WISH

I wish there was no more pollution in the world. Nowadays, the earth is becoming more seriously polluted, especially in some developing countries. The sky is not as blue as before; many rivers give off terrible odors because of industrial waste; the soils are polluted with harmful chemicals; and the earth is becoming warmer because of too much carbon dioxide. We can find the situation everywhere around us. More and more environmentalists are aware of it and are trying to reduce pollution by many means.

Environmental Protection Laws are put into force in many countries to forbid random disposal of wastewater, gas and residue. New sources of energy are under research to replace the traditional ones, which cause a lot of pollution. I hope there will be no more pollution, or at least much less in the future. We only have one earth on which we live, so we must cherish it. We’d better leave a cleaner and sustainable environment to the future generations so that they can breathe the air, drink the water and live healthily on this earth.

Da Chun J.
LINC level 5
Lesley’s class
Halton/Peel Region

TRIP OF MY LIFE

I like travelling and exploring new places. In fact, I enjoy going to places not far from my home and I would certainly like to visit different countries.

I really would like to tell you about European and Asian countries where I went on vocation. For now I will tell you about the longest trip of my life. It was amazing.

I hope you have a good handle on geography and know were Russia is. My family and I had a chance to cross this biggest country in the world from East to West. We started from Kaliningrad near Baltic Sea and it took us about one month to get to Chukchi near Alaska on the West. We started the journey by train in August, sometimes making stops for a day or two in famous towns.

Our first stop in this sight-seeing was Moscow. Moscow is a capital of Russia with a lot of exciting and historical places. Red Square is the most popular site in the town. There are several very beautiful and remarkable Cathedrals. We visited Armoury museum. This museum has medieval armoury, equipments and jewellery artistically made and decorated with gold and silver. This museum has one of the most exceptional collections in the world. Tretyakovskaya Gallery was another noteworthy place we visited. The Gallery has thousands of masterpieces of the great artists. We spend the whole day there but it wasn’t enough.

I could tell you so much about Moscow. I visited the town several times and everytime was surprised to find something new.

The trip continued. We crossed Volga - the longest river in Europe. The landscape changed in a day. I saw mountains. The train very often dived into dark tunnels. Sometimes we crossed streams or spun around mountains. The scenes kept changing dramatically, which was amazing. I remember that once the railway resembled a horseshoe and I could see the first wagon.

I was very curious and could sit all day looking in to the train widow. I knew I could see Lake Baikal early in the morning. Lake Baikal is the largest lake in Asia with very clean water. I saw the unbelievable view during the sunrise. The water was crystal clean and smooth as a mirror surface. But this natural “mirror” didn’t reflect the sunrise; it looked like the sun just went through the water and got lost.

Vladivostok was the last stop on the West of Russia. When we left the train I was surprised to see the port almost across the train station. It was the beginning of fall. The trees had just started to change the color. The water in the ocean was still warm. We had a good time there. Then we travelled by ship. The ocean wasn’t calm sometimes but it wasn’t too bad. The feelings were so strange when I stayed on the deck and only boundless deep water was around. It took us seven days to get to Chukchi from Vladivostok. It was only the middle of September and everything was already covered with snow. We had come into the winter.
I could go on talking about this trip. Some things were incredible. I got a lot of awesome impressions and met good people. If you get chance to go somewhere you have never been, just go! It is not necessary how far away, some interesting place you can find in your own town or country! And I promise you will not regret it.

Lilija V.
Level 4
Zakia’s class
Halton/Peel Region

MOVING TO CANADA

I’ve been in Canada for three years. My husband wanted to live in Canada, and I agreed with his decision. But I couldn’t imagine my future in Canada. I just thought, “I would be all right if I do my best”. But it was a very serious problem not to be able to speak English, and I couldn’t stand my life in Canada. When I met people who speak English, I avoided them unconsciously. So I regretted our decision to immigrate to Canada several times. But I’ve changed bit by bit since I came in here. I live in a small town called Port Colborne, which is a very calm, peaceful town near Niagara Falls. I have a store, so I meet many Canadians every day. I feel that this is the best place to learn English and most people are very kind and good. My neighbours gave us some cookies that they made themselves last Christmas. An old gentleman sometimes brings some coffee and donuts for our family, and an old lady taught me English.

My son’s teachers are very nice. I feel they are good-natured. I can become familiar with English little by little as I meet nice people every day. I’m studying English through the Home-Study Program. I couldn’t go to school because my son is too young. And at that time, it was a good opportunity for me to study English. Now I’m hopeful that I could study English even though I just began the program. And I’ve had a big dream to be a social worker, who helps people, after I graduate from school if I can be good at English. I will do my best to achieve my dreams.

Jin H.
Level 4
Atika’s class
Niagara Region

KOREAN TELEVISION

About 10 years ago, "Mo Rae Ci Kye," which means "The Limited Time in Our Lives," was one of the most popular TV dramas in Korea. Of course it was also my favourite. Like most Korean TV dramas, it was a sad and beautiful love story, and there was something that made us think about our way of life. Watching this drama, I became a fan of the actor Hyungjung Ko. Unfortunately, this was her last drama.

Right after the drama series ended, she married a man who owns one of the biggest businesses in Korea called Samsung. After getting married, she gave up acting and was just a daughter-in-law in the Samsung family. We could only see a few pictures of her taken very quickly by newspaper cameramen.

After a few years, she divorced and she came back to acting in TV dramas. Since I am here in Canada, I cannot watch her in Korean TV dramas. I hope that she acts well and is famous again. She is divorced now, and divorce is the saddest experience of life. I can see the articles about her on the Internet. They say that so far she has succeeded in her first comeback drama. Her acting was perfect, and she does her best. I hope that she keeps her good image and that she does her best in acting like 10 years ago.

W.J.
Level 4
Joanne’s class
Halton/Peel Region
As early as the fourth century B.C., the Romans engaged in an annual young man's rite to passage to the God Lupercus. The names of the teenage women were placed in a box and drawn at random by adolescent men; thus, a man was assigned a woman companion for the duration of the year, after which another lottery was staged. After eight hundred years of this cruel practice, the early church fathers sought to end this practice. They found an answer in Valentine, a bishop who had been martyred some two hundred years earlier. According to church tradition St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. At that time the Roman Emperor Claudius-II who had issued an edict forbidding marriage. This was around when the heyday of Roman empire had almost come to an end. Lack of quality administrators led to frequent civil strife. Learning declined, taxation increased, and trade slumped to a low, precarious level. And the Gauls, Slavs, Huns, Turks and Mongolians from Northern Europe and Asian increased their pressure on the empire's boundaries. The empire was grown too large to be shielded from external aggression and internal chaos with existing forces. Thus more of capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers. When Claudius became the emperor, he felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, did not make good soldiers. So to assure quality soldiers, he banned Marriage. Valentine, a bishop, seeing the trauma of young lovers, met them in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Claudius learned of this "friend of lovers," and had him arrested. The emperor, impressed with the young priest's dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the roman gods, to save him from certain execution. Valentine refused to recognize Roman Gods and even attempted to convert the emperor, knowing the consequences fully. On February 24, 270, Valentine was executed. While Valentine was in prison awaiting his fate, he came in contact with his jailor, Asterius. The jailor had a blind daughter. Asterius requested him to heal his daughter. Through his faith he miraculously restored the sight of Asterius' daughter. Just before his execution, he asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to her "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lived ever after. Valentine thus become a Patron Saint, and spiritual overseer of an annual festival. The festival involved young Romans offering women they admired, and wished to court, handwritten greetings of affection on February 14. The greeting cards acquired St. Valentine's name. The Valentine's Day card spread with Christianity, and is now celebrated all over the world. One of the earliest card was sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was a prisoner in the Tower of London. The card is now preserved in the British Museum.

Verses by Famous Poets

Never so happily in one
Did heaven and earth combine;
And yet 'tis flesh and blood alone
That makes her so divine

Thomas Hood

What's in a name ? that which we call
a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called.

William Shakesphere

Horoscope: Aquarius
(January 20th – February 18th)

Acutely perceptive and extremely shrewd, nothing escapes you Aquarians. You don't make friends very easily but once someone has gained your trust, he or she earns your commitment for life. Gentle and sometimes shy you are consistent in love and not very demanding. Of simple tastes, you don't want much from life and are content with what you have.
Find each of the following words and circle them.

- LUNAR
- CALENDAR
- CALLIGRAPHY
- FESTIVAL
- FIRECRACKERS
- ROOSTER
- BOAR
- CHOPSTICKS
- CHINESE
- ZODIAC
- GOAT
- LANTERN
- FESTIVAL
- RED ENVELOPE
- HORSE
- CHINESE NEW YEAR
- RABBIT
- DRAGON
- SNAKE
- MONKEY
- TIGER
- FORTUNE
- DRAGON AND LION DANCE

ENYLCPYARNAEROHORSEPKEHKRDAGONANDLIONDANCEE
AACCFIVIELOISBAESKRGNAC
NAOMONKEYRABODNEECBRYRENN
SLRUCGFIRECRACKERSKHORT
NTNCINESENEWYEARRPGNG
ROHCCHOPSTICKSTIGERRARER
FERLRLLLUNARCALENDARARSRIR
OITAHPOPOLVENEDERKOBGSIN
RRSRTFESTIVALOEAETBIGAA
TCDWODORTSRNDRARARCLORL
UISEOOOAODLHRSONDMLARR
NLANTERNFESTIVALYAOTOB
EEALTOCHINESEZODIACCIR
TTNIKSALTDEEAFEEEOIHLC
Commonly found in North America, groundhogs (also known as woodchucks) have four large, chisel-like incisor teeth. Because their teeth grow about 1/16 of an inch every week, groundhogs must spend a lot of time nibbling at trees or roots to wear down their teeth. If they don't do that, they may jeopardize their own lives! Groundhogs are excellent homebuilders. Their underground residences (or burrows) can be 5 feet deep and extend for over 30 feet. Because groundhogs like to keep their burrows dry, they always construct their homes on sloped, grassy areas where water flows away easily. Their burrows have several rooms linked by tunnels, and each one is for a different function. For example, groundhogs have separate toilet areas so they don't soil their bedrooms.

Perhaps groundhogs are most famous for their ability to predict seasonal change. On February 2nd every year, people gather in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to celebrate Groundhog Day. On that day, the renowned groundhog named Phil comes out of his underground home to look for his shadow. Believers say that we will endure six more weeks of winter if Phil sees his shadow. Otherwise, spring will come soon. This tradition, introduced by German settlers, has been celebrated in Punxsutawney since 1886. So, how accurate is Phil? Well, disappointingly, only 39% of Phil's predictions have been correct.

**Please select the correct answer.**

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<td>1. Which teeth do groundhogs have that grow continuously?</td>
<td>2. Phil is the most famous groundhog. He lives in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Canine teeth</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Incisor teeth</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Molar</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Wisdom teeth</td>
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<td>3. Which of the following about groundhogs is true?</td>
<td>4. Which of the following about Groundhog Day is true?</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Their burrows have just one room.</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>They like to live in damp places.</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>They must nibble at trees or roots often to wear down their teeth.</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Their incisor teeth grow about 1/16 of an inch every month.</td>
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<td>5. Who introduced the tradition that later became Groundhog Day?</td>
<td>6. If Phil sees his shadow, it means that spring will come soon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>German settlers</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Irish settlers</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>French settlers</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>British settlers</td>
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<td>7. How accurate have Phil's past predictions been?</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% accurate</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>17% accurate</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>87% accurate</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>39% accurate</td>
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**Activity Central - Answer Key**

**Wordsearch... ... Pg. 6**

**ACTIVITY CENTRAL - ANSWER KEY**

**Groundhog Day... pg. 7**

1. B
2. A
3. C, B
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. D

**Recipes from Around the World**

**Cuban Lamb Shanks**

**Ingredients:**
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped
1 medium yellow onion, chopped
3 pounds of lamb shanks in 1 ½ inch pieces
8 ounces tomato sauce
1 tablespoon annatto oil
salt and pepper
½ teaspoon oregano
½ teaspoon cumin
1 cup of chicken stock

**Directions:**
In a large casserole or stock pot with cover, sauté the garlic and onion in olive oil for about 5 minutes. Add the lamb and remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer until tender about 1 hour 45 minutes.

*Rayssa C.*
Level 5
Mark’s class
Halton/ Peel Region

**Thick Grilled Eggplant Slices**

**Ingredients:**
2 lbs eggplants, unpeeled- 3/4 “ slices
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, plus a bit more for garnish
2 minced garlic cloves
2-3 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley, basil or arugula
Sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper

**Directions:**
Heat a cast-iron grill or pan over high heat. Brush the eggplant slices with the oil, or pour the oil in a shallow dish and dip the eggplant slices, scraping off excess.

Grill slices over high heat, turning once until well browned.

Transfer the grilled slices to a platter, sprinkle with garlic, herbs and seasonings. Drizzle with a little bit of olive oil. Serve warm or room temp.