



ESL Workshops for International Students

January – March, 2013

Canadian Culture and Language

Dalhousie University College of Continuing Education
Mona Campbell Building
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<http://www.dal.ca/esl>
[Facebook.com/DalESL](https://www.facebook.com/DalESL)
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Dalhousie ESL Programs

Dalhousie ESL Programs now offer a series of free workshops focusing on the skills necessary for academic success for students whose first language is not English. Workshops are very hands-on and interactive.

Focus on Communication (Tuesdays 4:00-6:00)

The Tuesday workshop series focuses on strategies and resources for successful communication in a variety of common contexts. The workshops will include discussion of theory as well as lots of practice time with a qualified and experienced ESL instructor.

The Mechanics of Writing (Thursdays 4:00-6:00)

The Thursday workshop series called The Mechanics of Writing focuses on the specific needs of students whose first language is not English. It is a review of all the building blocks of grammar to improve your writing on exams, assignments, and academic papers, and to help you make the most out of other academic support on campus such as the Study Skills workshops, the Writing Centre, and writing classes. Each workshop is self-contained, so you can come to just a few, or come every Thursday. The workshops will include explanation of rules and theory, as well as ample time for writing feedback by a qualified and experienced ESL instructor.

Cost: Free!

How to register: Register online at www.dal.ca/esl. You can also register by phone by calling 494-2526. Full workshops descriptions are available online at: www.dal.ca/esl

Reading #1:

Canadian Heritage Minute: Jacques Cartier

Source: <https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/jacques-cartier>

After Columbus landed in the Western Hemisphere in 1492, European rulers sent explorers across the Atlantic to the Americas to claim territory and discover riches. The Spanish, Portuguese, English, Dutch and French all wanted a piece of the "New World" for themselves. Sometimes we forget that the "new world" was not new at all, but the ancient home of many people who were called "Indians" by the Europeans. Jacques Cartier came from the French court of King Francis I to explore North America. In 1534, on his first voyage, he explored the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In Chaleur Bay, he met aboriginal people for the first time. They were Micmac people, and their meeting was the first time that the French and the natives traded furs. For centuries to come, fur trading would be important in the development of the North American colonies.

When Cartier sailed farther up the gulf and into the Bay of Gaspé, he and his men were greeted warmly by a group from the Iroquoian nation of Stadaconé. They had come from their home, which is now the site of Québec City, on a fishing expedition.

The story goes that Cartier asked the chief, Donnacona, what the land was called. The chief, who was inviting Cartier into their camp, replied "kanata," their word for village, as well as their name for the area around their home, Stadaconé. Maybe Cartier understood Donnacona, or maybe he did not, but "Canada" has remained the name of the whole vast territory that comprises our country.

Cartier sailed back to France with two of Donnacona's sons, then returned again to Canada. On his second voyage, he sailed up the St. Lawrence River and visited the site of Montréal. He opened the door to French settlement of the rich land, and later colonists followed.

At first the aboriginal people were friendly, but many became hostile when they understood that their old way of life could not survive with the arrival of so many strangers. The struggle to establish peace and understanding between the people of the First Nations and the European settlers has continued during the many centuries since Cartier's arrival.

Provinces	Capital City	Abbreviation
Territories		

Reading #2: Nova Scotian Place Names of Aboriginal Origin

- Antigonish: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word *nalegitkoonechk*, meaning "where branches are torn off".
- Baddeck
- Chebucto (the original name of Halifax and the Halifax Harbour): Derived from the Mi'kmaq word "Jipugtug", meaning "the biggest harbour".
- Cobequid: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word "Wakobetgitk", meaning "end of the rushing or flowing water".
- Ecum Secum: Derived from the Mi'kmaq language, meaning "a red house".
- Eskasoni: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word *We'kwistoqnik*, meaning "Where the fir trees are plentiful".
- Kejimikujik National Park: "Kejimikujik" has been translated as meaning "attempting to escape" or "swollen waters", but the park's official translation means "tired muscles".
- Malagash
- Merigomish
- Mushaboom
- Musquodoboit Harbour: *foaming to the sea*. The name is an anglicized version of the Mi'kmaq word *Moosekudoboogwek*.
- Pictou: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word "Piktook", meaning "an explosion of gas".
- Pugwash: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word "pagwe'ak", meaning "deep water".
- Shubenacadie: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word Shubenacadie (or Segubunakade) means "abounding in ground nuts" or "place where the red potato grows".
- Stewiacke: Derived from the Mi'kmaq language, meaning "flowing out in small streams" and "whimpering or whining as it goes".
- Tatamagouche: Derived from the Mi'kmaq word *takumegooch*, meaning "meeting of the waters".
- Whycocomagh: Derived from a Mi'kmaq word which means "Head of the Waters".

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_place_names_in_Canada_of_aboriginal_origin#Nova_Scotia

Reading #3: Some Canadian Vocabulary

Food:

Pop
Poutine
Double-double
Maple syrup
Timbits
A two-four
Donair
Chocolate bar

Money:

Penny
Nickel
Dime
Quarter
Loonie
Toonie

People and places:

Canuck
Bluenoser
Newfie
Washroom
Mountie
Haligonian
The Maritimes
The States
Snowbirds
The LC
A bachelor
parkade

Clothing:

Tuque
Hoodie
Parka
Housecoat
Track pants

Natural surroundings:

Kayak
Igloo
Toboggan
caribou

Z

Reading #4: Why is Canadian spelling so weird?

Why is Canadian spelling the way it is? Why do we use the *-our* endings, like the British, and the *-izes*, like the Americans? Who is the "Great Canadian Spelling Authority" anyway? And should we continue on our own path or try to blend in with someone else?

Historically, of course, the English language prevailed throughout the entire British Empire, including Canada. Many of the political and bureaucratic leaders, jurists, journalists and educators came from the British Isles. The nation's laws were made or at least approved by the British Parliament. Naturally, the British writing and spelling style had a great influence on the way English was written in Canada. Furthermore, most of the early English-speaking immigrants came from Scotland and Ireland, as well as England, which had a considerable influence on Canadian pronunciation and vocabulary. Perhaps the bigger question is "Why did American English deviate from the British standard?"

"As a spelling reformer, Webster believed that English spelling rules were unnecessarily complex, so his dictionary [published in 1828] introduced American English spellings like 'color' instead of the Commonwealth English 'colour,' 'music' instead of 'musick,' 'wagon' instead of 'waggon,' 'center' instead of 'centre,' and 'honor' instead of 'honour.' He also added American words ... like 'skunk' and 'squash.'" (Wikipedia)

It appears that Mr. Webster pursued spelling for political purposes, intentionally distinguishing his new country's language from that of the now-estranged mother country. In the early twentieth century, journalist and literary critic H. L. Mencken vigorously defended his American language as well. Authorities in Canada have also acted from similar political and patriotic motives, as they tried to preserve Canadian English's differences when faced with the American steamroller. In one instance, Sir John A. Macdonald issued an Order in Council (No. 1178 of June 12, 1890, according to the National Library of Canada) that "the English practice be uniformly followed" in official documents of all sorts. From that stems our system of writing honour, colour, theatre and centre instead of using their *-or* and *-er* forms.

For many Canadians, the Great Spelling Authority remains the spellers they used in their schooldays. Canadian spellers taught several generations of children the "proper" way to spell those culturally sensitive words and to double the final consonant when adding suffixes to such words as travel (travelling), jewel (jeweller) and total (totalled). Yet, those spellers varied with the years and varied between provinces and school districts as well. Some leaned more towards the American spelling, while others favoured the British.

While many Canadian businesses and institutions, especially those in publishing, develop their own in-house style which they expect their writers to follow, others use a commercially available style guide. In addition, we can rely on the Gage Canadian Dictionary and newer reference works such as the Canadian Oxford Dictionary. Each government department—and even Parliament—has its own preferences for spelling and capitalization, and sometimes for usage as well. Canadian spelling is a mixture of styles, influenced by history and politics, and remains a cause of arguments, even feuds. Using the tools we offer will help keep the peace, we hope!

Adapted from: <http://www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/bien-bien/fra-eng/orthographe-spelling/drole-funny-eng.html>

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Canadian vs. American Spelling (Source: Mohawk College)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ACKNOWLEDGMENT
BEHAVIOUR	BEHAVIOR
CALIBRE	CALIBER
CANCELLED	CANCELED
CATALOGUE	CATALOG
CENTIMETRE	CENTIMETER
CENTRE	CENTER
CHEQUE	CHECK
COLOUR	COLOR
COUNSELLOR	COUNSELOR
DEFENCE	DEFENSE
DEMEANOUR	DEMEANOR
DEPENDANT	DEPENDENT
DIALOGUE	DIALOG
ENDEAVOUR	ENDEAVOR
FAVOUR	FAVOR
FAVOURITE	FAVORITE
FIBRE	FIBER
FLAVOUR	FLAVOR
GAUGE	GAGE
GREY	GRAY
HARBOUR	HARBOR
HONOUR	HONOR
HUMOUR	HUMOR
INSTALMENT	INSTALLMENT
JEWELLER	JEWELER
KILOMETRE	KILOMETER
LABOUR	LABOR
LICENCE	LICENSE
LITRE	LITER
LUSTRE	LUSTER
MARVELLOUS	MARVELOUS
MEDALLIST	MEDALIST
METRE	METER

MOULD	MOLD
MOUSTACHE	MUSTACHE
NEIGHBOUR	NEIGHBOR
ODOUR	ODOR
OFFENCE	OFFENSE
PARLOUR	PARLOR
RUMOUR	RUMOR
SABRE	SABER
SAVOUR	SAVOR
SCEPTICAL	SKEPTICAL
SOMBRE	SOMBER
SULPHUR	SULFUR
THEATRE	THEATER
TONNES	TONS
TOTALLED	TOTALED
TRANQUILLIZE	TRANQUILIZE
TRAVELLER	TRAVELER
TUMOUR	TUMOR
TUNNELLED	TUNNELED
VALOUR	VALOR
VIGOUR	VIGOR
WORSHIPPED	WORSHIPED

Activity #3: Correct the following text into Canadian spelling

It was shaping up to be a glorious day. I had been planning this trip to the theater with my favorite neighbour for several months. Several of her family members had traveled in from thousands of kilometers away, some by aeroplane, in order to accompany us. We had been organising it for so long without any acknowledgment from those around us. I was sceptical as to the subject matter of the show, though. I hadn't been able to read the programme in advance, so we would just have to wait and see. I promised to apologise to any member of the family that was unhappy with the show.

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Reading #5: The “Eh” tag

TYPE OF EH	SAMPLE SENTENCE
1. Statement of opinion	Nice day, eh?
2. Statements of fact	It goes over here, eh?
3. Commands	Open the window, eh? Think about it, eh?
4. Exclamations	What a game, eh?
6. To mean ‘pardon’	Eh? What did you say?
7. In fixed expressions	Thanks, eh? I know, eh?
8. Insults	You’re a real snob, eh?
10. Telling a story [the narrative eh]	This guy is up on the 27 th floor, eh? then he gets out on the ledge, eh . . .

Adapted from: Wright, K. (2006). Eh Is Canadian, Eh?: Usage, Functions and the Identity Crisis of Eh. Retrieved from:
<http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~cpercy/courses/6362-wright.htm>

Activity #4: Dialogue

Activity #5: Discussion. "I AM CANADIAN" advertisement

Hey.

I'm not a lumberjack, or a fur trader,
and I don't live in an igloo, eat blubber, or own a dogsled,
and I don't know Jimmy, Sally, or Susie from Canada,
although I'm sure they're really really nice.

I have a Prime Minister, not a President.

I speak English and French, not American,
and I pronounce it about, not "aboot"

I can proudly sew my country's flag on my backpack;
I believe in peacekeeping, not policing;
and that the beaver is a truly proud and noble animal!

A tuque is a hat,
a chesterfield is a couch,
and it is pronounced zed; not zee, zed!

Canada is the second largest land mass,
the first nation of hockey,
and the best part of North America!

MY NAME IS JOE, AND I AM CANADIAN!

Thank you.

Source: http://www.r-go.ca/canadian_commercial_molson.htm

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Further Resources:

<http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~cpercy/courses/6362Jurcic2.htm>

<http://www.canadaka.net/content/page/124-canadian-slang--english-words>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Canada

<http://www3.telus.net/linguisticsissues/britishcanadianamericanvocab.html>

<http://www.americansguide.ca/isms.html>

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/Assets/Communications+Centre/Helpful+Facts+Sheets/Canadian+vs+American+Spelling.pdf>

<http://www.luther.ca/~dave7cnv/cdnspelling/cdnspeJ.html>

<http://www3.telus.net/linguisticsissues/BritishCanadianAmerican.htm>