

Short Story

Money Can't Buy Everything

Nick is a 10 year old boy. He was the only son to his parents. His father was a hard-working business man and he could hardly spend time with his son. Nick's father would reach home after he slept, and leave home, before he woke up, or sleep until he left for school. His father hardly had any time for Nick or his family. He could not accompany him or the family. Just like any other boy, Nick wanted to go outdoors with his father and have fun.



One day, Nick was surprised to see his father at home in the evening.
 "Dad, it is a big surprise to see you at home", Nick said.
 "Yes son, my meeting was cancelled and my next flight is delayed by 2 hours. So I'm at home", his father replied. The conversation between Nick and father:
 Dad, may I please ask you a few questions?
 Yes, my dear son, please proceed.
 When will you be back?
 Tomorrow noon!
 Dad, how much do you earn a year?
 Dear, it's a very big amount and you won't be able to understand it.
 Ok dad, are you happy with the amount you earn?
 Yes my dear, I'm very happy, and in fact I'm planning to launch our new branch and a new business in a few months. Isn't that great?
 Yes, dad. I'm happy to hear that.
 So, do you have any other questions Nick?
 Yes, father, I do have one more question.
 Ask me then!
 Dad, you don't want to tell me how much you earn a year or a month. But can you tell me

what you earn a day or even half a day?
 Nick, why are you asking this question? I have provided you with all the possible luxuries.
 No dad, you have always given the best to me, but please answer me. It would be really nice if you can tell me how much you earn in an hour?
 Nick, this is not fair and you should not be questioning your father about his income.
 Nick asked his mother to support him.
 Nick and his mom requested to answer his hourly income, if not the daily income.
 Nick's father replied, it will be around Rs. 1000/- per hour.
 Nick ran to his room upstairs, and came down with his piggy bank that contained his savings.
 Dad, I have Rs. 3000/- in this box. Can you spare three hours with me? I want to go to beach and have dinner with you tomorrow evening. Can you please mark this in your schedule?
 Nick's father was speechless!
Running behind money makes children deprived of love and care from parents. Money can't buy everything!
 (Courtesy KIDS WORLD FUN

Scope of Teaching English Abroad

By : Chingakham Dina

Thailand is good destination for tourists and taking up English teaching job on the go. The demand of English teacher grew over the past decade in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, China and other Asian countries. Do our English speaking youths fit for this job? Let us find out. There are two groups of English teachers. **Native English Speaking Teacher (NEST) and Non-Native English Speaking Teacher (NNEST)**. Teachers from the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are considered as Native English Speaking Teacher (NEST). Teachers from other countries are considered as Non-Native English Speaking Teacher (NNEST). There is endless discussions and arguments about who is better teachers- Native English Speaking Teacher, or Non-Native English Speaking Teacher (NNEST). There are strengths and

weaknesses for both groups. From research, discussion, and feedback, it is shown that Native English Speakers are preferred for teaching speaking and listening, and Non Native teachers are better in teaching grammar. It is general, and I don't speak exceptional cases. If you want to teach abroad as English teacher, you are expected to teach English focusing on speaking and listening. The notion of Native English teacher is too strong in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong. In these countries they employ only Native English Speaking teacher. This is in general, there might one or two exceptional cases. But in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos there is place for you if you are qualified. In these countries too, there is more demand for Native speaker. So Schools incline more towards native English speaker. However there are thousands of Filipino

teachers, so there is chance for you too if you prepare yourself for the job. What makes Native English teachers are preferable? The answer is simple. It is because of the way how they speak, it is because pronunciation and their accent. We learn reading and writing. We don't learn speaking and listening. We speak the way we have been taught, far from English and American accent. This is what we suffer from in spite of many English speaking graduates are produced, we cannot serve the need of the market demand particularly for this profession. Again, this is general, I don't count the exceptional cases out there. In an interview, your chance to be selected depends very much on how you speak. We produce large number of graduates. Our fresh graduates need proper training to be ready for this skill in the market. With my personal experience of nearly 15 years teaching career, my

suggestion to job seekers of English teaching is to polish your accent before you serve your skills in the job market. I am talking the realistic situation.
How to prepare?
 It seems no one cares your accent inside India, but it certainly does matter abroad especially for teaching English. You are expected to be good at reading, writing, speaking and listening but you will not teach grammar in most cases. You will be teaching Speaking and Listening. Grammar will be taught by local teachers. Train yourself to avoid heavy accent.
What do you need?
 1. You need to have at least Bachelor's degree in any subject.
 2. You must have B.ed or degree related to education for your work permit.
 3. You must have English proficiency test score such as TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS.
(Writer's profile: Currently teaching in Thailand. Email: chingakham(at)yahoo(dot)com)

International and National News

North Korea leader defends 'hydrogen bomb' test

AFP Seoul, Jan. 10: North Korea's leader Kim Jong-Un on Sunday justified what he claimed was his country's first hydrogen bomb test as self-defence to prevent nuclear war with the US, in his first comments since the explosion. Pyongyang on Wednesday carried out its fourth nuclear test, angering the international community and raising tensions with neighbouring South Korea. The test was "a self-defensive step for reliably defending the peace on the Korean Peninsula and the regional security from the danger of nuclear war caused by the US-led imperialism," Kim was quoted as saying.
 "It is the legitimate right of a sovereign state and a fair action that nobody can criticise," he

added, according to the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The North regularly accuses the US and its ally South Korea of warmongering. Kim's comments came during a visit to the Ministry of People's Armed Forces to congratulate them on the "successful" detonation, KCNA said, without giving the date of the visit. They echo an official commentary published late Friday, which cited toppled leaders Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Moamer Kadhafi in Libya as examples of what happens when countries forsake their nuclear ambitions. The test has angered world powers, including the North's key ally China, and the UN Security Council has said it will roll out new

measures to punish the maverick state. South Korea has resumed high-decibel propaganda broadcasts across the border in response, which the North said were driving the divided peninsula to "the brink of war". North Korea claimed it used a miniaturised hydrogen bomb, which is far more powerful than other nuclear devices, although experts said seismic activity suggested it was not strong enough. The test came just two days before Kim's 33rd birthday and ahead of a rare ruling party congress scheduled to take place in May — the first such gathering for 35 years. The North is expected to lay out a range of key policies during the

congress, which Kim said will be a "historic turning point in accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche (self-independence)". "Let us defend the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea by strengthening the political and military might of the People's Army in every way", Kim said, adding that strengthening the military is a priority. The state Korean Central TV late on Friday released video footage of a purportedly new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test. But South Korean media suggested the footage was an edited compilation of the North's third SLBM test, conducted last month in the Sea of Japan, and a different ballistic missile test from 2014.

2-minute observance of silence on 30th Jan for 'Martyrs day': MHA

ANI New Delhi, Jan. 10: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday issued a directive that from now on every year on January 30th, two minutes of silence will be observed at 11 am throughout the country in the memory of those who were martyred in India's freedom struggle. According to the standing instructions by the MHA, silence should be observed at work and all movement must be stopped throughout the country during the two minutes.

The silence period will be indicated by the sounds of 'sirens or Army guns' from 10: 59 am to 11:00 am and after two minutes the sirens will sound again from 11:02 am till 11:03 am. Stating that in the past the general public did not adhere to the 'solemnity of the occasion' and went about their business, the MHA has asserted that state governments and union territories need to ensure that 'Martyrs Day' is observed with due solemnity and better public participation.

Gowda urges Jaitley to help to procure new EVMs

PTI New Delhi, Jan 10: Law Minister D V Sadananda Gowda has urged Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to help expedite the approval for buying nearly 14 lakh new electronic voting machines (EVMs) so the Election Commission has sufficient equipment by 2019, when the next Lok Sabha elections are due. Gowda has written to Jaitley recently requesting him to speed up the proposal pending before a committee on non-plan expenditure headed by Secretary

Expenditure in the Finance Ministry. The Election Commission wants to purchase nearly 14 lakh new EVMs as over nine lakh machines in use now are nearing end of their 15-year life span. A senior official said two government undertakings — Bharat Electronics Ltd, Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd, Hyderabad will not be in a position to produce new EVMs in one go and would provide it to the Commission in batches. "The sooner we start the better.

The machines EC gets in batches can be used in coming assembly polls and by the time the next Lok Sabha polls are due, the delivery will be completed," he said. The EC had once again flagged the issue of new EVMs at a meeting between Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi and top Law Ministry officials here on January 5. "The purchase has to be made in batches over a period of time as the manufacturing firms have limitation to the production capacity...CEC also wrote to Law

Minister," a statement issued by EC on January 7 said. The Law Ministry has given its "in principle" approval for buying new EVMs. In a proposal sent to the Law Ministry, the Commission had said 9,30,430 EVMs in use today would become "outdated" between 2015-16 and 2019-20. It has moved a proposal to buy 13,95,648 new balloting units and 9,30,432 control units in an estimated cost of Rs 5511.48 crore between financial years 2015-16 and 2018-19.

Sri Lanka government proposes new constitution to devolve power

Reuters Colombo, Jan. 10: Sri Lanka's new government on Saturday presented its plan for a new constitution aimed at devolving power and preventing the sort of ethnic tensions that led to a long and bitter civil war that ended in 2009. The move comes as reformist President Maithripala Sirisena's administration takes some steps to promote post-conflict reconciliation and address alleged war crimes committed during the 26-year conflict between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels. Sirisena, who unseated former leader Mahinda Rajapaksa in a bitterly contested poll last year, promised a new constitution to strengthen democracy and fundamental rights.

According to the document presented to parliament on Saturday, the government intends to strengthen democratic rights, promote national reconciliation and establish a political culture that respects the rule of law. The new constitution will also guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms that assure human dignity and promote responsible and accountable government, it said. "The main idea is to devolve power to the grassroots level and strengthen democracy in order to prevent another war," a ruling party legislator who is close to the president told Reuters, asking not to be named. Some opposition members, however, have alleged that the new constitution has been

drafted to please some Western nations and to dilute the main religion, Buddhism, in Sri Lanka. The government has rejected such accusations. Ethnic minority Tamils were often favoured for higher government positions under British colonial rule. After independence in 1948, many lost their positions as successive governments pursued language and other policies favouring the majority Sinhalese population. Tensions erupted into a fully fledged armed conflict in 1983 that only ended when government forces seized the last areas controlled by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "The extremists in the south and the north have caused the loss of thousands of young lives ... We

must ensure reconciliation and harmony so that we will never go back to war. I believe now, through our past bitter experiences, we must prepare ourselves for future challenges," President Sirisena told the parliament.

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