



CUKUROVA
UNIVERSITY

CU SoFL

M A G A Z I N E O N L I N E



No:1
January 2022

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students and Colleagues,

In their most inner depths, every individual harbors emotion, ideas, and views that they hardly bring to the daylight due to lack of opportunity. Sometimes shyness, sometimes rigid adherence to imported cultural and social upbringing, and sometimes, sheer personality traits tend to get in the way, stifling the voices which would otherwise shed light on many topics, lead to the formation of bright ideas in others, hearten peers to air their wishes and even form a basis for originality. With the launching of this platform, we hope to let our students and staff members share their pedagogical and personal opinions and experiences with other SoFL family members leading to professional development and individual empowerment, the two tenets we aim to firmly implant in our institution. My thanks go to every one of you who contributed to the formation of this setting and particularly to those of you who should always feel free to believe and feel there is now a platform to air your views, aspirations, thoughts, and opinions on issues related to your professional and personal lives.

With my best,

Prof. Dr. Yonca OZKAN
Director

Why CU SoFL MAGAZINE?

AIMS AND SCOPE

We wanted to create an online magazine for the School of Foreign Languages at Çukurova University to share experiences, to communicate, to do network, to find useful tips for teaching and learning English.

Aims:

to create a digital environment for English learners and instructors at schools of foreign languages where they can share their knowledge, experiences, achievements, useful tips for colleagues and students.

to create an online magazine for talented prep year students who would like to develop their personal and academic skills.

to invite both teachers and students for brainstorming about the challenges and achievements at preparatory schools.

to engage more students into creative projects and organize contests, podcasts, and vcasts, video materials.

to publish the interviews/essays/reflections of English instructors and learners from different cities in Turkey (also foreign instructors teaching in Turkey)

to create a dynamic community, new bridges and exchanges among schools of foreign languages, departments and institutions at Çukurova university and other universities to create a new community based on common personal and professional development goals.

Submission guidelines

The submission should be made as a word document.

The submission should be in standard 12-point font, Times New Roman.

The submission should include your name and affiliation, and a title for your work.

The submission should include a brief biodata in a word document and a photo for each author if possible.

MESSAGES FROM SoFL TEAM:

Dear students,

Our online magazine is open for you all. We accept all your creative written works such as news, memories, stories, letters, book or film reviews, poems, songs, scenarios, interview reports, reflections, short essays about trend issues or topics, etc. You are all welcome to send us any creative work of yours at any time during the academic year. You can even work collaboratively with your classmates or friends in other classes in our school. We would like to publish your creative works regularly.

We will have prompts or themes from time to time for the students who need some kind of inspiration but you can touch upon different kinds of issues that can grab the attention of your readers. You can also send your reaction letters to the written works for each issue. We will be happy to read and share them in the following issues.

Why should you write for this magazine?

It can be an opportunity for you to improve your writing skills and share your creative skills and ideas with others on a platform.

It can be an opportunity for you to realize your boundaries and maybe go beyond your limits through these writing experiences.

It helps you to explore yourself and find your self-voice as a language learner and writer.

Dear Colleagues,

We are all looking forward to your contributions to our online magazine. It would be a great opportunity for our readers to benefit from your ideas and experiences. Let's create an inspiring space for each other!

Contact Info:

For all your inquiries, send an e-mail to cusoflmagazine@gmail.com

Organizing Team

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The theme of the first issue:

“Happy New Year”

Biodata

Aleyna BASTURK, who is a full-time Capricorn and an INFP, was born on January 1st, 2003 in Adana. She graduated from Hacı Hatice Turgut Anatolian High School in 2021. Currently, she is a student at Yadyo which is a part of Cukurova University. Her major is English Language Teaching.

Dear me,

I hope things are going well. If it is not, that means you failed one of our goals, which is mostly about being happy especially near our birthday. Don't ever think about your poor birthday experiences and try to see the good side.

First of all, next year I want you to be less moody because your mood swings are getting ahead of hand. You cannot possibly switch your mood every second. Do not try to deny it. It is not good both for you and your environment.

Next year, I want you to take care of yourself more seriously. You should eat healthier and homemade food. I know you like to eat junk food and sweets. I am not saying you should stop eating. What I am saying is you should eat in moderation to maintain your health.

I am begging you! Please take some risks. Do not overthink, sometimes it is better to give new things a shot. You have to stop being afraid of losing all the time. Try to be more positive. Not just on the outside, you should be positive on the inside as well. Think wisely before taking action. I know you are naturally moving by your emotions. However, sometimes I wish you could use your logic instead of your instincts.

I hope you have completed the preparatory class and started your first year in the education department. I hope you are studying more than last year to graduate as fast as possible. Learn how to use your time efficiently. It is a key for everything, so please at least try.

You are doing great. I am so proud of you all the time.

I love you,

Aleyna

Biodata

My name is **Ayşe Betül KILIC** and I am 19 years old. I am from Adana. I am studying at YADYO at Çukurova University. My major is Mechanical Engineering.

Is It New Year?

First of all, hello year 2022! Since we can see this year, you should first congratulate us because this generation has experienced all the events except the apocalypse. Our most important trouble is that you got the Covid-19 disease and it is constantly renewing itself like the New Year. Apart from that, the year 2022 does not mean much to me, I will go back to 2019 and I live the 2020 and 2021 that I couldn't live and then I come to you next. Finally, I hope a miracle will happen and 2022 will bring us luck. "Happy New Year"

Biodata

I am **Salih Kaan KINACI** and I am 19 years old. I am studying at Çukurova University. My department is Mechanical Engineering, but I am currently a preparatory class student.

Every Day Is a New Year

People think that the New Year will bring them happiness and success. And they make preparations for it every year. If we make these preparations for the beginning of every day. Can you imagine that? What happens? For instance, if people start doing sports, they have a good body and healthy life. If people start saving money, they buy what they want. So we have to start every day as a new year. Every day is a new beginning for us. We should care about this. Happy New Year!

Biodata

I'm **Yıldırım ALPARSLAN**, 19 years. I was born in Niğde. I am a Mechanical Engineering student at Çukurova University, but I am still in the preparation stage. I like to read magazines and books in my spare time.

NEW YEAR WISH

Paulo Coelho says a sentence in Alchemist - his best seller book: "When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it" Let's wish us many good things from 2022.

As Paulo Coelho said, maybe the universe will cooperate with us.
Happy new year everyone!

Yıldırım ALPARSLAN
Mechanical Engineering



Biodata

My name is **Hakan Berkay BOYAR**. I am from Hatay. I am 19. I am an ELT student. I graduated from Gündoğdu College in 2020.

NEW YEAR

Here comes that time

When all families reunite

Happy songs will start

When the countdown ends

Here comes that time

When we share all of our love

Here comes that time

Which makes all the world smile

Prepare yourself

For all the love you will get

What can be better than

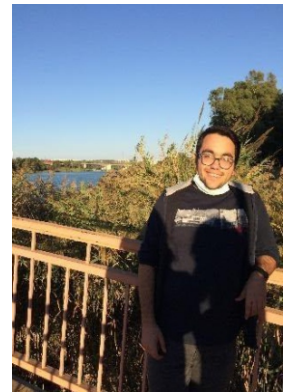
A warm hug, full of love

Happy times are close

You will forget all of your problems

We will keep smiling

When the New Year comes



Hakan Berkay BOYAR

Biodata

My name is **Berivan** and I'm studying in the ELT department. I'm no more than a usual 18 years old Turkish young individual.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Christmas is coming again. It's just a normal day for some people, but for others, it brings many things with it. It's a day when everyone gets gifts from Santa. Maybe some people will learn that Santa is not real at all. A New Year, new happiness, or getting one year closer to death... OK, I will not talk about the inevitability of death. Christmas is also popular for new decisions that are made for the coming year, New Year resolutions, etc. Maybe you have heard about them: "I am going to have a healthier life," "I will not miss my Spanish class," "I am going to have a boyfriend," or "I am going to have a better music taste." I hope my roommates focus on this, but the most popular thing about them is the way they never happen. They are always repeated and forgotten later on. Nobody turns back and thinks about what he/she said before zero o'clock. However, this situation should not be so. The tendency to change is something that always brings positive things with it. We should be more determined about what we want. Nobody knows whether our minor decisions may affect our future. Well, my new year resolution was to be more confident and extroverted last year, and actually I see this change in myself. I will do my best in the new year as well because I think there is no end to developing yourself in every possible field. Now, consider yours: what you want from the new year, what you want to change about the person you are now and don't forget about your decisions. Be determined. If you think it will not work, well, maybe we can wish for determination from Santa this year...

Berivan CAMUZ
2020177024/ Cu-Elt
Class P3/211

Biodatas

Bilge KURSUN is a student at University of Çukurova. She is an animal and nature lover. Her department is English Language Teaching. She is 19 years old. She is interested in learning languages, playing the guitar, singing, drawing, reading books, designing jewellery, and doing aerobics.

Senanur AYHAN is a student at University of Çukurova. Her department is English Language Teaching. She is 20 years old. She is interested in learning languages, playing the guitar, swimming and reading books.

NEW YEAR NEW BEGINNINGS

Hello, everyone.

We hope all of you have been staying positive and testing negative!

We saw this project right after we talked about *New Year's Resolutions* in English class. So, we wanted to contribute to this magazine, and we decided to work together.

We've listed the things we would like to change in the world and our wishes, item by item. Let's look at these things together:

- To begin with, of course, we want the pandemic to end and to regain our old healthy days.
- Our reading rate is very low, especially in Turkey. Whatever is necessary should be done to increase the reading level of society, and books should be cheaper and more affordable so that everyone can buy and read them. Personally, we aim to read at least 50 books in 2022.
- If they can afford it, everyone should see at least one different country. This is one of those things that broaden one's horizons incredibly. Also, getting to know different cultures and people benefits us both personally and socially.
- Everybody should learn a new skill, such as playing an instrument or learning a new language, which improves our minds and enables us to think more sophisticatedly.
- People must grow at least one plant or adopt an animal. We can also donate to help endangered species. Thanks to these things, our sense of compassion improves.
- Unfortunately, we pollute the water, air, and soil quite a lot. Our resources are running out and the actions we take lead to global warming, too. Even trees that are our oxygen resources shouldn't be cut down for no reason. We wish to be more conscientious because we don't have one more nature.
- There are lots of things we do wrong. For instance, we, as people, act intolerantly and gradually lose our sense of empathy and patience. We live in the age of speed, and we want everything right away. Most of the time, we don't even accept defeat or can't admit making mistakes. But there is something we often forget: we are humans, not androids. So making mistakes is in the nature of being human. We derive the most enduring teachings from our biggest mistakes. We must give ourselves a chance to make mistakes. We wish to have compassion for ourselves and not give up trying.
- Nowadays, we are too dependent on technology. We can do hardly anything without it, which causes communication disorders among people. We wish to socialize more and stay in touch with our family, friends, and relatives without technology.

- We should say "bye" to toxic people. A writer says, *"Don't keep anyone who makes you feel like an ordinary person in your life."* We should be friends with people who make us feel that we are valuable.
- Bad habits such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and using drugs affect people heavily and harm their health. We wish they weren't and people had beneficial habits.
- We are separated. We categorize and classify people according to their color, religion, language, political view, race, and sexual orientation. We want these things to end. We are all humans and are not different from each other.
- We are tired of the unrealistic beauty standards of society. We think that people are much more than these stereotypes, and we want this perception to be destroyed.
- In a world where men are taught that it is wrong to cry and women are taught that it is wrong to laugh, we think it shouldn't be a privilege to be able to look at people without judgment.
- We wish people knew to say "I'm sorry, I love you, thank you, you're welcome..." or things like that. Because we, as people in this century, feel so arrogant and most of the time we forget about saying these things in the flow of life.
- We wish there was no violence in the world against women, children, and animals.
- We wish all children were happy all their lives. They all deserve this.
- There are too many murders in the world. Unfortunately, our country is like a women's cemetery. We want the authorities to take all the necessary precautions. Ending femicide is among our greatest wishes.
- We wish there was no war in the world. Both tangible and intangible wars harm people too much, and this situation makes us really sad. We want all of them to finish.
- Terrorism itself is a form of oppression and violence against certain target groups. We condemn terrorism and sincerely want it to end.
- We may not be able to change the world's injustice, but we can change our attitude toward injustice. This is another point we want to add.
- We wish there were no racial or gender discrimination. We are beautiful together with our differences.

And we want to finish our writing with one last beautiful wish:

- We think that loving something is not about owning it but about valuing it. In this context, we feel sad when even flowers are plucked from their branches. We want poverty, hunger, war, oppression, and violence to end, and we want affection, compassion, mercy, and love to heal the world. We are aware of the fact that *"The world is hell for sensitive hearts!"* but we still wish you all to have this consciousness.

Stay healthy and with love...

Bilge KURSUN and Senanur AYHAN

Biodata

I'm **Deniz TOPAL**. I was born in 2002, Ankara. I'm from Ankara, too. I studied primary school at Sarar, I studied middle school at Yükselen, I studied high school at Matfen and I graduated there, too. Now I'm a student at Çukurova University. My department is Electronic Engineering. I have acted in various roles in Ankara because I'm an amateur actress. I played eight main plays. I love theatre so much and I want to be a successful actress in the future.

NEW YEAR WISHES

I have really liked celebrating the New Year since I was little. When the New Year comes I always feel excited and hopeful. Every year I have wished for several things from the New Year. When I was a kid, I had an unchangeable wish. I have always wished health for myself, my family, and those whom I loved from the New Year. My other wishes change every year according to my requests and my necessities arise. When I was little, I used to ask for a stuffie, because I really like them. I remember a memory from my childhood. When I was five, I saw a big, pink stuffie and I wanted it so much. Then I asked for it from my father. A week after that, he gave me a surprise and bought it. I was very happy.

Naturally, my wishes have changed over the years. When I started primary school, I wished to be a successful student. When I was twelve, I wished for a new cell phone. When I was sixteen, I wished to go on a vacation only with my best friend. When I was eighteen, I wished to pass the university exam and move to a new city. Like everyone else, my wishes and dreams get bigger, because I am growing up. I accomplished most of my dreams because they were realistic.

In my opinion, if somebody wishes for something from the New Year, firstly they must imagine it and want it from their hearts. Except for this, they have to be positive and they should send good energy to the universe. However, the most important article is to work hard and make an effort for the desired wish because people cannot make magic to achieve something. If people could make magic, everything would be easy but as you know, it is impossible. If I had a magic wand in the New Year, I would give the good people the power to make magic only for one day, because I believe they would use this chance for good.

Everybody wishes for different things from the New Year. Someone makes various decisions in the New Year. For instance, to wake up early, drink a lot of water, reduce sugar, workout, work harder, care for yourself, think more positively, get a new hobby, participate in social responsibility projects. Everybody wants to make these things but only some of them can because the important thing is not making a decision. The main thing is to be able to continue the decision you have made. If you are disciplined and responsible, you can achieve that.

I have New Year's wishes like everyone else. Firstly, I want to perform a play at the end of the year. Secondly, I want to pass my German exam and deserve to study in Germany. Another one is to pass YADYO and the last one is to work out regularly, eat healthily and live healthily. If I can achieve ninety percent of these, this will be an achievement for me and I will congratulate myself. My biggest wish for our world is the termination of the Corona. We are really fed up and we hope it will end soon... I want to end my words with hope for a happy New Year and good luck!

Deniz TOPAL

Biodata

Emine Merve AVCU was born in 1997 in Adana. She graduated from Seyhan Anatolian Vocational Health School in 2014 and Anesthesiology Department in Çukurova University in 2016. She worked for about 3 years in Manisa as an anesthesia technician. After that, she was assigned to Hatay. She entered the department of English Language Teaching at Çukurova University in 2021. She continues her education and occupation.

CITY SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Most of us have undergone a variety of economic, social, health problems, etc. under the effects of the pandemic prevention and boring events recently. Days before Christmas, it's time to dream and make good wishes for ourselves and all of the world by leaving aside all of the bad events. I want to carry you to the spirit of some cities that have charming Christmas atmospheres around the world. I've chosen several cities where Christmas is celebrated in the most grandiose and elegant manner. Maybe there is somebody who has already experienced that or will experience it among us. Why not? All it takes is a dream and an action! Let's take a look at these cities together.

1. Santa Claus Village, Finland

Santa Claus Village may be one of the best places to experience the true meaning of Christmas. Everything in Finland is prepared to create a classic Noel atmosphere, and the Finns enjoy the atmosphere through Noel by slowing down their daily routines. You can see a sled pulling deer on the snow like in cartoons or films. You even have a chance to see the Northern lights when you are in Finland.

2. Sydney, Australia

One of the first countries to welcome the new year in the world is Australia. If you want to be one of the first to welcome the new year, you can go to Sydney, where you can enter the new year with amusing fireworks displays on the Sydney Bridge or in front of the Sydney Opera Building.

3. Prague, Czech Republic

Prague can be a pretty good choice for Christmas with a romantic atmosphere, a huge Christmas tree that is set up in the old town square, and Noel bazaars surrounding the tree. While you are in Prague in winter, you should walk the Prague streets and taste the delicious Trdelnik sweet.

4. Brugge, Belgium

Brugge, located in Belgium, is famous for its medieval architecture. Brugge is a unique choice with its old stone houses, waffle-scented streets, canals resembling Venice, and delicious chocolates. People who want to enter the New Year in a romantic and nostalgic environment can evaluate this option.

5. Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is the last city on my list. One of the locations where you can enter the New Year most enthusiastically is Rio de Janeiro. If you go to Rio de Janeiro to celebrate Christmas, you can enjoy the beaches until the morning in summer. Everyone wears white clothes at Christmas because it is believed to bring good luck. If you choose Rio de Janeiro, you will experience an unforgettable Christmas with fireworks displays if you wear white clothes on the beaches.

Biodata

My name is **Esengül Perihan** and my surname is **KURT**. I am 18 years old. My department is English Language Teaching. I am from Osmaniye. I was born on August 4, 2003. I graduated from 80. Yıl Cumhuriyet Anadolu Highschool in 2021.

Happy New Me!

Each person has his/her own story, but very few of us are the main characters in our lives. It's not because we were born to be second leads, but because we don't know how to convince those around us that we have our own lives and personal choices. Last year, I was doing everything to please others. I was here to make them happy, and I unconsciously pushed myself to the edge of sadness all the time. I wasted so much time worrying about what I could do wrong. But I found it when I let toxic people go. I was too good for them, for this world. Meeting with them was not my regret, but tolerating the ways they hurt me will always be. I believed them, and they betrayed me. I learned it the hard way, and it hurt so much. In the last week of 2021, I went back to my home. When I entered my room, everything was totally different, even though I had had the same bed and the same furniture for years. It was somebody else's room. It was not the first time that I felt like I didn't belong somewhere, but this time everything seemed so different. I recalled the times when I trusted every human being and believed in fairy tales with happy endings in which all the good people became happy. But in the real world, there was nothing like that. And at that point, all of my questions about life, love, and existence resurfaced. I had thought that I knew everything around me so far, but my journey started that day. I realized that I lived my life for others. I always feared that people I loved would leave me if I didn't care more about their feelings than mine. I loved all the people that I have met so far just because I didn't want them to know the reality behind it. It was not loving; it was acting. Love is something that I can give no one before I love myself.

Let me tell you the answers to all your questions. It is caring about yourself and being self-centered. Let your past leave your hands, and use your hands to create your future. If your heart is broken, use your own tears to glue the pieces back together. Become your own hero instead of searching for one. Don't let others write your own story; take the pen and write in your own words.

Esengül Perihan KURT

P/3 212

English Language Teaching

Biodata

Her name is **Irem ERYIGIT**. She is 19 years old. She is studying in the ELT department but she is in prep class right now.

THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE

Every person has the idea of a new year, a new start. The new year is a very good beginning to get rid of some bad habits that harm us and prevent us from being successful. So, we should identify them and make a list, named 'new year resolutions'. This list is related to things you would like to change in your life. Let me give an example of myself to explain better.

Firstly, I would like to change my laziness in the new year. If I had more responsibility consciousness, I could be more successful than I am now. I must take some steps to avoid the same regret in the future. That's why my list includes sticking to a study schedule and not neglecting my liabilities.

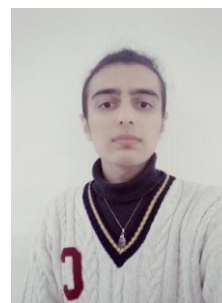
Secondly, I want to give up procrastination. Now, I delay things that I have to do. I live with stress until I fulfill my responsibilities. They are always in my mind for disturbing me. However; I won't allow this to happen again in the future. I think that limiting the time I spend with the distractions like phone or pc that cause postponement and doing it as soon as the task is given, will have a positive impact on my life. Therefore, I will try to do these from 1st January.

Last but not least, acting without thinking is a big problem for me. Actually, I generally know the thing I did is wrong and I regret doing it in long term but I just do it if it makes me happy at this moment. I care about instant happiness. Consequently, in order not to make mistakes that I will be sorry for, I am going to consult a member of my family, most probably my sister when I have to make decisions and act according to her advice.

These are the problems that I determined and the solutions I found for them to improve myself. I hope this text will help you take action to make your life better in the New Year :))).

Biodata

I'm **Ismayil AKHUNDZADA**. I was born on 25 May 2004. I am from Lankaran, Azerbaijan. I have been taking preparatory education in the Department of Econometrics (English) at Cukurova University since 2021. I like to read and write. I write poems and novellas generally.



Existentialistic Motivation of New Year

New Year's Eve may mean different things for many of us: for some of us the turning points of our lives, for some of us a beginning, for some an end, and for some just an astronomical event. But regardless of the meaning of the New Year for us, it is certain that it is an important event that affects the lives of each of us. Mostly, with the New Year, we set new goals and believe that we will fix our lives that we were not satisfied with the previous year, with New Year. However, the interesting thing is that we often do not make an effort to achieve these goals and are disappointed at the end of the year. It may sound a bit satirical, but we expect a magical effect from the New Year. Unfortunately, New Year's Eve does not have such an effect. In fact, any day has no such effect. Well, if you ask what is the "magic effect" that will change our lives, the answer is simple: Change. Change is accepted as an undisputed factor in philosophy from Ancient Greece to the Existentialist period. Most of us set our goals, we know when to start (most of the time it's New Year's), nevertheless, we don't take a step towards our goals. But to achieve our goals, we must change ourselves and take action. The famous existentialist philosopher Simone De Beauvoir has a nice quote on this subject, "Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay." Existentialism is one of the most popular and accepted philosophical movements of modern times. According to this philosophical trend, our existence in the world has no predetermined purpose or purpose. Rather, we must create our own life goals and work towards them. This is exactly what Beauvoir stated, that we must act immediately for our purposes because there is no other force that can move us. If the goals are limited only to dreams, they will never find a place for themselves in real life. If we wait for the New Year for our purposes and do not act, we will be disappointed again. We must not let our future, our worries, our addiction to procrastination get in the way of our goals. According to the legend, the great Greek philosopher Socrates wanted to learn about an unfamiliar instrument that he saw in his student's hand just before his execution. When they asked him why he was going to die anyway and why he learned this, he replied: I am learning to be able to play this instrument before I die. Our motivation for Life should also be similar to that of Socrates. We have a life handed over to us and we must try to live this life in the best possible way because the meaning of life is to create meanings and purposes for ourselves. Well, after all that talk, you might think, then, shouldn't we have goals for New Year's?

One detail should not be missed; the New Year has a positive motivational effect on all of us for new decisions. But we must not only keep this motivation in our dreams but put it into action. We are lucky that we are at the beginning of the New Year. This means that we can take action to achieve our goals in this New Year. Let's get to work!

Ismayil AKHUNDZADA

Class:210

Biodata

Songül KONUR was born in 2003 in Gaziantep. She graduated from 8 Şubat Anatolian High School in 2021. Then she took the university entrance exam. She was accepted English Language Teaching Department at Çukurova University in 2021. She continues her education in Çukurova University.

NOT AS ANYBODY BUT AS A HUMAN

Like other people, we all have expectations from the New Year. However, our New Year expectation is not being a teacher, a student, a child, a mother, or a father but a human. Because we are all have wished not individual wishes but universal wishes over the last year. So, why do people who think only of themselves suddenly start making universal wishes?

First of all, this reason is that humanity has gone through the same things in recent years. For instance, a popular example is the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this disease affects most people in a negative way. Because of the pandemic, a high number of companies have bankrupted, many people have been unemployed. Furthermore, most of the students have got online education. Another example is that the world has experienced many terrific forest fires. The majority of animals died due to forest fires. Moreover, these forest fires have destroyed people's homes and villages. Also, because of global warming the polar ice melt. To sum up, the world has experienced a great number of bad things. Maybe, we all have experienced certain terrible things. But I believe as a human we should believe in ourselves because the negative events which affect our life negatively teach us a new challenge and we never give up.

As I said earlier, we have expectations from the New Year as a human since humanity has had hard events not only as a student, a parent, a doctor, or a teacher but we all have gone through horrible things together. If we put all our roles aside and overcome these challenges together as human beings, our world can be better than it is today. As Elbert Hubbard said "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade". Actually, this quotation explains our situation right now. I hope we will turn the lemons given to us into a lemons garden.

Songül KONUR

Biodata

I am **Veli Arda BAKI**. I am 18 and I am from Mersin. I am living in Adana right now for my university but my family lives in Mersin. I studied in Mersin until I started studying at a university in Adana. Firstly, I studied at Faris Kokulu Primary School then at Muhittin Develi Middle School, and after that, I studied in Hacı Zarife High School between 2017 and 2021. Now, I am studying at Çukurova University in the School of Foreign Languages to learn English. My department is Mechanical Engineering. I like playing the guitar, playing video games, cycling, watching series, and following space news.

THE BIGGEST DAY IN 2022 – HERE WE GO!

Human beings always improve themselves. Especially after the reform of industrialization, improvement became faster and people wanted to learn about space. Then, we launched ‘The Hubble Space Telescope’. It was the first telescope to take space photographs. Human beings saw the other galaxies, stars, planets, etc. That was a huge step for us. In time, we wanted to learn more things about space and so many scientists get together, and they made another telescope’s plan. It is called the “James WEBB Telescope”. James WEBB Telescope which is 100 times more powerful than the Hubble telescope will let us see things we have never seen before. It will observe the earliest times when the universe was born billions of years ago. Scientists planned the launch in 2007, but it was delayed so many times. Finally, on 25th December 2021, it was launched from Kourou Space Base in South America. It is still traveling in space and trying to reach its orbit. If everything goes well, it will start to send the first images to us about 6 months after launch. They don’t have the luxury to make mistakes during any stage. This is an extremely important event and engineering achievement, but the most important thing is that it is a huge scientific breakthrough. Since the Big Bang, the cosmological arrow of time has been moving forward about 14 billion years. This telescope, James WEBB Telescope, like a time machine, will provide us to see the first moments of that arrow so the first 100 million years of the universe. We will see the first times of the universe. For thousands of years, people have been looking at the sky without any equipment because they could see up to just 5000 stars. With a telescope like Hubble, we have discovered thousands of galaxies. All these hundreds of thousands of galaxies we have discovered, our galaxy, our solar system, our planet, and all human beings consist of nearly 5% of the universe. We have no idea about almost 95% of the universe. This unknown part is everywhere. We don’t even know what it is. We just gave some names for that unknown thing like dark matter or dark energy. Looking at the beginning of this universe can give us information about the darkness, so we didn’t launch just a telescope. We launched an eye to space. In fact, this eye will show us our past and who we are, and that day will be in history books, and it soon will be in July 2022. Everything that we know about the universe will change that day!

Veli Arda BAKI
EC-107

Biodata



I am **Emine**. I have just joined the family of the school of foreign languages in Çukurova University while saying goodbye to 2021. I feel so happy and blissed to be here.

A Happy Memory Jar

Japanese have recently started a new trend to enliven their lives which can be quite stressful sometimes. People are creating *happiness jars* to collect memories worth saving on 1st January and write down all the good things that happen to them on a piece of paper. Then, they open it on 31st December and read all the amazing things that have happened throughout the year.

While welcoming the year 2022 with love, hope and joy; I suggest everyone to buy a jar and be in pursuit of happy memories. I wish this year to be filled with so many colorful moments, accomplished goals, blessings, encouragement, and gratitude.

Best,

Emine DEMIR

EFL Instructor

School of Foreign Languages / Çukurova University



Biodata

I am **Bulut SAGLAM**. I was born in Adana in 2002. I studied at Final College for elementary school and then I graduated from Başkent College. Before I started my university education, I had a gap year. Now, I am a Mechanical Engineering student. In my leisure time, I read books, watch documentaries, and travel somewhere. I am interested in reading history, sociology, and philosophy. I have been reading these subjects and writing about various topics since I was 15.

Have you ever thought about running out of food in 2022?

In the following years, people will suffer from different kinds of shortages because nowadays, people do not care about environmental problems. If we care about our future and our children, we should pay attention to this subject. So, how can we do this? Let's talk about cautions. First of all, we can use cars without gasoline and we should convert all energy sources into renewable energy sources. Secondly, we shouldn't buy a lot of clothes and we should avoid unnecessary shopping because for all unnecessary things that we buy, too much energy is wasted. Finally, we should consume less water because water is everything for our lives. If we want to celebrate the New Year in a happier way, in the future, we have to pay attention to environmental problems.

Bulut SAGLAM

Ec/107

Biodata

Alper GUR is a student in the school of foreign languages in Çukurova University. He is an English Language Teaching student. He is 19. He is from Adana. His interests include swimming, archery, playing the guitar, singing, and learning new languages.

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Social Media in Today's World

Communication has played a really important role in our lives from ancient times until our contemporary World. People have used different ways of communication. They used smoke, signals, messenger birds, letters and postcards. But later something unusual happened; the first telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. With this invention, our ways of communication have changed a lot. At first, Rotary dials phones were popular, then dial tone phones became popular, and then a big step on communication Technologies, the mobile phones entered our lives instantly and left really deep effects on all of us. Today we are using smartphones which are indispensable for most of us. What was the reason for all of these inventions?

The answer to this question should be unique; the desire to connect to others in your country or abroad. Previously used methods changed by new ones.

Messenger birds Messenger Apps (Telegram, WhatsApp, etc.)

Letters E-mails

Postcard SMS (For New Year celebrations, birthdays, and other special events)

It may be very interesting and surprising to share the social media and internet usage rates in Today's world. Although the statistics are in progress day by day, here are the most updated results:

Active Social Media Users	: 3.5 billion
Social Media Accounts	: 7.6 billion
Facebook Users	: 2.3 billion
Youtube Users	: 1.9 billion
WhatsApp Users	: 1.6 billion
Instagram Users	: 1 billion

We can have a closer look at the statistics about social networking sites around the World.

The average time spent on social media is 140 minutes a day. On the other hand, sixty million messages are sent a day. There are nearly 100 billion searches on Google every month. Interestingly, 300-hour duration videos are being uploaded to YouTube every minute. More interestingly, there are 4.2 million likes on Instagram per day.

In this progressing internet era, we will witness the process of SOCIAL MEDIA altogether.

New ways of communication are waiting for us.

Alper GUR

Biodata

My name is **Muhammed Emir KILIC**. I was born in 2002 in Adana. I am an intermediate English learner. I am in the preparatory class of the computer engineering department at Çukurova University.

There Is No Best

The most important thing that I learned in 2021 was the solution to my biggest problems. I was someone who couldn't watch a movie or read a book with enthusiasm. There was a problem with immersing myself in my hobbies. Because I was only thinking about whether I was getting the best experience or not. I was focusing on the technical details and trying to find the best way in order to do everything. For example, I used to change our television's screen settings and also do a long IMDB research for each movie or tv series. If something wasn't the best, then it was the worst and just a waste of time.

One day everything has changed suddenly in 2021. I couldn't find the best quality version of an old tv series. I started it with great dissatisfaction. But after a while, I got used to the image quality. Then, I realized that I was fascinated by the tv series without any kind of technical qualification. Later, I started to watch movies and tv series with low rates on IMDB. That was like a revolution in my head. All of these originated a new philosophy. And continued with affecting my perspective on lots of things.

As we are finishing this year I am gathering all of my ideas about what is the best. First of all, there is nothing as the best. There are only differences. Nothing is better than nothing. There is not only black and white. There are other colors and beyond this, there are shapes. We live in a 3D universe but we live like it is 1D. We are trying to reduce the reality to words. We can't interact well with anything in this way.

We have to ignore all vehicles. We have to focus on the core. We should just see and hear. Then, we can feel and understand things. But it is hard to stop getting influenced by others and us. Opinions are all around. I hope 2022 will be the year that these opinions won't be able to block the interaction between us and our hobbies.

Muhammed Emir KILIC

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Computer Engineering

Preparatory Class

Biodata



Tolunay EKIZ graduated from Foreign Language Education Department at Middle East Technical University and completed her MA degree in ELT department at Çukurova University. She has been working as an EFL instructor at School of Foreign Languages, Çukurova University since 1999. Her special interests are learning and teaching about Turkish culture in English, improving language skills through reflection and mindfulness, and increasing learner agency to maximize learning potential.

The Story Behind a Recipe

What was behind the door? She approached with curiosity. Where was she? She didn't know. How did she come here? She didn't know. Who had built this huge wooden door here? She didn't know. She just wanted to open it and get rid of this feeling mixed with fear. She touched the doorknob and gripped it tightly. Upon twisting it, the door was suddenly wide open. When she looked inside, under some dim light, she noticed an old woman with white long hair cooking something in a big pot over the fire. Should she talk to her? There was one way to learn. 'Hello,' she said in a soft voice. The old lady kept stirring the meal but turned her head towards her. 'Hello, darling. I've been waiting for you,' said the old woman with a smiling face. She was more comfortable but more curious now. How come this woman knew she was coming? She moved towards her and looked inside the pot. It looked like soup. 'Here, sit down and have some. It's ready now,' said the woman while pouring some soup into a big bowl. She sat slowly and took the hot bowl from her hand. Before she opened her mouth, the old lady gave her a big wooden spoon. She tasted it. It was gorgeous. She had never eaten such delicious soup before. 'It's so delicious,' she said, 'What soup is it?' The old lady was seated now and seemed to get ready to tell a story. Soon, she began to tell.

'The soup is called after my name: Ezo. When you hear my story, you'll get the taste of life itself in this soup. I was a very young and beautiful girl born in a village of Gaziantep in Turkey. Everybody wanted to marry me. But I could choose only one person to marry and I married one of them. He was a good man; however, soon there were rumors among the villagers. I didn't care at first, but evil eyes were everywhere. It didn't take long before we got a divorce. For six years, I refused to remarry, but one day, a matchmaker came to our house, and then my parents told me to pack my clothes. My new husband was waiting for me in a village on the border of Syria. I got to my new home after a tiring and long journey and had a happy marriage. My husband was older than me but he was very kind. Yet we were very poor and found hardly anything to eat. One winter, my husband fell very ill. I wanted to prepare the meal for him, but there wasn't much to cook. I just found a handful of bulgur, some rice, some lentils, and dried tomatoes. I put all of them in a pot with water and made this soup. He ate every drop of it and thanked me for being in his life. He passed away, but I kept making this soup to remember my dear husband and our days of poverty away from my homeland.'

She was listening so carefully that she didn't realize her bowl was empty. She had finished every drop of it! Then she looked at her face more carefully. Yes, she had wrinkles and her hair was grey and white, but she was still very beautiful. She felt so happy. She was happy her curiosity led her here. She was happy she opened the door bravely. She was happy she talked to this old lady. Suddenly she stood up because she felt that it was time to go. She thanked for the soup and the story. The woman stood up, too, and then gave her a piece of paper. It was

the recipe for the soup. She hugged the woman and went back to the door. She closed the door slowly behind her and looked at the recipe. Soon she opened her eyes and saw the furniture in her bedroom. It was just a dream... But why? She kept thinking why. That was it! That was the inspiration for her new cook book! She was going to learn the stories behind local dishes and include both the stories and the recipes in the book! She got up with great enthusiasm. This recipe book was going to be her own way of thanking the old woman, Ezo, and spreading her story. She wanted other people to read her book and try the recipes while remembering where they originated from. She wanted the readers to know that recipes have stories behind them. That was her ambition.

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