

Newsletter

Foreign Language Tutors

July 2023

SUMMER TUTORING

Spanish & Computer Science

Students who are looking to get a head start for the upcoming school year may consider private tutoring an option. Our rates are the same year-round.

Spanish Tutoring is available starting at 2 years of age. Classes for all levels.

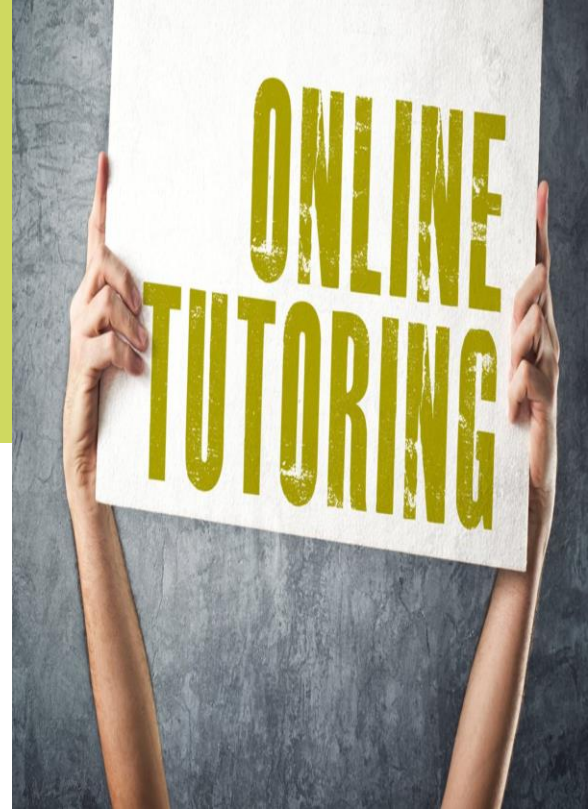
- Spanish as a Second Language
- STAMP exam preparation
- Translation Services
- School help
- Conversation only

Computer Science tutoring for specialized topics:

- SQL (Structured Query Language)
- Data Modeling
- Coding
- Data Management
- Data Science
- Security
- Introduction to cloud services
- Job Interview preparation

"Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions."

~ Unknown



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Students' Corner

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our SSL student Isabella Smejtek! Isabella recently passed the STAMP test. Isabella worked hard to prepare for the exam. We're thrilled her hard work paid off. Great work Isabella!

Some of our students have been contacted privately recommending them to take the STAMP test this summer. If you were one of the students contacted, this means we consider you are ready for the exam, go for it!

For more information on the Avant STAMP test, go to:

<https://avantassessment.com/test-overview>

STAMP Test

Avant STAMP is used to measure real-world language proficiency and earn credentials like Seals of Biliteracy. Its purpose is to improve language-learning outcomes, support excellence in language programs, and enable language credentialing.

Avant STAMP 4S is recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE). Universities across the U.S. are recognizing Avant STAMP and creating pathways to higher education for language learners everywhere.

Avant STAMP proficiency tests are aligned to internationally recognized proficiency standards.



5 Ways To Improve Your Spanish

01 Use It

The most important thing you can do is use Spanish wherever you can, not just in a classroom setting. One thing you can do is to look for opportunities for volunteer work with Spanish speakers.

02 Immerse Yourself

Eat at a Spanish restaurant, most waiters speak Spanish. Order in Spanish, talk to the waiters in Spanish. Watch movies in Spanish. Join Spanish groups in Social media. If you have the time and money, travel to Spanish speaking countries.

03 Think in Spanish

Place sticky notes throughout your home with the names of the objects in Spanish. For example, place a sticky note with the word "Silla" on a chair (or all chairs). Anything that keeps reminding you of the vocabulary without translating in your head will help.

04 Get Entertained

Watch movies in Spanish. Listen to music in Spanish. Listen to podcasts in Spanish. Listening to the language you are trying to learn is very important. Consider a person who is born deaf. People who are born deaf can't speak. There is nothing wrong with their vocal cords, however they are not able to imitate the sounds because they have never heard them. If you never listen to anything in Spanish, you will have a much harder time speaking it. Listen, listen, listen.

05 Read books in Spanish

Reading has so many benefits – recent studies are pointing to an increased life span for those who read one to two hours a day several days a week. This is because reading reduces stress. When we read, our mind travels and leaves behind the everyday worries, even if it's for one hour or two. Stress-free periods strengthen our immune system, and much more. Go to your local library and find a book that appeals you, in Spanish of course!

Conversation nights

Conversation nights will be back in the fall. If you are interested in joining a conversation night, please let me know. These nights are a great way to meet other students who are also passionate about learning a second language. For some of them, Spanish is their third language already! Conversation nights are always free of charge for enrolled students.



SSL Resources

Free online resources

Videos

<https://aprenderespanol.org/videos/espanol.html>

Songs and Stories

<https://aprenderespanol.org/canciones-cuentos>

Audio Books

<https://www.ellibrototal.com/ltotal/>

Book of the month

The book of the month is by Laura Esquivel. Available in hard copy and audio book. There is also a movie with the same name and is based on the book. The book, the audio book and the movie are very good. The story's cultural and vocabulary contents are very rich.

"Como agua para chocolate" may not be appropriate for children under 13 years of age. Please review the parental guide in the link below.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103994/parentalguide>

NOTE: Because of the book's cultural and vocabulary richness, I consider this book advanced and quite a difficult read for non-Spanish speakers. However, don't let that intimidate you. Accept the challenge: Get the movie and the book. Watch the movie with a friend. Then start reading the book. We'll review all your questions in class.

This is one of the books I recommend for students who are preparing for the STAMP exam.

Computer Science Corner

What is computer Science? At its core computer science is about learning how computers and programs work. As well as information about computers, computer science is also a whole new way of thinking. Computer scientists think in algorithms. These are series of steps that a programmer tells the computer to follow in order to solve a problem. These problems can be as simple as sorting a list of numbers from smallest to largest to as complicated as finding the best way to send encoded messages that can be understood by the receiver.

For students starting college in the Fall with a major in Computer Science, getting a head start in SQL and Database Modeling is strongly recommended. We tutor all levels, from beginner to post-graduate.

Is the world of Tech for me?

If you have a child who is curious about the world of technology, but is unsure about pursuing it as a career, we can answer all their questions and help them make an informed decision.

One FAQ is:

Is Computer Science a very hard major?

The short answer is “yes”. Computer Science tops the list as one of the most challenging disciplines to learn. It requires strong analytical skills and a whole new way of thinking. However all these skill can be acquired, one does not have to be born with them.

Announcements

Fall 2023 Rates

Our hourly rates will have a modest increase of \$2.00 effective September 1st, 2023. Please contact us if this is a hardship.

Please note that this rate increase does not apply to our newest students, those who have been with us 6 months or less.

Referrals

Thank you very much for your referrals. Remember that you get one hour of free instruction for each student referred to us. Offer is effective after the referred student has completed one month of instruction.

Happy Summer

Have a wonderful summer, be safe and enjoy.

Students who are taking the summer off, please remember your summer reading. See you in the fall.