



# GLC Newsletter

APRIL 2020

## Kudos Wall

Kudos to the following employees who have received positive feedback from their section GTM and/or their students this month for outstanding work. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Paul Scotto di Pompeo, French ★

"I would like to take a moment to let you know how thankful I am to Mr. Paul Scotto di Pompeo for his assistance with technical assistance for a situational telework. Mr. Scotto di Pompeo really came through, proving what it means to be a "team player."

Lucian Rosca, Romanian and Diana Griciuc, Romanian ★

"Thank you to the Romanian team who has made this such a seamless transition! It really does not feel like we are sacrificing too much and are moving along at the normal pace. Hats off to Diana, who is with us every day, but also to Lucian who I am sure has provided background support."

Theresa Haddad, Arabic ★

"Theresa, who really is a thoughtful, dedicated, and gifted teacher. I noticed definite improvement while I was in her class. I feel I can speak with some authority as I myself am a former teacher of English for non-native speakers."

Essam Salem, Arabic ★

"Essam does a really good job of identifying where we need help and then providing it, or at least the resources we need. I still rate Essam as the best instructor I have had so far, and am really happy with how well he has adapted to our electronic classroom."

Sandro Puatti, Italian ★

"I've been in classes with Sandro this past week and he has been great. I really appreciate the enormous effort this has taken. Thanks so much to you all!"



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## Amy's Remote Challenges

As GLC has converted to 100% remote work while we try to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we created a weekly virtual challenge to help us stay connected. Every week we will select a topic and encourage your participation.

We would love for you to share your insights and experiences as you have switched to working from home and occasionally we will have rewards for participating! We have already seen some of your great ideas and look forward to more. Please send responses and suggestions for challenges to [amurphy@glccenter.com](mailto:amurphy@glccenter.com).



## VIRTUAL LUNCH



As some of you might know every month I take a group of employee to lunch. It's a great opportunity for me to get to know each and everyone of you, listen to your thoughts and ideas or simply a time to disconnect from the day to day and enjoy each other's company. Due to the circumstances I have decided to continue having these lunches with you via video conference. Since I can't buy you lunch you'll receive a \$15 gift certificate from UberEats! The goal is to meet with every single one of you and I won't stop now. So look out for an email from me and thank you to those whom I have already had lunch with me and hopefully we can pick up the in-person lunches in the near future.

*Leticia Larancuent, VP*





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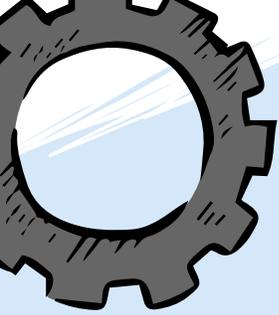
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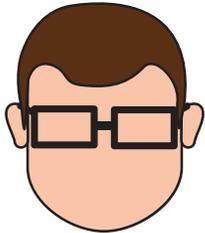
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## On Cultural Learning

### Cultural Tools for Language Teaching and Learning



As you might recall, in our previous edition we looked into two different types of cultural knowledge: country-neutral and country-specific.

Country-neutral cultural knowledge is about cultural universals and categorizations (like the Lewis Model, for example). It describes basic cultural differences (values, beliefs, attitudes, etc.), which is helpful in understanding a larger picture and ... yourself, your own cultural preferences.

Country-specific cultural knowledge is more tangible and explicit – it's about particular regions and countries. It might appear stereotypical, as all categorizations do, and should be used as a generalization and as a first guess.

In this issue, I would like to offer you access to applications that provide both types of cultural knowledge: [cultureactive.com](http://cultureactive.com) and [online.culturgrams.com](http://online.culturgrams.com),

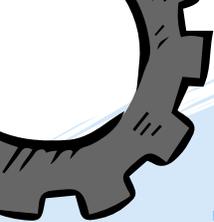
While CultureGrams has been used by GLC over two years, Cultureactive is most likely new to most, even though it's been used widely around the world for more than two decades. Both applications are valuable and bring a different angle into cultural learning. Hopefully, you will find it useful.



[CultureActive.com](http://CultureActive.com)

Explore your personal cultural preferences, learn about others... all in one.

CultureActive.com is a unique web-based learning resource consisting of a self-assessment tool and a database of National Cultural Profiles (NCP). The self-assessment tool examines one's cultural preferences in the work environment and suggests effective ways to work with others benefitting from commonalities and differences in values and beliefs, communication styles and interaction patterns. It helps distinguish between appearance and reality. The database provides an opportunity to learn about various cultures and to compare one's cultural style with NCPs of a country/region of interest. It contains culture quizzes and action tests which are designed to check your knowledge of cultural differences as well as your ability to apply it.



## NCP Structure:

**Culture:** Religion, Cultural classification, Languages, Values and core beliefs, Cultural black holes, Concept of space, Concept of time, Self-image.

**Cultural Communication Patterns,** Body language, Listening habits, Audience expectations.

**Cultural Interaction:** Concept of status, Gender issues, Leadership style, Language of management, Motivation factors, General behavior at meetings, Negotiating characteristics, Contracts and commitments, Manners and taboos, How to empathize with them.

**Cultural Quiz:** Tests your knowledge of over 80 cultures.

Action Tests: 15 business or socio-business situations requiring your analysis and decision based on the information contained in the NCP.

**Go to [cultureactive.com](http://cultureactive.com) to start your free trial.**

CultureGrams

Broaden Your Understanding of the World and its Peoples

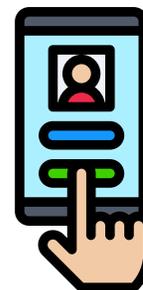
Below please find the informational video and the access information to “the world at your fingertips” – CultureGrams. This resource is available to all GLC employees as a tool for professional development and for use in language training:

**Video about CultureGrams - <http://www.screencast.com/t/bgWlE9a1lrap>**

**<http://online.culturegrams.com>**

**Username: T191072**

**Password: MO261F72C8**



CultureGrams features an easy point-and-click interface that lets users browse the world via an interactive map by region or browse an alphabetical listing to access country information. Each report features a home page that links together all available information about that country. Quick access menus link directly to 25 key topic categories and multimedia content—infographics, graphs and tables, time and distance calculators, and video and photo galleries. Generate citations on the fly, play Text-to-Speech audio on demand, or link text to Google Drive or Classroom with the click of a mouse.



CultureGrams offers 4 separate editions in one engaging interface that can be accessed anywhere, anytime.

- World Edition contains primary-source reports on 209 countries and territories—including every United Nations member state—focusing on 25 cultural categories, including language, personal appearance, greetings, visiting, family, life cycle, and more.
- States and Provinces Editions feature colorful, easy-to-read reports that describe the diversity and history of each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, and all 13 provinces of Canada. Each report includes maps, flags, and symbols, as well as sections on history, economy, geography, population, indigenous peoples, and recipes.
- Kids Edition teaches upper-elementary- and middle school-age children more about the world around them. Each report contains images, historical timelines, and fun facts, along with sections on history, population, “life as a kid,” games and sports, education, and more.

Exclusive features include video clips and slideshows, a worldwide photo gallery, interviews adults and children, and a unique recipe collection with five local recipes for each country. Plus, infographics, create-your-own data tables, and charts help put dozens of facts into perspective.

Best regards,  
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## Ways to Improve Your Work-Life Balance

Managing all of life's demands is a struggle, so when opportunities are provided to help improve our work-life balance, most of us embrace them. Here are some tips designed to help you strike a better work-life balance:

1. **Learn something new:** Doing this will enhance your skill set or maybe ignite new creative thought. Whether that is reading a book or downloading an app that will help you be more efficient at something, broaden your horizon and go explore.
2. **Give back to your community:** There's nothing quite like that feeling when you volunteer somewhere and give selflessly to others. Maybe organize a online group to help at a local food shelter or you simply write a check to an organization doing work that you are passionate about. Remember, those that give get.
3. **Make time for you:** Running on empty won't benefit anyone around you, including yourself. Be sure to regularly set time aside to recharge your battery. Maybe that is taking an online yoga class or going for a walk during lunch. Set time aside on your calendar to make sure it happens.
4. **Telework:** Take advantage of your time teleworking, the ability to work from home affords employees an opportunity to better manage the demands of work and family obligations in a flexible manner.
5. **Update your workspace:** A happier workspace means happier employees, which means an better bottom line. If you don't have a permanent workspace, think about where you physically sit to work and what type of environment is going to allow you thrive that day.





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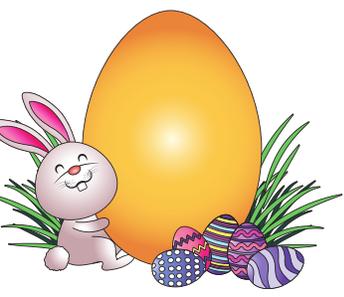
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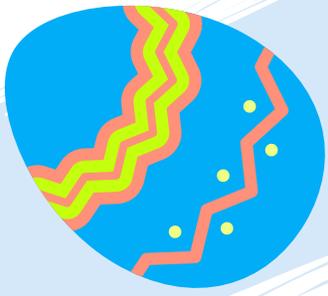


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6. **Be considerate of others:** Many people are new to teleworking, be patient as some of your colleagues are getting the groove of this new way of working. Offer to help because team work makes the dream work!
  
7. **Don't take yourself too seriously:** Sometimes this is a tough one to tackle, especially when you are overworked. That's exactly why you sometimes need to either laugh at yourself or flash those pearly whites and crack a joke now and then. Everyone benefits when the tension is brought down a notch, even for just a minute.
  
8. **Set realistic goals:** Setting expectations of what's possible can be challenging. Assess your situation and be sure to keep the lines of communication open with your program manager to avoid any unwanted surprises or unnecessary stress. Learn to prioritize and delegate, it will help your cause to stay sane.
  
9. **Give helpful feedback:** It takes time to provide thoughtful feedback. Help those around you grow and learn from your experience by making the time to give practical, concrete feedback. Who knows, maybe your actions will come full circle and you'll be the one on the receiving end.
  
10. **Don't pass the buck:** Taking ownership for things that sometimes aren't a result of your actions. Be that person willing to listen and apologize. This is your opportunity to turn a negative situation into a positive one. What better way to develop a loyal relationship with someone than by identifying a solution and making it happen.





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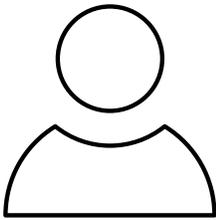
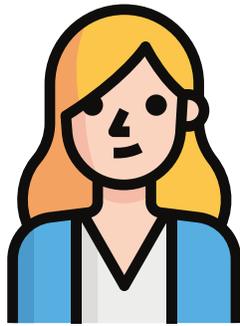
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## AMY'S REFERRAL BONUS

# \$275



Global Language Center is accepting candidates and referrals for language instructors, curriculum developers and testers. If a candidate is selected, both the person making the referral and the person being referred **will each receive \$275.00**. Candidates should send their resumes to Amy Murphy at **[amurphy@gltcenter.com](mailto:amurphy@gltcenter.com)**

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