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I Hope You Are Keeping Safe and Well

詹森 (Jason), 英籍外教, 2013 年 9 月起到我校工作, 从事公共英语课教学。

Hello, everybody. I hope you're keeping safe and well at this difficult time. I'm at home here in Lanzhou with my family, with my wife and daughter. We have been here for the whole holiday. We haven't left Lanzhou. This is my home. Um, so, like you, I'm just waiting and hoping that we can get back to normal, get back to university life as soon as possible.

Um, I just want to say a few words about how you can fill your time, perhaps a bit more constructively at home. First of all, I want to say I hope you are keeping safe and well and following all the guidelines that the government has provided to make sure that you are at minimum risk. For ourselves, we have taken the opportunity to give our flat a very good clean and we also have to make sure our daughter is happy and occupied. She has a homework to do but also we read to her and we play games with her. And this is helping to fill our time. Now, as English students, obviously, this is a challenging time for you. Especially, if you're living in a place where nobody else speaks English, it's difficult to find people to practice your speaking with. But you can do things to help improve your English. It's a good opportunity to improve your vocabulary. You can set yourself a target for learning new words everyday, and you can perhaps make little labels for these new words. And if you are naming objects, you can stick the label on your object in the flat, and you can practice saying the English word every time. You need to say the word rather the Chinese word. If you are living with other people who are not learning English, maybe you can encourage them to join in and play the game too.

Secondly, this is a good opportunity to catch up on watching TV shows and movies. You've got access to the internet and sites, like YouKu. And there are some good shows and good movies you can see on these sites. I don't watch that many movies that there are some which I really enjoy. There's a particular movie which I recommended to my students last semester. It's called *The Sixth Sense*, *The Sixth Sense*. Six is s-i-x-t-h and sense is s-e-n-s-e. *The Sixth Sense*, it's a kind of ghost story, but it's a very clever movie. And students are recommended it to watch it and they really enjoyed it and they told me afterwards that term. They thought it was a really

good film. Um, that's it.

And finally, of course, you've got your WeChat, and you can talk to your friends. It's very difficult having like a spontaneous conversation with friends on WeChat. So I think you have to set yourself a particular task, something constructive, maybe a game or a role play, which you can play, which will give you something positive to actually try to achieve when you're speaking with your friends in English on WeChat.

So that's it. I just want to give you this quick message and to give you my best wishes and the hope that you are safe and well. And I look forward to seeing you back at the university hopefully before too long. Ok, bye bye.

(外国语学院研究生周梦茹转写)

(2)

You Are Not Alone

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Hi, everyone. The beginning of the 2020 turned out to be quite harsh for many places around the world, but the news about Wuhan has struck each and every family on the planet. I got the messages from my friends in Brazil, Canada and Australia, along with expressing their concerns about the scale of the disease, they are all amazed at the timely and well-organized measures implemented by the Chinese government to help infected people and protect others. The thing you may not have realized is that the whole world is looking up to China, admiring its resources, learning from China how to remain strong, powerful and decisive under such challenging conditions.

The implementation of online learning is now your personal challenge to test if you are determined enough to pursue your roles and not give up. Be sure that you are not alone and all the teachers in Lanzhou University will provide you with all the necessary assistance and support.

Now, let me give you some tips about the organization of the online self-studying process. First and foremost, please recycle the things you've learned and listened to. For example, if you read an English story, you should try to retell it right away. At times it might be difficult to do it at first. So if it is difficult for you, you can write down the key words and use them to retell the story. Next, it's hard to overestimate the value of listening to the authentic English resources. You are required to listen and repeat, trying to sound as much as possible like it sounds in the audio. This activity will help your pronunciation. Besides, you may also want to record yourself and listen

to how you say the things. Last but not the least, you are required to keep the record of the new vocabulary you've learned on the paper and rewrite it as often as you can. Please pay attention to and don't forget to write down the forms of the new words for it will reduce the possibility of saying such mistake like "I study physical." "physical" is adjective (adj.), but here you need a noun to make sentence correct. You need to say "I study physics." "Physics" is a noun, not "physical". What's more, you should also write down the phrases that are new and useful to you and you may try translating from Chinese to English to help yourself remember the phrases.

I hope this information will be helpful. Please stay focused and let us know if you have any other questions.

Thank you, I wish you and your families to remain optimistic and healthy.

With love

Yours,

Irene

(外国语学院研究生王紫薇转写)

(3)

Stay Strong and We will Continue Our English Learning Adventure

米兰·马尔科维奇 (Milan Markovic), 塞尔维亚籍外教, 2019年8月起到我校工作, 从事大学英语听说课教学。

Okay! First of all, I want to say Hello. Happy new year to everyone, all of you, my students. I'm really sorry this is the only way we can communicate at the beginning of this spring semester. Unfortunately, this is all we can do at this point. You know. Why? That is the case.

I got this message from our school, our department, to record a short video about English learning. In a way, I thought that everything I insisted on in the previous term now has even more sense because, I was trying to remind you, so my point was that English learning is not about relying on others. So you have to find your own ways, how to study this subject, how to connect your interests with English. And at this point, actually, most of the people, they really cannot do much. They will spend most of their time at home. So there is something that no one can stop you from doing, either self-studying or something that I think is more, for a lot of people, actually more productive is to cooperate with others. Of course when you cannot go out anytime you want and interact with others. But what you could do is to use WeChat or other social media platforms and maybe even learn English by playing games or texting with others in English or sending messages or something we have done in the previous term. So I think, if you really want to continue studying English, you should consider some of these with how to continue progressing in English language at the same time and escape this terrible situation that a lot of people are in at this moment.

So, I really hope you will stay strong and all of this will end soon so we could

see each other really soon in the classroom, sit in the real classroom. So we can continue our English learning adventure. Okay, that's all. What I have to say to you is stay strong, take care, and hope to see you soon. Goodbye.

(外国语学院研究生尚福城转写)