



The Inside Word

[Article 1](#)
[Article 2](#)
[Article 3](#)
[Article 4](#)
[Fun Stuff](#)
[E-mail Us](#)
[Links](#)


From the President

As we work our way into the first anniversary of the ghastly events of September 11th, it is disturbing to read newspaper headlines attempting to shift responsibility for the terrorist attack towards our leadership. This media feeding frenzy serves absolutely no purpose other than to draw political battle lines at the expense of a nation that desperately needs unity in order to move forward. It seems odd that the very service that these daily journals purport to offer their public has been transformed into a farcical display of finger-pointing, in lieu of serious statistical probabilities and in-depth education about intelligence procedures. The citizens of this nation need to understand that this job is a monumental effort. One that must be carefully balanced between protecting our public and watching for technical details so that the press, special interest groups, and political parties are fully satisfied.

Columnists, reporters, and seasonal political opponents are dead wrong in their approach. Our leadership, our law enforcement, and our intelligence personnel have managed to protect our security and safety since the beginning of time, while at the same time avoiding pandemonium. Indeed, extreme caution must be exercised in order for all of us to get up in the morning and not be afraid to walk outside of our homes and go on with ordinary life. There have been many scary moments in our lifetime, and most certainly in

our parents and grandparents' lifetimes as well. But protective, surgical procedures were always present, and we managed to move forward with our every-day affairs almost in a natural way. If anything, our most dangerous and jeopardizing moments have been dealt from within. Hence, the logical conclusion here is that our Government was doing its job prior to the events, will continue to do so in perpetuity, and in spite of internal attacks on its integrity. Let us not confuse issues. No one on our side is to blame for the loss of life at the hands of terrorists, except the terrorists themselves. Don't send the wrong message to the families of the victims. And, above all, stop feeding ambulance-chasing attorneys for the sake of the whole nation. This is not a complacent statement. It is reality.

In the interim, let's re-focus our attention on the fact that the enemy is not just at the gates, it has gone well inside our territory. In fact, it is our obligation to the rest of the nation to be on the lookout for them. I neither blame nor fear our Commander in Chief, our law enforcement, and our intelligence. On the contrary, I could not ask for better company in these times of despair and uncertainty. I do, however, fear divisiveness, apathy, and confusion. It is a very dangerous precedent. One that will certainly fail to address the real issue: America is at war. And America is all of us, and a number of other nations that depend on us. If we continue to send a weak message, then we will appear weak. By contrast, if we hold together and determined, our enemies domestic and international will run into a wall. I'm laying bricks, are you not?

C. A. Scandiffio, President & CEO

A publication of ALC Inc. - All rights reserved 2001



From Maryland to the World

For questions or additional information, please contact:

ALC, Inc.
Human Resources Department
172 Rollins Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel (301) 881-8884
Fax (301) 881-6877
e-mail: humanresources@alcinc.com



The Inside Word

[Article 1](#)
[Article 2](#)
[Article 3](#)
[Article 4](#)
[Fun Stuff](#)
[E-mail Us](#)
[Links](#)


Language training has long been a subject of controversy in our industry, primarily because of cultural issues. Having researched and identified a viable solution to this situation, ALC now introduces a new division of its growing enterprise: ALC Language School. This division will offer a variety of Immersion and Isolation Immersion (Isomersion) programs (many of them specifically tailored to the Armed Forces). This approach affords students a new dimension in language training: foreign language cross-culturalization.

Specifically-tailored to suit most clients, these programs allow students to become completely immersed into foreign languages and cultures with particular emphasis on the everyday culture of the target language and location. ALC's Immersion and Isomersion programs are applied to in-country intensive language and cultural classes, with

particular emphasis on the specific curriculae that ALC prepares according to the location, circumstances and potential regional dialects. Although both programs are closely related, Isomersion programs are shorter in duration, far more intensive, and conducted in an accessible isolated environment.

This type of immersion training is created in non-indigenous environments. In essence, students and instructors are sequestered in an isolated environment that yields fewer distractions, while increasing retention and participation. Isomersion training incorporates more hours per week of classroom instruction than in-country, or immersion programs. Likewise, it adds a more in-depth, cultural dimension to the training curriculum. Student-teacher ratio for Isomersion programs is maintained at no more than ten to one. Both programs can be tailored to students (whether DLPT or ILR) at all levels of proficiency and ability. Because of its intensity, Isomersion programs have proven to be very effective for students with no background in the target language or culture. ALC's programs include traditional classroom instruction, practical applications, cultural excursions, and a myriad of lodging scenarios, designed to enhance the training program. In addition to language instruction, students embark on weekend field trips to various locations throughout the host nation. These trips generally include sites or areas of cultural and historical significance as well as recreation. Unlike ordinary language training, ALC's extensive experience and expertise overseas, particularly as it pertains to cross-culturalization training, also furnishes a variety of audiovisual aides such as: follow-up, refresher courses on VHS; and follow-up, refresher courses on multi-lingual DVD (up to eight language tracks).

ALC's Immersion and Isomersion curriculum for basic speakers focuses on rapid expansion of colloquial usage with professional and technical or career-related vocabulary. Classroom and field instruction places emphasis on task oriented learning and specific applications (such as mission-related applications, in the case of the Armed Forces.) Along these lines, students rehearse, act, and apply the language abilities that will be required for them to function effectively in their professional capacities. ALC's Immersion and Isomersion Programs have been designed to further language proficiency and develop a significantly greater understanding of a given region. The company's experience in languages and linguistics (translation, interpretation, language training, and cross-culturalization) in Southwest Asia, affords ALC an invaluable and unparalleled opportunity to offer more than just language training. It allows ALC to offer its clients the unparalleled advantage of first-hand knowledge, experience, and expertise in the target region, backed by an unparalleled record of performance.

A publication of ALC Inc. - All rights reserved 2001



From Maryland to the World

For questions or additional information, please contact:

ALC, Inc.
Human Resources Department
172 Rollins Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel (301) 881-8884
Fax (301) 881-6877
e-mail: humanresources@alcinc.com

May 2002



The Inside Word

[Article 1](#)
[Article 2](#)
[Article 3](#)
[Article 4](#)
[Fun Stuff](#)
[E-mail Us](#)
[Links](#)


Sign language anyone?

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complex visual-spatial language that is used by the Deaf community in the United States and English-speaking parts of Canada. It is a linguistically complete, natural language. It is the native language of many Deaf men and women, as well as some hearing children born into Deaf families.

ASL shares no grammatical similarities to English and should not be considered in any way to be a broken, mimed, or gestured form of English. In terms of syntax, for example, ASL has topic-comment syntax, while English uses Subject-Object-Verb. In fact, in terms of syntax, ASL shares more with spoken Japanese than it does with English. Some people have

described ASL and other sign languages as gestured languages. This is not absolutely correct because hand gestures are only one component of ASL. Facial features such as eyebrow motion and lip-mouth movements are also significant in ASL as they form a crucial part of the grammatical system. In addition, ASL makes use of the space surrounding the signer to describe places and persons that are not present.

Sign languages develop specific to their communities and are not universal. For example, ASL is totally different from British Sign Language even though both countries speak English. Many people consider it a shame that there isn't a universal sign language, however isn't it also a shame that there isn't a universal spoken language?

Interestingly, however, American Sign Language shares many vocabulary terms with Old French Sign Language (LSF) because a French Deaf man, Laurent Clerc, was one of the first teachers of the Deaf in the U.S. during the nineteenth century. So if you know ASL, you're better off vacationing in France than in England. But the French connection to America is rare; most sign languages develop independently and each country (and in some cases, each city) has its own sign language.

There is no "universal sign language" or real "international sign language." There is a sign form called Gestuno that was developed by a committee of the World Federation of the Deaf. It's not really a language, more a vocabulary of signs that they all agree to use at international meetings. In Europe, because of the increasing trade and mobility, there is a lingua franca being developed, a Creole sign language that some have taken to calling International Sign Language. But neither Gestuno nor the new European Creole is a true natural language from the linguistic perspective. Perhaps as a new generation of Deaf Euro-kids grows up, they will develop a new, natural Euro-sign language.

ASL has a very complex grammar. Unlike spoken languages where there is just one serial stream of phonemes, sign languages can have multiple things going on at the same time. This multiple segmentation makes it an exciting language for linguists to study and a frustrating language for Deaf-impaired (aka, hearing) people to learn. ASL has its own morphology (rules for the creation of words), phonetics (rules for hand shapes), and grammar that are very unlike those found in spoken languages. ASL and other sign languages promise to be a rich source of analysis for future linguists to come.

For more information, contact ALC Sign Language Department at (301) 881-8884.

A publication of ALC Inc. - All rights reserved 2001



From Maryland to the World

For questions or additional information, please contact:

ALC, Inc.
 Human Resources Department
 172 Rollins Avenue
 Rockville, MD 20852
 Tel (301) 881-8884
 Fax (301) 881-6877
 e-mail: humanresources@alcinc.com



The Inside Word

[Article 1](#)
[Article 2](#)
[Article 3](#)
[Article 4](#)
[Fun Stuff](#)
[E-mail Us](#)
[Links](#)


Japanese Extinction?

Japanese Health Minister Chikara Sakaguchi recently revealed that the Japanese people will become extinct unless the nation's birthrate stops shrinking. Mr. Sakaguchi warned his citizenry that the present population of 127 million could begin to fall by the year of 2007 unless couples begin to have more children. He told a news conference: "If we go on this way, the Japanese race will become extinct."

Amongst first-world countries, only Italy has an older population than Japan, and the lack of able-bodied workers concerns the Japanese government. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has warned the cabinet to encourage people to have children by providing better welfare services and making it easier for people to work while raising children. Figures issued in April show the number of children under 15 in Japan has fallen for 21 straight years; they now only account for 14.3 percent of the population.

A United Nations report issued in 2000 paints a gray picture for Japan's future. The nation will have to import around 600,000 workers annually until 2050 to keep its working population steady. If Japan follows the advice of this report, nearly one-third of the Japanese population will be of foreign descent. This is a frightening prospect for a nation that has so carefully guarded its culture from foreign influence. Even in the United States and Western Europe, where foreign labor is valued as cheap and hard working, there have been complications with newcomers filling up jobs formerly held by locals. One can imagine that a fiercely nationalistic country like Japan would certainly experience some uncomfortable growing pains with an influx of foreign labor. However, globalization is the way of the future and Japan is not likely to be left behind. The face of Japan will soon change unless Japanese couples start having more children, for there seems to be no other option available.

Japan has one of the highest life expectancies in the world, with men living an average of 74.1 years and women living 84 years. This could cause problems for Japanese social security, for at present four working people support one elderly person, while this will soon fall to two working people supporting each elderly person. Strains on the social system are certain to hit Japan, so it appears that along with a troubled economy the virile Japanese must now pay for the retired community, have more children, and pay for them to succeed as well. Looking at their history one can only assume that the Japanese are up to the task.

A publication of ALC Inc. - All rights reserved 2001



From Maryland to the World

For questions or additional information, please contact:

ALC, Inc.
 Human Resources Department
 172 Rollins Avenue
 Rockville, MD 20852
 Tel (301) 881-8884
 Fax (301) 881-6877
 e-mail: humanresources@alcinc.com



The Inside Word

[Article 1](#)
[Article 2](#)
[Article 3](#)
[Article 4](#)
[Fun Stuff](#)
[E-mail Us](#)
[Links](#)

Fun Stuff



A Letter To The IRS

Dear Sirs:

I am responding to your letter denying the deduction for two of the three dependents I claimed on my 2001 Federal Income Tax return. Thank you. I have questioned whether these are my children or not for years. They are evil and expensive. It's only fair that since they are minors and not my responsibility that the government (who, evidently, is now taxing me more to care for these waifs) knows something about them and what to expect over the next year. You may apply next year to reassign them to me and reinstate the deduction. This year they are yours!

The oldest, Kristen, is now 17. She is brilliant. Ask her! I suggest you put her to work in your office where she can answer peoples questions about their returns. While she has had no formal training, it has not seemed to hamper her knowledge of any other subject you can name. Taxes should be a breeze. Next year she is going to college. I think it's wonderful that you will now be responsible for that little expense. While you mull that over, keep in mind she has a truck. It doesn't run at the moment so you have the immediate decision of appropriating some Department of Defense funds to fix the vehicle or getting up early to drive her to school. Kristen also has a boyfriend. Oh joy. While she possesses all the wisdom of the universe, her alleged mother and I have felt it best to occasionally remind her of the virtues of abstinence, and in the face of overwhelming passion, safe sex. This is always uncomfortable and I'm quite relieved you will be handling it in the future. May I suggest you reinstate Joycelyn Elders who had a rather good handle on the problem.

Patrick is 14. I've had my suspicions about this one. His eyes are a little to close together for normal people. He may be a tax examiner himself someday if you don't incarcerate him first. In February I was rudely awakened at three in the morning by a police officer who was bringing Pat home. He and his friends were TP'ing houses. In the future would you like him delivered to the local IRS office or sent directly to Ogden, UT? Kids at 14 will do almost anything on a dare. His hair is purple. Permanent dye, temporary dye, what's the big deal? Learn to deal with it. You'll have plenty of time since he is sitting out a few days of school after instigating a food fight. I'll take care of filing your phone number with the vice principal. Oh yes, he, and all his friends, have raging hormones. This is the house of testosterone and it will be much more peaceful when he lives in your home. DO NOT leave any of them unsupervised with girls, explosives, inflammables, inflatables, vehicles or telephones. (I'm sure you'll find the telephones a source of unimaginable amusement, be sure to lock out the 900 and 976 numbers!)

Heather is an alien. She slid through a time warp and appeared quite by magic one year. I'm sure this one is yours. She is 10, going on 21. She came from a bad trip in the sixties. She wears tie-dyed clothes, beads, sandals and hair that looks like Tiny Tim's. Fortunately you will be raising my taxes to help you offset the pinch of her remedial reading courses. Hooked on Phonics is expensive so the schools dropped it. Good news! You can buy it yourself for half the amount of

May 2002

the deduction you are denying! It's quite obvious we were terrible parents (ask the other two) so they have "helped" raise this one to a new level of terror. She cannot speak English. Most people under twenty understand the curious patois she fashioned out of valley girl/boys in the hood/reggae/yuppie/political double speak. I don't. The school sends her to a speech pathologist who has her roll her R's. It added a refreshing Mexican/Irish touch to her voice. She wears hats backwards, pants baggy and wants one of her ears pierced four more times. There is a fascination with tattoos that worries me but I'm sure you can handle it. Bring a truck when you come to get her, she sort of "nests" in her room and I think it would be easier to move the entire thing than find out what it's really made of. You denied two of the three deductions so I guess it's only fair you get to pick which two you will take. I prefer you take the two youngest, I still go bankrupt with Kristen's college expense but then I'm free! If you take the two oldest at least I have time for counseling before Heather becomes a teenager. If you take the two girls I won't feel so bad about putting Patrick in a military academy. Please let me know of your decision as soon as possible as I have already increased the withholding on my W4 to cover the \$395 in additional tax and made a down payment on an airplane.

Yours Truly, Mr. "John Smith"

A publication of ALC Inc. - All rights reserved 2001



From Maryland to the World

For questions or additional information, please contact:

ALC, Inc.
Human Resources Department
172 Rollins Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel (301) 881-8884
Fax (301) 881-6877
e-mail: humanresources@alcinc.com