SHOP TALK # 65:
New Communication Scenarios for TISESL

Two new Communication Scenarios for Texas Industry Specific ESL (TISESL) are now available as part of the TISESL materials on Box.com. Although they are currently being pilot tested by a few programs, you may access them for program use. The scenarios were developed for Texas LEARNS by El Paso Community College and are work-based lessons dealing with issues in the work place. They are designed for use with low intermediate to advanced level English language learners. Four additional scenarios are expected to be complete by early spring.

The Cell Phone addresses appropriate use of the cell phone in the workplace. It consists of lesson materials, a power point presentation, a pronunciation supplement, and notes with website resources. Based on a workplace setting in which an employee and her supervisor discuss use of the cell phone, learners are introduced to related vocabulary and language usage. True and false, matching, dialogue, role play, and cloze exercises are included to reinforce language development and expand learners’ exposure to the language in a real life setting.

The Set Up depicts an office situation in which communication between supervisor and employees becomes critical. Misunderstanding leads to two employees experiencing considerable difficulty completing their work tasks. The scenario provides multiple opportunities for discussion of the problem and possible solutions. Materials include the lesson, notes to the teacher, and two vocabulary supplements. Learners are introduced to basic computer terminology in the course of instruction, and again multiple activities are included to reinforce language development.

How do adult education providers access these new Communication Scenarios? All state and federally funded adult education programs in Texas have access to the copyrighted Texas Industry Specific English as a Second Language (TISESL) materials. Partners working with local adult education programs need not apply for separate copyright licenses. The Texas Education Agency has also extended licenses to community colleges and local workforce development networks at no cost. Licenses can also be requested by non-profit organizations.

Programs that have already completed the required TISESL professional development may access the materials via their assigned password to Box.com, the cloud content management system being used to store state initiative training materials. Most recent versions of TISESL curriculum materials are stored on Box.com and replace all previous versions in hard copy and on flash drives. To request the required professional development for TISESL, including the Communication Scenarios, contact your regional GREAT Center by visiting the TCALL home page (tcall.tamu.edu), then clicking on GREAT Centers.