

SKINL Your link to lifelong learning

Overcoming Your Fear of Math

by Robert Smith - ICD



Many people think they are allergic to math when in fact their snag came from the way they were taught math. After Sputnik shocked America, a teen-aged friend said we had to take "nude math." Okay, new math - remember that? Educational leaders now admit that they supplied teachers no instruction in

how to teach new math. Is it any wonder that it was hard for us to learn when the teachers were expected to change their systems without any training? Even if you weren't affected by that particular fiasco, you may have disliked the way you were treated in math class.

Long before new math, I was called up to the chalk board to solve a problem that I had never encountered before. The girl that I adored was also at the board. As a second grader, this was as close to a date as I had ever been. Since I couldn't solve the strange problem, I decided to sneak a peek at my "girlfriend's" answer—which I then copied down. This was perhaps a bit obvious when only two of us were at the board. Since Marsha had never seen a problem like that either, she had simply made up an answer. My teacher was understanding, but it was still embarrassing.

Most of us had humiliating experiences in math class that still haunt us. But it doesn't mean we can't learn math. It means we should try another way. And that's where JobLink comes in to play. Even if math seems like a major roadblock, the Career Development Program can help you reach your goals. Recently an Ispat Inland steelworker's dream was within reach. The only thing that stood in his way was a math test that he had been having trouble passing. With JobLink's help, this person conquered math and has already set his sights on his next life goal. And if he can do it, we can do it.

Math is like a language: it gets rusty if you don't use it much. JobLink is constantly looking for other ways to help steelworkers brush up their math skills. Right now JobLink has been developing several new approaches—no, not nude approaches!

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Landscaping Certification Grows At JobLink

by Wayne Gruber - Instructor

As we all might suspect, there is more to landscaping than just buying plants at the local retailer and putting them in the ground. For a number of years, I have been teaching a variety of landscaping courses at Joblink with the purpose of helping students select plant material, design and maintain their landscapes. Sharing this information with steelworkers, as well as, strengthening basic skills has really been an exciting opportunity for me.

Actually, I am hoping to set students on a career path that they can pursue on a small scale while employees of Inland or to a larger extent once they are retired. Moreover, the classes will help students be successful with their

own personal landscapes. The landscaping curriculum begins with a two-day workshop, aimed at either spring/summer or fall/winter gardening issues. The second day of the workshop enables participants to actually address their own personal gardening issues.

Having completed the workshop, students can select from three different series of landscaping courses. Each series focuses on a different aspect of landscaping and design. At the same time, students are building an information base that makes them eligible to take the Indiana Accredited Horticulturist Certification Course which will be offered in 2003. These courses and certification are recognized as a stepping stone to the horti-



Wayne at work in his shop

cultural world. Many certified horticulturalists have their own landscaping businesses, or they work for garden or nature centers. Join the growing world of horticultural opportunities through the exciting educational programs offered at Joblink.



In cooperation with The School City of Hammond



ISPAT INLAND INC.

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Institute for Career Development



Local 1010

Editor's note: Due to the critical situation in the American steel industry, Diane Lentz and J. Larry Rodimel have given up their editorial space in order for Steve Wagner to run this commentary he wrote about the urgency of our actions in regards to the steel industry.

...Viewpoints...

Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative
And Recording Secretary



• What is happening with our Industry? Many co-workers, neighbors, and relatives have asked why our industry is failing miserably! The answer is relatively simple to understand but long to explain. I will do my best to describe our industry's problems based on the data that I have.

First, let me say that our problems are much bigger and go far beyond the steel industry—our government's **failed trade policies** are jeopardizing all of the American manufacturing jobs in the United States. You probably have heard the term "Free Trade Policy" by our Washington D.C. politicians. These so called Free Traders are allowing our manufacturing and now also beginning to let service jobs leave our country because of unfair competition.

The United Steelworkers of America along with many others have been trying to convince our politicians that America can successfully compete **on a level playing field** with any country in the world. All of our participation in letter writing, meetings with politicians and rallies has begun to make a difference. On June 5, 2001 the Bush Administration announced that it has requested an investigation of injury by the International Trade Commission. This Section 201 investigation is allowed under the Trade Act of 1974. This government action is the result in great part of unprecedented activism by steel-workers throughout this country who have written more than 600,000 letters to Washington urging action to cope with the steel crisis. This is only the beginning, but it is an extremely important start. All of us must continue our work to ensure a comprehensive solution to save the American steel industry.

If we are to keep our American steel industry we must:

- Eliminate inefficient excess capacity in the steel industry worldwide.
- Establish rules that govern world steel trade
- Eliminate the underlying market distorting subsidies that caused unfair trade

- Restructure the Domestic Steel Industry

The USWA is committed to continue working with the Bush Administration and other allies to ensure a comprehensive 201. But that alone will not address the threat of hundreds of thousands of retirees losing their health insurance or the industry's need for investment capital.

That is why H.R. 808 is an extremely important part of congressional legislation. H.R. 808 goes beyond the illegal dumping import issue. Introduced by U.S. Congressman, Peter Visclosky, 808 provides for a multitude of necessary remedies, which include the following:

- Restriction on imports back to pre-1998 Crisis levels
- Expansion of the domestic loan guarantee program to 10 billion dollars with 90% government guaranteed
- Establish a Taft-Hartley Trust Fund to insure health care coverage for retirees
- Manage Consolidation of the Domestic Steel Industry

Additionally, Senate Bill #957 has been introduced in the U.S. Senate that parallels the remedies sought in The House of Representatives' Bill #808. In the upcoming months, we will be asking everyone for help in pressuring these politicians to **DO THE RIGHT THING** and **SAVE AMERICAN JOBS** by providing a level playing field for

Moving on up!



Congratulations to...

J. Larry Rodimel who has been promoted to Director of Human Resources at Ispat Inland Inc.

Larry's role as the management representative to JobLink will be filled by Joe Medellin. We look forward to working with him and wish Larry the best .

***Links** is a student publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center*
***Student Staff:** Bill Corrigan, Robert Melendez, Joe Woessner and Tom Zmigrocki.*
***Editor:** Marcia Taylor*

JobLink Subcommittee:
Diane Lentz, Joe Medellin, Steve Wagner

My Story: JobLink Guest Columnist

by Robert Melendez,



Getting my GED opened a door to many opportunities for me. I may be going to college or even looking for a job elsewhere. Colleges require a high school diploma or a GED and now most companies go beyond that and require a year or two of college. In the early 70's I was hired without a diploma, now that just wouldn't happen.

I got too comfortable without my GED, but being too comfortable caught up with me. A lot of jobs I wanted to bid on required testing, which I knew I wouldn't pass. I also thought about doing something else in life besides working in a steel mill the rest of my life.

A nun who taught for 54 years in Chicago told me one day that I was good with people and that I should study to become a counselor, but I needed to refine myself. For me that meant getting my GED and going to college. So I decided to take classes at JobLink and knew that I needed more than just a brush up. My English was so bad at the time I was asked where I was from.

It took me years to get my GED. I'd start and then stop and then start again. But I finally received my diploma this past spring.

When I got it, I felt like crying. I felt happy and grateful to those who encouraged me. When I told my father I could see his eyes welled up with tears.

"All right....atta boy!" he told me

It was like being a kid again. And these days there aren't many things that make you feel like that.

Got E-mail?

Stop by JobLink and give us your home e-mail address, and we'll send you all the latest information.

You'll be one of the first to know about courses, projects registration dates and all the information you need.



**Tell LINKS
about it!**

We want You!



- Do you write stories, poems, or essays?
- Do you take photographs? Draw cartoons?
- Would you like to try your hand at writing?
- Have some other creative endeavors?

**We want this newsletter
to be an outlet
for your creative side.
There's plenty of talent
out there!
Let's see it!**

Tell LINKS about it!

Contact Marcia at 399-4630 or mttatyl@inland.com. Or contact-
Diane at 399-8134 or dmlent@inland.com.

Ask Any Local 1010 Member...

by Diane Lentz,
JobLink Coordinator

And that is exactly what JobLink did this year. 2001 was the year for our survey, but Joblink needed to hear different information from a variety of Local 1010 voices. The result was three different surveys.

1. The first survey was sent to bargaining unit O & T's, and to the new hires.
2. The next survey was sent to all Local 1010 members **who had taken classes** through JobLink.
3. The third survey was a unique effort by the Friends of JobLink. Each Friend of JobLink approached a Local 1010 member who had NEVER taken a

JobLink course. The intent was to give someone who had never taken a class an opportunity to tell JobLink what it would take to get him/her to take a class.

I would personally like to thank every Local 1010 member for taking the time to fill out one of these surveys. We do read them and use them as a guide. I also want to thank all the Friends of JobLink (list on back of newsletter) for taking time to administer this survey.

Listed below is each group's first choice under each category when answering the question,

"What class would you most like to take?"

Survey	Skill Refresher	Computer	Home Improvement
1 O & T & new hire	Math	Photo Imaging	Landscaping
2 Participants	Math	Photo Imaging	Carpentry
3 Non-participants	Math	Intro to Personal Computers	Residential Wiring

Survey	Pre Technical	Life Skill	Certification
1 O & T & new hire	Building your Own Computer	Understanding the Stock Market	MOUS
2 Participants	Computer Repair & Upgrade	Understanding the Stock Market	Heating & Air Conditioning
3 Non-participants	Major Appliance Repair	Debt-Free Living	Heating & Air Conditioning

Staff News

Who's Doing What at JobLink?

by Bill Corrigan

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you have the savvy to operate your own business?

A big welcome to Scott Williams who has joined the JobLink staff and is conducting classes on how to start your own business.

Scott is a Portage resident and avid sports fan, especially when watching his son play football for Portage High School. Scott has three kids and four



Instructor Scott Williams

grandkids. His wife, Viki, teaches 6th grade in a Gary public school.

Mr. Williams formerly taught several small business classes at other local

career development sites. He enjoys sharing his skills and knowledge with others, particularly through teaching.

Through Scott, find out some of the in's and out's and the do's and don'ts of getting started and maintaining your small business. With Scott's expertise and guidance, learn about taxes, inventories, or if you're even cut out to run your own business. It's better to find out up-front than to flounder later and suffer monetary losses.

So hop onboard and get a wealth of knowledge from Scott.

Starting in February Scott will be teaching "The Art and Techniques of Effective Selling" on Wednesdays.

Visit JobLink on the web:

www.joblink2000.org

where you can hear "Out of the Heat" stories, recordings of steelworkers you may know!






Computing News

Changes in A+ Certification

Effective May 2002:

Prerequisites for A+ Certification will be:

-  Intro to PC's
-  Any Windows class in the last two years
-  Build a Computer Class

Please note: These are the minimum requirements for enrollment in the A+ course. It is highly recommended that students also complete Windows II, Windows III, Windows Registry, Introduction to Programming and PC Troubleshooting. The goal is to give students the best preparation possible in becoming a computer technician.

New in March 2002

Learn how to edit your digital videos. In *Intro to Digital Video Editing* students will be introduced to various ways to input home movies and other types of video information into a computer from video tape and camcorders. While the main focus will be digital camcorders, those with analog cameras can learn how to convert an analog video into digital.

(Fear from page one)

One of these is computer-based so you can work either at home or in the JobLink lab.

ALEKS is an exciting new program that is on the web - get a password and you're ready to learn. This program tells you your strengths and weaknesses on a pie chart, then immediately maps a learning plan tailored to your specific knowledge base. It has an online tutor component, which means you can send a message to a tutor who responds immediately to your questions.

You work to fill in a pie—just like Trivial Pursuit. It's great for a college warm-up or to help you along with a college course you might be taking.

So ask yourself, was it math or math class that drove you nuts? Either way, JobLink is definitely a friendlier place to tackle numbers and signs.

Robert Smith is the Institute for Career Development's representative to JobLink. He is truly a friend and advocate to JobLink.

WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION! CONTACT Marcia at mttayl@inland.com or by calling 399-4630. We need constructive criticism of this newsletter.

Too Good to Pass Up

The following recipe was developed by Mike Mysliwicz, a true chocolate lover- a fact you'll discover if you try this recipe. Mike tested several chocolate chip varieties and adjusted the recipe until he came up with these awesome cookies.

Chocoholic Chipper Cookies

by Mike Mysliwicz

The following recipe is based on the standard cookie recipe found on chocolate chip packages. It has been modified to please true chocolate lovers with its dark rich appearance and flavor.

- 1 cup (2sticks) butter (at room temp)
- 2 ¼ cups flour ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 3 eggs
- 1/3 cup powdered cocoa
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 pkg (12 oz) semisweet chocolate chips*
- ½ pkg (4 oz) semisweet chocolate chunks*
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

**I recommend Ghiardellis.*

Heat oven to 375 deg. F. Beat softened butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla until light and fluffy. Mix in flour, powdered cocoa, baking soda and salt. Stir in chips, chunks, and nuts if desired. Drop by heaping teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for approximately 8 minutes. Cool and indulge!

Joblink Policy



Attention: Anyone using tuition assistance!

Tuition assistance applications must be provided two to three weeks prior to the enrollment period at the educational institute you are attending.

Save yourself delays in the processing of your application by submitting all of the requested information in a timely fashion.

Remember you can only use approved educational providers.

Bernard Kleiman **JobLink** Learning Center

ISPAT-INLAND INC. (7-200)

3210 Watling Street

East Chicago, IN 46312

JobLink Friends

Dave Alvarado	[Field Services]
Ken Baker	[Plant 1 Galv.]
Chris Balzer	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Chuck Canty	[MHS]
Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Jesse Flores	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Mike Florey	[Field Services.]
Brian Graska	[MMD]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Julian Gonzalez	[MHS]
Jennifer Jones	[Utilities-Power]
Charlie Kestner	[Shop Services]
Randy Lea	[2 Cold Strip]
Herman Loyd	[Int Log/Oper Yd]
Roy Moss	[Shop Services]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF]
George Powell	[12" Bar Mill]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip]
Phillip Rodriguez	[3 Cold Strip]
Wayne Shinkle	[2A/21" Mill]
John Shultz	[Maint.]
Bob Smiley	[MHS]
Ed Soltys	[3 Cold Strip]
Gene Sufana	[MMD]
John Sumichrast	[76" Hot Strip]
Joe Zaragoza	[PA 2 BOF Caster]
Tom Zmigrocki	[Shop Services]

Sorry— We regret being unable to send this publication to your home any longer. Our industry needs to keep costs to a minimum, and this is only one of many changes we've made to recognize that need. You can pick up a copy of our newsletter at JobLink, Local 1010 offices or through one of the Friends listed on the left.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season!

Learning to Learn

with Marcia L. Taylor

English is the pits when it comes to spelling. With words from so many different sources, we have a hodge podge of spellings and rules with way too many exceptions. So the bottom line is, if you weren't the 6th grade spelling bee champ at your school, maybe you'd just better check your spelling whenever you write.

The following are the most frequently misspelled words in English. Learn these and you'll overcome many of the usual pitfalls. But how to learn them? Either do what your third grade teacher had you do - write the words over and

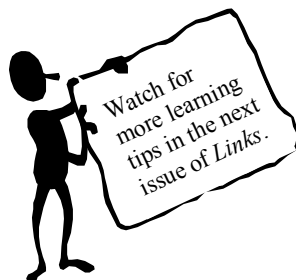


over again, or else try to follow this technique:

1. Read the word aloud. **2. Spell** the word aloud and write it

3. Picture the word in your mind and write it without looking at the model. **4. Finally** check it for mistakes.

The point of this technique is to take a mental picture of the word and archive it in your mental file.



beginning
business
conscience
description
experience
grammar
necessary
privilege
recommend
separate

believe
coming
definitely
written
February
immediate
occurred
receive
secretary
surprise

How many do you know already? Try this exercise and then check your spelling!

Substitute the underlined word for one that is in the list - but don't look at the word. Spell it from memory - your own personal spelling guide that is always with you!.

Ex: In the second month of the year I got a letter of support from my employer. He had his assistant. type it just beautifully. I was astonished that he wrote it right after I asked him.

. If you got three or more wrong, better study this list longer - or better yet come in to JobLink and sign up for a Spelling Workshop!

Answers: February, received, recommendation, secretary, surprised, immediately