

Learning English is no grind with on-site relaxed approach

By Irene Bowers
Correspondent

Mastering the English language can be a tall order, but instructor Jenny Juhnke blends conversation with coffee in a relaxed approach.

Juhnke, who owns Global Language Center, travels to businesses for on-site group lessons and has found Daily Grind at Virginia Beach's Town Center to be a happy meeting place for her clientele.

"Right now about half my classes are at the coffeehouse," said Juhnke, a Chesapeake resident. "It is a comfortable, real world setting that many students prefer for lessons."

An Army brat born in Japan, Juhnke combines her formal education degrees in communications and business with her informal education as a world traveler.

"I began teaching in Germany at two international language schools, Berlitz and Linguarama," she said.

Her 15 years of experience include teaching English as a Second Language and advanced business courses for nonnative speakers in Japan, Washington, D.C., Hawaii and Germany, as well as a stint hosting live television in France. She started GLC in Japan in 2004.

Juhnke began meeting students at Daily Grind in early 2007, and owners Fred and Juliet Smith are happy to have them.

"It's great for us because she brings wonderful new customers," Juliet said.

Instruction through GLC is tailored to the

clients' needs, with private classes, semiprivate or small groups, and business English workshops. Other areas of instruction include accent reduction, resumé polishing, negotiating skills, telephone and Internet skills.

"I attack strengths and weaknesses, and keep a 50/50 student/teacher speaking ratio," she said of clients whose ages have ranged from 8 to 63 years.

"Typically, there will be one to two levels of improvement within a year."

Juhnke offers free level checks for interested students.

Two business clients praised her skills.

Satoru Ueda from Japan has worked for the World Bank since 1998, and was tutored by Juhnke. "I had mastered English grammar and had professional experience, but I did not have adequate command of the language," he wrote in an e-mail. "I wanted to learn presentation skills, proper pronunciation and how to express my thoughts in a convincing and confident manner."

Ueda said that Juhnke pinpointed problem areas and used newspapers, journals and business material to drill him in phrasing, idiom and presentation. "I started at the bank as a consultant but was eventually confirmed as open-ended staff," said Ueda, senior water resources specialist. "Without her tutoring, I would not have accomplished that goal."

Juhnke's global experience helps her to cross cultural divides in instruction.

“Having lived abroad at length, I understand the cultural issues that might cause



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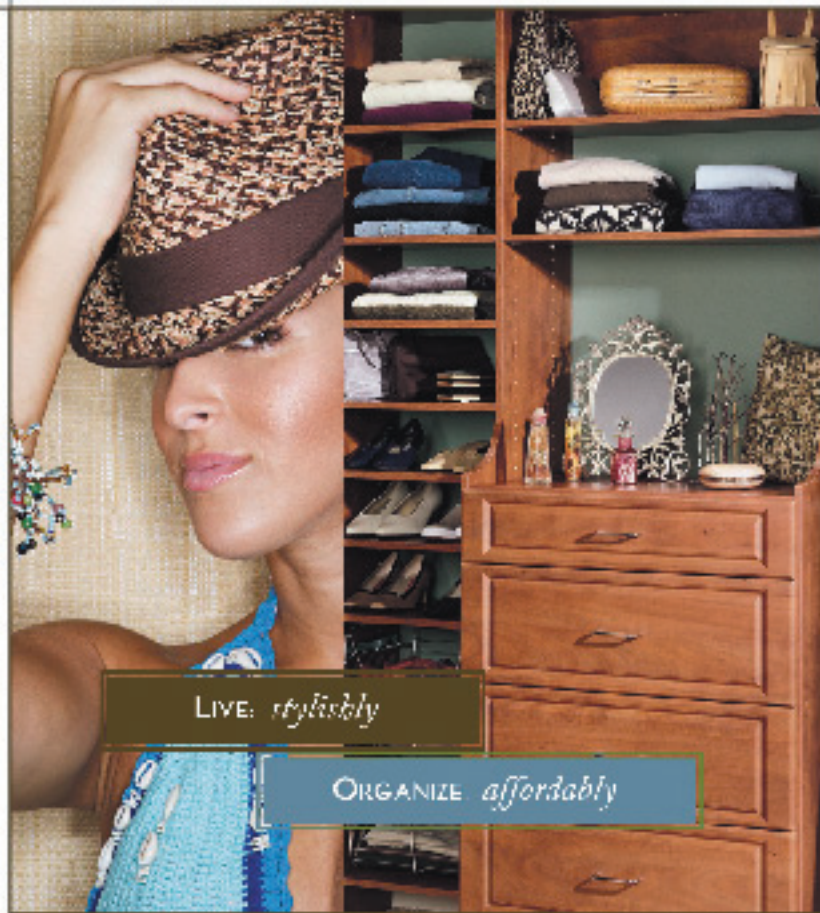
problems, as well as the cultural expectations for success," she said. "It is very rewarding to help people move closer to their personal and professional goals."

"Jenny was a great teacher of the language and the U.S. culture," said Guy Lotem, of Ernst & Young, LLP of New York City in an e-mail. "I gained tons of significant knowledge from her and found that learning can be real fun."

For more information, call 227-2356, send e-mail to jenny.sensei@hotmail.com or visit www.global-language-center.com.

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¹ A full analysis of the various factors that apply to the comparison of the two C to P ratios of the initial and mature Olf. group will provide an additional insight into the Olf-mated group (12/15/2007).

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