



## Belmont Editing and Tutoring Services

John Belmont

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### Sample Feedback Email to an ESL Client

Hi [client],

Here are the notes I took from our session on January 7, 2016:

#### Vocabulary Notes:

Patience is a virtue - a common expression in English that means patience is a desired quality to have. The ancient Greek philosophers talked a lot about different kinds of virtues.

mythology - the myths dealing with the gods, demigods, and legendary heroes of a particular people. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mythology>>

persevere - (verb) to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition, or discouragement. <[https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persevere?pronunciation&lang=en\\_us&dir=p&file=persev04](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persevere?pronunciation&lang=en_us&dir=p&file=persev04)>

a calculating personality - carefully thinking about and planning actions for selfish or improper reasons. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/calculating>>

self-centered (adjective) - (you initially *said self-proud*) too interested in yourself and not caring about the needs or feelings of other people. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/self-centered>>

yes-man (noun) - a person (especially a man) who agrees with everything that someone says: a person who supports the opinions or ideas of someone else in order to earn that person's approval. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/yesman>>

a strong work ethic - one of my favorite expressions when it comes to an important quality to have in regard to employment. I would say that you have a strong work ethic. This means that you are invested wholly in your work.

stay the course - to continue with a process, effort, etc., even though it is difficult, we'll succeed in the end if we just *stay the course*. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/stay%20the%20course>>

instant gratification - <<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/235088>> a nice article that describes this term in regard to marketing. It also discusses Freud's "pleasure principle."

#### Grammar Notes:

respect (verb) - we respect people *for* some reason. For example, I respect my wife *for* her perseverance at work. (remember persevere? perseverance is the noun, stress on the third syllable)

You did really well with **past tense**, which is great because you were telling me a story from your past. Keep paying attention to this--it's getting a lot better!

You said, *my every boss*. This is grammatically incorrect. Instead, you can say, *My bosses...* or *Every one of my bosses...*



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### **Pronunciation Notes:**

persevere - the stress is on the last syllable: you can listen to it here: [https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persevere?pronunciation&lang=en\\_us&dir=p&file=persev04](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persevere?pronunciation&lang=en_us&dir=p&file=persev04)

**FYI:** Merriam-Webster, the online dictionary I use, has entries for English language learners alongside definitions for native speakers. If you look up a word and scroll down, you will see a heading for Definition for English Language Learners. Pretty cool!

Please do let me know if you need any further explanation.

See you next time!

John