

# So You Want To Be a Teacher? - ETII 2020 Interview with Safaa El Youssfi

**Student Voice: For those of us who don't already know, what is ETII exactly?**

*Safaa El Youssfi:* ETII stands for the English Teaching Internship Initiative. It is a project that seeks to improve the quality of education in Morocco. It was launched in September 2016 and aims at using English education as a means of professional development.

**SV: How long have you been involved, and in what capacity?**

*SY:* I've been involved as a teacher trainer since the start of the program, and I think it's great that we're doing our best to serve the Fes community.

**SV: What does the ETII process involve?**

*SY:* The ETII process involves launching recruitments of Bachelor's holders, Master's students/holders and Ph.D. students from the USMBA. These candidates send their cover letter, résumé, and transcripts to the local program coordinator. A meeting is held to decide which candidates' applications are going to be selected. The finalists are chosen after they sit for a written exam and an interview.

**SV: Who would you recommend enrol in the ETII program?**

*SY:* I'd recommend graduates who have

the academic qualifications required for teaching English to ensure good teaching. They should be strong, persuasive communicators who are ready to inspire students and prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

real-time teaching experiences and give an opportunity to teacher trainees to improve their skills in teaching.

**SV: How does ETII benefit those who get involved?**

*SY:* ETII aims at guiding teacher trainees (future English teachers) in English language pedagogy, preparing them to take the TKT (Teaching Knowledge Test) and giving the handicraft students the English language skills that they will use in future jobs. So it's a win-win program.

**SV: How does ETII benefit the broader community?**

*SY:* After completing the first term, trainees start their teacher internship at local handicraft centers where Moroccans seek to improve their professional skills as they will need English to communicate with foreign clients. It's a great way to participate in community service and contribute to the development of the broader community. Meanwhile, teacher trainees will earn an English teaching Certificate of Completion which allows them to teach in local private schools and language centers.



*"Teachers open the door,  
but you must enter by yourself."  
Chinese Proverb*

Photo by: Arwa Rafja, ALC Photo Club

**SV: What is your favourite aspect of the ETII program?**

*SY:* I like the microteaching sessions. They are a lot of fun as they help to promote

**Interested in learning more?**

**Visit: [www.ETII.co](http://www.ETII.co)**

# A Participant's Experience - ETII 2020

## Haytham Chhilif

English is something that has grown with me over the years, ever since childhood. My late father was an English teacher at a local high school in Errachidia, and because of that, my brothers and I were constantly exposed to the English language. He often gave us stories to read or films to watch, and we enjoyed it all. Before any of us knew it, we were speaking in English as often as we were in Darija.

My father loved the English language, and he was always proud of us for doing so, too. Looking back it was inevitable; he loved English so much my brothers and I could not help but do so, too. There was something about that atmosphere in the house; you could not help but want to join in and be part of it. Eventually, many other people became part of it, too; sucked into the whirlpool of English language and culture.

Another thing my father loved very much was his job. It was plain to see even to the most dense and thick headed of people, my father enjoyed teaching his students. I never had the chance to ask him why, but as I grew, I slowly began to understand. It was one year following his death, when I was thirteen, that I got the first hint. I was in ninth grade and, by then, I had already become the best at English in my class.

Because of that, my classmates who had been struggling with their English often sought my help. The happiness and satisfaction that befell me whenever I was able to help someone understand something was greatly telling. I understood that helping others learn English was a source of happiness for me; perhaps it was the same for my father.

people grow, being the light in the darkness that guides them to a better place.

Another thing this experience helped me to understand was that helping others learn English was not the only source of happiness for me: it was 'helping.' Therefore, I made the decision to follow in my father's footsteps to also become a teacher. In the first year of my graduate studies, the concept of community service was something that I could and wanted to do. I came across an advertisement that the English Teaching Internship Initiative was asking for applications. After some research, I realized that the ETII was the perfect opportunity for me, the mortar for the wall I had been eager to build for so long. The ETII is a program that offers to help trainees learn about teaching

methodology while giving them the opportunity to apply what they have learned through community service by teaching voluntarily at handicrafts centers.

Having had the opportunity to go through the ETII program, I would like to say what a great pleasure and honor it has been to be part of this initiative. Not only did it help me take a massive step towards my goals, but it also allowed me to gain competence as an English teacher.



Photo: ETII Participants 2020

It was at that point that I began to think about teaching as a profession, and what it truly meant. Fast forward to my second year in university as an English studies student; I had the pleasant opportunity of tutoring one of my younger brother's classmates who was in need of help in English. It was, in my opinion, a decisive experience in my life, as by the end of it, I knew that teaching was not simply about teaching language to another person: it was much more than that. It was about helping other

## The Challenges of Studying Abroad

**Chahd Alami**

Advanced 3

Studying abroad has always been an interesting topic for students. Everybody would like to go and study in the UK or USA; I mean who wouldn't? But I'm totally baffled by the fact that they have the largest and the best universities in the world, and yet they don't accept a lot of students.

I wonder why they pick only 100 out of 20,000 students, for example. I'm vexed by the fact that these universities are so expensive. Literally how anyone can afford all the tuition fees and the cost of living is beyond me. However, if they just switch to public or even semi-public education, it would be a lot better because there are a lot of people who are near geniuses and intelligent enough to have access to their dream college, but

they can't afford the tuition fees.

They also need to give more scholarships to the people who deserve it and give the international students, permission to have a part-time job so that they can learn how to be independent and have their own money without depending on their families.

*Submitting teacher: Heather Lee Harris*



*Photo by: Arwa Rafia, ALC Photo Club*

## Education Overhaul

**Mouad Boutaleb**

Advanced 3

Morocco's educational system disappoints me. I believe that our system fails us in many ways, and the numbers that show its failure do not lie, yet we speak out about it positively and show pride in it.

First, the countryside lacks schools and transportation big time; it also lacks the connection to electricity, which is baffling in this day and age.

Second, capable teachers are limited (through no fault of their own) because of poor training, which leads to further increased illiteracy rates.

Also, the well-trained teachers are made to teach the students irrelevant subjects instead of how to be competent world citizens: how to vote, pay taxes, buy properties and invest.

My belief is that our education system needs to step up and rebuild the whole machine. A strong education system provides a solid foundation for its citizens and reduces potentially skilled emigration from our country. The education system needs to listen to constructive criticism and help build this country and lead it to new heights.

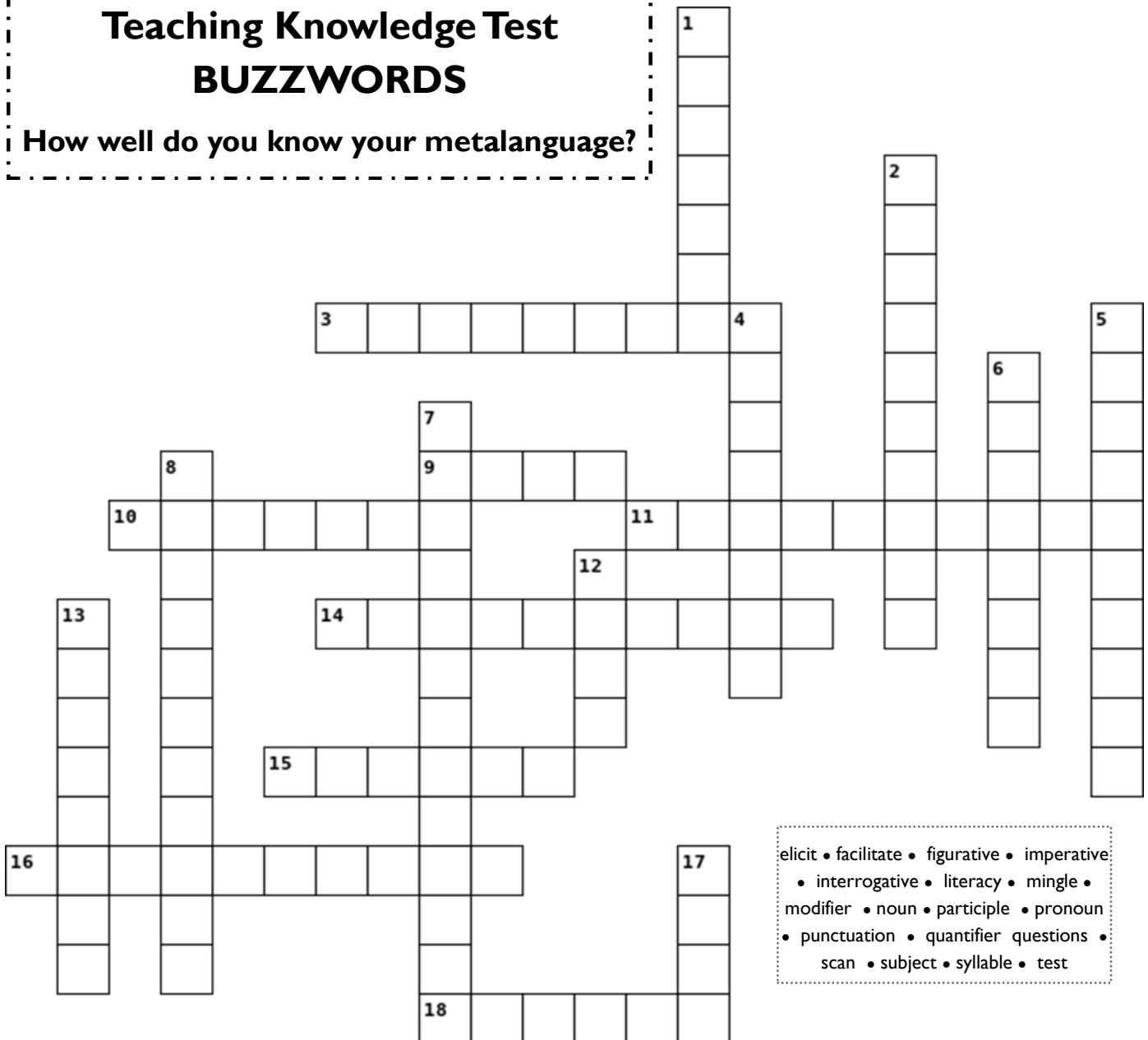
*Submitting teacher: Heather Lee Harris*

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## Teaching Knowledge Test BUZZWORDS

How well do you know your metalanguage?



elicit • facilitate • figurative • imperative  
• interrogative • literacy • mingle •  
modifier • noun • participle • pronoun  
• punctuation • quantifier questions •  
scan • subject • syllable • test

### DOWN

- 1 A small word that replaces the non/human subject or object in a sentence.
- 2 To + Base form verb = \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 4 Each section of a word with a single vowel sound.
- 5 The imaginative meaning of a word.
- 6 That which adds further meaning to a noun phrase.
- 7 Name of “the question form.”
- 8 Symbols or marks used to organise writing.
- 12 To read a text rapidly for “gist.”
- 13 The ability to read and write (noun).
- 17 Formal assessment of a learners language.

### ACROSS

- 3 We ask \_\_\_\_\_ to check learners understanding.
- 9 A person, place or thing.
- 10 Who does the action in an active sentence?
- 11 Word/phrase to describe an amount.
- 14 The –ed and –ing verb form that makes tenses or adjectives.
- 15 Communicative class activity with students walking and talking to different classmates (noun & verb).
- 16 (Verb) A teacher \_\_\_\_\_ learning.
- 18 (Verb) We \_\_\_\_\_ the target language.

SOLUTION IN NEXT EDITION