

ESL Open House

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The ESL Open House is an adaptation of traditional school open houses and gives ESL students the opportunity to showcase their school and countries to other students, families, friends and community members.

During the week of the Open House, students form committees to carry out various preparatory duties:

- Cleaning the classrooms
- Rearranging tables and chairs
- Putting up country displays
- Creating open house banners
- Lettering additional signs
- Decorating for a festive atmosphere

There is a great spirit of cooperation as students from different levels work together to complete tasks.

The evening Open House includes a tour of the decorated classrooms and exhibits. Participants have the chance to sample student-donated ethnic foods. Music from many cultures is played. The exhibits often include exquisite craft items made by learners. Native costumes may be worn. Throughout the evening, students have the opportunity to use their English skills in introductions and small talk with their new 'audiences.'

The ESL Open House provides benefits on many levels. Families and friends get to meet teachers and other students' families. Learners from various language levels and class times can meet and interact. Finally, our Open House creates a strong sense of pride within students and provides excellent district and community exposure for the ESL program.

The time needed to prepare for the Open House may vary. Students do most of the work with instructors acting as advisors. Costs covered by the program are for paper plates, napkins, flatware, cold drinks and reusable plastic tablecloths.