

# About TEFL, the course, your stay, what to *bring, etc.*

## 1. What is a TEFL Certificate?

TEFL stands for 'teaching English as a foreign language'. It is the standard accepted worldwide, but, as you might expect, there is a little more to it than that. There are numerous schools offering TEFL certification and, as with most things, some do a better job than others. Local schools and educators are well aware of which school is doing a good job and which isn't. If you want to take a course from the best school available because you think that will cause potential employers to not only hire you, but also pay you more money, you would be absolutely correct.

Here's what Kevin, a recent graduate had to say about *Text and Talk Academy* ; *'I passed the course well and obtained a job straight away at the local Demonstration School (High School) where I teach at the primary level. I enjoy it very much.'* ([See Testimonials](#))

But let's talk about you. Maybe you're just starting your English teaching career or perhaps you're already an accomplished teacher in your home country. Either way, you will gain a number of things from your experience at Text and Talk Academy;

- your skills will improve,**
- life will get easier and**
- You will make more money.**

Simply remembering those three points will place you a notch above others in your career. To learn more about why we say this, just click on the buttons below, or, better yet, send us an email and let's talk about it. [steve@langserv.com](mailto:steve@langserv.com)

## 2. How to find a good school.

Check out the school's websites and send them an email. It's also a good idea to speak with the owner, the teachers and/or previous students. Someone from the school should be readily available to assist you.

As with all educational institutions, much depends on the teachers. Schools with good reputations usually got that way because of their excellent teachers. Here's what Ali Spence had to say about *Text and Talk Academy*; ***'I found the course to be well laid out, methodical, practical, professional and a pleasure to study.'*** **(See Testimonials)**

In addition to our helpful teachers, your fellow TEFL course students also play a role in making your course a success. You will find that simply being with other teachers and discussing methods and practices will expand your horizons and add valuable information to your knowledge base. Kevin McCormack recently sent a note to our school director in which he said;

***'The course was great; the class was small, so our instructor, Steve, had plenty of time with us.'*** **(See Testimonials)**

In addition to learning the specifics of language and teaching, our specially trained TEFL instructors will share with you the nuances of local culture and customs, in this case, Thai. Here's what Mac says:

***'The staff and the trainer at Text and Talk guided my through the six week course with ease.'*** **(See Testimonials)**

You will learn things that would take years to gather on your own. It's easy to see the value in this when you keep in mind that Thais are very reluctant to tell you such things as; you are being rude, you are wearing the wrong colors, your hand gestures are not appropriate, and oh, that thing you did with your feet is a 'no-no'. There are cultural concerns with any country you may be teaching in, but once learned from your instructor, they will help make life in Thailand a total joy. Click on whichever button you find interesting and learn about the wonderful work of TEFL, or, you can always send us an email. [steve@langserv.com](mailto:steve@langserv.com)

### **3. Text and Talk Academy.**

The owner of Text and Talk Academy, James Parmalee, started teaching English in Thailand 23 years ago. He founded the Academy in 1990 as a way to formalize TEFL training in Thailand. His desire was to set a high enough standard that it would be recognized by the Thai government. Through dedication, perseverance and sage knowledge, he was successful on all counts and is even a member of the prestigious IATEFL (*International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language*). In addition, his training manuals have United States Library of Congress copyright registration numbers and can only be legally used by Text and Talk Academy.

Due to Mr. Parmalee's hard work, all graduates of Text and Talk Academy receive TEFL Certificates recognized by the THAI MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. In fact, Text and Talk is the only language academy recognized by the Ministry. Because of this, it is the only certificate accepted for Teacher's Licenses and work permits. Your certificate from Text and Talk Academy will be numbered and thus verifiable by any prospective employer. Stop for a minute and think of how having achieved certification in just six short weeks will improve your life:

- **Your confidence will soar because you will know the latest teaching techniques.**
- **You will be treated with respect by other professionals and your students.**
- **You will be able to command a higher salary.**
- **You can present your TEFL Certificate in any country you choose to teach.**
- **Opportunities for you to travel and teach will open up almost everywhere.**

This is what one graduate has to say about her instructor:

*'The real star has been Steve Beachy who is a master instructor. Steve's genuine concern of his students, years of experience and "finesse" in the classroom, has been a wonderful example to model my new career as an English Instructor (See Testimonials)*

It's easily understood that while there are many opportunities for native English speakers to find teaching work in Thailand, a recognized TEFL certificate will pave the way to a successful career. It will make life in Thailand, or wherever you choose to teach, easier and more profitable. Click on the button that you find interesting and learn more. Better yet, sent us an email. [steve@langserv.com](mailto:steve@langserv.com)

#### **4. Why choose Khon Kaen, Thailand?**

Located about 445 kilometers north east of Bangkok, Khon Kaen city, the capital of Khon Kaen province, is a prosperous bustling town of about 200,000 people in the heart of the Issan region. Commerce abounds in its beautiful, natural surroundings.

It is the focal point of a number of regional development projects, including the site of the region's largest public university, Khon Kaen University. It is on these campus grounds that our Text and Talk Academy is located. Have a read of another student's opinion;

***'The people are warm and friendly, the living expenses are low and the small class size gave us good value. Apinya has been a warm, welcoming and professional facilitator. (See Testimonials)***

You will find every imaginable amenity here from excellent university hospitals to high quality/low cost dental clinics. Food is wonderful, cost of living is low, people are laid back and the weather is typically Thai. Want to know more, click on the button that interests you most or just sent us an email. [steve@langserv.com](mailto:steve@langserv.com)

## 5.) Do you need a degree?

Folks with PhDs and MBAs train alongside those with high school or A-Level qualifications. Virtually all of them have been successful in acquiring prestigious certification and teaching positions. Naturally this can mean something important to you.

To understand this a little more, let's look at a university degree. It shows that one has learned how to learn, learned where to acquire information, and, most importantly, built character through successfully taking on a long and difficult project. Yet most of us, if we had to take (or re-sit) our course final exams all over again six months after graduation, would flunk!

Ultimately, education is much more than just university training. It is life experience, continual self-improvement, goal-oriented work, experience in business; in short, life-long learning. It's easy to understand that in the final outcome it is the experience of having performed at your peak that brings you and your loved ones big rewards. If you've read this far, there is a good chance that you find this touches you at a deep level, and you can feel good about that.

Life-long learning also has a humanitarian side. We continuously grow in the process of fulfilling our own needs while striving to make the world a little bit better place for others. Helping the peoples of the world to speak and use our wonderful English language is one of those ways you can contribute to making the world a better place. Many of our students find a new appreciation of English. It can be used to express world's most beautiful sonnets and literature and, at the same time, it supports the sciences that have taken us to the moon.

Back to our 'lack of degree' question... does it keep you from finding good employment in Thailand? Well, without a degree you may not be able to teach at universities, international schools or government schools. Take heart because university and international school students have, for the most part, already acquired 'English as a Second Language' ability. Your skills are far more needed and appreciated by the numerous private children's schools, language schools, families and business people whom you will be teaching.

When you begin work you can expect to be earning from 30,000 to 50,000 baht a month, a comfortable income range for people making their homes in Thailand.

That's up around what professors and doctors earn.

But will you be "legal"? *Technically*, without a degree, you will not be able to get past the first regulation (not a law!) for obtaining a work permit as a teacher, i.e., **obtain a teacher's license**. The reason we say "technically" is that, as ex-pats say, "This is Thailand!", meaning that **if you train, work for six months to hone your skills**, teach well and enjoyably, inevitably a good school will want to employ you

- *and because of that, you will get both a Teacher's License and a Work Permit* - meaning you will never, ever need to go out of Thailand again, unless you wish to, for visa purposes. This is a remarkably free countries and flexibility exists at many points. Keep in mind that there are also hundreds (if not thousands) of wonderful "humanitarian" teachers of English as a foreign language living and working in Thailand. When they arrived, they had neither experience nor degrees, and the overwhelming majority of them have acquired both Teacher's Licenses and Work Permits and are raising their own families here. Their students and schools feel blessed to have them. Here's what Cheng had to say about the assistance his instructor gave him;

*'He not only taught, mentored and guided me, but looked after me and ensured that I was successful. He gave me the tools and confidence to be the teacher I've always wanted to be. Ajarn Apinya was also wonderful. She worked tirelessly until all of the students were employed.'* **(See Testimonials)**

Getting more information is as simple as sending us an email. We'd love to hear from you. [steve@langserv.com](mailto:steve@langserv.com)

## **6.) Think you're too old?**

Unlike the west, the older you are the more respect you command in Thailand. It's true! The Thai's hold their elderly in high esteem and they specifically hold teachers in very high esteem. This fact, combined with our six week course offered in a quiet region of Thailand, has attracted mature students to our TEFL program. Folks that are 70 years old can be found, happy and active, enjoying teaching Thai students, but you don't have to be that old to have fun in Thailand. Happiness and an active mind are two things that you can't put a price on. Of course, we can't promise you a fountain of youth, but you can naturally realize a more youthful life through teaching. Here's what James had to say about the *Text and Talk Academy*;

*'I'm retired and 63 years old. I enrolled in the Academy in April of 2008. My class started on May 19th. On day one I met my trainer and my classmates and immediately we all became close knit and mutually supportive.'*

**(See Testimonials)**

Maybe you're like James and want to take early retirement, perhaps you are single and have minimal family obligations or maybe you just want a wonderful experience before you retire in earnest. Whatever your reason, it will be a good reason to expand your horizons in the magical Kingdom of Thailand. To learn more, click on any of the buttons provided.

## 7.) Do you need teaching experience?

The short and exact answer is a resounding "No!" The longer answer is as follows:

In a sense, we all have teaching experience of some sort. It may be as simple as helping a child to learn how to ride a bicycle, or it may have happened at a more sophisticated level.

In addition, we have all been students at various times in our lives. Stop to think about it and you might become aware that we all know something about teaching and learning, and you probably already know quite a lot.

Perhaps by now, you have realized that Thailand provides an eager audience of almost unlimited potential. Because of this, a lack of previous experience is not a problem. In fact, sometimes it is an advantage because you won't have learned bad habits. Most of the testimonials included in the Testimonial section are from folks who have none, or very limited 'formal' teaching experience.

But regardless of your previous experience, your open mind and willingness to learn some new skills will open up a new and wonderful world. You will learn firsthand how to teach English most effectively to Thais and your students will benefit for years to come.

Whether you have previous English teaching experience or none at all, we assure you that if you love people and are responsible and reliable, you will get a good well-paid teaching position for a school that cares about both its students and its teachers! If you have private students, that's even better because they pay more. Many graduates have both! Keep in mind; there are not nearly enough trained teachers to fill the demand, and when Thais see that you care about them, they will demand your services.

Click on any button on the left and continue to learn about TEFL.

## 8.) How to prepare and what to bring.

If applying for your visa from outside Thailand, we will assist you in obtaining a one-year visa (actually 15-month) or you can get a 60-day tourist visa. No visa is required to be a student. You might want to contact our resident expert, Leigh, at [leigh@langserv.com](mailto:leigh@langserv.com). Do bring 4-5 copies of the photo page of your passport and 8-10 passport size photos (used for many ID cards and for a Lao visa as needed). Once you have arranged your transportation you can let us know whether to reserve accommodations for you or not. It is always wise when traveling to stop at a booth at the airport and purchase travel insurance as a hedge against any emergency. Upon arriving, we will arrange to have you picked up at the airport and show you a selection of accommodation to choose from. From there you can pick up your course materials from our Academy at the **"Food and Services Building #1", known as "The Complex"**, at Khon Kaen University. It would be wise to e-mail or call your friends and loved ones and let them know you arrived safely, where you are and how you can be reached. Internet is available everywhere and there are probably more cell phones

(called 'mobiles') than anywhere else. They cost about \$35.00 and airtime is about \$.03 per minute. We will show you where to get one and how to 'go live'.

A good stock of pens, pencils and note pads will be needed, but these are easier to purchase here than carry in your luggage. However, please do bring recent visa-size photographs, all of your academic diplomas and certificates (with transcripts, of course), a photocopy of your birth certificate, if available, and character references from at least two persons who have known you for a long time. Thailand is a tropical country, with temperatures between about 22 and 35 degrees Celsius (roughly 70 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit) - so leave your topcoats, sport coats and suits at home. Do pack a number of (dark) lightweight dress trousers (avoid wool) and long-sleeved dress shirts (white or light colors are best). Beautiful silk ties cost \$3.00. Women should bring lightweight dress clothes. By all means, include some leisure clothing and beachwear, but Bermuda shorts, sports shoes, t-shirts and Hawaiian shirts will not be welcome when you are practice teaching in the classroom or out working after graduation. Please note: XXL, long and tall sizes and big shoe sizes are hard to find in Thailand. If you are tall and/or wear big shoes (US 12 and larger), get these items at home before you leave. Generally, don't bother to bring an umbrella as these are sold everywhere here at low prices. The rainy season is normally June-November, though there are years when it starts a couple of month sooner. However, it generally rains for only a short portion of the day, so you probably won't be using an umbrella as much as you might imagine. One last thought, bring some comfortable dress shoes. Loafers are best because you need to take them off frequently when entering someone's house. Thai shoes are not particularly good and don't stand up well.

### **A little about money**

Without a work permit, you will generally need to contact the main office of a Bangkok bank in order to open an account and deposit your money. Most small branches will not do it. However, some will, so check with Leigh Richards at [leigh@langserv.com](mailto:leigh@langserv.com) for up-to-date information before proceeding. In any case, as you may want to relax for a few days before seeking out a bank, it's a good idea to change most of your money ahead of time, and keep your purchase receipts in a secure place. You should probably bring at least US \$1,500 in necessary funds beyond your tuition, plus perhaps \$500 for the inevitable shopping you will want to do. You could bring more, of course, but this should be more than adequate to see you through your course, find a good job, and, of course, enjoy yourself before your course begins. You can also put extra money on your credit card and then draw down on it here. There are also ATM machines all over Thailand. The exchange rate varies, but expect about 34-35 baht per US dollar (as of Nov 2008). \$100 dollar bills and larger get a better exchange rate than smaller bills. If you visit Lao PDR, the Lao visa is \$35 US (\$36 US on weekends) so keep some exact change \$US bills for that. ***The use of US dollars is cheaper than the Thai baht equivalent for the Lao visa.***

The voltage in Thailand is 220-240, whereas in the US and many other places it is 110-120. You may want to bring your laptop as most laptop power supplies work off both 110V and 220V. You should get voltage converters for hair dryers, shavers, etc., in your host country as they aren't readily available in Thailand. Free WiFi abounds and excellent low-cost Internet cafes are located absolutely everywhere if you just want to check and send e-mails, your laptop will be very handy in Thailand. Computers and cars are the two things that are about the same price as back home. Finally, in order to maximize your progress in the teacher-training course, it is wise to know and abide by the House Rules and Study Rules of your course, as these are for the benefit of everyone.

## **A little about House Rules**

**Dress:** We want you to be comfortable while training! Therefore, except on days when you are scheduled to teach, you can wear shorts, t-shirts, Hawaiian-style shirts and sports shoes. Blue jeans are generally acceptable for study classes. Men should shave and trim their hair (of whatever length) and keep it clean. Women, also, should appear well groomed, however casually they might wish to dress. On practice teaching days and when out working after graduation men should have a tie and a dress shirt on. The point to keep in mind is that the Thai people will see you at our school, and we all want to set a good example. Your class may receive visitors from time to time and these are often 'scouts' looking for a teacher for the next semester. Looking good is very important and goes a long way in Thailand.

**Photocopying:** You will be provided with all teaching module books and even a carrying bag. However, from time to time you will need to photocopy material in order to give an effective teaching presentation. Therefore, please come prepared to spend as much as 400 baht (about \$9 US) over the course for this.

**Coffee and snacks:** Coffee, along with cream and sugar, is provided free of charge while you are in training. If you require tea, just let us know! Our location at the ["Food and Services Building #1 "The Complex"](#) at Khon Kaen University and is packed with vendors selling rice dishes, noodle soups, curry dishes, vegetarian dishes, etc. The vendors actually have to compete to get a spot in the food court and only the best are here. A full meal that tastes out-of-this-world and a drink will cost you about \$1.25 (US).

**Telephone:** An absolute must is a cellphone, called a 'mobile' here. A basic one will cost you about \$35.00. You then purchase prepaid cards and can make local, long distance, or international calls quite reasonably. In addition, you will be giving your number out to potential employers. You really can't do business without one.

## About Study Rules

Attendance and prompt arrival at class times (and after break periods!) is essential to ensure that your trainer maximizes your class time during the course. Therefore, more than 4 absences (from the total of 40 class periods) will, on each occurrence, result in the reduction of one grade level from your final course grade. Likewise, 3 occasions of being late for class will count as one absence. This may sound strict, but you have paid money for your course, and your attendance and focus on it will enhance how well you perform in your profitable and very enjoyable new career!

Should you be forced, by circumstances beyond your control, to miss a class, your trainer will assist you with what to do while you are away. This "miss" will not count as an absence! Your trainer will also bring you "up to date" when you come back.

Also, should you require any special help with your training materials, you will find your trainer to be very kind and supportive, and will give you whatever help you may need. This, of course, does not mean you can expect a lot of help if you have neglected to do your homework. All reading assignments and homework exercises must be done on time, as this part of your course performance constitutes a significant part of your final grade.

In-class presentations, or practice "lessons" given to your peers, will generally be of short duration (10-15 minutes). You may be called upon *at any time* to give such a presentation, as this will challenge your ability to "think fast" and help build confidence in handling all teaching situations. Real teaching presentations, totaling 6 hours, will also be given to real Thai students. One of our trained, professional evaluators will be present each time (silently!) to grade your performance. They will provide recommendations on how you might have done better and praise for what you did right. This is fun for everyone: trainee, evaluator and student alike. Don't fear this part of the course (stage fright), the class is small, 3-6 students, and it is really fun and you will learn how truly enjoyable Thai students can be.

The Final Exam is in two parts: written and oral presentation. It is reasonably difficult, but very few trainees have failed it. You are not likely to fail it either, if you have followed the "rules" above!

Finally, we have a rule for ourselves, too! Our rule is to provide you with every service and convenience (and perhaps a bit more!) that you might need in order to be comfortable in your time with us and throughout the course. These services include, but are not necessarily limited to, advice as to what bus number to take to reach the area you wish to travel to (such as immigration, for example), directing you to Internet cafes, department stores, housing, entertainment areas, photocopy or printing shops, etc. (many of which are located very near our own Academy). They also include giving you such special assistance as finding out for you where to go to pay a mobile phone bill - or we may just send our messenger and do it for you! In summary, every study class must have its own rules, for the benefit of everyone, and all of the above

are designed to make your time with us fun, exciting and enjoyable - and, at the end, to get you started in your wonderful new career in The Land of Smiles!

## **9.) About your TEFL Course.**

Most TEFL courses are four week intensives. We chose six weeks for a number of reasons. It gives you enough time to absorb the teaching material without frantically 'cramming'. Your class is Monday through Thursday with three days off. This allows more time to study and prepare and experience the fascinating culture of Thailand. Classes are small and personalized.

Your opportunity to learn about the nuances of English and how to teach it are maximized by our resident TEFL trainer, Steve Beachy, a professional trainer with twelve years experience in Thailand. You will probably even learn a little Thai, which is not as difficult as urban myths would have you believe. We think you will agree that our six week course is a better choice than four weeks.

Your six week course (four days per week) is comprised of 120 hours of class room training plus 6 one hour evaluation lessons in which you have the opportunity to teach Thai students and practice your newly learned skills.

Upon successful completion of our TEFL Certificate Course, you will receive a two part, bilingual, embossed certificate, numbered, registered and recognized by the Thai Ministry of Education. It demonstrates to potential employers that you have made a commitment to self-education and self-improvement. You will feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Your self-confidence will soar and you will be taken seriously when you sit down to your interviews with potential employers. If you would rather teach privately, as many graduates do, you have proof that you are serious about helping your private student(s) achieve their goals.

Simply being with other teachers, discussing methods and practices in depth can be reason enough to attend a course. When taking a course in a non-English speaking country, you may also find local teachers as your classmates. These teachers can add valuable insight into the habits and mentality of the local language learners. These types of insights are more apt to come out in a TEFL course than they would in more casual, everyday interaction you might already experience with local teachers.

There is a wide variety of TEFL certificates programs available around the world. Most TEFL courses run anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. There are also some one or two day seminars. From the more established and respected programs, you can expect at least a hundred hours of class time as well as some practice teaching.

TEFL certificate courses generally focus on practical teaching skills and many will include practice teaching as part of the course. Although there may be some general linguistic theory included, the focus of a TEFL certificate course is to give you practical knowledge. Any theory provided is there to provide a backdrop for the practical skills being learned.

In a typical TEFL course, you will get strategies and guiding principles. A teacher-trainer might model an activity with the TEFL certificate class, then the activity will be explained and discussed, bringing forth the theory behind it and possibly even stimulating the trainer or others to additional insight. Many courses will allow for peer teaching sessions in order to practice and refine the newly learned material.

The typical TEFL certificate program will focus on a variety of aspects of language teaching from very practical skills such as learning how to teach vocabulary and using games effectively, to somewhat more abstract but no less important aspects such as understanding the teacher's role in the classroom and assessment of students skills and progress.

Along with the increase in the number of certificate programs, there has been an increase in the number of specialized courses available, including teaching young learners, teaching business professionals and teaching online. The list seems to grow every day, although some general TEFL certificate courses may give you a brief introduction to such areas, the specialized courses will examine the areas more deeply. Whatever your specialization, there's probably a course out there for you. While this may seem to multiply the number of certificates you might need, specialized courses do provide useful, practical knowledge that

will make your life as a teacher easier. But do I really need a specialized course? You might ask. To that the question to ask would be: "Is teaching a 45-year-old department manager and father of three really the same as teaching a 10-year-old girl?" And there you find your answer.

With the wide variety of TEFL certificate courses available in a wide variety of locations throughout the world, it's impossible to give an accurate answer to the question, how much does it cost? The answer would be anywhere from a few hundred dollars (US) to a few thousand. The smart approach would be to determine first what type of course you need, and then begin comparing costs of programs that can compete on those grounds. One thing to keep in mind is that even spending a thousand dollars plus or minus on a course will likely come back to you relatively quickly with the extra money you will be able to earn. A job that gets you \$300 a month more is going to pay for that \$1,200 TEFL certificate course in the first few months alone. After that, as they say, it's all gravy. To learn more about the joys of Thailand and teaching, click one of the buttons on the left.

## **10.) Our Guarantee.**

We make a simple and straightforward guarantee. We guarantee an excellent, practical and recognized education in teaching English as a foreign language. This is our primary goal, but we have a secondary goal as well.

In the past, we have been able to find work for every student that expressed a desire to work in Thailand. If you would rather teach outside of Thailand you will have to search out employment yourself. Regardless of where you choose to teach, having an official TEFL Certificate will make any job search much easier.

Remember, our relationship with you doesn't end with the completion of your certification. We've maintained contact with virtually every student, regardless of where they teach in the world of TEFL. Your success is a direct reflection of our training and teaching skills and we want you to be the best you can be, now and in the future.

## **11.) Why six weeks instead of four?**

Four weeks is the usual time taken for a TEFL Certificate course, but this has proven to be a heavy workload for most students. Taking into account the fact that most students are new to Thailand and just learning how to get around, the Text and Talk Academy in Khon Kaen decided to spread the course out over a six week period. It can be seen from the Testimonials on our site that our students are pleased with this choice. The instructors at Khon Kaen feel that it definitely makes absorption of teaching materials easier for our students. We believe that you too will find six weeks more pleasurable and practical. You also have a 4 day class schedule Monday through Thursday, allowing 3 day weekends.

## **12.) What about your accommodation?**

All of our six week courses are held on the Khon Kaen University Campus. It is the third largest university in Thailand, there is more than enough accommodation nearby. Some of it is within walking distance and some a short ride if you choose to rent a scooter (about \$50.00 per month).

The cost of your accommodation will range from \$150 per month for a bachelor unit, usually with a separate bedroom, a modest kitchen and A/C. If you want a very presentable two story house in a nice gated community you will pay about \$300.00-\$450.00 per month.

With regard to eating, you can cook at home if you want but it's far more enjoyable, tasty and just plain practical to eat at the "complex" or purchase cooked food at the various night markets and vendors nearby. You can count on spending from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per day on food, and that is for very, very tasty 'fixins'.

If you love fruit or are a vegetarian, so much the better. You'll think you are in heaven.

One last note on your laundry. You can arrange to have it taken away every two or three days and the cost is from \$6 to \$10 dollars per person. You receive it back clean, folded and ironed. It's another true Thai bargain.

### **13.) That dreaded Grammar**

Most students dread the thought of having to study English grammar in order to obtain their certification. As a native English speaker you have been using it all your life, but probably haven't known the rules behind your sentence structure. Yes, it can look intimidating at first blush, but we are confident that you will find the necessary grammar logical and easy to comprehend.

### **14.) Teaching in Thailand.**

There has never been a better time to find rewarding employment in Thailand! According to the recent announcement by Mr. Philip Williams, webmaster of [www.ajarn.com](http://www.ajarn.com), that more than 400 job opportunities had recently been posted in a very short time, a huge record for Thailand. If you haven't heard yet, [www.ajarn.com](http://www.ajarn.com) is THE teacher's web site in Thailand, where teachers go to find jobs, advice about living in Thailand, or anything else of interest to teachers or potential teachers.

Should anyone wish to contact Mr. Williams about this teacher shortage, he can be reached via: [philip@ajarn.com](mailto:philip@ajarn.com).

While the pay for teachers in Thailand is not as high as in many other places, the cost of living is a lot less. Your money will go a long, long way here while you're teaching and living a good life among wonderful people and students.

Other than wonderful people, cheap living and great weather, why else would you want to be here:

**Tornados or cyclones? Thailand has never had one.**

**Earthquakes? Not here.**

**Hurricanes? Nearby only, but not in Thailand.**

**Terrorist attacks on tourists? Never.**

Well, what about a tsunami? Yes, we had one, as did other nations, though we are not expected to have another one for at least another century. Khon Kaen is many kilometers from the ocean and under no threat. Excellent early warning systems have now been put in place to protect anyone who might find himself or herself in the wrong place at the wrong time near the southern beaches. You will have to find out for yourself, but those of us who have been here a long time ('Lifers') believe that there are few places safer than Thailand.

The following sites contain helpful information on teaching in Thailand

<http://www.insideoutmag.com/0304/lingua0304.htm> "Teaching in Thailand": an article by Sean Enright.

**<http://thailandteacher.com>** ESL teaching opportunities in Thailand: Resource for teaching, employment posts, FAQs, message forums, etc.

**<http://www.sriwittayapaknam.ac.th>** Thai schools

**<http://www.langserv.com>** TEXT-AND-TALK Academy website

**<http://www.teflteachasia.com>** TnT's franchise training sites