



Cultural Linguistic Services
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Employee Learning Center English Learning Newsletter

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

New words of the week:

Some UW employees are preparing to **resume** (start again) **on-site work** (work on the UW campus or in a UW facility).

These employees must **self-monitor** (check themselves) for COVID-19 **symptoms** (signs of illness) such as fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath.

Other employees will **telecommute** (work remotely online) for as long as possible, to **reduce** (lower) the number of people on campus.

Phrases for conversation:

Use these phrases to ask about others' interests:

- **Do you have any hobbies?**
- **Are you interested in birdwatching?**
- **What's your favorite sport?**
- **What do you like to do in your free time?**
- **What do you think of electronic music?**

- Adapted from **Perfect Phrases for ESL Conversation Skills** by Diane Englehardt

Sayings about birds

- **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush** = we should be satisfied with what we have and not risk it to try to get something better.
- **Birds of a feather flock together** = people who have things in common like to get together.
- **Kill two birds with one stone** = accomplish two things with one action.
- **Bird-brained; for the birds** = stupid, crazy.



Learn more:

Go to the Cornell Lab Bird Guide to hear bird calls and watch videos and live cams of birds:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>



For Fun:

Read about and listen to artists from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean who combine electronic music with birdsong:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/16/891432319/a-new-album-turns-the-sound-of-endangered-birds-into-electronic-music>

