

Editor's Note



Miami, Florida, the city featured in this issue of *English Teaching Forum*, attracts people from all over the world. They go there for vacation, for business, and even as immigrants.

The first time I went to Miami was on a stopover at the airport on my way to Haiti one time in early spring. When I got off the plane and started walking around the Miami airport, I felt as if I were already in the Caribbean. The palm trees and tropical flowers that lined the airport sidewalks, the cheerful, melodic music playing in the background, and the colorful clothes of many of the people wandering past me were all such a contrast to the cold northern state (Minnesota) where my flight had originated that Miami seemed almost like a foreign country.

My subsequent trips to Miami were for business, and much of the time my job required me to work in the Miami airport, one of the busiest airports in the world. It is a crossroads bustling with travelers from many countries, speaking many languages. The city of Miami itself has three official languages—English, Spanish, and French Creole—which speaks to the diversity of this captivating city.

The blend of languages and cultures in Miami seems almost magical. But that's not why Miami is nicknamed "The Magic City." That name came about because the city has grown in a relatively short time (historically speaking) from its rugged beginnings to the position it now holds as a major international city. And the city continues to grow. So much construction is under way that Miami's skyline is striped with cranes, and people talk about the "Manhattanization" of Miami as more and more skyscrapers crop up.

But even if Miami begins to resemble Manhattan (pictured on the front cover of *Forum* Vol. 46, No. 1), Miami has something New York City does not—beautiful beaches. The bright blue and turquoise water of the Atlantic Ocean shimmers in the Florida sunshine, inviting vacationers to enjoy boating, swimming, windsurfing, and any number of other outdoor activities.

Whatever one does in Miami is sure to be memorable. It is a unique city that cannot help but make an impression on anyone.

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