

**Sample 1: Lesson Introduction.** Each week I used a similar title and format for the main announcement. Students, especially ESL students, thrive on consistency. The introduction announcements each give a brief introduction of the week's material, a reminder of important dates, a video demonstration of any major projects or important concepts, and then 2-3 general reminders. I use the leading banner graphic only for introduction announcements to help students differentiate/recognize the main announcement.

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This Week in Math 100L: Module 11

**Intro to Algebra, Finance & Language**

MATH 100L

Hello class,

Welcome to Lesson 11. In this lesson, we'll change our focus to charts and graphs. You'll learn about coordinate systems, create a savings plan, and analyze personal finance principles. With only a month to go, the finish line is in sight! Remember, "when you feel like quitting, think about why you started." I'm proud of how far you've come. You can do it!

**Dates**

- July 4: University Holiday (US Independence Day)
- July 20: Last day for late work
- July 25: Last gathering
- July 27: Module 14 closes

**Announcements**

- Portfolio Project:** In Life Plan Part 4, you'll create a realistic savings plan to help protect yourself and your family against financial storms. If you're wondering where to begin, look at your budget. Examine your spending habits and ask yourself how much you could realistically save each month. Use this amount for the exercise. After you choose the amount, you'll use the Future Value (FV) formula in Excel. I've recorded a tutorial to help:
  - Please note that in the video, I'm using an interest rate that's a fixed APR rate (annual percentage rate). APR is the most common form of interest when dealing with a bank.
- Math Quiz & Exam Retakes:** Want to retake a math quiz or exam to bring up your grade? You can retake any math quiz or exam from the semester to earn a better score; however, Canvas doesn't understand the difference between a retake and a late submission. After you retake a quiz, you'll need to email me at [wilder@byu.edu](mailto:wilder@byu.edu) or message me in Canvas so that I can remove the late penalty.
- Last Days:** My cut-off for all late work is July 20. Everything in Lesson 14 is due on July 27 (including a math final exam, English final exam, and attendance report). No late Lesson 14 work will be accepted. Please plan accordingly.

Have a fantastic week,

Professor Wilde

Email: [wilder@byu.edu](mailto:wilder@byu.edu) Pathway questions? Contact: [Pathway\\_Support\\_Center](mailto:Pathway_Support_Center) or Need Tutoring? [psm@shul.edu/mathhelp](mailto:psm@shul.edu/mathhelp)

**WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE QUITTING, THINK ABOUT WHY YOU STARTED.**

[www.funaabnews1.blogspot.com](http://www.funaabnews1.blogspot.com)

This announcement is closed for comments

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**Sample 2: Technical Difficulty.** Whenever we migrate courses to a new LMS platform, there are likely to be a few technical glitches along the way. To mitigate student frustration, I addressed technical glitches as a class-wide announcement and email. A little humor goes a long way to relieving student stress. One technical glitch happened to fall on April Fools' Day. Since most of my students live outside of the US, I took the opportunity to teach them a little about our traditions while informing them about the glitch. I ended with the reassurance that the problem wouldn't impact their grade. Knowing that students tend to skim, I bolded the most important sections.

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W13 - Practice Listening Skills (Part 2)

Hi class,

Happy April Fools' Day! Here in the US, April 1 is called "April Fools" where people play silly, harmless pranks on one another. Here's one example of an April Fools' joke:

**April Fools!!**

Though unintentional, it seems that our class has played a bit of an April Fools' joke on us. The quiz for Week 13: Practice Listening Skills Part 2 does not include enough answer spaces. There is only one slot per question, and each question requires three answer slots. Please do not stress about this problem. A fix has been submitted to our curriculum team, and I'm hoping the problem will be remedied very soon. In the meantime, you can write all three answers in the blank, simply separating the words with commas. Then I will manually grade this assignment and award points for the broken questions. I never want a Canvas problem to hurt your grade (no fooling!).

Hope you have a wonderful Monday. Happy April Fools!

Professor Wilde

This announcement is closed for comments

**Sample 3: Midweek Instruction.** As difficult topics arose, I wrote midweek announcements to address my students' needs. Since I had students with varying skill levels, I tried to keep it brief with links to further instruction if they needed it. I also regularly utilized educational graphics for my visual learners. I ended most of my midweek instruction with motivational quotes, again promoting an encouraging, positive tone.

MATPC 100L > Modules > Mr. Slope Guy: Different Types of Slope

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Mr. Slope Guy: Different Types of Slope

Hi class,

In Module 12, you'll find the [W12 Student Evaluation of Instructor](#). It's important to complete this instructor evaluation before July 13; once it closes, I can't re-open it. It has been a joy and a privilege to be your instructor this semester. I look forward to reviewing your feedback so that I can continue to grow. Thank you!

This week you'll talk about the difference between zero slopes and undefined slopes. To help, I've posted quite a few resources about slope on our announcement [Module 12: Optional Math and English Help](#). Please check it out.

- Zero slopes** have a 0 rise. They're simply a horizontal line. Zero slopes will always result from an equation where  $y =$  some number. There won't be any  $x$  in the equation. Here's an example,  $y=4$ . This is a horizontal line through the points  $(0,4)$ ,  $(1,4)$ ,  $(2, 4)$ , etc. Basically with  $y=4$ , no matter what  $x$  is,  $y$  will always be 4.
- Undefined slopes** are vertical lines. Their equations will always be in the form of  $x =$  a number. There won't be any  $y$ 's in the equation. An example of an undefined slope equation is  $x=2$ . This is a vertical line going through the point  $(2,0)$ ,  $(2, -1)$ ,  $(2, 1)$ , etc. With  $x=2$ , no matter what  $y$  is,  $x$  will always be 2.

For a website with pictures of what I mean, visit <https://sites.psu.edu/tlamar2/files/2015/07/horizontalandverticallines-27emx7y.pdf>.

Here's a picture which demonstrates the many different types of slopes:

**MR. SLOPE GUY**

Meet Mr. Slope Guy

His eyes help you remember what positive and negative slopes look like.

His nose helps you remember that vertical lines have an undefined slope.

His mouth reminds you that a horizontal line has a zero slope.

Have a wonderful day!

Professor Wilde

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