



# The ESL Parrot

Your ARC newsletter for and by ESL students

Issue # 4

April 1

Spring 2006

## Interviewing Prof. Creighton

### Where were you born?

I was born in Detroit, Michigan.

### How long have you lived in Sacramento?

I've lived here about 10 years.

### What are your hobbies; what are your pet peeves?

I don't know about pet peeves. Hobbies: I like reading, I like finding information on the Internet, and I like taking care of plants and spending time with my family.

### What are you teaching this semester?

I'm teaching ESLG 50, G 320, W 310, and R 340. And the W 310 and R 340 are web-assisted classes.

### How long have you been teaching?

I've been teaching ESL for over 25 years.

### Why did you choose to teach ESL?

(Isn't it hard to work with students whose native language isn't English?) I'm really lucky to have a career that I like as much as I do. I was interested in languages, and while I was studying in France in my junior year of college, I volunteered time in an adult English as a Foreign Language class in Paris. I really enjoyed it, so when I came back, I decided that that was what I wanted to do. So I went directly into ESL from college.

### What do you think about ESL students from Ukraine? Are they different from other students?

I don't think so. I mean, we have so many students from Ukraine and usually that's a big portion of each class, but I can't think of anything specific about students from Ukraine. I like all of our students very much. And it's nice when we can get a mix



of languages because it makes it easier for students to stay in English. Also it's interesting, I think, in the discussions if we have different cultural backgrounds because then we can find out information about different places.

### What do you think is the most interesting ESL subject to teach?

That's really hard for me to say because I really like teaching all of the different skill areas and I like teaching lower-levels and upper-levels. So I would say the most interesting thing to teach is any ESL class because I've

never had an ESL class that I didn't find interesting. The students are so wonderful and so motivated; and I always learn things from each class that I teach, things I didn't know before.

### What was your funniest moment of teaching?

Hmm, I have to think about that. I can't think of one funniest moment, but I think it's probably when students say something funny and all of the class can enjoy the joke, even though it's in English. Those are happy moments because when you can start to joke in another language, then you know you are understanding it. So, I think that's some of my favorite moments.

### If you weren't teaching, what would you do?

I really don't know because when I came out of college and graduated from school, I went right into teaching ESL. It's what I wanted to do and still want to do, so if I had to find another job, it would be really hard for me. I feel that I'm spoiled because I've been lucky to be able to do what I wanted and I hope I never have to find a job in something else.

### What countries have you visited? Which ones would you like to visit?

Well, I visited some countries in Europe, and outside of Europe, really, only Mexico and Canada. I've never been to

*"When one door closes, another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us."*

**Alexander Graham Bell,**  
American inventor



American River College  
4700 College Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA95841  
(916) 484-8011

Asia or South America, so there're a lot of places I still haven't seen.

### What is your advice for the students learning English?

To work hard but don't be too hard on yourself. I think a lot of times students expect to learn English quickly, so if they don't do it as quickly as they think they will, then they start to think that there's something wrong, but learning a language takes time. But if you do keep trying, you will get there. So I guess - don't be too hard on yourself, keep trying, don't give up!

Liza Ryabaya

## STUDENT CHIRPINGS

### Milking a Cow

One of the protein resources in the human diet is milk. Unfortunately, more than half the human population does not produce milk in their bodies; male bodies don't produce it, nor do children bodies and old bodies. The only one who produces milk is a mother who just had a baby, so humans invented the skill of how to milk a cow.

There are critical points for how to milk a cow.

First of all, you should make sure that it is a female cow. If you tried to milk a bird, you couldn't get any milk

because it doesn't have a nipple. If you tried to milk a cat, you could possibly get some milk, but it isn't cow's milk. You need a female cow to get some milk of a cow. Furthermore, when choosing a cow, let a woman make the decision because the female cow knows that a woman milks more sympathetically than a man, so the cow will be nicer to her. Communicating with your cow while milking is as important as communication with

your lover.

Second, you should have an appropriate place to milk the cow. Do not ever try to milk a cow in a supermarket because the people will think that you are crazy; later, the security will catch you and put you behind bars. Also, don't try to milk a cow in a school, espe-



cially in an elementary school. The students are going to absorb what they see and apply it to their own experience, so they may milk each other. Treat the cow as if she is the most important lady that you have ever had your hands on, or else she will put her foot either on your stomach or on your foot. As a female, she will not let you touch her udder in any place that you want.

The most important advice on

how to milk a cow is to get a friend who has experience with milking a cow. If you forget the steps for milking a cow, you can ask him right away. At least, he can demonstrate it for you. Do not rush. You are supposed to do it gently. Take hold of two teats gently, but firmly, and squeeze your fingers in sequence from the top down. Keep your hands pushed up slightly against the udder; do not pull! You are copying the sucking movement of the calf's tongue and mouth.

After reading the steps above, I hope you have a little knowledge of how to milk a cow. The result of the above suggestions may vary; it is not suitable for everybody. Remember that even the nicest cow can kick, so always be aware of this. If you are nervous or too rough with her, this will cause problems. Got milk?

Richard Hutasoit

ESLW50

# Parrot Warblings

## Speak Like a Parrot

### How to pronounce "the" in English?

Normally, we pronounce "the" with a short sound like "thuh". But when "the" comes before a **vowel sound**, we pronounce it as a long "thee". e.g.

*thee* apple  
*thuh* house

## SEVEN SECRETS TO LEARN ENGLISH

### Secret # 2: SENTENCE STRESS

Sentence Stress is golden key number two for speaking and understanding English. With Sentence Stress, some \*words\* in a sentence are "stressed" (loud) and other words are weak (quiet). Look at the following sentence:

We want to go.

Do we say every word with the same stress or force? No! We make the important words \*big\* and the unimportant words small. What are the important words in this sentence? Yes, you're right: WANT and GO.

We WANT to GO.

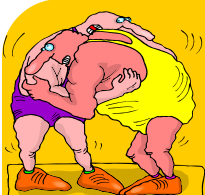
We WANT to GO to WORK.

We DON'T WANT to GO to WORK.

We DON'T WANT to GO to WORK at NIGHT.

It's impossible to explain everything about Sentence Stress in this column. The important thing for you is that you know it exists and try to learn about it.

Sentence Stress is very important !



## Grappling with Grammar

### Parts of Speech

Parts of speech" are the basic types of words that English has.

<b>Noun</b>	A noun is a naming word. It names a person, place, thing, idea, living creature, quality, or action. Examples: <i>cowboy, theatre, box.</i>
<b>Verb</b>	A verb is a word which describes an action (doing something) or a state (being something). Examples: walk, talk, think, believe, live, like
<b>Adjective</b>	An adjective is a word that describes a noun. Examples: big, yellow, thin, amazing.
<b>Adverb</b>	An adverb is a word that usually describes a verb. It tells you how something is done. It may also tell you when or where something happened. Examples: <i>slowly, intelligently, well, yesterday, tomorrow, here, everywhere</i>
<b>Pronoun</b>	A pronoun is used instead of a noun, to avoid repeating the noun. Examples: <i>I, you, he, she, it, we, they</i>
<b>Conjunction</b>	A conjunction joins two words, phrases or sentences together. Examples: <i>but, so, and, because, or</i>
<b>Preposition</b>	A preposition usually comes before a noun, pronoun or noun phrase. It joins the noun to some other part of the sentence. Examples: <i>on, in, by, with, under, through, at</i>
<b>Interjection</b>	Interjections are words that express emotion or surprise, and exclamation marks usually follow them. Examples: <i>Ouch!, Hello!, Hurray!, Oh no!, Ha!</i>
<b>Article</b>	An article is used to introduce a noun. Examples: <i>the, a, an</i>

## ESL WEB LINKS

\*American English Pronunciation Practice  
<http://www.manythings.org/pp/index.html>

\*Pronunciation - English Club  
<http://www.englishclub.net/pronunciation/index.htm>



## Bark up the wrong tree

### Meaning:

- \* To misunderstand a situation and complain to a wrong person or blame a wrong thing.
- \* If someone is *barking up the wrong tree*, he/she has an incorrect idea about a situation, and his/her course of action is wrong.

### Example:

Don't blame me. I have nothing to do with it. You are *barking up the wrong tree*.

The committee spent more than 5 month to try to solve the problem. They were just *barking up the wrong tree*





## Out of the Cage

**Flash!!!**

According to inside sources, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be enrolling in ARC's ESL program next fall, specifically in Prof. Krista Hess's L320 Listening/Speaking class. It seems that the Governor is quite pleased with his speaking ability and in particular with his accent (which he has described as cute and inviting), but he is keen on improving his listening skills. "Democrat claims that I never listen - maybe they're right, (or maybe they're left) - ha, ha! What's worse is that my wife Maria says I never listen when she says, 'Drop the weights, Dumbbell, and take out the garbage!' That's so-not-true, but to keep the peace I'm going back to school. By the way, have you seen my movie, *Kindergarten Cop*?" \*

\* Editor's note: Dear Readers, we'll keep you apprised of this heartwarming story as it develops

### ARC Jazz Department Fundraiser Concert



The American River College Jazz Department sponsors a fundraiser concert featuring the Joe Gilman Trio's new CD release "Wonder Revisited."

All profits will benefit the ARC jazz program. Admission for the concert is \$20 and includes a CD.

April 07 at 8:00 pm and April 08 at 2:00pm  
Call Dr. Joe Gilman at 484-8549 for more information.

### Scholarship Search Workshop

Learn the various avenues in which to search for scholarships

April 05 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

at ARC Career Center

For more info call 484-8492



### ARC Changes Name

At a recent Los Rios College District Board Meeting, it was decided to change the name of ARC to either Armenian River College or Ukrainian River College. This would be done to honor the many immigrant students from the former Soviet Union currently attending ARC. A final decision will be made by a student vote in May.

### Questions / Comments?

Please let us know what

we can do to improve

"The ESL Parrot".

We appreciate any and

all feedback you are

willing to give us.

Send us an e-mail, call,

or just drop by Professor

Bracco's office

D387 (at Davis Hall)

(916) 484-8988

### ARC to Have Horse Wagons

Because ARC was once a horse ranch, the ARC Academic Senate last week voted to have horse-drawn wagons to transport students around campus. Senators said that the change would save students shoe leather and provide jobs for students to work as drivers. ESL students interested in such jobs should write a 5-paragraph essay entitled "Why I Want to be an ARC Horse-Wagon Driver" and give it to an ESL professor. Votes against the change came from a group of senators with laryngitis who said the vote was premature, a classic case, they said, of putting the cart before the horse.

**Extra!!!**

## Are you looking for employment?...

Register for a one-hour "Resume Development" workshop offered by ARC's Career Center located in the Student Services building by calling 484-8492.

April 4 from 12:30-1:30 and 5:00-6:00 pm

\*Participants may enter a monthly raffle to win a \$50.00 gift certificate from Office Depot.



### Celebrating Cesar Chavez Birthday

On March 30, 2006 the ARC Latinos Unidos Club will celebrate Cesar Chavez Birthday. They will be out in the Library Quad with a speaker, music, and homemade tamales and virgin margarita's for sale from 10 am to 1pm.



***I'm Not Alone***

If I can breathe, I can walk  
I can see, I can talk,  
It's because of the spirit of trees,  
The blue sky,  
Sunshine and sunrise,  
Dancing leaves in fall.

It's because of the earth sus-  
pended in the galaxy,  
The crow, the sea gull is circling  
the top of the sea.

If I can live, I can smile,  
It's because my mom who is shin-  
ing in my mind,  
My dad who is living in my heart,  
My son who is my soul,  
My husband who is supporting  
my soul.

It's because of the smile,  
Smile of children, men and  
women  
Deep glance of an old man,  
Because of Tuba, Habib, Jane,  
Mary, Ali.....

Because of my nanny  
Who made my minutes colorful  
Because of that baker, butcher,  
driver, doctor, teacher, soldier  
Who made my life easier.

If I can breathe, I can walk,  
I can live and I can smile,  
It's because of the smell of bread,  
The wet grass in the morning,  
Soil, salty sea, and friend.

If I'm successful and I'm alive,  
Or I have a happy life,  
It's because I'm in the world,  
I'm a part of the world,  
I'm love, kindness, happiness,  
freedom , and peacefulness,  
Because I'm God who's living in  
the heart,  
Living with people, on the shoul-  
ders of people,  
Because I'm human and I need  
humans.

If I'm alive and have a happy life,  
It's because I'm not alone in the  
entire life.

*Parisa Samadi  
Student Fall 05*



Dear Granny Noetal,

I've noticed  
in my classes that  
after class, my  
teachers look like  
"powdered dough-  
nuts" because of all  
the chalk on the  
chalkboards. What  
can we do about  
that?

Sincerely,

Hungry Student



Dear Hungry,

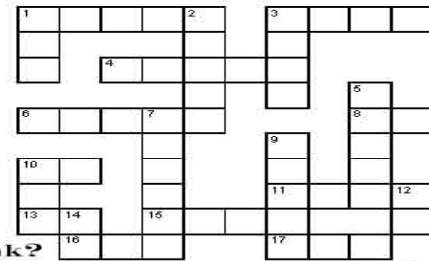
Are you concerned about your teachers' health or  
about their cleaning bills? Doughnuts? I suggest you  
have a good breakfast before going to your classes.  
Let's make sure that you are hungry for knowledge  
and not doughnuts; otherwise I'd suggest you get a job  
at Krispy Kreme. In any case, The Parrot is aware that  
there was a recent "flap" about this issue (pun in-  
tended). Professor Rau, chairman of the boards, was  
consulted, as well as the fledgling staff of The Parrot  
and, as a result, re-usable sponges will soon be seen in  
the classrooms for the express purpose of keeping  
down the dust. Student staffers have suggested that,  
after a class, the sponge be issued to the student in the  
classroom who always seems to have his hand up, a  
type of "honor", I suppose.

**Like**



**Across**

1. What do frogs like?
3. What's three plus two?
4. What do cows like?
6. What do you like to drink?
8. I like to sleep \_ my bed.
10. I like \_ play games.
11. I like to \_ comic books.
13. My book is \_ the desk.
15. What do you like to do  
in summer?
16. What's two minus one?
17. What's nine minus three?



**Boggle's World**

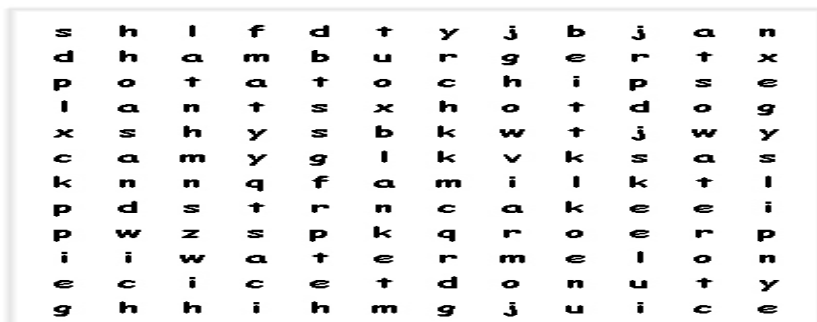


**Down**

1. I like hamburgers \_ lunch.
2. What do you like to do in winter?
3. What do dolphins like?
5. What do you like to eat?
7. What do mice like?
9. What do birds like?
10. What's one plus one?
12. I don't like to \_ the dishes.



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picnic  
hotdog  
pie  
blanket  
water

hamburger  
donut  
watermelon  
juice  
potato chips

sandwich  
cake  
ants  
milk

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## Tail Feathers

### César Chávez : Labor Leader

Cesar Estrada Chavez (March 31, 1927 - April 23, 1993) was a Mexican-American labor leader who used non-violent methods to fight for the rights of migrant farm workers in the southwestern USA. Migrant farm workers are people who do farm labor, moving from farm to farm and from town to town as their work is needed - it is difficult work that pays very little and can be dangerous due to the use of pesticides (pesticides are chemicals that kill bugs and can make people sick).

Chavez founded a group that advocates for the rights of farm workers, acting to increase wages and improve the working conditions and safety of farm workers. He also organized strikes (when workers refuse to work until improved working conditions and salary demands are met) and nation-wide boycotts of agricultural products in order to help workers (a boycott is a protest in which the public is asked not to buy certain products). Chavez went on many hunger strikes, refusing to eat until violence against strikers ended and until legislators (law makers) voted to make laws improving the lives of farm workers. He was also jailed many times during his fight against terrible migrant worker

conditions.

Chavez was born in San Luis, Arizona, near Yuma. His family had lived there since his grandfather immigrated from Mexico.

His parents, Librado and Juana, owned a farm and store. The family lost the farm when Cesar was 10 years old (during the Great Depression), and became



migrant farm workers. As a youth, Cesar worked part-time in the farm fields with his family in Arizona and California as they moved from farm to farm, harvesting the fields. After graduating from 8th grade, Cesar started working full-time in the fields to help support his family (this was necessary because his father, Librado, had been injured in a car accident).

Cesar served in the US Navy during World War II. When Cesar Chavez returned from the war, he labored as a farm worker in California. Chavez married Helen Fabela in 1948; they eventually had 8 children and 31 grandchildren.

Chavez and his wife taught Mexican immigrants to read and organized voting registration drives for new US citizens.

Chavez was greatly influenced by the peaceful philosophy of St. Francis of Assisi and Mohandas Ghandi. He joined the Community Service Organization, an organization that worked for the rights of farm workers.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Gilbert Padilla started a union (a workers' rights group), called the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), to fight for "La Causa" (Spanish for "The Cause"). The NFWA organized "huelgas" (the Spanish word for "strikes"). There were many bitter and violent fights between the grape growers and the workers; Chavez and many union people were jailed in the struggle. Some agreements were eventually made between the farm workers union and the growers. In order to force growers to further improve farm worker conditions, Chavez organized a nation-wide lettuce boycott.

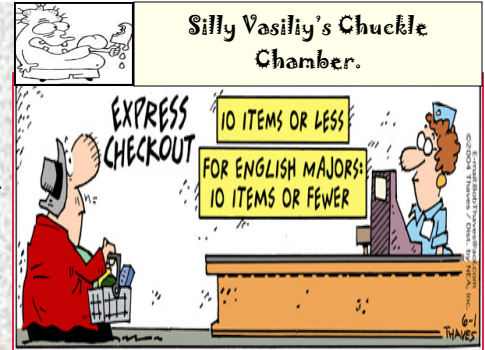
In 1968, Chavez organized a five-year "grape boycott," a movement that urged people to stop buying California grapes

until farm workers had contracts insuring better pay and safer working conditions. The name of the union was changed to the United Farm Workers (the UFW) in 1974. In 1978, when some of the workers' demands were met, the boycotts of lettuce and grapes were lifted.

Chavez's motto was "Si, se puede." (meaning "Yes, it can be done.") and he proved it to be true. His work for the fair treatment of farm workers changed the lives of millions of people for the better.

After a lifetime of valiantly working for social justice, Chavez died of natural causes at the age of 66 (in 1993). In 1994, Chavez was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously (after his death). To this day, the UFW and Chavez's children and grandchildren continue his fight for social justice.

[www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/hispanicamerican/chavez/](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/hispanicamerican/chavez/)



## April Fool's Day

Unlike most of the other non-foolish holidays, the history of April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is not totally clear. There really wasn't a "first April Fool's Day" that can be pinpointed on the calendar. Some believe it sort of evolved simultaneously in several cultures at the same time, from celebrations involving the first day of spring.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25.

The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications being what they were in the days when news traveled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more obstinate crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools

errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day thus developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of their friends and families.

Pranks performed on April

Fool's Day range from the simple to the elaborate. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim, "April Fool!"

April Fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever vigilant, for he may be the next April Fool!

