



# The Parrot

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multicultural, international students, new Californians, and, well, anybody really...

Issue # 76 Fall 2013

## Teaching-- a Gloria Nobles Pursuit

**Parrot:** Hi Professor Nobles!

**Gloria:** Hi! How are you?

**Parrot:** Fine, thank you. My name is Vladislav Li. I am your student from online class CISA 315.

**Gloria:** Aha!

**Parrot:** May I ask you some questions about yourself and your job?

**Gloria:** Yes.

**Parrot:** Could you please introduce yourself?

**Gloria:** My name is Gloria J. Nobles,

and I am a professor at American River College. This is roughly my 24th year as a full-time professor.

**Parrot:** What inspired you to become a professor?



**Gloria:** What really inspired me? I was trying to think about a particular person or something, but I just simply have always liked the whole process of teaching and

teachers. I don't know if you ever heard the evil nickname of "teacher's pet". Ever hear of that?

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## Giant Mirrors to Light Up One Dark Norwegian Town

In the midst of five months of darkness this coming winter, the Norwegian town of Rjukan will have one bright spot: a town square illuminated by sunlight bounced off giant mirrors placed atop the town's neighboring mountains.



will be carried in via helicopter, will provide an oasis of light in an otherwise bleak location at the center of the 3500-population town.

Three mirrors with a total surface area of about 538 square feet will sit at an angle to redirect winter sun down into the town, light-

Call it a mood enhancer. Or a tourist attraction. But the mirrors, which

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## Student Chirpings

### Blue Bay

I grew up in the very beautiful city of Sevastopol in the very south of Ukraine. This city has a lot of wonderful bays, creeks, and coves. As the warmest city in my country, Sevastopol attracts a mass of tourists from all over the world, so it's very crowded in summer. These tourists enjoy swimming and sunbathing



on the magnificent public beaches. As a native inhabitant, I know some rocky, wild, deserted bays in my hometown. My favorite one, and the place when I always feel happy is Blue Bay.

Blue Bay is surrounded by huge rocks, so the water is usually smooth, with no waves. The color of the water there is fantastically azure. There are no trees and bushes, so the best place to find shade is near the big rocks. I feel excited when I smell the incredible, salty breeze blowing from the sea. The sound of calming water makes me feel relaxed and happy. I love to climb on the highest rock and take a photo from there. It always comes out gorgeous. When I post these photos on Facebook, my friends say, "Wow, Igor! Where have you been this summer? Is it France or Spain?" or "When did you take such beautiful photos?" I respond to them proudly, "In Sevastopol, in the Blue Bay."

I usually go there with my friends on summer weekends or holidays. We bring wood, swimming rafts, tents, sun tanning lotion, and other things that we need there. We also bring food such as potatoes, tomatoes, bread, and drinks like juice, Coke, and beer. My best friend, whose name is also Igor, builds a fire and cooks a wonderful, delicious, pork shish-kebab.

This bay is also a nice place for different activities such as diving and fishing, because underwater are plenty of crabs, fish, shellfish and shrimp. When I go diving there, I usually wear a wet suit, a mask, and flippers. I also take a spear gun and a net. One hour hunting in this water is

enough to get a couple of kilograms of mussels, about seven to ten crabs, and some fish. After that, I customarily bring this seafood home and prepare it there. My family also enjoys this seafood, especially the crabs.



This place is meaningful for me because I spent a lot of my childhood days there. In several years, I will go to Sevastopol to visit my father and grandmother. I will definitely visit this fantastic place and stay there for a long time. I hope I'll get a lot of pleasure from being there after a long time of parting from my favorite place: Blue Bay.

*Igor Vatnyk  
ESLW50*

## My Little MaoMao

Do you or your family have a pet? Different people might have different animals as pets. Some people like dogs and some people like cats. I have even heard some people have pet snakes. Of course, a lot of different kinds of animals could be pets. I have a pet dog in my home country China. She is very cute and clever. Her name is MaoMao.

My pet dog is a teacup poodle that I bought one year ago. She was really small when I bought her. I could hold her with one hand easily. She has dark brown hair, a round head and a short tiny tail. When she first saw me, she ran as fast as she could towards me. When she arrived at my feet, she just kept shaking her tail and tried to jump into my embrace. When I picked her up, she began to lick my face. No matter how I turned my face, she could always get my face. When I pushed her back and tried to look at her carefully, I saw her big eyes were staring into my eyes with tears. However, this was just the first time we met each other in the pet store. The other dogs didn't like me as much as she. Then I decided to bring her home. After I left the store, I found out that from the time I got into the store to the time I got out of the store was just about ten minutes.

After we got home, I found out her hair was hard and she smelled bad. Then I gave a bath to her. After I cleaned her up, a sweet-smelling, soft-to-the-touch little dog was there. I couldn't control myself from hugging her and kissed her. She became really soft after the shower, just like some cotton in my hands. When I kissed her, I smelled not only the smell of shampoo but also the smell of milk flavor. She became quiet after a one hour game; I knew she was

tired. Then she fell asleep on my bed. I just kept looking at her. A few minutes later, I heard something. It was so funny that she was snoring!

I began to train her after she woke up. I showed her where the places where she couldn't go, where the places to eat and drink were and where the place to sleep was. I knew this took a long time for her to get used to. However, I believed that I had enough patience for her. Suddenly, she ran away and disappeared in the back of the door. I was confused and went to check what had happened. Then I found out she was urinating behind the door.

I felt strange that she kept shaking and her head was down after she finished. After a moment I realized that she was scared, maybe because she knew that she shouldn't urinate there. After I found that out, I wasn't angry at all, even wanted to laugh. I cleaned up the place and tapped at her head slightly.

Then I put the tissue on a newspaper and pointed at it. She looked at me then looked at the newspaper. I don't know whether she had understood what I meant until I found out she never urinated another place again. More than that, she

doesn't make any mistakes at all. I was so happy and surprised about her. It seems that she could understand what I said.

This is the beginning of the story between my beloved dog and me. She is bigger and became a mother just one month ago. I hope her children could be as smart as their mother is. Finally, I really feel lucky to have MaoMao as my pet dog because she is so smart and cute.



## Snowy Decision

I couldn't sleep well that snowy night trying to find a solution to resolve the issue. I was seriously in need of help. Loneliness and hardship had paralyzed my brain. From whomever I had asked for advice, the only thing that I had heard was to quit my job. I didn't want to add another problem to those I'd had before in my life, so I was persisting with no satisfaction. However, I was defeated by strong arms of my destiny, "Tomorrow I will resign, stay at home, and not return to work for the next two years," I told myself firmly. After making the decision, I felt a bit of relief then and thought that finally, it was the time to get rid of a few problems. But I was not aware that it wouldn't come true then.

It snowed the whole night, and the streets were full of snow. In the morning I got up earlier than usual. I was watching the wonderful scenery of snow everywhere, holding a cup of hot tea in my hands and happily thinking about how to go to work on that white day to carry out my mission! Suddenly the telephone rang. It was my mother. She couldn't sleep well worrying about how I was going to go out with two little babies on that freezing day. "The radio has announced that all the daycares are off today," she continued, "if you want to go to the office, bring them here. Your dad is going to stay at home today and help me with them. Don't drive yourself and take a taxi."

All the way from home heading to my parents' house, I was reviewing the past four years. I had married and my life had been full of pleasure for two and half years. In the fourth year we had two sons, first one baby boy, and nine months later the other one! I had been working for an engineering company. My husband left me with two babies to study in Korea for two years. The opportunity was great and I didn't want him to miss it because it would provide him a better job. I had to work to get on with life. Though I loved my job, looking after babies and staying awake all the nights, being busy at both work and home, had made the situation completely intolerable for me.

Mom was standing in front of the door and as we arrived, she rushed to help with one of the boys. I man-

aged the other one and we entered the house. Fortunately they were sleeping and we could take some time to relax with each other. I told her about my decision and waited for her reply, but there was no response! I felt the heavy air in there and looked for the reason that made her uncomfortable. "I must have said something that bothered her, but what could it be?" I said to myself. Finally, I broke the silence and said that I had to go to work. She said that she needed milk for the babies and on my way to the office she would get off in front of the supermarket.

While I was driving, she started speaking with me. She said, "I always wanted to work, but I married too soon and after that I couldn't find the opportunity to work. And that ambition will die with me." Her last sentence shocked me! She continued her idea on the advantages of being financially independent, how fast time would go, how much having social activities would change my personality, and how sweet life would be with more friends. She promised to find a nurse to help me with the babies while I was at work and insisted that I not quit. I reversed the direction and returned home with my mother. The babies were still sleeping and Dad was listening to the radio.

When I found out that she was opposed to my quitting the job, I didn't ask her more about further suggestions before that white day. Time passed quickly. I didn't give up, and amazingly, I got promoted in my position. My husband returned home, and I told him about what had happened. "I won't forgive your mother for her advice," he said while smiling! "If she hadn't prevented you, I wouldn't have a manager at home now!"

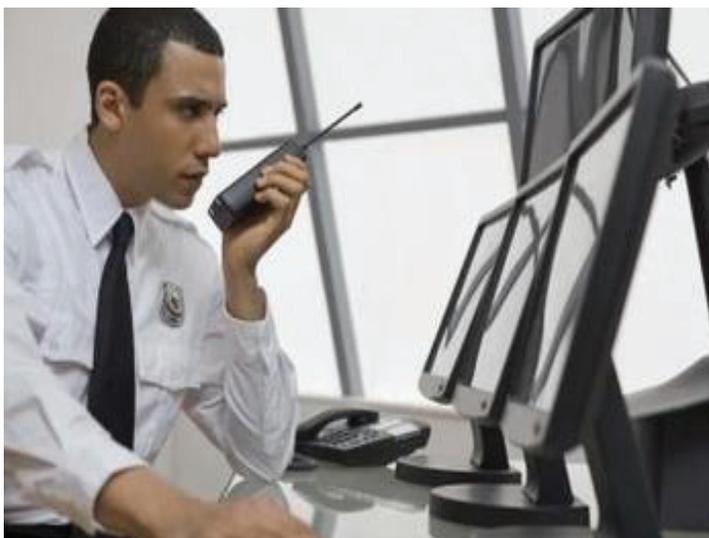
Now I am here in the U.S. with my two sons. Again alone challenging a new life, but I am not going to forget my mother's advice, "Try to be strong, and don't give up. Time will pass quickly."



## A Day at Islamabad Airport

Islamabad airport is really a very crowded place. From this airport, all Pakistanis traveling abroad arrange their flights. However, because it is one of the biggest airports in Pakistan, it is not that clean or organized, and most of the custom officers in this airport are really corrupt. Still, with its low quality, poor people have to accept it. Once I was traveling with my friends from Islamabad to Karachi. We had to attend a very important two-day seminar about health and environment. We all reached Islamabad airport at 3:00 p.m., met each other at the lobby, and went inside. However, the situation that happened to me was horrible, and is one unforgettable day in my life.

We wanted to sit close together in the airplane, so it was decided that only one person would get the boarding passes for all of us. I was given the task. After getting all the boarding passes, I waved to my friends, and they all came towards me, and we went to the departure lounge. But it was my bad luck that I forgot my bag and left it at the counter. Upon arrival at the lounge, I realized that it was time to offer



prayers, so I just looked around and saw a prayer place for women (small Masjid). I went there and started to offer my prayers; there were some other ladies praying there too. One thing I realized while at the airport is that everybody was afraid of a possible Taliban suicide bomber, so they all were in a rush, trying to get their boarding passes and leave the airport as soon as possible. When we were at the lounge a security officer saw a bag in the lobby. He did his best to find the owner but he couldn't, so he called his boss, and soon there were three security officers around that bag (my bag), considering that it might contain a bomb; however, they did not know what to do. They called their supervisor and all of a sudden there was panic at the Airport Security Office. They decided not to announce it with the speakers as it might create more panic around the airport, but some security officers would interrogate peo-

ple individually, so they came to the departure lounge and started asking questions of the passengers.

While they were at the lounge, I was in the prayer room with my friends, so they could not ask my friends or me if we knew anything about the bag. After we were done praying, we came back to the lounge, sat there and waited for our airplane to arrive. Meanwhile, at the Airport Security office they thought for sure that somebody left her bag deliberately, so they called on the anti-explosives squad. At that moment I was sitting on a chair, chatting with my friends about politics, politicians and their lies. We were also busy eating Lays. Suddenly, I remembered about my bag. I looked

around trying to find it, but it was not anywhere. I asked my friends if they had taken it, but they said no. At that time I got mad at them and asked why they couldn't look after the bag while I was at the counter getting their boarding passes. Everyone got quiet and was embarrassed, and then one of my friends told me about the security guards. I quickly rushed to a security officer and asked

him about my bag. He looked at me suspiciously and ordered me to follow him; he took me to the chief officer. When I reached the office, I saw a couple of very angry faces, but when the security officer that took me there told them that I was the owner of the bag, their faces changed from angry to furious. I wasn't ready for a situation like this at all. For the officers it was a very serious matter. They asked me where I was at the time that the guards were looking at the bag, and why I did not tell them about the bag. I said, "No one asked me, as I was praying." Then they asked me what I had in the bag and I responded by saying that I had my clothes and a book. They kept asking me the same question in a very impolite manner. I replied, "Sir, the bag only contains clothes and a book!" The chief officer then asked me what the name of the book was and at this point I realized how serious the situation was. I replied once

again saying that the name of the book was "Humans and Sex." Upon listening to my answer, the ice broke and they all started laughing very loudly. At this point they started me asking me a lot more questions. I responded that it was not what they were thinking, that the book was simply about marriage concepts at different times of human history. They were still laughing and then they let me go; a few minutes earlier letting me go would have been impossible. As soon as I joined my friends, they all started arguing with me and one of them was even blaming me for what had happened. They said, "Do you want us to go to jail instead of Karachi?" I simply told them to not blame me, but blame themselves. I said, "Why you didn't even look for my bag while I was there? Because of you I was nearly ar-

rested." Later on, we were in the plane flying to Karachi, but our arguments didn't end until we touched down at Karachi airport.

Finally, at the end of the day, I learned that I would never leave my stuff for others to take care of, and the most important point which should be mentioned is that you should never try to argue with custom officers at the airports, especially at Islamabad Airport, because it can cause you many problems and difficulties that can't be solved easily.

*Mahabeen Zazai*  
ESLW50

## A Present for Christmas

Isn't it interesting how things that are so upsetting in the past seem funny when you look back on them? I'll never forget Christmas when I was 8 years old. It was December 25, 1995. I had really looked forward to this holiday, because I would get my gift.

Many days before Christmas, all members of our family decided to make gifts for each other. We wrote our names on separate pieces of paper, put them in a hat, and then everyone drew one piece from the hat. Everyone had to give a gift to the person whose name was on the paper. Nobody knew who would give a gift to them. Everyone prepared for that event. I had drawn my second oldest sister's name. I chose a nice black watch for her with little beads that looked like crystals around the face of the watch. I waited for a good gift too, but what happened then?

After everyone ate on Christmas evening, we started to give our gifts to each other. I gave my sister's gift to her. She was very happy because she liked it and had wanted to buy it for herself. She gave me a hug and said, "I love you!" After that, I waited for my gift. My oldest sister had drawn my name. She gave me a little, little box. When I saw this tiny box, I started to cry. I thought, "What could she have put in this tiny box? Nothing



good!" Fortunately, I was wrong. I cried for a long time, and no one understood why. They saw that I didn't open this tiny box. Everyone asked me to open it and show them what was there, but I didn't want to and continued to cry. Finally, when I opened this little box, there was a note, "You can find your gift in the closet, in your bedroom!" At that time there were a million ideas

in my head. "What can be there? Big or small? Maybe there is one more tiny box? Or it's a joke?" But I was happy at that moment that this was not the end! After I went there, I found a big Teddy Bear. I already had a shelf of cuddly toys in my little bedroom but I felt that this one was special. It was almost my size and had a pouch for its tummy. It was brown, my favorite color, and its paws and face were pale brown. Its face was gentle and smiling and felt soft. I was very happy! I hadn't thought that I could get that

big gift. I loved stuffed animals. I stopped crying as if nothing had happened!

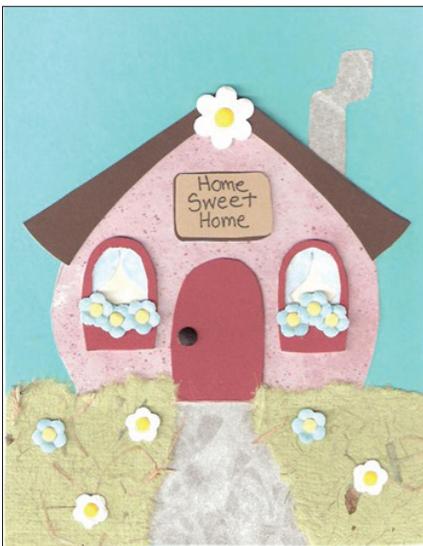
Every time when we remember this Christmas, we always laugh at this event with my sister. I wouldn't want to repeat that Christmas day again.

*Damyan Mariya*  
ESLW 310

## My Favorite Place

My favorite place is my house. My house is a small place, but it is clean and very comfortable. It is near Arden Mall. Around my house there are many shopping centers, too.

My house has two rooms, one bathroom, one kitchen, one beautiful living room and a small patio. My whole house is white, but I have decorations with beautiful colors. My daughter's room has a lamp, a mirror and a pink blanket. The bathroom has a brown and orange curtain and two big candles. The living room is the most beautiful part of my house. All of the decorations are brown, orange, gold and white. It has a big mirror, one brown and white sofa, and the love seat is brown. The wall that is between the kitchen and the living room has my family pictures. It makes my living room very elegant. It is small but it is a good place



for my two daughters, my husband and me. My house smells delicious every morning. It smells like Starbucks, because I drink coffee every morning. My house is always clean. Of course, I have to clean every day. On some days my daughters' room is dirty, but sometimes they help me clean their room.

My family and I sometimes go outdoors to eat. After eating, we go shopping at Arden Mall. Then we are very happy to go back home. The air feels silent, comfortable, and relaxing. My house is the best place to rest. For all of these reasons, I love my house.

Ana Valencia  
ESLW30

## My Garden

My husband and I enjoy planting vegetables. Our backyard is very large and we have enough space for gardening. We have some fruit trees and we have a vegetable garden, too. My garden is really special to me and I love it because I feel alive with it when the vegetables are growing and they are always fresh.

On the final week of winter or the first week of spring, (depends on the weather), I usually start to plant the seeds in my garden. I always do that because my husband doesn't plant the seeds very neatly. I like to plant cucumber, bell pepper, okra, green beans, eggplant, tomatoes, mint, dill, etc. I plant several different types of eggplant, tomatoes and pepper. They usually grow after a few weeks. My husband usually has the responsibility to water the garden. When the plants grow, they look amazing with



different colors. They are very spectacular. I feel like heaven when I watch them because among the green leaves I can see the colors of red, purple, pink, light and dark-green, yellow, orange, etc. Their smell is always great. They bring the scent of life to my house. Their taste is unforgettable, too.

In the summer time, I always go to my garden and pick some fruits and vegetables, I often use them for cooking. My husband and I sometimes have them raw as a side dish for lunch. During the summer, I take a lot of pictures of them. We really enjoy our garden and we always wait for next spring and summer.

Shahla Merikhi  
ESLW30

## How to Win Over your Mother-in-Law

People always want to have good relationships with their mothers-in-law and win them over. Unfortunately, they are not always successful. It is very important to have a good relationship with your mother-in-law, especially in Armenia, in my country. To have a good relationship and earn your mother-in-law's affection you have to follow three major steps.

The first major step is to respect your mother-in-law. For example, you should never argue with her. Maybe she says wrong things, but you shouldn't force her. Then, ask her opinion before making serious big decisions. That will make her feel good. Next, name your child after her. This is very important in Armenia. It sounds a little weird, but it works really fast.



The second major step is to be kind to her. For example, buy flowers more often for her. After that, keep her in your spotlight. Buy presents for different events, like her birthday or Christmas. She will know that you always remember her. Whenever you have a chance, invite her to your house to drink tea or coffee. Talk to her about different things, such as what she likes, what her favorite flower is, and many other

subjects. The honest talking and closeness will make you special to her.

The third major step to winning over your mother-in-law is to do everything she wants. Some mothers-in-law like to control you. If you want to maintain your good relationships, do what she likes. For example, wake up early, when everyone is still asleep. Then, do all the chores, such as cleaning the house, washing the dishes, and doing the laundry. After that, prepare the food. Set up the table very neatly. It is crazy but the majority of mothers-in-law in Armenia are like this. In short, do everything to please your mother-in-law.

To conclude, winning over your mother-in-law won't be very easy. There are many steps you can take to gain her affection, but respecting her, keeping her in your focus, and doing everything that she wants are more important, especially in Armenia. It is always good to have a good relationship with your mother-in-law.

*Ani Margaryan  
ESLW50*

## How to Get Along with Your Mother in Law



- Work through your own feelings about your mother-in-law before all else.
- Act like you like her.
- Stay polite.
- Use humor.
- Look for the good she does and praise it.
- Be kind
- Give gifts.
- Clarify misunderstandings.
- Give her space.
- Talk it through with your spouse.
- Be inclusive regardless of your personal feelings.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Get-Along-with-Your-Mother-in-Law>

## Nestscope -- Articles from The Web

### The Hottest Job Skill is...

*The Army, NYPD and State Department can't get enough workers with this job skill. Neither can Fortune 500 companies, hospitals, local courts and schools.*

#### What is it? Fluency in a foreign language.

Translators and interpreters are expected to be one of the 15 fastest growing occupations in the nation, according to the Department of Labor.

Roughly 25,000 jobs are expected to open up for interpreters (who focus on spoken language) and translators (who focus on written language), between 2010 and 2020, the Department of Labor estimates. That represents 42% growth for the field and does not include the military, which is also recruiting ferociously for more people.

In the last week alone, roughly 12,000 jobs posted on Indeed.com included the word "bilingual."

Amazon, for example, wants to hire a Brazilian Portuguese translator for its customer service team in Seattle. Apple is hiring technical translators who speak Korean, Mexican Spanish and Chinese.

A school district in Pasadena, Calif., is hiring Spanish, Korean, Armenian and Chinese interpreters to work part time for \$40 an hour.

#### Related: Americans lacking in basic skills

Nationwide, workers in this field earn a median salary of \$43,000 a year.

Far higher salaries go to people who work in the intelligence community on behalf of the military, the State Department, CIA, FBI or government contrac-

tors. These jobs can pay well into the six figures, as workers are required to pass high-level security clearances and enter dangerous situations.

"The government needs languages spoken in the Middle East and Africa. These people make the most money of all, but this is not just because of their language skills -- this is because of the high risk of the job," said Jiri Stejskal, spokesman for the American Translators Association. "They work in war zones. They may have a \$200,000 salary but it's because they're willing to get shot at."

Not willing to put your life on the line?

High salaries are also available to translators and interpreters who specialize in legal, medical, technical or scientific knowledge.

Which languages offer the highest returns? In government jobs, it's middle eastern languages like Arabic,

Farsi and Pashto (Afghani). In the private sector, it's Scandinavian and Asian languages that pay.

In contrast, Spanish is the second most common language in the United States after English, and because it is so prevalent, it offers the lowest return.

#### Related: The best job you never thought of

Most interpreters and translators work on a freelance basis, which can be both a blessing and a curse. The work schedule can be flexible, it can be unsteady and come without benefits.

"Since the majority of people in our field work as independent contractors and run their own business, the volume of work of course is subject to fluctuations," said Dorothee Racette, a German-English translator and president of the American Translators



Association. "Compensation varies a lot based on language combination, years of experience, area of specialization, and the country or region where customers are located."

Interpreters tend to get paid by the hour, half-day or day, with a range of \$300 to \$1,000 per day. The highest caliber interpreters are often certified by the International Association of Conference Interpreters, and can command the largest wages, Stejskal said.

Translators, on the other hand, are usually paid by the word. The average rate for translating the 30 most commonly used languages on the web was 13 cents in 2012, according to market research firm Common Sense Advisory. Rarer languages command higher per-word rates but also tend to be lower in demand.

Speed is crucial to making the highest salary. For example, good translators who can do 2,500 to 3,000

words a day, would earn \$325 to \$390 a day, whereas a newbie to the field may be capable of far less.

**Related: Make \$30 an hour, no bachelor's degree required**

Kari Carapella, a senior recruiter for staffing firm Adecco Engineering & Technical, is currently trying to fill a job for an engineering translator in Big Falls, NY. The ideal candidate must not only be fluent in Japanese, but also understand electrical and mechanical engineering blueprints and documents.

"It's especially tough to fill as both the technical and translation skills must be in place," she said.

Pay starts around \$30 an hour, she added.

<http://money.cnn.com/2013/10/30/news/economy/job-skills-for-foreign-language/index.html>

## 10 Skills Job Seekers Need

As students prepare to enter the workforce, they need to be aware that employers are looking for team players who can solve problems, organize their work, and communicate effectively, according to employers who responded to National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook 2014 survey.

NACE asked employers who interview and hire new college graduates to rank a job candidate's desired skills and qualities. Employers rated seven of ten qualities as "very important" and three were rated "somewhat important." The following seven of 10 qualities were rated as "very important": ability to work in a team structure; ability to make decisions and solve problems; ability to plan, organize and prioritize work; ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization; ability to obtain and process information; ability to analyze quanti-



tative data; and technical knowledge related to the job.

**ARC** students can demonstrate that they have these skills and qualities by doing an internship during their college years. An internship provides students with an opportunity to look at a future career close up while getting hands-on experience with any potential job. An internship can get students' "foot in the door" to a job opportunity with many employers and help build a network of professionals in the field.

For more information on internships, students can contact the **Work Experience and Internship Program** by phone (916) 484-8182, in person at the **Career Center** inside the **Student Services Building**, or on the web at [http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Support\\_Services/Work\\_Experience.htm](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Support_Services/Work_Experience.htm)

# Parrot Warbling

## Beak Speak Intonation and Stress



English is known as a stressed language; ***stressed languages*** are languages that are spoken with differing levels of emphasis for the different words and syllables in the sentences. This is a feature that syllabic languages do not share; syllabic languages are languages that are spoken with equal emphasis on every syllable. Speakers of the latter cannot understand why speakers of stressed languages seem to almost rush past certain words while slowing down and stressing on others.

To explain, consider the word 'can'. When one uses this word positively, it becomes *c'n*; the vowel *a* goes almost unsaid, unstressed, as in *We can go out on Sunday*. Take, on the other hand, the negative form, 'can't'. This never goes unstressed; it always pronounced *cahnt*. The result is that saying *We can go out on Sunday* will take less time than saying *We can't go out on Sunday*.

As a result of this, it is required of any English speaker that he or she be aware of the words that are stressed in English and those that aren't. This will of course become clearer through regular conversations, but for now, you must remember:

**Content words are stressed. Content words include:**

**Nouns** (e.g. *Hari, Sunidhi*)

**Normal verbs** (e.g. *run, build, shout*)

**Adjectives** (e.g. *beautiful, large, friendly*)

**Adverbs** (e.g. *loudly, quickly, randomly*)

**Function words are unstressed. Function words include:**

**Determiners** (e.g. *a, the, an*)

**Auxiliary verbs** (e.g. *don't, can, was*)

**Conjunctions** (e.g. *and, but, as*)

**Pronouns** (e.g. *he, she, us*)

<http://www.englishleap.com>

## Idiom--Attic

### Eyes popped out



When critics and celebrity observers criticized Heidi Montag for undergoing ten plastic surgery procedures in one operation, she answered back that ***going under the knife*** is only ***a medical operation*** that doesn't involve any life-threatening risk.

<http://www.englishdaily626.com/idioms>



## Grappling with Grammar

### Uses of the Period

#### 1. To mark the end of a sentence which is not a question or an exclamation.

- *Rome is the capital of Italy.*
- *I was born in Australia and now live in Indonesia.*
- *The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people.*

#### 2. To indicate an abbreviation

- *I will be in between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.*

#### 3. Special case - three dots

Often you will see a sentence concluding with three dots. This indicates that only part of the sentence or text has been quoted or that it is being left up to the reader to complete the rest of the sentence.

- *The Lord's Prayer begins, 'Our Father which are in Heaven...'*

#### 4. Period after a single word

Sometimes a single word can form the sentence. In this case you place a fullstop after the word as you would in any other sentence.

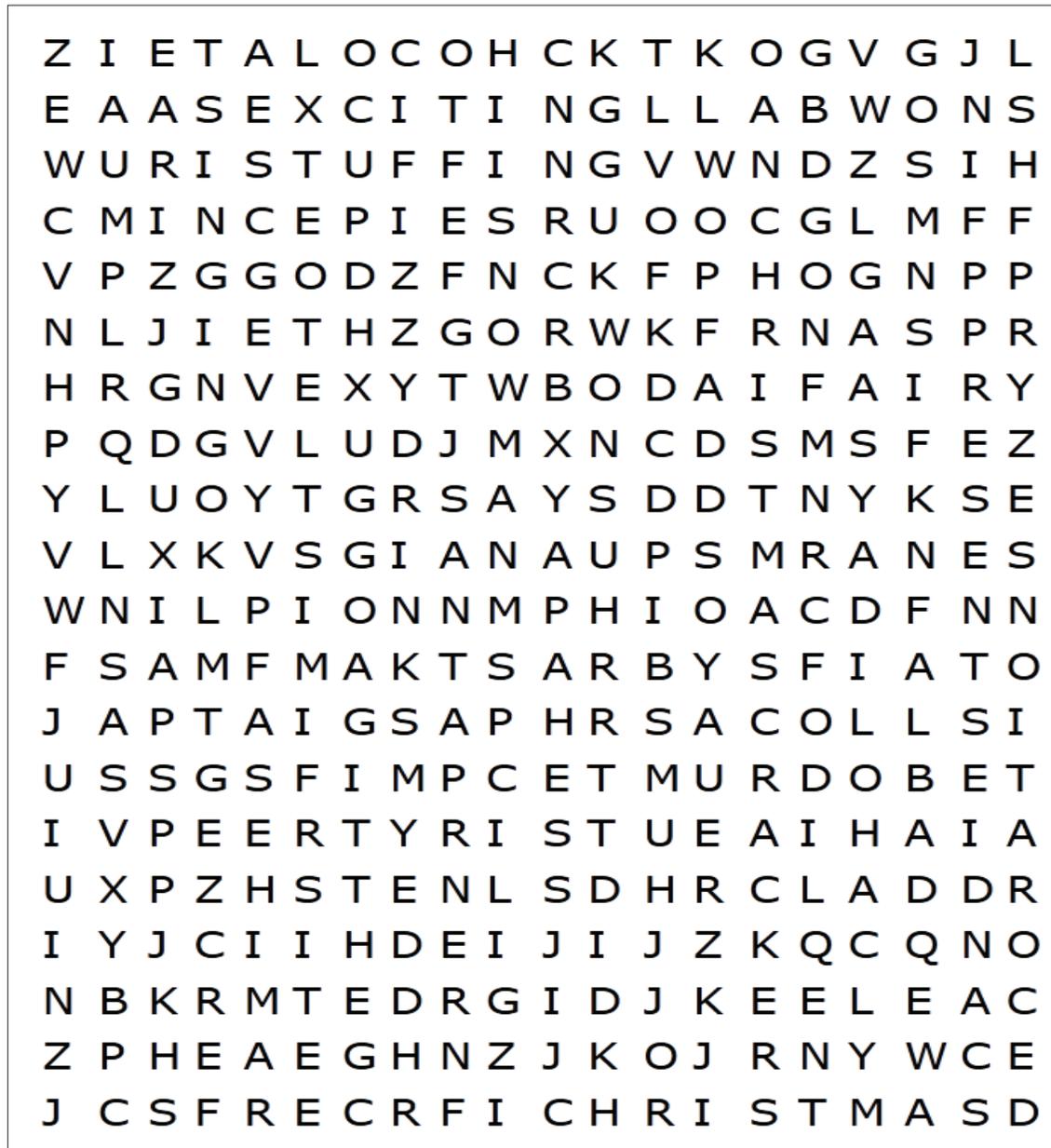
- "Goodbye."
- "Hello."

<http://www.edufind.com>

## Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

### Christmas Parties Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the words associated with Christmas festivities that are hidden in the grid.

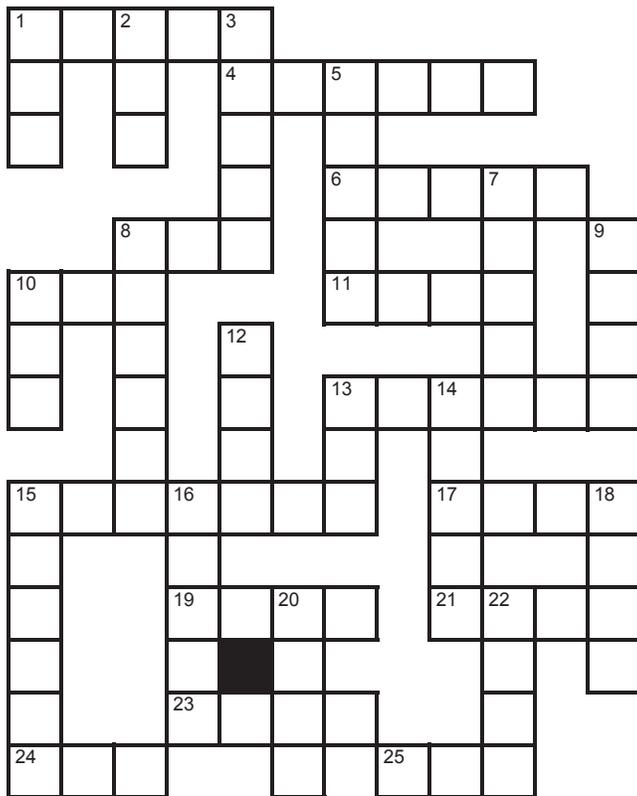


SANTA CLAUS  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
DECORATIONS  
PRESENTS  
GIFTS  
HOLIDAYS  
FUN  
REINDEER

SNOW  
SNOWMAN  
SNOWBALL  
FAIRY  
FATHER CHRISTMAS  
TURKEY  
CHOCOLATE  
CANDIES

SLEDGE  
MISTLETOE  
CHRISTMAS CAKE  
CHRISTMAS PUDDING  
MINCE PIES  
FIZZY DRINKS  
STUFFING  
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
SINGING  
HAPPY TIMES  
FAMILY  
EXCITING



**Word Skills**

**Across**

- 1 The antonym of back.
- 4 A type of lizard that begins with I.
- 6 A kind of flower that begins with D.
- 8 The antonym of good.
- 10 A drink that rhymes with sea.
- 11 A food that rhymes with dice.
- 13 A synonym for rug.
- 15 The opposite of deep.
- 17 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.
- 19 A drink that rhymes with silk.
- 21 The antonym of thick.
- 23 The opposite of far.
- 24 The opposite of high.
- 25 Another word for angry.

**Down**

- 1 A forest animal that rhymes with socks.
- 2 The opposite of young.
- 3 A synonym of sleepy.
- 5 The opposite of over.
- 7 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep.
- 8 A kind of fruit that begins with B.
- 9 The opposite of east.
- 10 Another word for pull.
- 12 A toy that rhymes with tall.
- 13 A farm animal that rhymes with wow.
- 14 The opposite of wrong.
- 15 A place that rhymes with pool.
- 16 A kind of fruit that begins with L.
- 18 Another way to say 'very small'.
- 20 Another word for jump.
- 22 The opposite of soft.



*Solutions to crossword on page*

### The Old Year

The Old Year's gone away  
 To nothingness and night:  
 We cannot find him all the day  
 Nor hear him in the night:  
 He left no footstep, mark or place  
 In either shade or sun:  
 The last year he'd a neighbour's face,  
 In this he's known by none.  
 All nothing everywhere:  
 Mists we on mornings see  
 Have more of substance when they're here  
 And more of form than he.  
 He was a friend by every fire,  
 In every cot and hall--  
 A guest to every heart's desire,  
 And now he's nought at all.  
 Old papers thrown away,  
 Old garments cast aside,  
 The talk of yesterday,  
 Are things identified;  
 But time once torn away  
 No voices can recall:  
 The eve of New Year's Day  
 Left the Old Year lost to all.

by John Clare

### Rigoberto's Riddles

A cloud was my mother, the wind is my father, my son is the cool stream, and my daughter is the fruit of the land. A rainbow is my bed, the earth my final resting place, and I'm the torment of man.



Answer: Rain

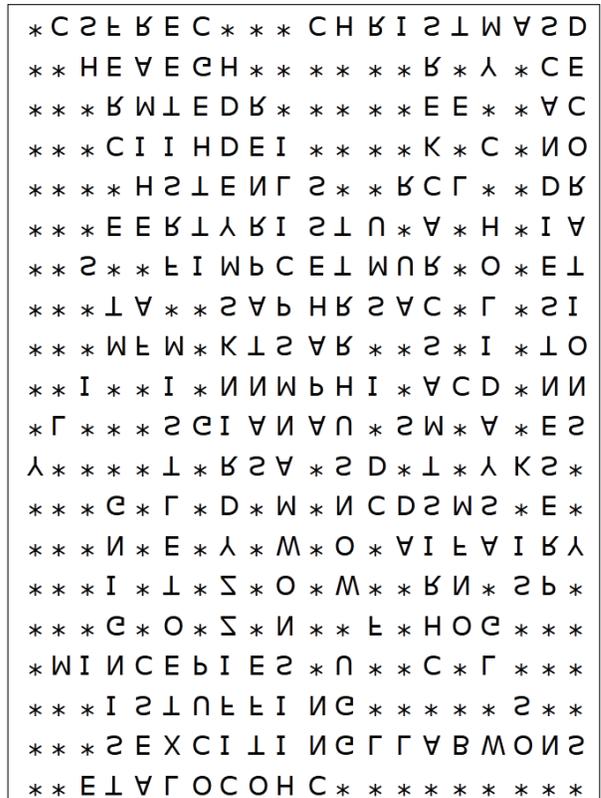
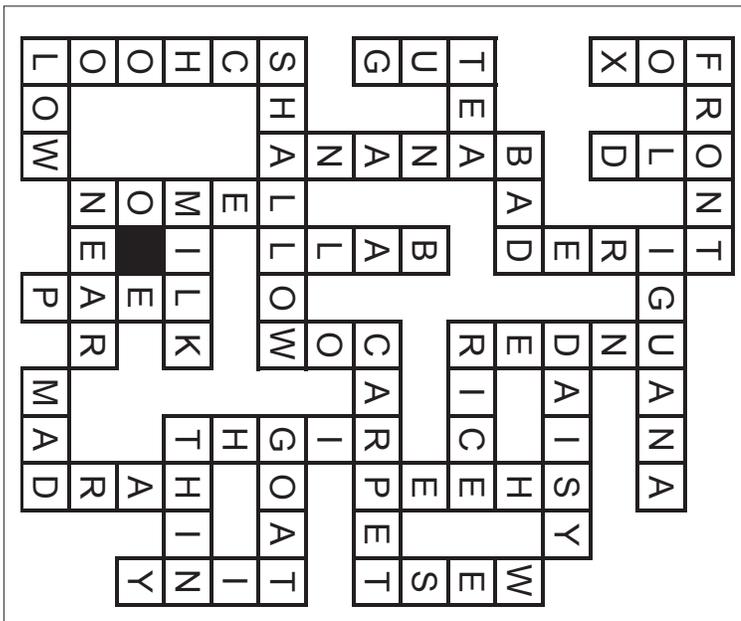
### Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



A curious child asked his mother: "Mommy, why are some of your hairs turning grey?"

The mother tried to use this occasion to teach her child: "It is because of you, dear. Every bad action of yours will turn one of my hairs grey!"

The child replied innocently: "Now I know why grandmother has only grey hairs on her head."



## Granny Noetal

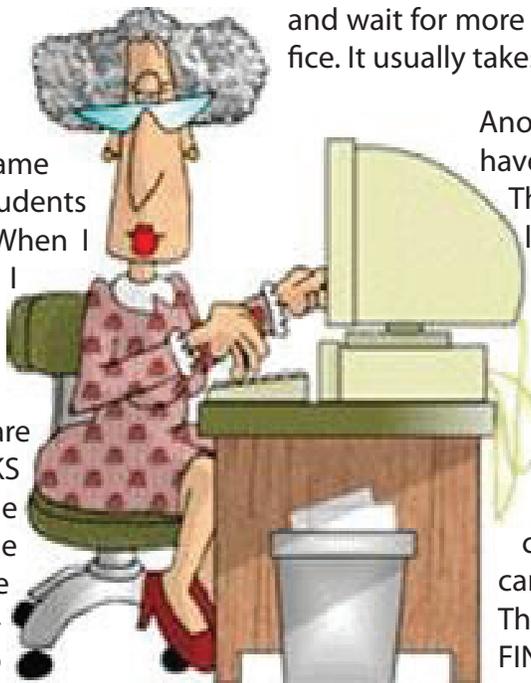
### Dear Granny Noetal,

I've been reading The Parrot at my adult school where I'm learning English. Next semester I'm attending ARC. My question is this: is there some way I can get a job on campus while I go to school?

**Alisa**

### Dear Alisa,

Working and studying at the same time – a tough road but many students do it. I admire your initiative. When I was in college way back when, I washed dishes to help pay my tuition fees and living expenses. Nowadays, students can have CALWORKS work. If students are on welfare and receive CALWORKS funding, they can register in the Student Services Building at the CALWORKS office. They will be given a form to fill out by a welfare worker. Then they have to finish orientation and see the CALWORKS counselor at the CALWORKS department. If the counselor approves you for CALWORKS, you will receive the document "CONFIRMATION FOR CAL-WORKS ELLIGIBILITY". Usually this document consists of information on how many hours you have to put in for CALWORKS work and what percentage of these hours CALWORKS pays for (usually it is 75%). The remaining hours your employer would pay.



The next step is to find a job on campus. How to find a job is a different issue: at the very least you need a resume with the document "CONFIRMATION FOR CAL-WORKS ELLIGIBILITY" and an interview. Go knock on doors of all the offices on campus. If you are hired, you have to fill out a package of documents and wait for more approval from the CALWORKS office. It usually takes a week, and then you can work.

Another possibility is students can have FEDERAL WORK STUDY jobs.

This kind of work gives students limited work hours per semester and all these hours are covered by a Federal Program. This means your campus employer doesn't have to pay for you. When a student renews or fills out his FAFSA for a new studying year, he or she has to mark a field to indicate whether he wants to work on campus as a student help employee. Then a student has to log onto his FINANCIAL AID account and fill out some fields about Federal Work

Study. When he/she is done with this, at the beginning of a new FAFSA period he will receive the e-mail: confirmation for FEDERAL-WORK STUDY.

If a student has both kinds of work: CALWORKS and FEDERAL-WORK he/her is very fortunate!

**Granny**

### CALWORKS

**Office Location:** Student Services Building

**Hours:** Fall & Spring Semesters

M., Th. & Fr.: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

T. & W.: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Semester Break: M - Fr 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Email:** [arccalworks@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:arccalworks@arc.losrios.edu)

**Phone:** 916-484-8059

### Financial Aid

**Office Location:** Student Services Building

**Hours:** M,Th.,Fr.- 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tue - 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wed - 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Semester Break: M. - Fr.: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Phone:** (916) 484-8437

**FAX:** (916) 484-8640

## Giant Mirrors to Light Up One Dark Norwegian Town

*Continued from page 1.*

ing up over 2150 square feet of concentrated space in the town square. A similar idea exists in the Italian village of Viganella, which has used brushed steel to reflect light since 2006.

A computer located in Rjukan's main town hall office will operate the solar-powered system, which continually monitors the movement of the sun and calculates the optimal positioning of the German-made mirrors to keep the square—which the city plans to turn into a skating rink—bathed in sunlight. The project will set the Norwegians back 5 million kroner (about \$835,000), but 80 percent of the funds will come privately and the system will run primarily on solar and wind power.



Sam Eyde, co-founder of the Norwegian industrial behemoth that bears his name, originally wanted to place mirrors on the mountains nearly a century ago. But he lacked the technology, so built a cable car in 1928 instead. That route has proven to be a popular escape from the dark city ever since. But now, Norwegian officials say, “the square will become a sunny meeting place in a town otherwise in a shadow.”

After initial clearing of trees and pouring of a concrete foundation, helicopters delivered the mirrored panels in mid-July. The first real test of the system comes in September when the angle of the sun begins to put Rjukan in the shadows, which lasts until March. Those five-plus months may seem more bearable now thanks to one at least in the town square.

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/engineering/gonzo/giant-mirrors-to-light-up-one-dark-norwegian-town-15720433>

## Interview with Professor Gloria Nobles

*Continued from page 1.*

**Parrot:** No.

**Gloria:** OK, well when I was a child we would tease each other. I don't think I did, but people would tease you if you were really close to the teacher, and every time the teacher asked the question you would raise your hand, and the teacher wanted somebody to go and take out the trash or something, you would raise your hand, you know...

**Parrot:** I see.

**Gloria:** That was me, so I grew up as a teacher's pet and just loved the whole process plus my mother was a teacher.

**Parrot:** For how long have you been teaching?

**Gloria:** Over 32 years now.

**Parrot:** Wow!

**Gloria:** I started in Chicago, Illinois, and I taught in the public schools there, and since then I have taught at the college level.

**Parrot:** A great experience!

**Gloria:** Yes. But, I'll tell you stories in another interview. Horror stories!

**Parrot:** What is the best part about your job?

**Gloria:** The best part is imparting knowledge, and secondly encouraging students. Those are probably the absolute best, but there is another little spot too, that I get to meet people from all countries, all backgrounds and all ethnicities. That just makes for my learning about different cultures.

**Parrot:** I see. You're also learning.

**Gloria:** Yes, it enriches my learning because I'll probably never get a chance to visit those countries, so ...

**Parrot:** What is the worst part of your job?

**Gloria:** Let's see, I have to admit that the worst part is when it is time to do the grading and I have lots of grading to do. Just getting started, you know, on a Friday evening, I don't want to grade right now and it may take me until Saturday morning to finally start. Once I start I'm fine, but just getting started with my grading...

**Parrot:** Have you ever thought about a different career? If so what?

**Gloria:** Probably, the only thing that I really considered strongly when I first went to undergraduate school, right out of high school was a career in journalism. I like to write and I still do, and I thought I would like to just be a writer. At that time I started looking for different opportunities; some opportunities that I found were a little bit iffy in terms of whether or not I could make a living, so I decided that I would go with teaching because at least I would have security and maybe I could then write in addition to teach. So that's what I chose to do, otherwise I would have just done writing full-time. I'm so glad that I've gotten experience because now I get to do both.

**Parrot:** That's good. Do you write poetry?

**Gloria:** Yes. I was looking (looking for her poetry book) to see if I might have...

**Parrot:** My next questions are about ARC. You've been at ARC for a while, could you tell me how you got here?

**Gloria:** I started teaching part-time, and then after I think about three years of teaching part-time, a full-time position became available here at ARC and other position at SCC at the same time. I was interviewed for those positions in both campuses and I actually got job offers for both. I taught full time at ARC and some classes part time at SCC as well.

**Parrot:** That's so hard.

**Gloria:** Yes. I was really happy, but very concerned about which one to choose, but then I chose ARC without really thinking too much about it.

**Parrot:** What do you like best at ARC? Why did you choose ARC?

**Gloria:** I like the camaraderie with my colleagues and working on special projects with them. There is a collegiate spirit that just makes you feel good about being in this atmosphere. It's pleasant and I feel comfortable here. Just in general, I like the staff and the students. You have to work, but you love to do it with people you like being around.

**Parrot:** Do you like to work on a team?

**Gloria:** Yes, several of us have been a part of a grant project for the last couple of years. I'm on that great project with them. So we teach, but then we work on the grant too. It's good.

**Parrot:** What do you dislike at ARC?

**Gloria:** That's a tough one, a really tough one. And I may say something that has absolutely nothing to do with teaching, but I don't like the smoke coming from across the little court right there, it bothers me. When I go from one building to the next, I'm like, you know, I'm going through the smoking area! That bothers me, not extremely, but I just wish there was no smoking because the court is a few feet from the door to come in here. There is just smoke all around.

**Parrot:** Yes, this is like a smoking area.

**Gloria:** Exactly! Sometimes that bothers me, but I can live with that.

**Parrot:** What advice do you think is most important for your students?

**Gloria:** To look at this educational opportunity as a... I was trying to think how one of my old economics teachers related it one time, can't think of it now, but this is basically a price. This is not in the way that was said to me, but this is the price that you pay when you decide that you want to get an education. It is not just the cost of the tuition that you pay; you are paying for an opportunity and you have to be really serious about it and not let anything else get in the way. One of my nieces, who is a lawyer, is working with some students at a university in the South and she is trying to prepare them for the law exam. And there is one young man she was talking about last night who didn't show up for the study session the other day, and some of the other students said – Oh yeah, we saw him on his way to a party!

**Parrot:** I see. He is young.

**Gloria:** Yes, exactly. So, he didn't have his priorities together. So, I would suggest that people get their priorities together and stay focused on them, do everything and stay focused, because it's certainly worth it.

**Parrot:** It's the same in my country. When people are young they think only about parties or going out

**Gloria:** Exactly.

**Parrot:** Let's talk about you as a teacher from another side.

**Gloria:** OK.

**Parrot:** You have already said that you have a hobby as a writer but what is your dream vacation?

**Gloria:** Did you see the front of my book? (Showing her book with pictures of the beach on the cover...) This is the reason that water is here. If I have like a little house right over here, it'll be my great vacation. I always like to go to some place and I do love to travel, it could be in the US or outside, but my prefer-

ence whether to stay on a hotel or wherever, is that I always wanted to be near the water. Don't need ocean, I just want to be near water.

**Parrot:** Does it relax you?

**Gloria:** Yes, it does. It really relaxes me.

**Parrot:** The last question: If you had 10 million dollars, what would you do?

**Gloria:** I would take the first ten percent and give it to a charity. Whatever is remaining, I would split it in half and I would give it to family and friends, mainly family because I am very family-oriented, family comes first for me. And I'd probably buy myself a little bitty house.

**Parrot:** Near the water?

**Gloria:** Near water.

**Parrot:** Prof. Nobles, thank you very much for your time! Have a nice day! Bye!

*Vladislav Li  
ESLL50*

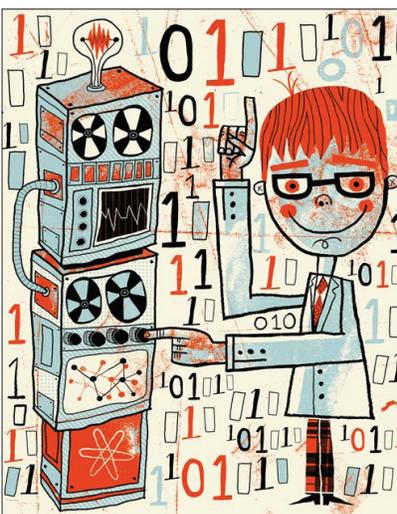
## Computer Science Degrees at ARC

### Computer Science Degree

This degree provides a comprehensive exposure to programming languages, algorithms and problem solving in preparation for upper division computer science courses. The Computer Science degree includes substantial course work in mathematics required by most university computer science programs

### Computer Networking Management Degree

The degree covers network administration technologies, techniques, and the hardware and software used in today's business/enterprise networking environment. Major topics covered include installation, configuration, and troubleshoot-



ing of network operating systems. The degree stresses the knowledge and skills required for the day-to-day operation, business aspects, security and management of computer networks.

### Microcomputer Applications Degree

This degree focuses on the use of the microcomputer and current, commonly used software to solve problems in a business environment. Course work includes microcomputer applications in database management, desktop publishing, electronic spreadsheets, presentation graphics, operating systems, word processing, and at least one programming language

## Christmas Is Coming - A Turkey's Tale

When I was a young turkey, new to the coop,  
 My big brother Mike took me out on the stoop,  
 Then he sat me down, and he spoke real slow,  
 And he told me there was something that I had to know;  
 His look and his tone I will always remember,  
 When he told me of the horrors of.... Black November;  
 "Come about August, now listen to me,  
 Each day you'll get six meals instead of just three,  
 "And soon you'll be thick, where once you were thin,  
 And you'll grow a big rubbery thing under your chin;  
 "And then one morning, when you're warm in your bed,  
 I'll burst the farmer's wife, and hack off your head;  
 "Then she'll pluck out all your feathers so you're bald 'n pink,  
 And scoop out all your insides and leave ya lyin' in the sink;  
 "And then comes the worst part" he said not bluffing,  
 "She'll spread your cheeks and pack your rear with stuffing".  
 Well, the rest of his words were too grim to repeat,

I sat on the stoop like a winged piece of meat,  
 And decided on the spot that to avoid being cooked,  
 I'd have to lay low and remain overlooked;  
 I began a new diet of nuts and granola,  
 High roughage salads, juice and diet cola;  
 And as they ate pastries, chocolates and crepes,  
 I stayed in my room doing Jane Fonda tapes;  
 I maintained my weight of two pounds and a half,  
 And tried not to notice when the bigger birds laughed;  
 But 'twas I who was laughing, under my breath,  
 As they chomped and they chewed, ever closer to death;  
 And sure enough when Black November rolled around,  
 I was the last turkey left in the entire compound;  
 So now I'm a pet in the farmer's wife's lap;  
 I haven't a worry, so I eat and I nap;  
 She held me today, while sewing and humming,  
 And smiled at me and said "Christmas is coming..."

Author Unknown

## Twas The Month After Christmas

Twas the month after Christmas and  
 all through the house  
 Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.  
 The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste.  
 All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
 When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).  
 I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;  
 The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,  
 The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese  
 And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt  
 And prepared once again to do battle with dirt --  
 I said to myself, as I only can  
 "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
 Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip  
 Every last bit of food that I like must be banished  
 Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.  
 I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.  
 I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,  
 I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore --  
 But isn't that what January is for?  
 Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.  
 Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

Author Unknown



## Christmas Dog

Tonight's my first night as a watchdog,  
 And here it is Christmas Eve.  
 The children are sleeping all cozy upstairs,  
 While I'm guardin' the stockin's and tree.

What's that now---footsteps on the rooftop?  
 Could it be a cat or a mouse?  
 Who's this down the chimney?  
 A thief with a beard---  
 And a big sack for robbin' the house?

I'm barkin', I'm growlin', I'm bitin' his butt.  
 He howls and jumps back in his sleigh.  
 I scare his strange horses, they leap in the air.  
 I've frightened the whole bunch away.

Now the house is all peaceful and quiet again.  
 The stockin's are safe as can be.  
 Won't the kiddies be glad when they wake up tomorrow  
 And see how I've guarded the tre

by Shel Silverstein

## Out of the Cage

### ARC Instrumental Jazz Ensembles

Thursday, December 5, 2013  
7:30 pm

Join the American River College instrumental jazz ensembles, directed by Dr. Dyne Eifertsen for a great evening of jazz. The American River College Latin Jazz Ensemble, Studio Jazz Ensembles, and Jazz Collective will perform a "Tribute to Woody Herman."

The concert will take place in the ARC Theater. Ticket prices are \$8.00 General; \$5.00 Student/Senior.

For more information, contact Dr. Dyne Eifertsen, 484-8676.

### Women's Basketball

Tuesday, January 7, 2014  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

ARC vs. Sacramento City College

### Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

Nov. 22 - Dec. 7, 2013

Fri/Sat at 8:00pm

Thurs. at 6:30 pm

(except Thanksgiving Thursday 11/28)

Sun at 2:00 pm.

Ticket Prices: General \$12, Student/Senior \$10 Tickets are available online at [www.SeatYourself.biz/ARCTheatre](http://www.SeatYourself.biz/ARCTheatre). Box Office is open one hour before each performance. For more information: (916) 484-8234.

Location: at Stage 2 in the Performing Arts Building.

### Scholarship Seminar

Friday, December 6, 2013

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Have questions about scholarships, the essay process, etc? Then please attend one of the hour-long seminars.

We offer more in-depth seminars on private, public, corporate and other general scholarships. This is for students who need to explore alternative options for financing their education.

Location: Student Services Building, Orientation Room

### Men's Basketball

Tuesday, January 7, 2014  
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

ARC vs. Sacramento City College

### ARC Winter Choral Concert - Rutter's "Gloria"

Tuesday, December 10, 2013  
7:30 pm

The ARC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers present their winter choral concert, featuring John Rutter's Gloria. The accompaniment for the Gloria is for brass ensemble with timpani, percussion and organ – a combination that has made this piece one of the most beloved choral works. The beginning of the concert will include chant, carol settings, and classical works.

Admission to the concert held in the ARC Theater will be \$10.00. Tickets are available in advance from singers or by calling (916) 484-8357. Tickets will also be available at the box office 30 minutes prior to the performance.

For more information, please contact Dr. Ralph Hughes at 484-8357.

### Questions/Comments?



Please let us know what we can do to improve "The 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 D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail [Braccop@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:Braccop@arc.losrios.edu). To see The Parrot in color go to [http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs\\_of\\_Study/Humanities/ESL/The\\_Parrot.htm](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm)