



The Parrot

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

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Math's Rocio Owens: It All Adds Up

Parrot: You have been at ARC for a while, right? Tell me how you got here.

Rocio: I started working part time at ARC in 2007. I was actually teaching at UC Davis. I was hired here part time to teach calculus classes. I stayed here working part time. I am currently working toward getting my full-time position.



Parrot: Every student in our class likes your teaching, and we have a very good time in your class.

Rocio: I enjoy teaching.

Parrot: I learn a lot in your class. How did you get interested in your area of expertise?

Parrot: I hope you do because you are a good teacher.

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"You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation."
Brigham Young



Couple Who Found \$10 Million in Gold Coins Will Likely Keep The Loot

A heist from 1901, from which coins became public last month that the were never recovered, appears unrelated

It looks like the lucky California couple who found \$10 million worth of 19th-century gold coins will get to keep their loot, after all.

Not long after it



This image provided by the Saddle Ridge Hoard discoverers via Kagin's, Inc., shows one of the six decaying metal canisters filled with 1800s-era U.S. gold coins unearthed in California by two people who want to remain anonymous.

unnamed couple had found the coins on their property, news outlets dug up an old newspaper clip showing a suspiciously similar amount of coins had been stolen from the San Francisco branch of the

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Student Chirpings

The Effects of Religious and Cultural Prejudice in Ukraine

Editor's Note: *Written in December 2013.*

Ukraine is a multinational country. The indigenous people are Ukrainians, but Russians, Crimean Tatars, Greeks, Poles, Jews and some other ethnic groups can consider themselves native inhabitants too. From the US, people don't see discrimination in Ukraine because the Ukrainian media doesn't like

to emphasize this problem. I had been living in Ukraine for many years, and I know that religious and cultural discrimination there really exists. Sometimes it shows in the rejection of hiring on a job, but sometimes it comes out as the murder of a non-Slavic looking person. I think that one cause hides in the Ukrainian constitution. Laws related to religious and cultural discrimination don't work. Most people in the country don't trust the Ukrainian courts, so most casualties don't appeal there. However, I believe that the most important cause of discrimination in Ukraine is the mentality of Slavic people. Slavic people are genetically intolerable, and sometimes even racist to other nationalities. (In fact, I even think that the Soviet Union crashed because of these problems.) The effects of prejudice in Ukraine are always different, but I think that the three main effects of religious or cultural prejudice are racial discrimination, discrimination against Muslims and Jews, and the tension between Russians and Ukrainians.

The first effect of the religious and cultural prejudice is racial discrimination. This effect is trivial, and sometimes even unnoticeable because of the low number of incidents. The effect of that type of prejudice touches on African and Asian immigrants who

come to the county in order to get a better education or jobs. However, the number of illegal actions toward these people is low, and in the US we'll never hear about the cases that happen because the number of Africans and Asians in Ukraine is not as big as in the USA. When an African or Asian person suffers from physical or moral damage, the Ukrainian police consider this type of crime as regular hooliganism.



Ukrainian law regards hooliganism as a minor violation, so a victim of this doesn't even expect monetary compensation. For Africans or Asians who came to Ukraine to escape from their countries because of religious or political oppression, the state doesn't give any helping benefits. The government doesn't give refugee status to these people, they don't get SSI, financial aid, or any medical help. Opposite to all that, the government will place more taxes on these people, considering them foreign citizens.

The second effect of prejudice is discrimination against Muslims and Jews. Discrimination against Muslim people in Ukraine is actually a discrimination against Crimean Tatars. As we know from history, in the times of World War II, some Crimean Tatars were accused of treason, and in 1944 Joseph Stalin deported all of their population to Uzbekistan. When the Soviet Union "melted", these actions were found as illegal, and the Crimean Tatars were allowed to return home. However, returning home they are faced with tons of problems. My opinion is that all these problems can be seen as resulting from discrimination. First of all, the government didn't return their homes and property, offering them the worst places to live.

Therefore, Crimean Tatars were forced to occupy the land around the small Ukrainian villages far from big cities. These places don't even have asphalted roads, and an adequate number of schools. They are also located too far from medical clinics and hospitals. Secondly, it is hard to get hired for Crimean Tatars, especially by state establishments. Thirdly, some Crimean Tatars still don't have identification documents. In addition, despite the laws, the Ukrainian government doesn't allow Crimean Tatars to create a political party for representing their ethnic views. The discrimination against Jews is not as perceptible as the discrimination against Muslims because most Ukrainian Jews already left the country, not wishing to face discrimination. Still, the minor part of them regularly face discrimination. As I know from my experience living in Sevastopol, the effects are these: desecration of Jewish graves and cemeteries, vandalism of Jewish memorial monuments and synagogues (for example graffiti with swastikas, or anti-semitic watchwords), bullying children at school, and unequal attitudes of coworkers. As for me, the only problem I had was bullying in high school. However my parents, and grandparents suffered from discrimination much more than me because they lived in the Soviet Union, where the anti-semitism was extensively spread. For example, my grandmother in her college years wanted to enroll in a medical university, but with her nationality it was unreal. My grandfather even changed his name when he went to serve in the army. (Before he became Igor, his name was Israel!) I also can remember the moment when our main city-rabbi was beaten by some unidentified people. Now, he is protected, like in the movies with two big tall guys in black tuxedos and guns on their belts.

The third, and the most common effect of cultural prejudice happens between Russians and Ukrainians. Historically Ukraine was parted into Western Ukraine and Eastern Ukraine. The "capital" of Western Ukraine is Kiev, and the "capital" of Eastern Ukraine is Donetsk. The population of Western Ukraine is mostly Ukrainians. They are much more patriotic to the country, they consider themselves as Europeans, and want to enter the Eurounion. They can speak both Russian and Ukrainian, but prefer Ukrainian. However, the Eastern Ukraine population is mostly

Russians. They still don't accept Ukraine as an independent country. They regard it as a Russian province. These guys understand Ukrainian but never speak it. Some Eastern Ukrainians even see the enemy in Western Ukrainians naming them Nazis. (a big part of W. Ukrainians fought against the Soviet army, regime, Stalin) The fear between these two groups causes a variety of problem. Ukrainians don't want the monuments of Lenin and Stalin to stay in the squares of their cities. (during the recent riots already five Lenin monuments in different cities were destroyed) Russians don't even want to hear about Stephan Bandera (Ukrainian ideologist and theorist of Ukrainian nationalism) as a hero of the Ukrainian nation. However, the most discriminative factor that parts two brother-ethnicities is language. Russian mothers don't want their children to study school subjects in Ukrainian. Russian students don't want to watch movies in the theaters in Ukrainian. Russians don't like that all official documents related to business, to person identity, laws, and other papers are in Ukrainian. Ukrainians love their language and want Russians to be respectful of Ukrainian artists, poets, writers, and so on. The Ukrainian state even declared Russian as the second official language in the country but still the Russian individuals dispute the language issue.

In conclusion, race discrimination, discrimination against Muslims and Jews, and tension between Russians and Ukrainians take place in Ukraine. However, I don't think that it is developed more than in other countries in the world. I don't say this problem isn't important, so the state should not react to it. I just think that Ukraine has lots of bigger, and more significant problems now. I think and I believe that in the nearest future, when Ukraine refreshes its government and the democracy in the country starts working, people will get more patient with each other. They will understand that being such a multi-ethnic country gives much more pluses than minuses. They will see that all religions can live peacefully together and they will enjoy learning different cultures that were so inexplicable for them.

*Igor Vatnyk
ESLW50*

The Magic of the Wallet

Genre: fiction

Sarah Wilson, twenty-three years old, works in a dental clinic as a secretary, a hard worker who likes her job so much. Everyone in the clinic respects her; even patients admire her and appreciate her work. Sarah is a beautiful girl, slender, brown eyes, and brown hair. She is elegant and smart. Sarah lives in Sacramento, California, with her parents.

One day, after work at 6PM, Sarah was going to the parking lot which is not too far from the clinic. She was walking to her car when she suddenly found a black leather wallet on the ground. Sarah hesitated to pick

up the wallet, but was overcome by curiosity, and the wallet seemed eager to be delivered to its owner. She opened the wallet to find out the identity of the person that the wallet belonged to. But Sarah was surprised when she saw the picture of a man on the ID. She took enough time to reflect on the man in the pic-

ture. He was very handsome and attractive. When Sarah returned home, she took the wallet from her purse to see the ID again. The man's name was Sam Alexander, a thirty-two year-old civil engineer, who lived in Roseville, California. His eyes were blue, his hair brown.

Sarah, like any young girl, has a very big dream; to some day meet her noble knight riding a white horse, living on a big island in a castle over green acres, full of trees and flowers. Sarah fell in love at first glance. Sam's picture attracted her and she was eager to see him and speak to him. Sarah picked up Sam's cell phone number from his business card; she found it in his wallet and decided to call him. Sarah dialed the number and was very excited to hear Sam's voice, but Sam didn't answer the phone; she tried again but he still didn't answer. She felt frustrated because Sam did not an-

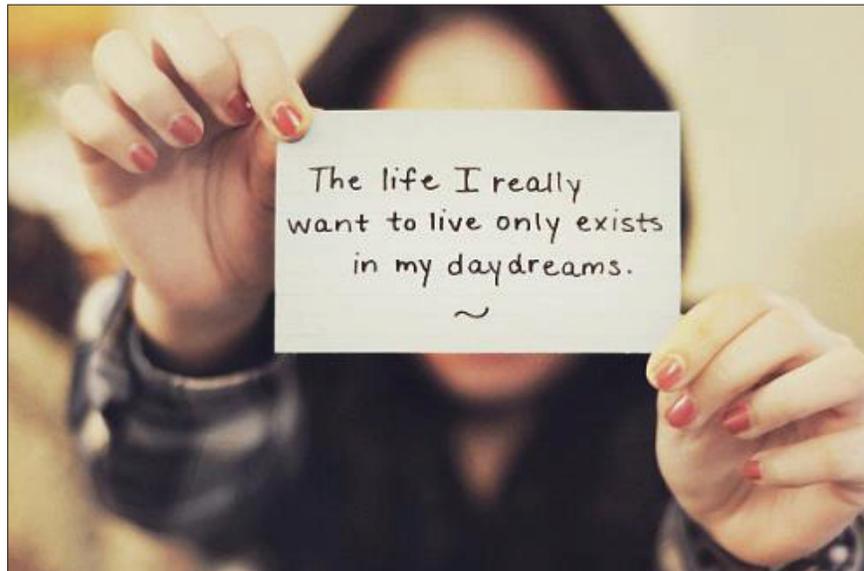
swer the phone. It was 10 p.m. Sarah felt really tired and wanted to sleep. She put the wallet beside her, and before she closed her eyes she picked up Sam's ID and looked again at his picture, wondering and dreaming of how to meet him... she was dreaming of Sam when suddenly, her phone rang.

Sarah woke up and answered the phone. "Hello?" she said, "Hello?" "Excuse me, who is speaking?" a man said. "Sarah Wilson, who is this?" Sarah asked. "Sam Alexander," the man said. Sarah jumped from her bed and threw the blanket away. Sarah was speechless, and she was surprised. After a while of silence,

"Excuse me, who are you again?" Sarah asked. "An hour ago, I received a call from this number, but I couldn't answer. I am sorry," Sam said. "It's okay, I just wanted to tell you that I found your wallet in a parking lot in front of my car, and when I opened it, I found your ID and your business card, so I called you," Sarah said. "Oh, thank you very much. That is

very kind of you!" Sam said with a shock. "Pick a time and a place that is suitable for you so I can come and give you back the wallet." Sarah said. "Okay, how about tomorrow at six p.m.?" Sam suggested. "Good idea. I work in a dental clinic near Arden Avenue, next to the mall, and I finish working at six," Sarah said. "Okay, how about we meet in the restaurant opposite the clinic you work in." Sam said. "That sounds good to me, see you there," Sarah said as she hung up the phone.

Sarah was very happy and excited, her heart beating widely. She couldn't go to sleep. She thought of how she would meet her knight. What was she going to wear? How was she going to speak to him? When would she meet him? Would he like her? Would they make a good relationship? But she stopped for a moment



while another picture came to her mind. What if he was married? And did he have kids? But did he love his wife? She was disappointed now. She returned to her bed again and lay down, but she stood again with full hope, dancing like a dove in her bedroom. She opened her closet, and chose a beautiful dress with nice accessories, and she put them aside and went back to her imagination and asked herself, "What if I don't please him?" Finally, she lay down on her bed and slept. She was in a deep sleep. She heard her knight's voice and relaxed with full hope to see him the next day.

The alarm clock rang; it was 7 a.m. in the morning. The sunlight flashed through the window and to her bedroom, and Sarah woke up, and opened her brown eyes with a little smile on her face. She went into the bathroom and took a shower, and went to her closet and got dressed. Like every day she went downstairs to the kitchen, ate breakfast, said goodbye to her parents, and left for work with all hope and happiness like sunlight glowing and pure like her heart and soul.

It was six p.m. and Sarah finished her work, her heart beating widely. She was very excited and was very eager to see Sam. She drove her car to the restaurant and

put Sam's wallet in her purse. She parked her car and stood near the restaurant, waiting for his call. It was 7p.m. and Sarah was still waiting for Sam's call. She got tired of waiting and decided to call him. She dialed his number with a lot of disappointment, and the phone rang... "Hello", the voice of someone answered. Sarah knew that it wasn't Sam; it was a woman's voice! "Hello", Sarah said with confusion, "This is Sarah Wilson. Can I speak with Sam, please?" The woman didn't speak for a second. "What?" the woman said. "Sam, my son, Sam?" she said. "Yes M'am" Sarah said. The woman didn't say anything, but started to cry.

Now, Sarah was really confused. Then the woman started to talk. She explained to Sarah that her son died two months earlier in a car accident. Sarah hung up with shock! Then she got into her car and drove to the river. She sat near the river and was disappointed. She felt bad so she threw the wallet. The wallet landed in the river and was moving with the water. After a while, Sarah realized that all this was just a dream that came from Sam's wallet. She kept his picture in her heart and never forgot her dream knight.

*Rusul Alwan
ESLW50*

Receiving my Diploma

June 30, 1955 at 10:00 a.m. in Ruwe, Congo, was the day when I got my teaching diploma with my classmates. I was outside, under a sunny sky with cool weather in the city of Ruwe in my country. The day was pleasant. Everywhere appeared in order and neat. There were flowers on the tables. There was a tricolor Belgian flag that was raised. It was a colonial period. The Belgians were the colonists. All of the professors were Belgians. My classmates and I were worried, but were encouraged by the congratulations.

The school garden was the place where many guests waited. Behind one big table the professors were sitting on their chairs. The director stood up with a list in his hands to read the results for each one of the students. He called each student. Smiling, I went to receive my diploma. The guests and relatives praised us. Around the school



garden from left to right, people stood and waited for the occasion. After the ceremony, the guests, relatives, students, and professors went into the large hall decorated for the party.

I dreamed of graduating. It took several years to become a good teacher. In the colony, before independence, a teacher was an important person. I hoped to become someone who was known to the public and interesting. The diploma allowed me to have a beneficial job, and I was promoted to the rank of manager of an elementary school for several years in my country. In my mind, I remember the successful graduation fifty eight years ago with great pleasure.

*Mukoma Kabwika Pascal
ESLW30*

Close Personalities Make Life Successful

"A successful marriage isn't the union of two perfect people. It's that of two imperfect people who have learned the value of forgiveness and grace". To be honest, this is my favorite proverb because I think it summarizes successful marriage in a few words. We should always support our marriage with love to continue our lives together. As Mahatma Gandhi says, "Where there is love there is life." Life is long and full of surprises; it's never devoid of problems, either complicated or simple, especially for young couples. Trouble might sneak into their life to test the strength of their relationship. Most of our problems happen as a result of a difference in our personalities. Therefore, there are three categories of problems that a newly married couple might face.

The first category of problems is problems arising from a difference in backgrounds. In fact, I used to live in an environment that was full of socializing, partying, and excitement with my family. We used to travel a lot, have a party for each occasion, and go to different restaurants, but when I got married, everything changed and I socialized less for the sake of my marriage. After a while, I discovered that my husband was very uptight and always scheduled his time, while I was more flexible and simple. The other way in which we were different was the amount of sensitivity, for I was very sensitive and took everything seriously, while he was less sensitive and simple through life. Since those differences were clear and could create problems, we immediately addressed them to save our marriage. I also had a friend who came from a very rich family. She fell in love with her cousin, who came from an average family. My friends and I advised her to think of the future consequences, and if she could live a lifestyle different than she was used to. She ignored all of our advice, and insisted on her choice. Unfortunately, she felt the big difference in the lifestyle as soon as she got married. The castle of sand that she had built, and dreamed of, suddenly collapsed and she found herself



trapped in a miserable life, full of needs and sadness. Although she regretted her choice, she had to convince herself to go on with her life to keep her kids living a normal life.

The second category of problems young couples face could be due to the difference in education levels. Many couples might suffer from a similar situation, as education is needed for both partners in order to build a family and lead it in the correct direction. Although my husband and I had close education levels, we still suffered from a difference in thoughts and beliefs. His

thoughts were more scientific while mine were regular and far from any scientific vision. For instance, when he wanted to make any decision, he studied it from all directions, no matter how long he took to decide, to avoid mistakes. I, on the other hand, used to make decisions depending on my emotions, which I discovered later was very wrong. The next thing that made us argue from time to time was the way of helping our kids with their homework. He used to feed them the information in a complicated way which they couldn't understand, while I

used to explain in an easier way and be closer to them. Another problem was that my husband always insisted on being the leader and decision maker, ignoring me, for he was the more educated person and his knowledge seemed the best, which annoyed me very much.

The last and more important category of problems newly weds experience is problems due to the difference of age. It is very obvious that when a person becomes older, he changes his view towards life in general. Everything becomes ordinary and easy, unlike when he was young and active. That change becomes a big obstacle, especially when there are ten years or more difference in a married couple's ages. I personally experienced that problem because my husband is ten years older than me. His personality is more mature

and settled while mine always seems excited and energized. There is no balance in our thoughts; he thinks seriously and scientifically but I usually think emotionally. Our appearance was another problem because ten years difference was very clear in our appearances, which made him feel jealous of me. I also suffered from a lack of tenderness and romance, which he thought were childish behaviors, and he was too old for them. At the time I was younger and in such need of them.

In conclusion, marriage should be the union of two forgivers who keep the fire lit in their marriage, so it is filled with warmth. In spite of the difference in personalities and experiences, a couple should consider love as the master key that opens the doors of happiness. They should also make some sacrifices and accept one another's personality to keep the ship of their relation sailing peacefully.

*Wise Woman
ESLW50*

My First Day of School

One day while I was at the park, in my country, Morocco, my mother told me, "Now you are four years old. You should go to school." I answered, "But mom, what do children do at school?" She replied, "The teacher gives chocolate and candy to the good students." I started looking forward to my first day at school.

"It is six- thirty, wake up Fatiha," said mom. I woke up heavily. I went to the bathroom, my mom helped me to take a shower, and I brushed my teeth, ate my breakfast and dressed in my clothes. My mom told me, "Do not forget your backpack and your snack, Honey," and we left home that was in my city, Old Fez to get to school in New Fez. The three-mile-trip to school was very long for me. Because of that, we took a bus to get there. "Finally we have arrived," my mom said.

I saw a nice building with multicolored walls. "This school is paradise," my mom said. I was extremely happy, and quickly, I passed through the school's main entrance. "Good morning," the director of the school said to my mom. "How is it going, beautiful girl?" a tall lady with big glasses asked me. "I am doing well," I answered. She asked me about my full name, my age, and if I attended school before. I answered her with a deep sound like I was in a well because I was very shy and nervous. The director promptly told me, "Listen dear, in this school, we are going to take care of you perfectly, but you must be polite and you have to be a good

student". She pointed to me and told me to follow her. She took me to class number seventeen and told the teacher that I was a new student.

The teacher was a big bald man. "Have you been in another school before?" he asked. "No," I answered politely. The teacher told me that there were forty students in my classmate and all of them could be my friends.

Some classmates tried to talk to me; some of them were unhappy and jealous when they saw me. I sat next to a beautiful girl. She was Sara. She told me that she had a big doll at home, but she couldn't bring it with her to class.

The classroom was a new world for me. It was forty new faces. "This class has rules. You cannot talk to each other or move around the class without my

permission. You can't eat or drink during class or before break," said the teacher to everybody. The classroom rules were extremely hard for me, but the teacher was very friendly and very helpful.

At the end of the week, I felt that my classroom was the best one I had seen in my life. I felt happy with my lovely friends and the teacher as part of our class team because we shared a lot of activities. I still remember my first couple of days at Glory school and everything that happened on those days.

*Fatiha Sahnoun
ESLR 340*



The Three Types of Attractions In Yerevan

Every country, city, or village has some kind of attractions. When we have guests from other cities or from other countries, we want to show them everything so they could have notion about our city. My home country is Armenia. It is a small but beautiful country. Every year many tourists visit Armenia to see its nature and historical places, and explore the culture of the people who live there. There are many activities in Armenia. They usually start at Yerevan. Yerevan is the capital of Armenia, and it has many interesting attractions. Attractions in Yerevan can be divided into three groups: Entertainment and fun attractions, historical attractions, and culinary attractions.

Entertainment attractions are many in Yerevan. When I had guests from another country, I always took them to the center of the city, where we walked through the buildings and shopping centers. The first place where we went was The Republic Square.

There is an oval area in the middle of a Square with Armenian patterns. It looks like a rug in the middle of the room. It is surrounded by four buildings with very beautiful ornaments which represent Armenian culture. Most of the tourists like the opera building in Yerevan. It is a circular building, again with beautiful ornaments. Tourists love to watch the operas written by Armenian composers. There are also fun nightclubs in Yerevan that we show to visitors. They go to hang out there and dance after a busy day.

There is also a group of historical attractions in Yerevan. One type of historical attractions is the museums. Our National Museum is the biggest museum in Yerevan, which tells all the history connected to Armenians. We also show our tourists the museum of books, which we call "Matenadaran". There are very old books. It is very interesting to see the biggest book and the smallest book next to each other. There are also old parchments written by hand. There are also many old churches in Yerevan. They are not the oldest in Arme-

nia but they are very beautiful. They have nice drawings inside the church. From outside they look orange and pink because of a certain type of rock they are made of, and they have beautiful Armenian patterns and ornaments.

The culinary attractions are also very splendid in Armenia. For example, Armenian restaurants in Yerevan are very good. They have all the Armenian food like Lula kebab, Dolma, and Xash. These foods are very tasty. Visitors usually say that they never ate something like that when they eat Armenian food. In Yerevan there



are also foreign restaurants. There are American restaurants such as KFC and Pizza Hut and there are Chinese, Slovenian, and Georgian restaurants. All the restaurants have professional cooks. There are also many outdoor cafes and bars in Yerevan. The outdoor cafes are really good in the summer, when it is not cold outside.

Tourists usually go there in the evening to drink some Armenian style coffee. The coffee is not from Armenia, but the way they brew the coffee is Armenian. They put all the ingredients in a Jazve, which is a small pot for coffee, and brew it on hot sand. It gives very good taste to the coffee. In addition, outdoor cafes and bars have good music, such as jazz and pop. It is pleasant to drink coffee and listen to nice and relaxing music outdoor.

To conclude, the attractions in Yerevan are many and we can divide them into three groups. Entertainment and fun attractions where our visitors have a good time, historical attractions where tourists learn more about Armenian culture and history, and the culinary attractions where they eat natural Armenian food they will never forget. Yerevan is a small city, but its doors are always open for guests, tourists, and visitors.

Ani Margaryan
ESL W50

The Happiest Person

There are a lot of people who are unique or unusual in their own way. The person who first comes to my mind is a young girl and I am personally familiar with her and her family. My husband is her father's best friend; they have been friends since childhood, so we used to gather together very often. Her name is Victoria (we are namesakes), she lives in Russia, and she is a very interesting, strong, and smart person. One day Victoria got sick and had a fever and headache. She couldn't eat any food or drink anything. After her parents drove her to the hospital, she fell into a coma for three days. When little Victoria returned to her consciousness, they found out that she had completely lost her hearing forever. Despite that, she is the most enthusiastic person I have ever met.

During her childhood before that scariest moment, little Victoria was a very enthusiastic child. She liked to dance and sing. Because of that, she hated to dress simply. That's why she usually used to wear her mother's clothes. She wore high heels, a huge hat with a wide colorful feather on the side, and a long, tight dress with lots of sequins on it. In addition to all of these, she wore a lot of cheap glass jewelry and used her mom's perfume to finish off her image of a pop singer. Although she looked a little bit absurd, everyone was amazed and touched by her beauty.

After that horrible loss of hearing, it took a lot of time for Victoria to get used to her "new" life. Even though most of the time she was depressed, the only way to cheer her up was to remind her of those moments when she could dress up like a super star and feel like another person. Maybe that was the main reason, but she started to wear bright, colorful clothes with lots of accessories with no worries that somebody wouldn't like it. She could wear a lot of jewel-

ry like in childhood, big dark sunglasses with wide glossy frames. With it she wore a broad-brim hat with a pink-gold flower on the top. Her face shone with happiness, her eyes were very bright and full of positive emotions. Every member of her family was as happy as she because at such moments she could forget about her disability and not think about it.

Now Victoria is twenty years old and she recently graduated from a special school for deaf people. While studying there, when her parents came to visit her and asked the worker to call for Victoria, everyone who worked there knew who Victoria was. They



knew her as a bright and funny person who wore her colorful clothes even on a rainy day and would cheer everyone up. When Victoria was at the graduation ceremony, every student and teacher cried because they loved Victoria so much for her positive attitude toward everything she encountered. They said that they would

always remember Victoria as the brightest person in the school.

By growing up such a strong and positive person, Victoria showed an excellent example of how to be a happy person. By wearing such bright and colorful clothes, she made her family feel more at peace and have fewer worries about her fate. She has such charming eyes that when she smiles with her lovely smile, it looks like dawn in early morning. Nobody, whether aware that Victoria is deaf or not, would say that she is unhappy, because she appears to be the happiest person in the world.

Victoria Arakelyan
ESL W50

Breaking into Our Own Car

Sometimes a person forgets an important thing, or leaves something somewhere they can't remember, and this can cause a lot of problems. I'll never forget my birthday in 2012, when my husband and I broke into our locked car in the parking lot of the Nimbus Dam Recreation Area because we didn't have a key.

It was a really sunny and beautiful day on February 13th, and we had a lot of plans for that evening; we had to pick our daughter up from high school at 6:30 p.m. and also meet our relatives in a restaurant for a birthday party at 7p.m. It could have been a very nice and happy time for us, but since it was a warm and shiny February day, my husband and I changed our plans a little bit and decided to take a break for just thirty minutes to be together, far from the real world, near Lake Natoma. We didn't think it would make us busy for the rest of the evening and night, and could change our peaceful time to a troubled one.

We arrived at the parking lot, parked the car, and went toward the lake. Approaching the lake, I decided to put my hand bag in the trunk, so I took the key from my husband, returned toward the car, opened the trunk, and put my bag in there. Then I decided to bring some other items from inside the car to put them in the trunk and lock the car doors, but I put the keys on the front seat of the car.

It was 4.30 p.m.; we walked around the lake, and then we sat on a bench near the lake to see a very beautiful sunset. We talked about our life, our future, and our love. We forgot the time and place until it got dark and cold; around 6 p.m. we returned to the parking lot. My husband asked me about the car

keys, I looked for them in my pockets, and suddenly I cried, "Oh no, they are in the car."

At that moment, I just thought about my daughter who was waiting for us in the school, and I was upset and nervous. My husband tried to calm me down and open the windows, but both windows were impossible. Our cellphones were in the trunk, and we did not have access to anybody to ask for help. There were no cars in the parking lot either. My husband decided to break the triangle window in the rear left of the car to open the back door lock. We looked for a big stone or something like that, but it was too dark, and we were not able to see well. Finally, we



found a stone and my husband beat on the window several times to break it. After he broke the window, we tried to extend our hands to the lock. The next problem came up when we couldn't see the lock because of darkness, and we just used our sense of touch.

After many trials and errors, exactly at the time that we were able to unlock the door, a park patrol car arrived. The park patrol asked us what we were doing when he saw the broken window. We explained to him what had happened. He asked us for our ID and the car license, but everything was in the trunk. He looked at our car and especially the plate number, and then he sent some message to be sure it was not a stolen car. When he accepted our reason for breaking the window, he turned on his car lights so we could see the lock to unlock the door. After that, we opened the car trunk and showed him our entire ID.

It was about 7:30 when we called our daughter. She was angry and worried because she had been waiting for us for about an hour in front of her school

gate in the cold. At the same time, when we called my sister-in-law, she was worried about us. She and other relatives had been waiting for us in the front of the restaurant for more than one hour.

At first, when I left the keys in the car, it did not look like a big problem. However, it made many troubles with every minute that passed and had a very bad outcome for my daughter and us. My daughter got sick and caught a cold ; she was absent from school

for three days. We also had to call our relatives to explain the situation and apologize that we were not at the party. Finally, I was extremely upset when I realized that we had to pay \$500 to fix and replace the broken window. All of this happened because I forgot to pick the key up when I left the car.

Fariba Darvishi
ESLW50

Small Titanic

Have you ever been on a sunken boat? Actually, it wasn't a huge boat like The Titanic, but it held almost 30 people. I always remember this unexpected experience, and it cracks me up. The story began on July 17th, which was the most important national holiday (Establishment of the Baath Party) in my country, Iraq. In the sultry summer of 1984, my father's friend invited my family to share and enjoy this important day by riding a boat on the Tigris River. The government had arranged a boat pageant which was full of lights, flowers, photos of our president, food, and music bands. We dressed up carefully and drove to the river. When we arrived and saw rows of boats floating beside the riverbank, my youngest brother, Firas, nine-year-old, leapt happily around us. Our white boat set out and our joyful journey started.

We sat happily with other families listening to charming music. After 30 minutes, our boat's driver hit the base of a large bridge on the river. Suddenly, the lights turned off and our boat leaned to its left side. In the wake of our yelling and our high voices, fishermen who lived in their houses beside the river hurried with their small and narrow boats to help us. This event overwhelmed us, so my three siblings and I hugged our mother tightly. But the men were

so brave, and they even continued telling jokes to comfort us.

They first sent women and children with the fishermen in order to take them to the riverbank. A small, narrow, and uncomfortable canoe paddled by a fisherman took an old woman and me on this spectacular day. Unfortunately, this woman was whining too strongly, complaining about our entire journey while I was so scared sitting in this canoe. I felt that the water would cover my body at any time. Finally, we started to reach the side of the river when this old woman discovered that she had lost one of her shoes. Carelessly, she asked the fisherman to go back to the boat to find her shoe. I lost my mind and thought I should throw her in the water, but the fisherman smiled and told her that her life was more important than her shoe.

In the end, we gathered on the river bank and congratulated each other while other boats passed us on their trip and celebration. The next day, my father's friend called us to greet us and to tell us that the pilot of our boat was punished because he was drunk.

Sahar Muslih
ESLR 340



My Wonderful Aunt

"Only an aunt can give hugs like a mother, can keep secrets like a sister and share love like a friend". These words are the best way to describe my aunt. She is the person that I admire and who inspires me through everything she does. I admire her because she is always in good health, she always gives me positive advice whenever I need encouragement, and she often tries to surprise me with something she knits. All of this is about my wonderful Aunt Tatiana.

My Aunt Tatiana is my mother's youngest sister. She is a tall and attractive woman. She has an oval face, hazel eyes, a straight nose, short black hair, and a charming smile. My aunt is in very good shape because she loves to take care of herself. She goes to the gym regularly to maintain her health. She also has a youthful appearance because she frequents a spa and beauty salon. This has enabled her to always be energetic and stay active. She would often say, "A sound mind in a sound body."

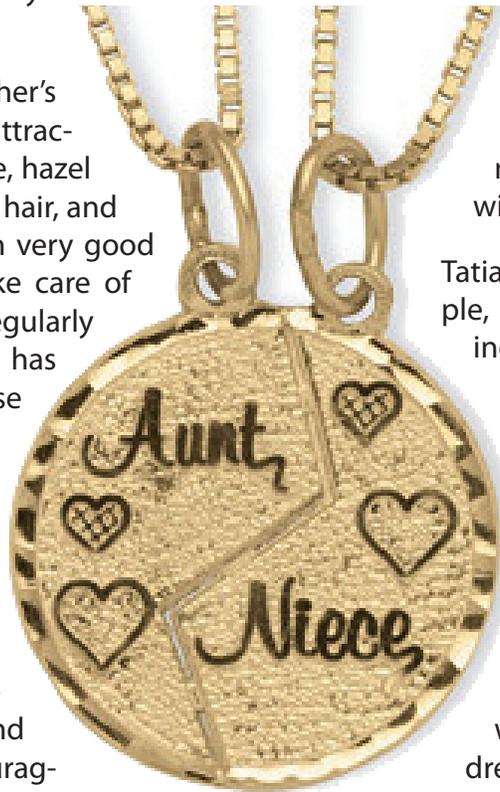
Regarding her personality, she is a very open and sociable person. She is polite to everyone and her caring upbeat attitude encourages people around her to follow her example. Tatiana also taught me to be patient. She often told me, "Trees that are slow to grow bear the best fruit" and "Good things come to those who wait," and I must admit that my dear aunt is quite right. In addition, she is wise and makes the right decision at the right time. I often seek advice from her because I know she will have the best solution. I remember after I finished high school, I was confused about what my next steps would be and I consulted her for advice. I had just left my small town and relocated to the capital, where she lived, and moved in with her. She recommended that I attend a university medical program because there would always be a demand for medical professionals. I'm very grateful that she

helped me find my direction because even if I didn't find work in my home country, there will always be opportunities for work here in the United States.

Regarding her demeanor, she is always in a good mood and has a great sense of humor. She knows many jokes and funny stories. She always makes people laugh. Her laugh is contagious too. My grandma used to say that my aunt Tatiana should be a comedian. When all of our relatives would gather for family dinners, I remember that she would make so many jokes that it was difficult to eat without laughing. I miss those times.

Tatiana loves to surprise me. For example, she enjoys knitting, especially during winter, when freezing temperatures outside keep her indoors. She knits all kinds of sweaters, tunics, and socks. She really loves to add color to these garments so they are beautiful and vibrant. Her favorite colors are red, purple, blue, green and burgundy. Many years ago for Christmas she knitted a sweater for me that I've always cherished and still have in my dresser in my parents home.

In conclusion, whenever I'm sad or cheerful, happy or in sorrow, she is always next to me to share with me. I really value my relationship with my aunt and am fortunate to have such a caring relative that I can share so much with and learn from as well. She hopes one day to come from Moldova to the United States and I hope that possibility will be a reality in the near future. I would like to host her when she comes to visit to show her how much she means to me.



*Diana Popa
ESLW50*

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Working Together to Raise Global Children

For the first time in human history, the world is coming together as a single entity. But just because we're becoming more interconnected doesn't mean that we know how to deal with the challenges associated with it. The world as we know it is changing, and we must adapt to succeed. According to the National Research Council, one of the numerous research reports on this growing topic of discussion, Americans' "pervasive lack of knowledge about foreign cultures and foreign languages threatens the security of the United States as well as its ability to compete in the global marketplace and produce an informed citizenry." As Americans, we must see to it that our children develop the flexible qualities of character and mind necessary to handle the challenges that globalization poses. To become global citizens, they must learn how to communicate and interact with people around the world. We must raise global children.

But how does a parent do that, especially if American schools don't offer what is commonly referred to as "global education"? And despite the obvious need for cross-cultural understanding, we have no national requirement for foreign language education. It's not enough for our schools to produce individuals who can read, write, and do math and science. We need global education, or more accurately, education infused with global learning, to empower youth by providing them with the knowledge, skills and awareness necessary to become responsible global citizens.

Research indicates that children are most receptive to learning about other cultures between the ages of

seven and twelve, before the onset of puberty when ethnocentrism and stereotypical thinking tend to increase dramatically. Although a complete national overhaul of our K-16 system to incorporate global education and foreign language learning seems warranted, it's not likely to happen. Global education, therefore, might be better served if local communities and school districts develop and implement curricula that work for their specific needs. Indeed small

groups are taking action on their own. Pockets of school districts across the country have recognized the need to incorporate global education across the board in classes K-12. These districts are taking the situation into their own hands; they know that our children can't wait and are making changes - one school district at a time.

"We engaged local businesses in our school to create a career committee to discuss what our students were

missing or lacking when they applied for jobs," said Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Wallingford Public School District in Connecticut. "We learned that besides soft skills, they're lacking global understanding and problem-solving skills. We adapted our curriculum, added a K-12 language instructor, and have strengthened our partnerships among the school, parents and businesses in the community because we respected and listened to what they said."

As parents and educators, we need to work together at the grass roots level to create change.

First, as parents, we must teach our children what it means to be a global citizen and how to more effectively communicate and interact with other people



around the world. Raising global children does not have to cost much money, nor does it require hundreds of hours of free time. The single most important part of raising global children is to instill in them the right attitude. Traits such as curiosity, empathy, compassion and flexibility cannot be bought, they must be taught. To be sure, travel, ethnic restaurants and cross-cultural museum exhibits can enhance a child's global mindedness. But so, too, can the treasure trove of books, music, movies, magazines and maps available at the local public library.

Second, parents must get involved with their child's school and show interest in what their child is learning. Whatever classes your school has available in global studies, world history, geography, and related topics are well worth supporting, as they instill global awareness right along with the ABCs and 1-2-3s. Introduce yourself to your child's social studies, global studies and foreign language teachers, and ask how you can help them. And be sincerely interested in the topics yourself. When your first grader comes home to talk about the rainforest in South America, listen to him and get involved in further discussion and exploration of the topic. When your sixth grader tells you about the Geography Bee her school is having, get out the atlas and start practicing for the competition. When your teen talks about the Model UN initiative being considered as part of his high school curriculum, support it and even offer to help implement it if need be. And when your child -- at any age -- talks about history or current events, get involved and discuss the issues together, showing him or her that knowing about the world and what's going on in it is an important part of adult life. But be mindful to do as much listening as you do talking.

Third, parents can insist upon more cultural education in our school systems so that our children un-

derstand and are better prepared to deal with the complexities outside our borders in whatever career they choose. We must insist upon foreign language learning in our schools by at least first grade in order to give our kids a fighting chance to become proficient in at least one other language. We must support our teachers who embrace the importance of global education. We must work together to instill a proactive interest in the world around us. It's important to recognize, however, that with the Common Core academic standards now being implemented in the vast majority of states, teachers are already beset with changing how and what they teach. It's very important, therefore, to clarify that learning



and thinking with a global perspective does not mean adding another course to already heavy student loads, but rather introducing them to global issues and concepts within and throughout the subjects already being taught.

To those who say we can't afford the "luxury" of foreign language and global education, I say that we can't afford not to educate our children with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. Addressing these

issues starts with involved parents. We must come together to help our teachers and schools incorporate global education in a way that works locally, while also advocating for change with politicians and government both in-state and nationally.

Stacie Nevadomski Berdan is an international careers expert and author of four books on globalization and careers. Her latest, *Raising Global Children*, was published by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in November 2013. Follow her on Twitter @stacieberdan.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stacie-nevadomski-berdan/working-together-to-raise_b_4275825.html

Straight outta ESL class: Learning English by Learning Slang

Donald Chung stood in front of his classmates at the UCLA Extension school and started to throw a fit — well, as much as the mild-mannered student from Taiwan could muster.

"I don't know what he's trying to pull," Chung said. "The guy's a total flake!"

His friend Jiu Hua Zhang chimed in: "You said it!"

The students had spent a good portion of the class practicing these expressions as part of their "street talk" course. In many foreign countries, English classes start as early as preschool. But thousands of students still come to the US to get what they can't get back home: the idioms, the catchphrases — the slang.



Jiu Hua Zhang of China and Donald Chung of Taiwan are studying conversational English at UCLA's Extension School.

"My conversation is more academic, or more like an essay," Zhang said. "I need to be more, like, American."

She and Chung enrolled less than half a year ago at UCLA Extension's American Language Center, one of multiple schools throughout California offering street talk classes. Zhang wants to get all of the jokes on her favorite American sitcom, "The Big Bang Theory."

Chung would like to catch what commentators are saying during NBA games.

"I think it's very difficult to understand what they're talking about because they use some vocabulary I can't understand," he said, sounding frustrated.

Hip-hop as a second language

There's a lot to learn. But because slang is constantly evolving, there aren't many teaching materials de-

voted to it. Texts get dated faster than you can say YOLO.

So teachers are often left to find their own method of teaching American lingo, in ways creative and resourceful.

English as a Second Language teacher Stephen Mayeux enjoys hip-hop. So he figured his students at UC-Davis might, too.

He crafted lesson plans around 1990s hip-hop. N.W.A.'s "Straight Outta Compton" has come in handy teaching reductions in English — for example, how "out of" gets shortened.

"They're saying 'straight out of Compton,'" Mayeux said. "But I think a lot of people, especially Americans, we pronounce it 'outta.'"

Mayeux shares his lessons with students outside of his Hip-hop as a Second Language class through his website eslhiphop.com.

He said some educators might frown on what he's teaching. But, as someone who's studied linguistics, he believes "you have to treat every form or variety of the language as if it's equally complex and valid."

"So the English that a rapper or hip-hop artist uses is no better or worse than what a university professor is using," Mayeux said.

Fitting in

Mayeux also uses the music to take the opportunity to teach about hip-hop culture, and give the students some context for what it is like to grow up in America.

He said that he has many close friends from other

countries, and a lack of understanding about pop culture can leave them feeling left out.

"They do experience a little bit of alienation," Mayeux said. "They feel like they can't be fully part of the group because they're not speaking the same lingo."

Judy Tanka, who teaches English at the American Language Center, agreed.

"You may understand every word of the lecture," Tanka said. "But when you have to go to your study group or you have to call a classmate, slang is going to be necessary."

Tanka tries to incorporate slang into her everyday conversation with her students. She stays on top of the latest lingo with the help of a daughter in her 20s, but she finds a surprising number of phrases have stayed popular through the decades.

When her students tried to make up an excuse for not doing homework, she told them, "I don't buy that."

"And they looked at me. 'Buy what, teacher?' And then I explained and they loved it. Now they're telling each other, 'I don't buy that.'"

For the latest slang, go to the source

As a young man, David Burke had a knack for picking up slang.

His ears pricked up whenever he heard interesting phrases. He'd write them down on his arms, later switching to a tape recorder.

Burke went on to make a name for himself as "Slang-man" and published a whole series of self-titled books in which he teaches slang not just in English, but in foreign languages.

He got the idea to teach American slang after hanging out with a French friend more than 10 years ago.

"Somebody ran up to him and said, 'Hey, Pascal, what's up?'" Burke said. "And he froze for a second and looked up and started checking the ceiling."

Now, at age 56, Burke gets the scoop on the new-

est slang by striking up conversations with young people.

"I saw a kid at the gym working out with a friend of his," Burke said, "and I said, 'Can I ask you guys a question, what word would I not know?'"

Recently, Burke brought his compendium of slang to UCLA's American Language Center for a special presentation before English language learners. To complicate matters, Burke told students, slang isn't just about words.

"Americans use a lot of grunts — I'll show you," Burke said.

"For example, 'I don't know' becomes 'I dunno.' 'I dunno' becomes the shoulders-up grunt, 'uh-uhh-uh.'"

Burke got students to try out the "uh-uhh-uh."

"How many cars on the freeway right now?"

"Uh-uhh-uh."

Like a cow

In the audience was Donald Chung and Jiu Hua Zhang. They hung on Burke's every word.

In their short time in the US, they've managed to incorporate slang into their everyday conversations.

Chung is a fan of "what's up!" Zhang says she no longer enters a room saying "Good morning, everyone."

"We just say, 'hi, guys!'" she said brightly.

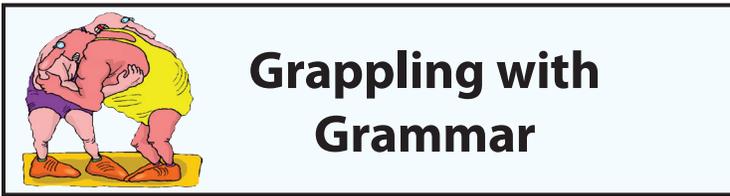
Zhang is feeling pretty awesome about this. Or as kids in China say: "hěn niú" which translates into "very cow-like."

But Chinese slang — that's a whole other lesson for another day.

Check out The World in Words on Facebook or subscribe to The World in Words podcast on iTunes.

<http://pri.org/stories/2013-11-27/straight-outta-esl-class-learning-english-learning-slang>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Reported Speech: Change of Time and Place Reference

Time/place references change when using reported speech. For example:

I will see you here tomorrow”, she said. --> *She said that she would see me there the next day.*

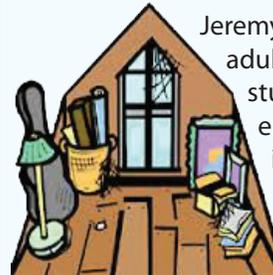
Some of the most common of these changes are shown below:

Today <i>“I saw him today”, she said.</i>	that day She said that she had seen him that day.
Yesterday <i>“I saw him yesterday”, she said.</i>	the day before She said that she had seen him the day before.
The day before yesterday <i>“I met her the day before yesterday”, he said.</i>	two days before He said that he had met her two days before.
Tomorrow <i>“I’ll see you tomorrow”, he said</i>	the next/following day He said that he would see me the next day.
The day after tomorrow <i>“We’ll come the day after tomorrow”, they said.</i>	in two days time/ two days later They said that they would come in two days time/ two days later.
Next week/month/year <i>“I have an appointment next week”, she said.</i>	the following week/ month/year She said that she had an appointment the following week.
Last week/month/year <i>“I was on holiday last week”, he told us.</i>	the previous/week month/year He told us that he had been on holiday the previous week.

<http://www.edufind.com>

Idiom--Attic

Still Wet Behind the Ears



Jeremy would like to do things that adult elephants do. “Attend to your studies and don’t be silly,” his mother laughed. “You’re just a kid who is still wet behind the ears.” Jeremy frowned for to be still wet behind the ears is to be young and inexperienced.

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

Beak Speak

Consonant Replacement

(Continued from previous issue)

These are those letters in words which are not pronounced when we say the word.

Silent H: ‘H’ is not pronounced when it comes after ‘W’: Why; Whether; Where;

Sometimes the ‘H’ is silent for some words, even when it is the first letter of the word: Hour; Heir

‘H’ is not pronounced when it comes before ‘Y’: Thyme; Rhyme



Silent K: Whenever ‘K’ is followed by an ‘N’ at the beginning of a word, ‘K’ is not pronounced: Knot; Knight; Knock; Knowledge

Silent L: ‘L’ stays silent in most words when it comes before ‘D’; ‘F’; ‘M’; ‘K’: Yolk; Half; Calm; Talk; Should

Silent N: ‘N’ is not pronounced when it follows ‘M’ in words: Autumn; Column

Silent P: ‘P’ remains silent when it starts a word and is followed by ‘sy’ or ‘ne’: Pneumonia; Psychotic

‘P’ is also not pronounced in certain words like: Psalm; Receipt

Silent S: We usually avoid pronouncing ‘S’ when it comes before ‘L’ in words like: Island; Aisle

Silent T: ‘T’ is not pronounced in words like: Castle; Beret; Listen; Depot; Whistle; Gourmet

<http://www.englishleap.com>

Continued on next issue

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Living in the U.S.A. Wordsearch

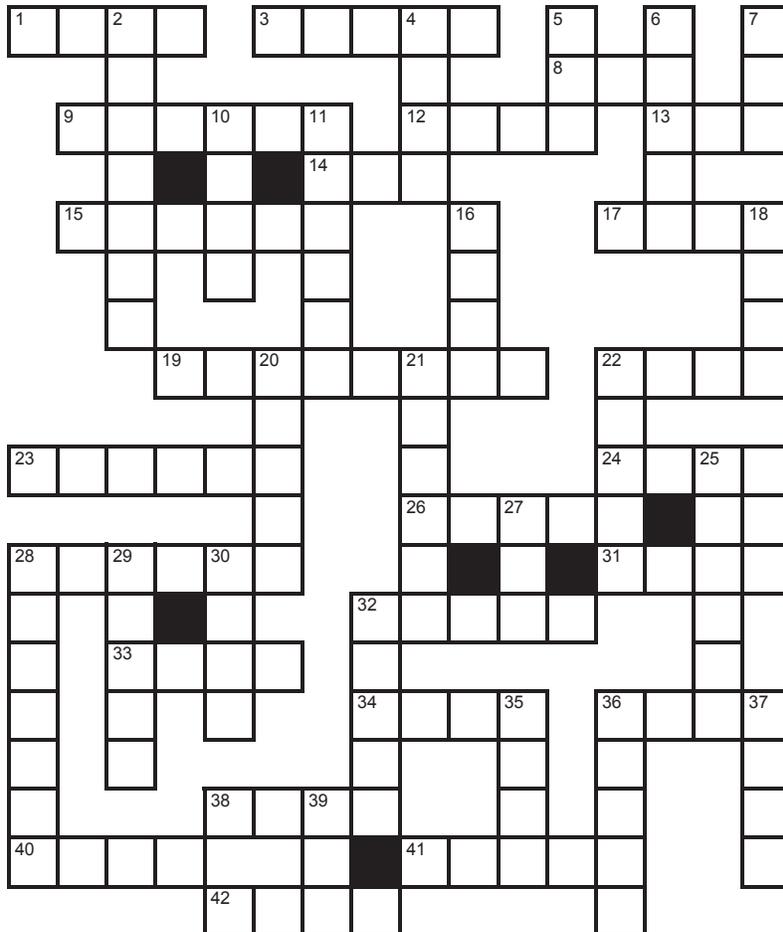
Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions. Words may overlap and share one or more letters

akron
baltimore
boston
buffalo
chicago
cincinnati
cleveland
columbus
dallas
dayton
denver
des moines
detroit
el paso
fort worth
grand rapids
hartford
houston
indianapolis
jacksonville
jersey city
kansas city
los angeles
louisville
memphis
miami
milwaukee
minneapolis
nashville
newark
new orleans
new york
norfolk
oakland
omaha
philadelphia
pittsburgh
portland
providence
richmond
rochester
san diego
san francisco
seattle
st louis
syracuse
toledo
tulsa
washington
worchester

H T Z C V B L F T X G L Z Y T I C S A S N A K K Q G J Y Z N
L W Z Q Z C R L K G T M L G R A N D R A P I D S T R L X N O
T N N M E L T T A E S K R Z T G L T R L T H W C E T T G H T
W H J C D R O C H E S T E R R C L J L L V V P V Q L K L N S
G R R B Y J J E R S E Y C I T Y N H D A Z R N K N Y W R L U
N M E L L I V N O S K C A J K Y E V V D O E G B F K I V L O
X G V P S E N I O M S E D R M L F Q R V D Z N J Y C G K E H
J L D N Z T L V B M V H S R L K W J I K J E N H H O A T L R
C N O T G N I H S A W I K I R K Y D G J W M L M R D I T P P
O D J W T N F L N Z H Y V L Y W E H P O H N O Q Z E H J A Q
L Z A C N T C W V P N S T C N N C V R T P N N C T L P Y S N
U T L Y B B K M M W I B L D C R L L R Y D Y V L S O L L O E
M N G W T B Q E D U H Z D E X I E O E D W P R A L T E Y R W
B T J T K O M W O N H D N W N A W T O V W R N H G K D G M A
U V R M T L N L V M O E T D N T L L S L E F C G T F A K K R
S X T T M L L N T V W R I S R M A K Y E R L B C Z H L B D K
S Y R A C U S E P Y S A F O P F L J L A C D A L P G I T C E
R S L Q V I Z L O S N E F O F Y K Y N L N R C N D T H J K R
T V T Y O L T R B A I H L U L R Y C K A L L O B D C P L K O
I T B L F G K A P Y X L B E Z K I B L B F T E W K H M P O M
O J V K O N A O N A L N O F G S V T D E M P E K C K Y R A I
R L Z T H U L C W N K K Q P C N R F L J J G K M W K O Q K T
T T M D N I I F I M I R L O A O A L K X L N U Q N R M R L L
E L U W S O B S H H G C O J P E I S B R T T A Z J Y A G A A
D M Y L L J T X M Q C W N N K V N Z O Q Q N W G D V H R N B
L I L B S N D S D P T X C I H Z Y N P L L F L T P J A K D G
V A L R H A T M O N J T N S C Y L X I Y G N I T Q G X D H G
N M M Y K X R T F B R R A N K L T L R M T M M L L D R Z B G
J I G P R H W N N X Q N S A N D I E G O G N T J V V N C P L
Z V L P D R O F T R A H T K Y J P I T T S B U R G H P M Y B



Word Skills



Hodgepodge

Across

- 1 Another way to say 'very big.'
- 3 Another word for kid.
- 8 The opposite of in.
- 9 A kind of fruit that begins with G.
- 12 The antonym of fast.
- 13 The opposite of young.
- 14 A pet that rhymes with hat.
- 15 A kind of fruit that begins with B.
- 17 Another word for jump.
- 19 A kind of fish that begins with G.
- 22 Another word for speak.
- 23 A season that rhymes with king.
- 24 A food that rhymes with dice.
- 26 A kind of fruit that begins with A.
- 28 Another way to say 'run fast.'
- 31 A forest animal that rhymes with here.
- 32 Another word for big.
- 33 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.
- 34 A drink that rhymes with silk.
- 36 The opposite of soft.
- 38 The antonym of thick.
- 40 The opposite of east.
- 41 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep.
- 42 The opposite of push.

Down

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 A synonym for trash. | 18 A place that rhymes with dark. | 30 The opposite of far. |
| 4 The opposite of first. | 20 The opposite of heavy. | 32 A kind of fruit that begins with L. |
| 5 A farm animal that rhymes with wow. | 21 A type of lizard that begins with I. | 35 A toy that rhymes with bite. |
| 6 Another word for rock. | 22 A synonym of sleepy. | 36 Another word for glad. |
| 7 The antonym of good. | 25 Another word for smart. | 37 The opposite of up. |
| 10 A fruit that rhymes with hair. | 27 A farm animal that rhymes with wig. | 39 Another word for sick. |
| 11 A synonym of afraid. | 28 The opposite of deep. | |
| 16 Another word for throw. | 29 The opposite of wrong. | |

The Seafood Diet

I've started on a seafood diet.

I highly recommend you try it.

You eat whatever food you see;

a grape, a crepe, a pear, a pea,

a candy cane, some bubble gum,

a piece of pie, a peach, a plum,

banana pancakes, chicken legs,

a dozen donuts, deviled eggs,

spaghetti noodles, sirloin steaks,

vanilla ice cream, birthday cakes,

a hundred pizzas, chocolate mousse,

and gallon jugs of apple juice.

The seafood diet. Just can't beat it.

Whenever you see food, you eat it.

I'm pretty sure you won't lose weight,

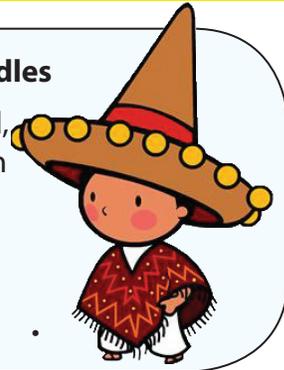
But, what the heck? The food is great!

Kenn Nesbitt

Rigoberto's Riddles

Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

Answer: Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet. [You're not very good at this are you?]



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

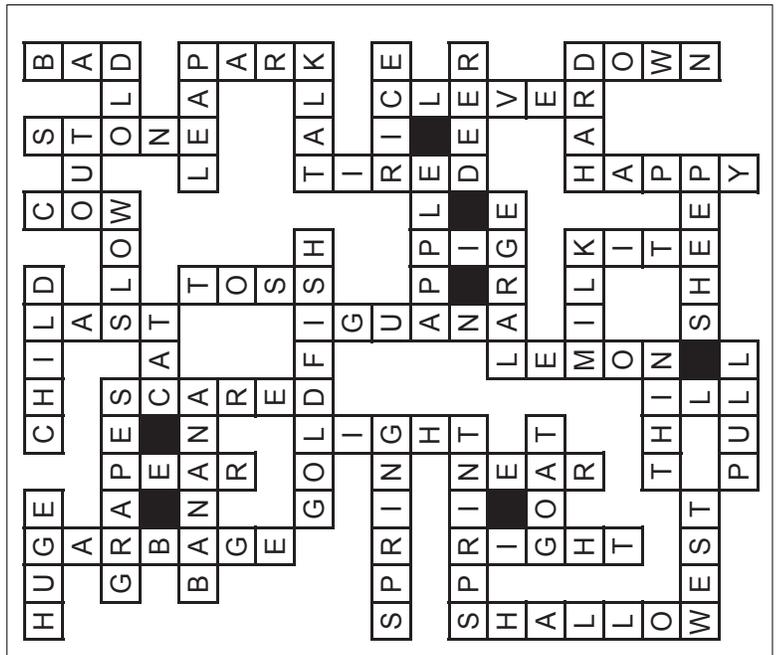
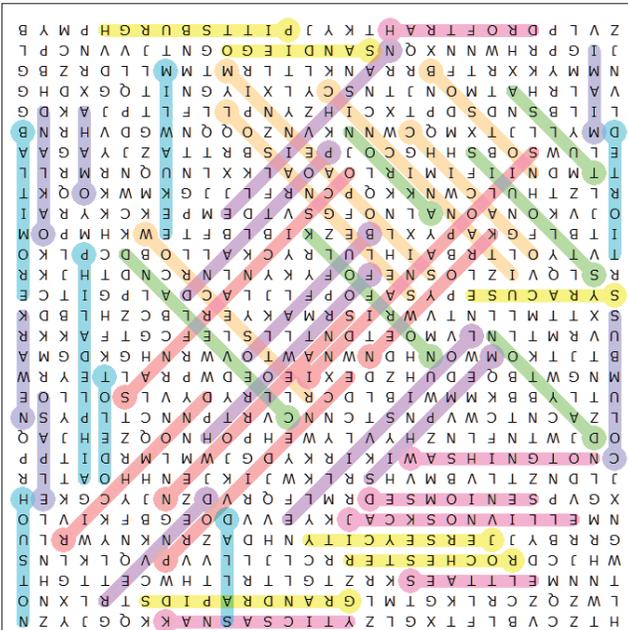


One day a man strolled in to the paint section of a hardware store and walked up to the assistant. "I'd like a pint of canary colored paint," he says. "Sure" the clerk replies. "Mind if I ask what it's for?"

"My parakeet," the man said. "See, I want to enter him in a canary contest. He sings so beautifully he is sure to win."

"Well, you can't do that!" the assistant says. "The chemicals in the paint will surely kill

the poor thing!" "No they won't," says the customer. "Listen, buddy, I'll bet you twenty bucks your parakeet dies if you try to paint him." "You're on" said the customer. Two days later the man walks back in the store and very sheepishly lays \$20 on the counter. "So the paint killed him?" asked the clerk. "Indirectly," the man said. "He seemed to handle the paint okay, but I think the sanding between coats did him in."



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I sometimes park in or near the parking garage. Why do people race through the garage and screech their tires? It seems stupid. It also seems dangerous because there are people walking in the garage or nearby. Someone should tell these drivers to stop.

Melinda Bellicoso

Dear Melinda,

I rarely go near the garage because I use my bicycle but I can understand



your frustration, maybe even fear, of walking where drivers are not focused on safety. Perhaps some drivers have seen too many car movies and model their behavior on the antics of the characters in the movies. They like speed; they like noise. Maybe these drivers should get out of their cars and instead use the garage to race up the steps for their speed "fix". Their need for noise can be filled with the sounds of their own huffing and puffing. They'd be in better shape and save gas. I know, I know, my solution sounds unreasonable. Readers, do you have any other ideas?

Granny

Couple Who Found \$10 Million in Gold Coins Will Likely Keep The Loot

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. Mint circa 1900. That led to speculation that the government might stake a claim to the money. Additional records reviewed by TIME show the branch did indeed have coins go missing that year. "It is with regret, however, that I record that the count of coin in the mint at San Francisco at the close of the fiscal year revealed a shortage of \$30,000," the director of the mint wrote in his annual report in 1901. "The case is in the hands of the Secret Service for investigation."

The coins the anonymous California couple stumbled upon, buried in eight cans on their property, would have been worth about \$28,000 at the time. But experts and the coin dealer handling the couple's booty say that's the only sign they might be the same coins—while many factors suggest they couldn't possibly be.

Nancy Oliver, who wrote two books on the San Francisco mint, says the mint was generally in the business of making new money—not collecting old

money—whereas the coins discovered by the couple are dated over a span of almost 50 years, from 1847 to 1894. Further, coin dealer Don Kagin says, some of those coins are stamped with the imprints of other mints around the U.S., from New Orleans to Philadelphia to Carson City. "There's no relationship," Oliver says, noting that the coins in the 1901 theft came from the cashier's vault, which only contained coins minted during that fiscal year.

Adam Stump, a spokesman for the U.S. Mint, says officials there have reached the same conclusion after reviewing records. Stump says officials found no connection to the so-called Saddle Ride Hoard and the government is not pursuing any connection.

Other people have tried to lay claim to the money. Kagin says several people have contacted his firm saying their great-grandfather might have some claim or that they were sure the coins came from this heist or that heist. He says he asks the individuals to submit an inventory of what they believe they are the owners of, but no one has taken him up on it yet. When asked if anyone has threatened legal action, Kagin says, "Nothing credible."

He and Oliver both subscribe to the theory that the

coins were stashed away over time, likely by someone working gold mines. "It was probably someone in the mining industry who was getting his bonuses and not trusting the banks," Kagin says. At this point, he says he has no doubts whatsoever that the couple, which discovered the coins in February 2013, can lay legal claim to them.

Things have been hectic for Kagin since he made the couple's find public in February. Media outlets have barraged him from all over the world, even though he's often dealt with discoveries of old coins worth much more than the Saddle Ridge Hoard.



This is a photograph of a photograph of money in the San Francisco branch of the U.S. mint around the turn of the 20th century.

This discovery, he says, just resonates with people. "People can actually find coins on their property. They don't think they can don scuba gear and go find shipwreck treasure," he says. "People fantasize about that. And here's a couple that did that, and they weren't even looking for it!"

Treasure-hunters out there, don't despair. A man named Walter Dimmick, once a chief clerk at the San Francisco mint, was found guilty of stealing the \$30,000 worth of gold coins in 1903. But the loot, to this day, has not been found.

<http://time.com/13071/saddle-ridge-hoard-gold-coins/>

Rocio Owens

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Rocio: Math wasn't my strongest subject. It wasn't certainly my favorite. I had other favorites but I grew up in El Salvador, Central of America. So, when I came to the States when I was 16 years old, I didn't know any English, and math was the only thing I could do. So, I wasn't bad in math before. I really like literature more. I like grammar a lot, writing. When I came here, I couldn't do any of that. So because I didn't have English, math was what I could do. That is how I got to like math. I went to college for an engineering degree; half-way through I changed it to math, and then I got to be a math teacher. So here I am.

Parrot: OK, very good, how did you get into the teaching field?

Rocio: As I said, I started as an engineering major. I started tutoring at Sac State while I got my undergraduate degree. That is how I got my undergraduate degree. I really, really like contact with students. When I took my math class connected to my engineering major, I just didn't believe it. I was really sad. Most people were happy in their last math class but, I was really sad, not because I didn't like it, but because I wasn't able to do tutoring any more. Because

with a higher level math, I had certain limitations to what I could do. I really wanted to continue tutoring. This is what popped into my head, really what I enjoyed. I enjoyed teaching; that was back it 1977.

Parrot: If you had another occupation, what other occupation would appeal to you? Is it a difficult question?

Rocio: It is not a difficult question. I don't know. It isn't a difficult question. I did try actuarial work. I actually left teaching for a while. I did actuarial work but I just didn't enjoy it as much as teaching. So if I was going to leave teaching again, sometimes I would think about opening a tutoring center. That, I think, is again teaching.

Parrot: What advice do you think is most important for your students or students in general? Learn more, do more homework?

Rocio: Not do more homework. I think not to give up sometimes when things get harder. Courses get specialized. When students get deeper in their major and they encounter difficulties, actually not give up. You try to accomplish. It is going to be hard, but try; it is doable.

Parrot: I think being on time, for me being on time

and attending class is so important. I can't believe how students who come in the middle of the class can catch the subjects. It is difficult for me. I can never do that. I can't. When you call on students to answer a question, do you call on the ones who sit in the front, the middle, or in the back of the classroom? Which ones?

Rocio: I don't really target students. I just let students think. I walk around class, ask questions in general. I want people to participate. I don't like calling on students who really don't participate.

Parrot: I know you usually have your attention on students. When you are walking, you realize what we are doing and what our level is, right?

Rocio: Yes,

Parrot: OK, can I ask some fun questions?

Rocio: Yes, I like fun questions.

Parrot: What is your pet peeve?

Rocio: My pet peeve is not related to teaching at all. It is about driving. My biggest pet peeve is when people don't use their turn signals.

Parrot: Turn signals? But they must turn them on.

Rocio: No signals. It is my pet peeve.

Parrot: But they must turn them on. People can't avoid turning on signals.

Rocio: But people don't use them. So it is my biggest pet peeve. I don't know if they want to go straight or want to turn.

Parrot: What advice would you give your younger self?

Rocio: Oh, my younger self! I would tell myself not to worry about how long it would take to finish college. Just participate in activities and enjoy the time there. The reason I say it is because I had an opportunity to take French at college. I was going to have the opportunity to go study abroad, to go work abroad in France. I didn't take it because it was going to postpone my graduation date. Now looking back, I think silly, I think because it would have been a wonderful, great experience. I didn't go because I was too wor-

ried about when I would finish the sequence of my classes. Your college experience is a pleasant experience. Do it. You are growing as a person in general, just do it, and then you don't regret it later, as I did.

Parrot: OK, what do you like to do in your free time?

Rocio: I love to cook, so in my free time I like to cook.

Parrot: You are married, right? How about your husband?

Rocio: He is a good cook but he actually doesn't cook. He thinks I cook better. I enjoy experimenting with new recipes. Just cooking and doing things, spending time with my daughter. She is a lot of fun.

Parrot: How old is she?

Rocio: She is three and a half.

Parrot: Can I ask another question?

Rocio: Yes.

Parrot: If you had 10 million dollars, what would you do?

Rocio: Oh, I don't know. What would I do?

Parrot: Go on vacation?

Rocio: I think anyone would do selfish things first. Probably I would pay off my house debt. \$10 million is a lot of money. Probably I'd put some away for my daughter's college.

Parrot: How about your retirement plan?

Rocio: Then putting away for my retirement. Some I'd put for scholarships for math department funds. Probably I'd help out my parents with their debts. I think they really worked hard to get me to the place I am today. That is the least I can do for them.

Parrot: Do you have other siblings?

Rocio: Yes, a brother and an older sisters.

Parrot: OK, thank you for your time, Professor Owens. I appreciate it.

Servat Rostamkhani
ESLL50

Out of the Cage

Respectful Communication in Stressful Situations

Thursday, April 10, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: It seems that more frequently, schools are working to diffuse complicated social conflicts after they happen. What can we do to maintain open lines of communication before, during, and after a high profile situation? Come take part of an interactive discussion focusing on a case study of the transgender homecoming queen from Huntington Beach, California with one of the facilitators of the proceedings.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Word Soup! ARC's Annual Faculty Literary Reading: The Poetry of Love and Desire

Thursday, April 24, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: Poets and teachers Traci Gouridine and Harold Schneider read a suite of original love poems accompanied by ARC music teacher and trombonist Dyne Eifertsten and other musical guests.

Location: Music Room 547

German Film Fest, What to do in Case of Fire (2001)

Thursday, May 1, 2014
7:35 pm - 9:30 pm

What To Do In Case of Fire? tells the humorous and touching story of six former creative anarchists who lived as house squatters in Berlin during its heyday in the 80s when Berlin was still an island in the middle of the former eastern Germany. At the end of the 80s they went their separate ways with the exception of Tim and Hotte, who have remained true to their ideals and continue to fight the issues they did as a group. In 2000, with Berlin as Germany's new capital, an event happens forcing the group out of existential reason to reunite and, ultimately, come to grips with the reason they separated 12 years earlier.

Location: Davies Hall 218

SummerWords

Thursday, May 1, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: Now in its third year, SummerWords is a three-day creative writing festival that gives participants from the college and community an opportunity to attend workshops, panels, and readings and to interact with many published writers as well as the American River College Creative Writing faculty. This year's SummerWords keynote speaker will be former US Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize Winner Rita Dove. Join Professor Michael Spurgeon as he discusses past SummerWords events and introduces this year's lineup of writers and activities. Professor Spurgeon will be joined by several special guests in a preview of what you can expect at SummerWords 2014, which will be held May 29 through June 1.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Questions/Comments?



Student Editors: Olga Cuzeac and Christian Valenzuela

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. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm