



The Parrot

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

Issue # 80 Spring 2014

Student to Clerk, Russian / Ukrainian to English: Lyubov Militan

Parrot: Hey. My name is Fatma Taibi. I'm from L50 and I need to ask you questions, a couple of questions if you please.

Lyubov: Of course, yes. You can ask me questions.

Parrot: Thank you. Can you introduce yourself, please.



Lyubov: My name is Militan, Lyubov. **Lyubov:** Yes, I have worked for ARC

Continued on page 21



What If Books Physically Replicated the Protagonist's Emotions?

The 'Sensory Fiction' project copies the various moods in a novel, and brings reading to life.

Imagine that as you're reading the scene from Stephen King's *The Shining*, where the unwanted inhabitant of Room 217 slowly closes her hands around young Danny Torrance's



Sensory Fiction photo via Felix Heibeck

syncs up with the frightening encounter and mimics the actions happening in the book, bringing the novel to life.

With a new technology that relies on sensors, developed by researchers at MIT's Media Lab last semester, that sort of interactive reading experience isn't far off.

Continued on page 15

Inside this Issue

- Finding My Job 2
- Immigration Effects 3
- Vegas 5
- Kidnapped 6
- Mandatory 8
- Kiev Protest 9

Student Chirpings

My Way to a Good Job

Everyone wants to get a good job – a job of his or her dreams, which he or she would be proud of. Does anyone know how to get it without experience? Who said it would be easy? Finding a dream job is difficult and takes work and dedication. After meeting with difficulties and challenges and coming through them successfully, a person feels self-satisfaction and pride. I was a very good schoolgirl and all my successes at school were caused by my desire for a good and well-paid future job. At that period of time, I couldn't answer the question, "Who do I want to be?" After high school graduation, a new adult life started. My road to my dream job was full of difficulties and achievements, which I was and am very proud of.

High school graduation was followed by answering the question: "Who do I want to be?" I identified that I wanted a job which was connected with exact sciences because I had a bent for (natural ability to do) calculations. My grandmother convinced me to be a bookkeeper. I followed her advice and enrolled in accounting courses which, were the most popular courses in my town. It was hard for me to study there because the lectures were designated for people who wanted to improve their skills in bookkeeping. This means that almost all of the students had already been bookkeepers, but I hadn't. Because of my talent for numbers and calculations and my hard work, I passed these courses successfully and received the Bookkeeper Certificate. Now, I was equipped with a high school diploma and a bookkeeping certificate.

In spite of having my diploma and certificate, it was very hard to find a good job without any job experi-

ence. In search for my dream job, I looked for job announcements, browsing the Internet, newspapers, and newsletters and making numerous phone calls. I was invited to some interviews but without any results. Every employer wanted and now wants an employee with experience, in addition to these documents and education. After this, I decided to ask my relatives, friends, and

acquaintances if they knew somebody that was looking for a bookkeeper. Time passed. I began to lose heart. But one nice day my father-in-law called me and said that a firm was looking for an employee and told me the address and phone number. At that point, I was glad for any job offers and was looking forward to the interview.

The next day, I called that office and the secretary told me to come in three hours. I dressed neatly, took my diploma and certificate, and tried not to be nervous and not to worry. The interview was very easy, without any pressure and difficult questions. I got a job as a controller of heating meters and was explained my responsibilities. That wasn't the position of my dreams, but that wasn't a job that only kept me in an office with computers, documents, and numbers. I had also to go around all houses which received central heating from our company and go into their basements to record readings of heating energy meters. The basements were not in good condition, smelled awful, and had a lot of rats living there. The previous worker who had position of controller and heating energy charge accountant left the country without turning over his duties. It is why this position required a lot of self-learning and



challenges, which I was proud of.

Because the company lost the previous very smart employee, I had a lot of duties, even those which weren't related to my responsibilities. I liked fulfilling my responsibilities, helping other employees, finding solutions to difficult problems and learning something new from my experience. I was happy that I was needed, I was called for, and I was able to help. The staff could always rely on me. One day a boss called me into his office and said that from the next day I would be promoted to a heating energy charge accountant and my salary would be doubled. I was very happy. It was my dream job, which was connected with exact sciences and which I was proud of.

Because I wasn't afraid of a doing a difficult task, and

I always did my best to perform a task and my duty, I was able to get my dream job and be proud of my achievement. Accepting responsibility is often the only way to get some skills and, of course, to achieve a goal. I learned a lot in my job as a controller and got a very good experience in my job as an accountant. I was also able to become one of the best workers. Later, I left my country and came to the USA. But I'll always know challenges and hard work, which are necessary to reach a goal, and efforts are often noticed and rewarded. Overcoming all these hardships and difficulties will be a very satisfying and pleasing experience, and, of course, will make you proud of yourself, and of all that you now own and have accomplished.

Olga Cuzeac
ESLW310

The Search for a Suitable Environment

Moving from one country to another is a huge transition. It's a hard decision to make, especially if you have kids. There are lots of challenges, barriers, and consequences that we have to face. This big step could have many negative impacts on our lives, which would be long or short term impacts. They could also affect our social and emotional lives. There are several reasons that might force families to make this hard decision such as wanting to be close to relatives, or having a new job, or sometimes just searching for a happy and safe environment for their families. Throughout my personal experience, I have noticed that there are often three main bad effects on a family when it moves to a new country: The need to learn a new language, the emotional impact, and the last and most impor-



tant is the difficulty of getting a new job.

The first effect on any newly-arrived family to another country is the need to learn the language of that country. To be more specific, I would like to mention the enormous difference in language that my kids encounter in their new schools in the U.S.A. The first day of school was nearly a nightmare for them. They were forced to face all the difficulties of communication with other kids, especially the very different accent that they had never heard before. They felt very embarrassed when someone asked them a question and they didn't understand it. Another language-related challenge was the doctor appointments. My husband and I had good experience in English because in my country we study it from third grade through col-

lege. However, we couldn't understand the medical terms unless we had a translator who explained everything to us. Using the public transportation was another problem for us. As the whole system was very different from in our country Iraq, we often lost our way or missed the bus or even rode the wrong one. We used to overcome this barrier by getting lots of information and help from our close friends, because there were many new terms that were used in that service we hadn't heard of. In addition to that, the difference was in the transportation system in general.

The second effect on a family when it moves to a new country is the emotional impact. Due to this transition, our feelings could reach the lowest levels and might lead to frustration because of leaving behind the rest of our big family. For example, when we booked a flight to the U.S. my father, who lived in the United Emirates, insisted on coming to Iraq to see me before the travel date. He said, "I might never see you again. I might pass away and never get the chance to see you". He was worried because of his bad health and age. At that time, there was a presidential conference held in Iraq, and all borders and airports were closed, but he never gave up hope. He waited until everything was over and the airports were in service again. He booked immediately and arrived in Baghdad just one day before my travel. In addition, leaving behind my brothers among the very dangerous and hopeless conditions that my country is going through gave me a feeling of guilt: for I had an opportunity to escape from those dangerous conditions and they didn't. Another fact is that we are very connected and close to each other, and since we used to live in the same district we shared our happy and sad moments, and always supported each other. I can still remember when my husband used to work in another city. He was forced to stay there except the weekends, avoiding the risk of the dangerous roads of Baghdad. Being alone, I had to carry on with all the house and kid responsibilities, and whenever I faced a problem or emergency, I sought the help of my brothers, who were always ready to do it with pleasure and love. Therefore, leaving them was very difficult and painful. When we arrived in the U.S., we often felt lonely and depressed,

especially when there was a religious occasion or any other occasion that concerned a member in my big family and we missed it so much.

The last and most important effect on a family when it moves to a new country is the difficulty in finding a new job. I can't deny that moving destroyed my husbands' dreams of having a suitable job. He has a bachelors' degree in physics and good experience in laser research and also long experience in repairing air conditioning. In spite of all the talent that he had and the knowledge that he gained, he was shocked when his degrees, experience, and knowledge were rejected, unless he got new credentials from the U.S. Another bitter fact was that whenever he applied for a job, they requested a long work history in the US that he never had. The most difficult situation was to accept any job no matter in what field, in spite of the position that you held in your last job in your country. So, sadly saying, he is still struggling to find a way by evaluating his degrees or finding a suitable job. After we had met many new friends from different countries and cultures, we found out that they all suffer the same problem and have to start their lives from zero level by hard work and willpower. We also knew a friend who was a veterinarian in Iraq. When he arrived in the U.S.A. and started to search for a job that matched his degree, he couldn't find any, and nobody accepted his degree. After a long exhausting time of searching, he had to face the bitter fact and work as a veterinarian assistant. Although the job was very hard and dangerous, the salary was very low. Many times he was bitten by cats and dogs and never got any reparation but he had to keep the job to support his family.

So, in conclusion, we can classify the hardest and worst effects on a family when it moves to another country into three main kinds: the need to learn a new language, the emotional impact that affects all the family, and, the last and most important, the difficulty in searching for a new job to support the family and provide them a safe and secure life.

Sawsan Hameed
ESLW 50

Christmas Journey or Five Days of My Life

December 23. My adventures just start and I feel very good. Rainy and gray day in Sacramento. Airport, plane, two-hour flight and finally I am here. I am in Las Vegas. This city full of lights and unforgettable atmosphere. I feel like I'm on the top of the world. I am waiting for my friends from New York. They are arriving soon. It's warmer outside than in Sacramento. The weather is nice. We are renting a car and driving to our hotel. We have come to the Stratosphere Hotel. It looks very nice. The hotel has a tower with a funny top which reminds me of a UFO spaceship. Some of us stay in the hotel and plan to get some rest. Some don't want to sleep. It's just 2 a.m. on my wristwatch and we are planning to visit as many places as we can. Casinos are everywhere. The Venetian, Bellagio, and Luxor amaze me with their beauty and wealth. A lot of new and interesting things are around me. I am a little bit overwhelmed but still taking pictures of everything around.

December 24. Tonight is Christmas. I feel sick but happy after last night. My friends and I are driving down to Hoover Dam, which is situated on the border between two states, Arizona and Nevada. We are on the Hoover Dam. The dam was made in the twentieth century and it is striking in its immensity and beauty. I am feeling much better. Time paradox takes place here. A couple of steps and you are one hour in the future or one hour in the past. Time paradox arises because of differences in time zones. We are on our way to Vegas. It was an unforgettable day.

December 25. It is Christmas Day. My friends and I are going out tonight to celebrate. We decided to go to Tao Night Club in the Venetian Hotel; some of my friends say it the best club in Las Vegas. I am wearing a new suit. I look really sharp in it. In a few minutes, I am meeting with my friends downstairs. I think everybody will look like stars. I am so excited and feel it

will be a fun night.

December 26. One of my friends said, "Everything that happens in Vegas stays in Vegas". I want to keep this in mind. I'm not going to write here about what happened last night. I can tell you that I had too much fun. I am late. All my friends are waiting on me in the parking lot. We are going to see Bryce Canyon in Utah. We drive 5 hours on our way but there's nothing to stop us. For example, cold weather only gave us strength. We finally arrive. There is a lot of snow everywhere and it's very cold. We are walking to get a view. Wow! It is amazing! I can't find the words to describe how beautiful the nature around us is.

Boring way to home. Utah's cold landscapes evoke nostalgia.

December 27. Last day in Las Vegas. I have a plan for tomorrow morning. Rain in Las Vegas - unbelievable but it's true. Rain in the desert! I don't want to stay in the hotel the last day, so we sit down in our car and go to see the Grand Canyon in

Arizona. I know we are crazy, but we also young. Our fifth day without sleep doesn't change our plans. Again, a very long way. The Grand Canyon is an incredible work of nature. It was once the bottom of the ocean. It amazes me with its magnificence. Long way back.

Last hours in Las Vegas. I am feeling happy and totally exhausted. Airport, plane, and, I am home. In a couple of days it will be New Years, the beginning of everything new. Maybe new life. I hope my life and the lives of my friends and relatives will be full of those bright moments like I had on my journey.



Viktor Pavlenko
ESLR 340

The Hardest Event

Everyone experiences various events in their lives. Some of these events seem awful at the beginning, but after a period of time they turn out to be good. For me, I faced many of these events; I thought that I would not find solutions to them. After many of these bad occasions which turned to be good, I started feeling that I'm stronger and nothing will break me someday. One of the most important bad events that turned to be good was concerning my father's life. I can't forget the day that my father was kidnapped, but that event turned to be an incredible one.

It has been six years since my father was kidnapped and I never stop remembering that event. On December 31, 2007 the day started with many fun activities in my home. My father was trying to teach me how to wash his car with him, and I was following all his instructions. Suddenly, our next door neighbor started calling for help, because her son was extremely sick and needed someone to take him to the nearest hospital. My father left the home as quickly as he could and drove the little boy to the hospital. Three hours later, the child's health got better, so my father came back to home. When he came from the hospital, I was planting some flowers in the garden. I went to open the door for him, but I was surprised when I saw there were five men who were trying to get my dad in their white car. My father was trying to resist them, but he couldn't. I was in shake, and I didn't know what to do.

I started screaming, but my father asked me to get inside the home and to close the door. I did as he said and went in a hurry to my mother who was watching TV. I narrated to her what happened outside, but she thought I was kidding. Then she realized I was talking seriously when she saw my tears. My uncle is an

old, wise man. When he knew about what happened to my dad, he came to our home in a hurry. My uncle tried to call my father on his personal cell phone several times, but on one answered. At that time on one can imagine how I was feeling, even so I couldn't talk to any of my relatives who were calling and trying to know what happened to my dad. My mother was in a bad situation, and she spent hours thinking about one reason why these men kidnapped her husband. The hours passed really slowly, while we hadn't any idea about what was going on with my father. After ten hours of waiting, the phone rang. It was my father's phone number. My uncle answered the phone, but he kept listening carefully, then he



said "OK, OK, but don't kill him." At that time I had two mixed emotions, one consisted of happiness that my dad was still a life, while the other one was about being more worried about whether he is going to stay a life or not.

My uncle finished the phone call in two minutes, then he said that these kidnapers asked for a vast

amount of money in order to save my father's life, otherwise they would kill him. My mother said "We do not have enough time to get these money ready, and we should do something." These kidnapers threatened us that if they do not get the whole amount of money within 48 hours, they would kill him. However, there was something inside me telling me that something magical will happen in order to keep my dad a life. My uncle came up to my room many times, and he tried to make me feel comfortable by promising me that he would do his best to help my his brother-in-law. At ten o'clock, I got out of my room, and I found that my mom had fever. My mom wasn't able to talk, but I told her something will happen to save that man. I said that, but in fact I was really nervous. I spent the whole night praying and asking my god to save my dad. Even so

I could not sleep until five in the morning, then at seven o'clock my uncle woke me up by saying "Dalia wake up, he is here." I looked at my uncle who was extremely pleased, while he was saying "Your dad is in the living room; he just came." As a human, I could not believe him. I jumped from my bed and went to the living room. There my father was sitting, so I hugged him and thanked my god that I could see my dad again. My father narrated to us that the police came near to the home where he was, so the kidnappers left the home. Because of that, my dad was able to escape from the home by running as fast as he could.

At that hard time, my father decided to leave our native country, and started applying for our immigration visa to the USA. I am sure that if that didn't happen to my father, he wouldn't change his mind about the idea of leaving out native country. I accept it as true that many awful events happen to us, and we feel that these events can destroy our lives. However, after a period of time some of these events may turn out to be good. Even so, they may change our minds and lives as well.

Dalia Al-Ansari
ESLW50

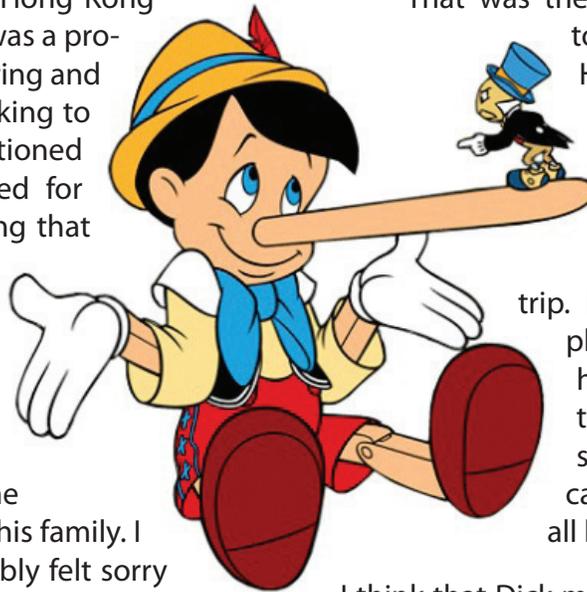
A Perfect Liar

Do you lie sometimes? If you say you never do, I might think you are lying right now. Do you know whether if men or women are the best liars? My colleague Dick is a perfect liar.

I really admired the way he told a lie. It occurred when we worked together in Hong Kong two years ago. I would say he was a professional liar. He spoke with caring and sincere tones when he was talking to his wife on the phone. He mentioned that there was a sudden need for him to have a business meeting that evening, he was unwilling to attend but he was only an unimportant workman and earned a little money in his life, so he was forced to stay in the office. Otherwise, he would enjoy eating at home and spending some time with his family. I speculated that his wife probably felt sorry for him and tried to calm him down. However, when he put the phone down, he joined us in a lounge bar that evening.

He not only lied at home but also at work. When his boss assigned him to handle a project, he said his baby was sick and he needed to take a few days off to care for the child and he might not be able to concentrate on his work during that period of time.

His boss ended up passing the project to others and hoped his baby would get better. In addition to that, colleagues were all anxious about his baby's health until the day one of our co-workers, Linda, saw him in her friend's photo.



That was the day when Linda was invited to her friend's house for dinner. Her friend had been to Japan recently, she shared some pictures with Linda, and told her that she had joined in a twenty-person tour to Japan and she had had a wonderful trip. Linda discovered Dick in her photo when she was looking at her friend's group picture on the Japan tour. And that was the same day Dick had taken off because his baby was sick. Now, we all knew what had happened.

I think that Dick might harm his relationships: his friends, family or a spouse. His lying has broken trust and damaged his reputation. Now we all know that he is a liar, he no longer has our trust, and his continuous lying story came to an end. Eventually, he resigned from his position.

Wai King Wong
ESL R340

Mandatory Foreign Language Classes in Schools

One wise man said, "The more languages you know, the greater person you will be". That means if you know different foreign languages, you will be successful. Almost all schools in the United States teach the same subjects. They all have math, English, or science classes. However, learning a foreign language is not mandatory in many schools. Some people think they don't need to study a foreign language and spend time and effort on it, because they only speak English here. They concentrate more on other subjects. When I was in elementary school in Armenia, we started to learn English and Russian in 2nd grade. I complained at the time, but now I am very thankful to my school principal. I believe that foreign language classes in schools should be mandatory.

First, learning a foreign language is good for children's brain development. At a young age children's brains are very flexible. They are able to learn a new language more easily than adults. I heard that children's brains are like sponges; as much water you fill, it will take. I am learning English in college, already in my second year, and I have a lot to learn, but my children went to preschool and they learned English in a few months. Children who learn foreign language in elementary school also have good attention. They are more focused on their classes than children who don't learn a foreign language.

Second, if foreign languages were mandatory, children would have more knowledge. For example, if they study Spanish, they will study about Mexico or about Mexicans. When I studied English in elementary school, our English book had many interesting stories about Great Britain and the United States. We learned about American holidays and some traditions at the time. In addition, children will have a knowledge to distinguish between two different languages. They will compare languages and find differences. For example, they will start to compare

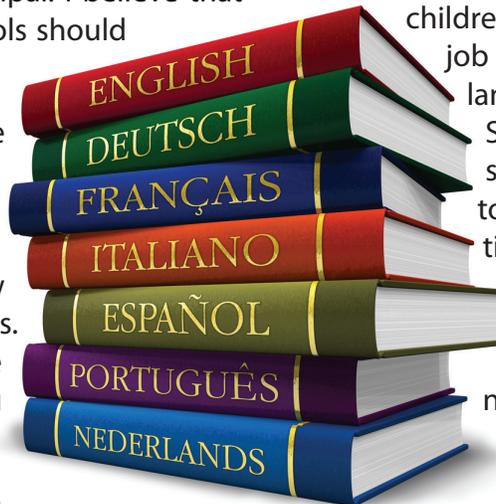
the alphabet, and when they learn words, they will start to translate. My English teacher always gave me texts to translate into Armenian. I went home, opened my grandfather's English-Armenian thick and heavy dictionary, and turned the faded pages to find the words' translations. At that time there were no electronic dictionaries or fast Internet to find it in a second. It took me almost two hours to translate the text. However, that helped me to remember many words in English.

Finally, learning a foreign language will give children more advantages in the future. Nowadays, knowing a foreign language is very good. When children grow up, they will find a good job if they know at least one foreign language. Employees in The United States are looking for people who speak multiple languages for customer service and help desk positions. It is because people of many nationalities live here. It is also good to know a foreign language when you travel. You can communicate with foreign people. In Armenia, I played in an orchestra, and we went to different countries to have concerts. Knowing a little bit

of English helped me very much in foreign countries. It was easy to speak with merchants in the market or with hotel owners. One time I was lost in the streets of Hungary with my two friends. I can't imagine what could have happened if we didn't know a little bit of English.

To conclude, it will be very good if schools in the United States have mandatory foreign language classes. Children will have better developed brains, they will have more knowledge, and they will have better advantages in the future. Knowing a foreign language is really an advantage now, so I will ask parents, teachers, and school principals to help children learn a foreign language.

*Ani Margaryan
ESLW50*



The Protest

Editor's Note: *The following student essay was written in December of 2013. In light of recent events in Ukraine, it's remarkable in its analysis and prescience.*

Since I left my native country Ukraine in August 2011, the country has obtained the worst political and economical conditions. The ex-prime minister Victor Yanukovich was elected as a head of the country. His pre-election company was sponsored by the richest businessman in Ukraine -- Rinat Akhmetov. Akhmetov's billions comes from factories, agriculture, metal and coal production, banks, insurance companies, the energy industry, media companies, and so on.

Now, his businesses are "transparent", but he got his first million by gerrymanders. Of course, there is not any evidence of it, but still people believe that he got his starting million by bribes and other law violations. After Rinat Akhmetov



became the richest person in Ukraine, and one of the richest people in Europe, he got involved in sponsoring a political party called Party of Regions. He wanted to be in rule of the country in order to steal money from the budget, loans, and so on. As an experienced "rascal", Akhmetov sponsored Yanukovich's pre-election company. Yanukovich was a perfect candidate after two times in prison to the head of the Donetsk Region Administration and to premier of the country. I believe that Akhmetov wanted to manipulate him like a marionette, using Yanukovich for his own self interest. Yanukovich beat his opponents in elections, simply by using pens with disappearing ink and other common tricks. After that, he put a leader of the opposition party, Julia Timoshenko, in jail. He was afraid of her and eleven million people who voted for her. Nowadays he is stealing money from the budget, from Europe, from Russia,

from China and so on. He is now the richest person in Ukraine, and Akhmetov seems not as powerful as he. President Yanukovich and his team brought Ukraine to the worst economical and political collapse the country ever had. Patriotic Ukrainians lost their patience and gathered from all over the country on the "Maidan Square" to begin the riot. I strongly believe that the main three causes of revolutionary behavior of people in my native country are a bad economy, corruption, and Yanukovich's rejection of being a part of the European Union.

The first cause of the protest is the worst economy Ukraine ever had. The country doesn't have enough jobs, so the people from the villages and small cities are forced to move to the capital or to other countries in order to earn enough money to feed their families. These measures cause extensive is-

issues. For example, a large number of young women go to Moscow or St. Petersburg searching for a better life. Many of them, failing entrance exams in universities or not getting a job, spend all their money they have on food and transportation and go into slavery and work as prostitutes. A large number of men, graduating from colleges or universities but not finding jobs, get involved in crime. The index of inflation (decrease in money value) is about 100 % so the prices intensively grow. The pensions for the seniors are approximately 110 dollars a month. In contrast, the average costs of food are higher than in California. People suffer from food shortages because of low family incomes. The quality of food in cities, is at times worse than in western Europe and it negatively affects the health of the population. The great level of corruption makes the prices of medicine too high, so the people can't even afford adequate treat-

ment. Moreover, the medical establishments cannot afford the medicine needed for people's treatment. Sick people are forced to buy syringes, drop counters, and medical gloves by themselves. In addition, gas companies aren't going to decrease prices. The average price on gas in California is \$3.70 per gallon, but the price per gallon in Ukraine is \$4.80! All these economical factors made Ukrainians angry.

The second cause of the social unrest in Ukraine is corruption. Police take money and close their eyes to crime. Moreover, the big part of crime is the po-

lice. Some police officers protect Ukrainian criminals, charging them taxes. The highway police become extremely rich. For example, if a person rushes to his job or school, speeding over the limit, highway police officers would rather charge money to put into their pockets than giving him a ticket. I remember once rushing somewhere, and I ran a red traffic light. The highway police officer jumped out of the bushes and stopped me. He gently offered to take my documents and have me sit in his car. Being in his car, he started hinting like, "So, Mr. Vatsnyk ... how are we going to solve this issue?" I understood him and placed a \$10 bill in my documents, but he said, smiling, "Not enough." I placed another \$10 bill in my papers. He got the money, hid it in the car, returned the papers to me, and said "Godspeed!" Another example was one of my friends, Dmitry, who drove under the influence while he was stopped on the highway. Two officers asked \$200 from him, \$100 for each. After the money was received, they got satisfied, and even, as an escort, accompanied him home. Corruption in Ukraine penetrated all public authorities. Even the teachers at school take bribes. I had a teacher that didn't even hide his deeds. He deliberately made his exams so difficult that just a couple of students from class could pass it. For every other student, he had prices, 200 "griniv" (Ukrainian currency) for a B, 150 griniv for a C, and there were no prices for A's on his price



list. Ukraine, one of the most educated nations in Europe, is sick and tired of this venal practices occurring in all regions of the country.

The third, and the cause that became "the last boiling point" is Yanukoviches rejection of entering the European Union. People couldn't stand it. All 2013 the negotiations with Ukraine and Europe lasted. European Union countries almost agreed to Ukrainian terms. In order to sign the agreement, President Yanukovich was supposed to release the leader of the opposition, Julia Timoshenko, from prison, but he

behaved as a coward. I strongly believe that Yanukovich didn't want to reach an agreement with Europe. He just pretended, in order to get a loan. At the end of the unsuccessful negotiations, he asked for 160 billion dollars in loans. He didn't receive it. I think they considered him as an impudent person, who rushes from Europe to Russia wishing to fool both of them. All educated and intelligent citizens of Ukraine wanted that agreement because it could be a huge step ahead. Connection of Ukraine and the European Union could lead to free trading with adequate prices. Being

a huge agricultural country, Ukraine could earn billions, dealing with European countries. The stagnant Ukrainian agricultural industry needs an instrument that can put it in order. This instrument could be the loans for farming and agricultural techniques. From Europe, our farmers could take the loans at just one to two% in a year, which is less than the investors in Ukraine propose. In addition, Europe could open the borders for Ukrainians. Right now, getting a visitor Visa in order to travel or work in Europe is a long, boring process. The European Union could offer to open borders, so Ukrainians could travel to England, France, Germany, Italy and so on, without the need of a visa. In other words, Ukraine lost her great opportunities, and took a huge step back.

In conclusion, I've always said that I love my country, but hate the government. I strongly want to believe

that the protest of people will grow to a revolution and throw over President Yanukovich, his party, and the regime that he set in the country. I know it will be a painful process because the protesters will definitely need to use force. It's a reality that revolution cannot happen without blood and arrests. I believe Yanukovich and his party will be overthrown and jailed. I believe that political prisoners like protest activists, journalists, and politicians will be released. I believe that the harsh fighting against corruption will be realized. I believe that the health care in the country will be improved to an adequate condition. I strongly believe that the new government will begin

taking care of the disabled and old people and help students with financial aid. I believe that teachers and police will receive competent salaries, competent enough to forget about bribes. And I strongly believe that Ukraine will never ever have a president who spent a long time in jail convicted of assault and battery with particularly serious health damage. I believe that, notwithstanding all the difficulties Ukraine has now, my beliefs listed above will happen in the closest future.

*Igor Vatnyk
ESLW50*

Facts and Figures About Ukraine



Location: Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Poland and Russia.

Total Area: 603,700 sq km

Coastline: 2,782 km

Climate: temperate continental Mediterranean only on the southern Crimean

coast precipitation disproportionately distributed, highest in west and north, lesser in east and south-east winters vary from cool along the Black Sea to cold farther inland summers are warm across the greater part of the country, hot in the south

Terrain: most of Ukraine consists of fertile plains (steppes) and plateaus, mountains being found only in the west (the Carpathians), and in the Crimean Peninsula in the extreme south.

Natural resources: iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, oil, salt, sulfur, graphite, titanium, magnesium, kaolin, nickel, mercury, timber

Land use:

arable land: 58%

permanent crops: 2%

permanent pastures: 13%

forests and woodland: 18%
other: 9% (1993 est.)

Population: 46,811,174 (July 2006 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 18% (male 4,690,318 female 4,498,239)

15-64 years: 68% (male 16,136,296 female 17,572,011)

65 years and over: 14% (male 2,251,664 female 4,662,646) (1999 est.)

Population growth rate: -0.62% (1999 est.)

Birth rate: 9.54 births/1,000 population (1999 est.)

Death rate: 16.38 deaths/1,000 population (1999 est.)

Net migration rate: 0.63 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1999 est.)

Ethnic groups: Ukrainian 73%, Russian 22%, Jewish 1%, other 4%

Languages: Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian

Religions: Ukrainian Orthodox Moscow Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox Kiev Patriarchate, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox, Ukrainian Catholic (Uniate), Protestant, Jewish, Muslim.

Not Just Your Mama's Beet Soup

When I was a child, I loved to visit my great-grandmother. She was an amazing person, who lived an unusual, interesting and difficult life. She knew so many wonderful stories, much more than H.C. Andersen could imagine. One day, after dinner, she called me and said something strange. "Perhaps, when you grow up, you'll become clever, successful, educated and a charming lady. But nobody will ever marry you, if you can't cook borscht." I was surprised and confused. I hoped, when I grew up, I would be eating only chocolate pies and ice-cream. And why that boring dish is so important? Now I know the answer. Because that evening, she told me a story that I'll never forget: The story about borscht.

Ukrainian borscht has a long history and a rich folklore.

No one tells you when exactly borscht was created. Maybe, it was born with the very first Ukrainian woman. There are hundreds of legends, fairytales, myths and songs about borscht. For example, Ukrainian warriors, Cossacks, were very serious about borscht. Every young man who wanted to be a Cossack had to pass many tests and one of those tests was very spicy borscht. They had to eat it with no reaction on their faces. That test demonstrated that they were true warriors and they prepared for war. Women were even more serious. Many years ago, Turks conquered a Ukrainian town. The leader of the Turks wanted to try a borscht, and there was a woman who agreed to cook it for him. The legend doesn't say why, but the leader didn't like it. That woman was very angry about this. So she drowned him in a plate with borscht. Every Ukrainian story has a half joke. But thousands of years ago and today it is still not a simple dish.

Today we have many interesting borscht traditions. Some of them came to us from pre-Christian culture and they connected us with those different people who lived in a different world. Ukrainians have a special borscht for weddings, birthdays and funerals. Every special ingredient means something for that day. For example, exclusive ingredients for a wedding borscht

is pork ribs broth, a lot of fresh cream, sour cream and eggs. Sounds weird, but believe me, it's delicious. Actually, all ingredients symbolize a family. They give their own taste to each other and become indivisible. Even steam from the plate of hot borscht symbolizes souls of ancestry. It's hard to imagine that such an ordinary dish can have so much philosophy.

Another incredible borscht characteristic is recipe. Probably, you'll never meet two identical dishes of borscht. Every borscht from every chef is individual. There are different techniques, ingredients, and ways of serving for borscht. Each region has their own recipe. For example, in west regions borscht is cooked with mushrooms, cured pork belly, and garlic. In the Car-



pathian Mountains, people like to add zucchini and apple or sour cherry juice. In my dear south, by the Black Sea and Dnieper River, borscht sometimes is cooked with fish. There is a different borscht even for different seasons. The spring borscht is green, made with sorrel leaf and eggs. The summer borscht is cold, refreshing and vegetarian. But the traditional, most favorite

is red borscht. The main ingredients are pork broth, beets, cabbage, potatoes, tomato paste, onion, and carrot. It's served with sour cream, garlic, and special bread, "pampushka". But, as I said before, every region and every chef has their own recipe. Sometimes, it depends on the chef's mood, or what song he sang when he cooked.

One evening, I realized something important. Traditional dishes are not just food. It's our history and our culture. It's a long and very old bridge between who we are now and who we were many years ago. Maybe, this bridge is one of the last ones. I'm sure we should take care of it. Someday, I'll call my grandchildren and tell them the story about borscht, a story that my great-grandma told me many years ago.

Olga Tsomkalova
ESLW50

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

'Huh' - the Universal Word

Humans speak many languages, but we may be united in our confusion. A new study examined languages from around the world and discovered what they say could be a universal word: "Huh?"

Researchers travelled to cities and remote villages on five continents, visiting native speakers of 10 very different languages. Their nearly 200 recordings of casual conversations revealed that there are versions of "Huh?" in every language they studied - and they sound remarkably similar.

While it may seem like a throwaway word, "Huh?" is the glue that holds a broken conversation together, the globe-trotting team has reported in the journal PLOS ONE.

The fact that it appears over and over reveals a remarkable case of "convergent evolution" in language, they added.

"Huh?" is a much-maligned utterance in English. It's seen as a filler word, little more than what's called a conversational grunt, like "mm-hmm".

But it plays a crucial role in conversations, said Herbert Clark, a psychologist at Stanford University who studies language.

When one person misses a bit of information and the line of communication breaks, there needs to be a quick and effective way to fix it, he said.

"You can't have a conversation without the ability to make repairs," said Clark, who wasn't involved in the study.

For this study, scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands set out to show that "Huh?" had earned the status of a full-fledged word, though an admittedly odd one.

They also wanted to see whether other languages had a similar word with a similar function.

The problem is that "Huh?" often seems like such an unimportant feature of language that it's not well documented, said Nick Enfield, a linguistic anthropologist who worked on the study.

The word doesn't crop up much in linguistic literature because researchers who record speakers of remote languages often ignore such filler.

The scientists headed to remote villages in Ecuador, Laos, Ghana and Australia and spent weeks getting acquainted with the locals.

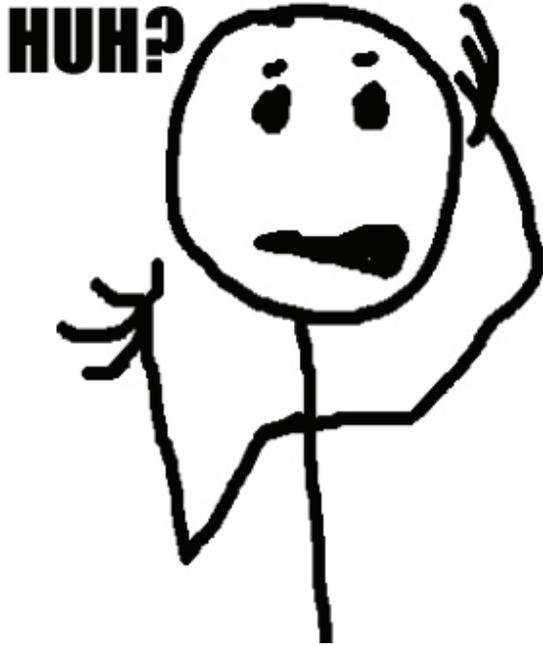
They felt they had to gain people's trust before they could record natural, casual conversations - and perhaps catch a few instances of "Huh?" in its natural environment.

"The kind of conversations we collected were just the kind of conversations you and I would have at the breakfast table or in the evening when we're doing our handicrafts," Enfield said.

The "Huh?" hunters also visited family homes in Italy, Russia and Taiwan as well as laboratories in Spain and the Netherlands.

The languages studied were Cha'palaa, Dutch, Icelandic, Italian, Lao, Mandarin Chinese, Murriny Patha, Russian, Siwu and Spanish. (English wasn't in-





cluded in the study.)

Across these languages, they found a remarkable similarity among the “Huhs?”

All the words had a single syllable, and they were typically limited to a low-front vowel, something akin to “ah” or “eh”.

Sometimes this simple word started with a consonant, as does the English “Huh?” or the Dutch “Heh?”

Across all 10 languages, there were at least 64 simple consonants to choose from, but the word always started with an H or a glottal stop - the sound in the middle of the English “uh-oh”.

Every version of “Huh?” was clearly a word because it passed two key tests, the scientists said: Each “Huh?” had to be learned by speakers and follow the rules of its language. For example, English speakers ask questions with rising tones, so when they say “Huh?” their voices rise. Icelandic speakers’ voices fall when they ask a question, and sure enough, the tone goes down as they ask, “Ha?” (To an English speaker, this tone would sound like a statement of fact: “Huh.”)

“It’s amazing,” said Tanya Stivers, a sociologist at the University of California, Los Angeles who was not involved in the study.

“You do see that it’s slightly different... and that it seems to adapt to the specific language. I think that’s fascinating.”

After all, Stivers pointed out, words with the same meaning sound very different in different languages. Why wouldn’t “Huh?” also sound completely different across unrelated languages?

The Dutch researchers think it’s because the word developed in a specific environment for a specific need - quickly trying to fix a broken conversation by getting the speaker to fill in the listener’s blank.

A low-front vowel in the “ah” or “eh” families involves minimal effort, compared with to a high vowel such as “ee” or a lip-rounder such as “oo.”

The same can be said for a glottal stop or a “h” - hardly any mouth movement is needed to make those sounds.

This allows speakers to very quickly signal that they missed a bit of information, and request it again.

The linguists borrowed a term from biology to describe this phenomenon: “convergent evolution.”

Just as sharks and dolphins developed the same body plan to thrive in the water even though they’re from very different lineages, all languages have developed a “Huh?” because it’s so useful for solving a particular problem, researchers said.

“‘Huh?’ has almost certainly been independently invented many, many, times,” said Mark Pagel, who studies language evolution at the University of Reading in England and was not involved in the PLOS ONE study.

“And that is why it appears universal.”

- MCT

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/science/9390049/Huh-the-universal-word>

What If Books Physically Replicated the Protagonist's Emotions?

Continued from page 1.

Felix Heibeck, Alexis Hope, and Julie Legault are behind what they dubbed the "Sensory Fiction" book, which uses lights that change color, vibrations, and a wearable vest affixed to the reader that reacts to certain scenes in the literature, based on the mood to enhance the reading experience.

"Traditionally, fiction creates and induces emotions and empathy through words and images," explain the creators of the project. "The 'augmented' book portrays the scenery and sets the mood, and the wearable [technology] allows the reader to experience the protagonist's physiological emotions."

In September, instructors Dan Novy and Sophia Brueckner launched "Science Fiction to Science Fabrication," a course that welded together what Sci-Fi authors envisioned for the future, with today's high-tech capabilities. In doing that, students and researchers in the class built "code-based interpretations" derived from technologies the authors described in their writing. The purpose of the course was to dissect some of the most thought-provoking classic and modern science fiction literature out there, and "focus on the creation of functional prototypes."

"We felt it was important to show students at the Media Lab, and MIT in general, that there was a lot of far reaching and critical thinking about the effects of technology being explored in the genre of Science Fiction. Here at the Lab we are literally creating the technologies of tomorrow but very few students ever give a thought to the continuum their technology exists within, or the far extended ethical implications their technology may have," the course instructors said in an email. "Science Fiction often acts as cautionary tales... so one of the things we tried to do was also take technologies that were presented as dystopian or malevolent and spin them toward a positive outcome. This is the exact opposite of how evil technologies are usually presented in fiction."

As part of the course curriculum, there were regular, weekly talks about the literature covered throughout the semester, as well as a mandatory final project. The

Sensory Fiction project, inspired by a book read for the class, was what Heibeck, Hope, and Legault came up with.

To make it, the trio relied on networked sensors and actuators to create a "new means of conveying plot, mood, and emotion" through physical experiences "... while still allowing space for the reader's imagination." They used the novella *The Girl Who Was Plugged In* by James Tiptree Jr. as the backbone for their creation.

As the book's protagonist experiences emotional or physical changes from page to page, the vest triggers the actuators, and can cause shifts in the reader's heart beat and temperature. The vest can also inflate using pressurized airbags, and constrict to create a feeling of anxiety, or pressure.

"Sensory fiction is about new ways of experiencing and creating stories," researchers said.

The lights on the outside of the book's cover also change as the overall theme of the protagonist's mood fluctuates. "The book cover animates to reflect the book's changing atmosphere, while certain passages trigger vibration patterns," the team wrote.

While this sort of technology could be sourced out to a range of different novels, taking the reading experience to a level that would make the story come alive, it's not likely it will hit the market anytime soon.

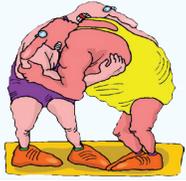
In an email, one of the creators of the Sensory Fiction book said the project is merely a prototype meant to provoke discussion. "While the project explores new ways of reading with digital augmentations, this is not a product idea but rather an exploration in the context of Science Fiction stories," said Heibeck.

One of the other prototypes that came out of the class included bionic arms similar to the one Luke Skywalker lost in his battle against Darth Vader.

A video by Heibeck and his team was put together at the end of the semester, and can be seen using the link below:

<http://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/blog/2014/01/28/sensory-fiction-project-mit-media-lab/>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Pre-Determiners

Such, What, Rather, Quite

These words are normally placed before *the indefinite article*.

Such and **what** are often used to express surprise or other emotions:

Examples:

- *What a lovely day!*
- *She's such a lovely woman!*
- *What an incredible film!*
- *He's such a fantastic guitarist!*

Rather and **quite** are 'commenting' words, referring to the degree of a particular quality. They can express disappointment, pleasure, or other emotions, and are used before *a/an + adjective + noun*:

Examples:

- *It's rather a small car. (= I'm a bit disappointed because it's small)*
- *It was quite a nice day. (= I was agreeably surprised.) He's had quite a bad accident. (= I'm worried)*
- *I've just met rather a nice man. (= I'm pleased)*

http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/pre_determiners.php

Idiom--Attic

In one's heart of hearts



"In my heart of hearts I think you're the nicest mouse in the entire world," Timothy blushed. Accepting his gift, Josephine answered: "In my heart of hearts, I think you're wonderful too."

When we speak of one's heart of hearts we are referring to a person's deep, secret, innermost feelings.

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

Beak Speak Silent Letters

These are those letters in words which are not pronounced when we say the word. In other words, these letters or alphabets are written when spelling the word but not said out loud verbally. This is mainly because of the changes in pronunciation that the English language has seen over the centuries, in olden times the silent letters used to be pronounced and the spellings also varied greatly. Here we have listed out the different types of silent alphabets and examples of the words they are used in.



Silent B

The alphabet 'B' is not pronounced when it comes after 'M' in a words: *Climb; Plumber; Tomb; Comb*

Silent C

'C' is not pronounced in words like: *Muscle; Scissors; Acquire*

Silent D

'D' is not pronounced in words like: *Sandwich; Wednesday; Edge*

Silent G

The alphabet is not pronounced when it comes before 'N' or 'M': *Gnat; Diaphragm*

Silent GH

'GH' is not pronounced before 'T' and at the end of many words: *Rough; Through; Alight; Light; Borough*

Continued in Parrot 81

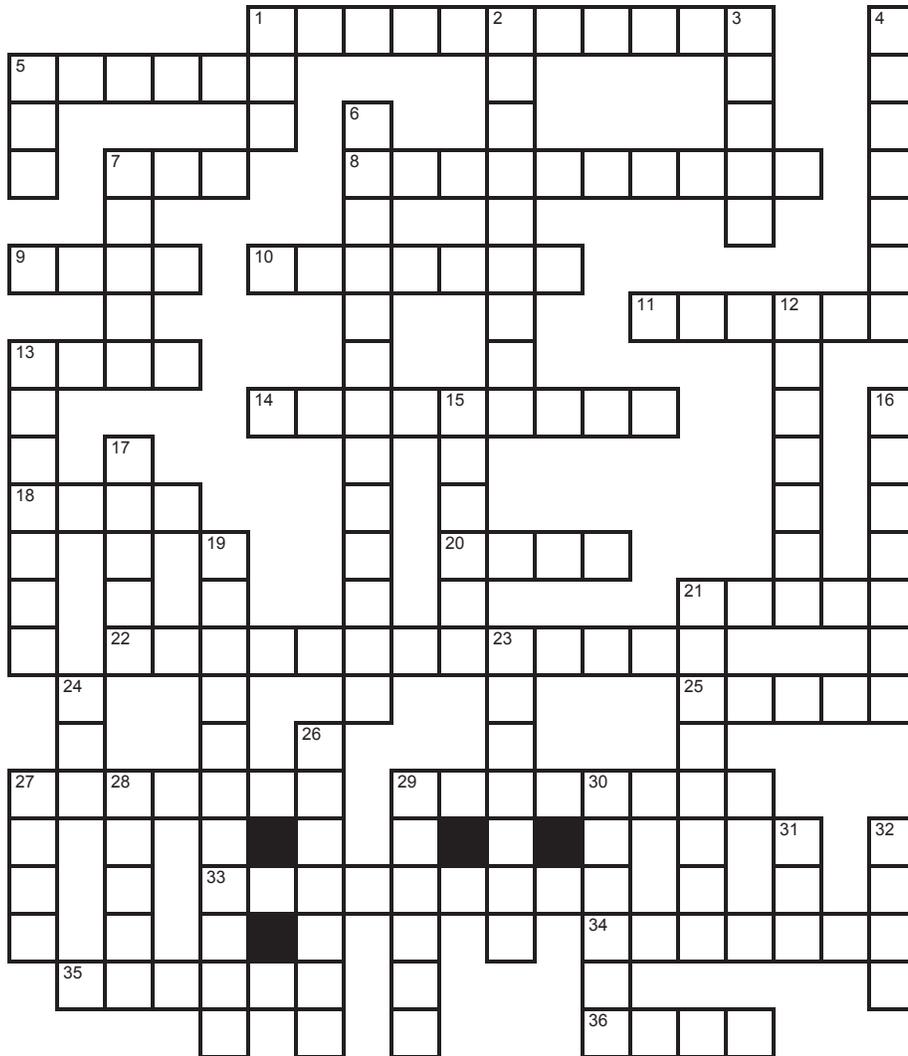
<http://www.englishleap.com>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Making Movies Wordsearch

Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions. Words may overlap and share 1 or more letters

action	z	d	q	n	t	p	i	r	c	s	d	e	n	i	l	r	p	h	n	p	t	d	h	t	m	h	l	q
actor	f	n	c	b	y	l	m	c	g	n	i	k	n	a	r	c	r	e	v	o	b	m	e	x	o	c	q	w
actress	s	e	d	i	t	o	r	v	a	t	e	s	r	e	j	w	l	l	p	j	k	e	n	s	l	h	t	l
agent	c	e	u	g	o	l	a	i	d	m	b	z	h	g	p	m	p	x	r	n	h	k	c	a	y	x	p	f
best boy	r	f	h	v	w	b	z	l	y	b	e	t	q	l	y	i	r	y	t	s	r	a	p	f	z	n	r	w
biographic	e	b	t	q	q	r	z	h	i	v	e	r	w	x	n	f	c	w	l	r	r	b	b	o	x	q	r	j
bit part	e	m	m	w	g	h	a	t	f	e	o	g	a	y	d	t	j	l	w	w	o	k	o	b	b	e	p	r
body double	n	c	m	k	m	t	p	p	h	t	d	v	n	l	d	d	a	c	v	a	b	m	p	e	w	c	v	x
box office	r	n	j	k	l	a	r	s	c	s	d	c	l	l	y	c	j	n	r	y	s	h	h	s	v	i	e	q
call sheet	n	c	j	t	r	k	e	a	c	t	m	y	p	o	t	f	f	d	r	h	v	c	q	t	i	f	r	m
cameo	n	d	e	t	j	p	e	r	x	k	l	r	x	d	d	j	f	t	o	u	t	q	k	b	s	f	e	m
camera	t	o	h	l	o	j	i	y	q	k	v	p	e	r	n	l	l	t	l	b	s	v	b	o	u	o	i	t
cast	g	n	i	d	b	p	x	t	g	p	n	w	x	t	r	p	d	a	m	y	v	h	n	y	a	x	m	h
clapboard	l	n	q	t	t	u	l	l	g	r	h	z	t	c	a	m	e	o	g	d	l	b	e	k	l	o	e	o
dialogue	f	n	p	c	a	i	o	k	m	e	i	w	r	m	r	k	j	x	w	e	f	k	q	s	e	b	r	r
director	r	v	x	i	g	c	l	d	g	r	r	p	a	o	u	m	r	m	b	r	n	g	w	n	f	j	p	c
dolly	t	v	r	h	r	l	o	a	y	e	t	k	w	z	t	s	t	r	e	e	l	t	f	o	f	y	m	h
dope sheet	w	y	t	a	r	g	t	l	c	d	y	c	k	l	w	c	i	m	f	r	f	a	t	g	e	k	q	e
editor	r	s	h	z	t	n	z	u	x	r	o	t	t	e	r	x	e	c	c	l	d	n	d	a	c	r	p	s
epic	n	y	d	n	o	s	d	n	e	l	c	b	k	n	k	a	w	r	a	e	m	i	c	w	t	l	u	t
extra	l	m	u	m	b	o	z	d	z	h	a	x	f	s	h	b	c	r	i	l	d	d	t	y	s	j	e	r
fade	c	t	v	k	r	r	d	y	b	v	s	q	v	y	g	q	p	e	r	d	n	n	k	e	n	y	k	a
gaffer	s	m	n	p	g	u	l	t	d	k	t	f	h	d	r	r	c	d	r	v	o	a	r	n	y	k	a	t
grip	k	h	l	n	j	h	b	q	n	a	c	t	r	e	s	s	h	x	l	u	i	t	d	o	y	f	m	o
honeywagon	m	o	t	i	o	n	b	l	u	r	d	h	r	e	f	f	a	g	m	j	t	s	t	h	m	y	k	r
judder	r	f	s	t	c	e	f	f	e	l	a	i	c	e	p	s	j	p	r	t	c	c	k	k	p	r	k	n
jump cut	c	c	i	h	p	a	r	g	o	i	b	t	b	b	r	n	y	y	g	v	a	h	i	t	y	y	f	p
key grip	w	a	r	d	r	o	b	e	m	y	q	d	j	u	m	p	c	u	t	p	x	b	c	p	b	n	f	m
lens																												
lights																												
lined script																												
location																												
makeup																												
montage																												
motion blur																												
musical																												
orchestrator																												
oscar																												
overcranking																												
picture car																												
premiere																												
producer																												
reel																												
rushes																												
screen																												
script																												
set																												
special effects																												
stand in																												
star																												
stunt																												
visual effects																												
wardrobe																												
wrap																												
zoom shot																												

**Across**

- 1 A person who delivers mail. (4,7) 20 The time of day just after the sun sets. (4)
- 5 Something people use to take pictures. (6) 21 The time of day when the stars come out. (5)
- 7 A thing that people use to cut wood. (3) 22 A place where people buy tools. (8,5)
- 8 A scientist who studies space. (10) 25 A place where people sit. (5)
- 9 A place where people drive. (4) 27 A person who fixes teeth. (7)
- 10 The time of day when people eat dinner. (7) 29 A place next to a road where people walk. (8)
- 11 A time when people go to the beach. (6) 33 A time when kids wear costumes. (9)
- 13 A person who cooks food. (4) 34 A place where people watch movies. (7)
- 14 A person who does experiments. (9) 35 A place where camels live. (6)
- 18 A place where people picnic. (4) 36 Something people use to clean up leaves. (4)

Things That...**Down**

- 1 A thing that people use to find where they are. (3)
- 2 A person who explores space. (9)
- 3 A thing that people use to draw straight lines. (5)
- 4 Someone who teaches. (7)
- 5 An animal that gives us milk. (3)
- 6 A time when people give chocolates and say, "I love you." (10,3)
- 7 Something that people use to weigh things. (5)
- 12 The time of day when people eat breakfast. (7)
- 13 A thing that people use to find north. (7)
- 15 A thing that people use to sew. (6)
- 16 Someone who cleans buildings. (7)
- 17 Something that people use to paint. (5)
- 19 Someone who puts out fires. (11)
- 21 A thing that you wear on your neck. (8)
- 23 A person who has joined the army. (7)
- 24 An insect that makes honey. (3)
- 26 A person who plays sports. (7)
- 27 The time of day when the sun rises. (4)
- 28 A person who assists a doctor. (5)
- 29 A thing that people use to dig. (6)
- 30 A time when snow falls to the ground. (6)
- 31 A thing that people wear on their heads. (3)
- 32 A place where people grow crops. (4)



Wayne the Stegosaurus

Meet the stegosaurus, Wayne.
He doesn't have the biggest brain.
He's long and heavy, wide and tall,
but has a brain that's extra small.

He's not the brightest dinosaur.
He thinks that one plus one is four.
He can't remember up from down.
He thinks the sky is chocolate brown.

He wears his bow tie on his tail
and likes to eat the daily mail.
When playing hide-and-seek he tries
to hide by covering his eyes.

He thinks that black is really white.
He's sure the sun comes out at night.
He thinks that water grows on trees
and when it's hot he starts to freeze.
He's happy when he's feeling ill.

He likes to dance by standing still.
And when it's time to go to bed,
he puts bananas on his head.

He thinks his name is Bob, not Wayne,
but that's what happens when your brain
(although you're big and brave and spiny)
is very, very, very tiny.

Kenn Nesbitt

Rigoberto's Riddles

When one does not know what it is,
then it is something; but when one
knows what it is, then it is nothing.



Johnny of course

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

Wrong email address



A couple going on vacation but his wife was on a business trip so he went to the destination first and his wife would meet him the next day.

When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick email.

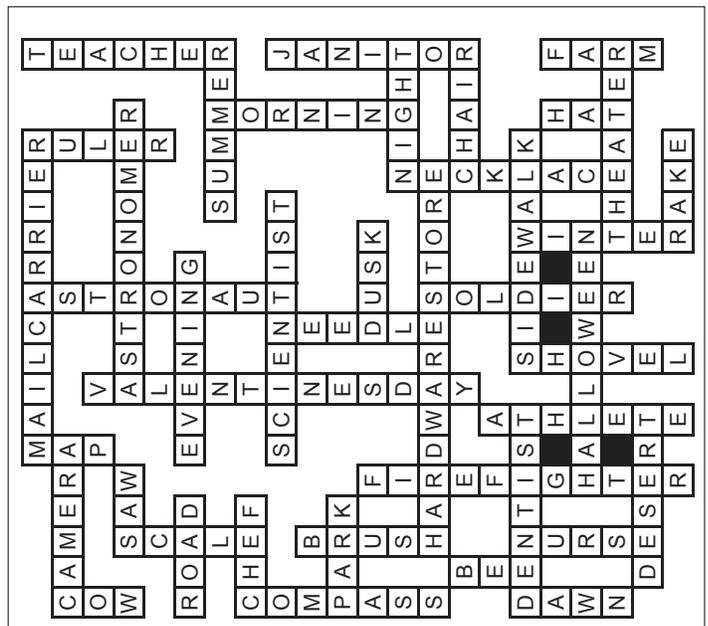
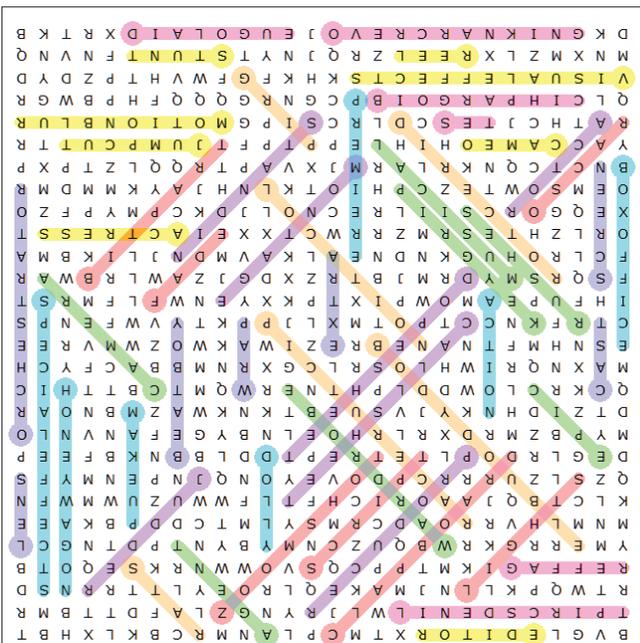
Unfortunately, when typing her address, he mistyped a letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife whose husband had passed away only the day before.

When the grieving widow checked her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint.

At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

Dearest Wife,

Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow.



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I see that ESL 97 is not on the schedule this semester; do you think it will be back next semester because my friends and I really need help with our English. I tried it before and it helped me to improve my grades and to communicate better with my children's American friends.

Fabian Cezanuck

Dear Fabian,

Good news; it's not too late for this semester. ESL 97 just has a new name, actually three new names. These names are ESL34, ESL 44 and ESL 54.

If you go down to the ESL Center in the LRC, the people there can help you enroll for this semester. It is too late to do it from your home computer. If you enroll for one unit, you get to attend the ESL Center for 36 to 54 hours.



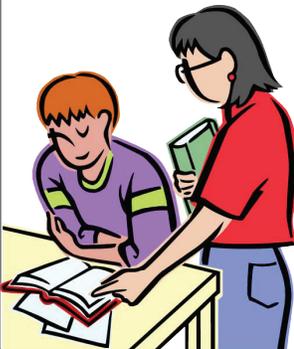
Work there is self-paced and tailored to your needs. The friendly people there can help you not only with reading, writing, and grammar. They also have interesting conversation groups and you can watch videos. If you like to spend your time on the computer, you can do that too. Just don't ask those friendly people to do your homework for you.

At the end of the semester, when other classes have a final, ESL 34, 44, and 54 have a party!

If you have more questions, go to the ESL Center, and people there will probably have an answer for you. From 8 a.m. to 7:15 Monday through Thursday and from 8 to 12:30 on Fridays somebody will be there to help you. Don't go on the weekend because nobody will be there. Stay home and read The Parrot.

Granny.

English as a Second Language Center



Coordinator: *Krista Hess*

Office Location: *Learning Resource Center*

Hours:

Fall & Spring Hours

M. - Th. 9:00am to 7:00pm

Fr. 9:00am to 1:00pm

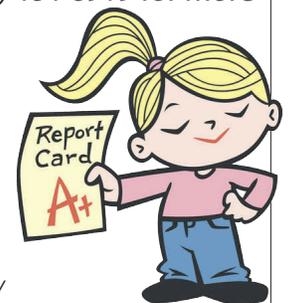
Email: *hessk@arc.losrios.edu*

Phone: (916) 484-8919

The ESL (English as a Second Language) Center is designed for ESL students who would like to improve their English skills. Attendance times and days are flexible, and concurrent enrollment in another ESL course is not required. ESL students must have successfully completed the ESL 20 series or be placed at the 30 level or higher through the assessment process. Students may register for as little as .25 units

per semester. Summer sessions are also offered during the day, Monday-Thursday. Work is modular in nature, permitting students to work independently on a variety of skill areas of their choosing. Study materials are available for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. The ESL Center also offers computer-based materials, small group conversation practice, and multi-media materials for students seeking integrated language skills development.

Please call the ESL Center at (916) 484-8919 for more information.



http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Support_Services/ESL_Center.htm

Interview with Lyubov Militan

Continued from page 1.

almost 8 years, and I enjoy helping students.

Parrot: It's a long time. Tell me how you got here.

Lyubov: Got to the country or to American River College?

Parrot: To American River College.

Lyubov: American River College. I was a student. I didn't know any words, no words.

Parrot: Did you take ESL classes?

Lyubov: I went to adult school for one year. Then I came to American River College, started ESL at the lowest level and I advanced to the highest levels. I took classes for my major and I graduated with an AA Degree in business and it was in 2005.

Parrot: Congratulations!

Lyubov: Thank you.

Parrot: Can you describe your job?

Lyubov: I am a clerk. Mostly my duties are to enter information in the computer, student appointments. I schedule appointments, and I answer phone calls. I arrange schedules for tutoring, oversee the tutoring service and lot of training and meetings. The bigger work for hiring is mostly clerical and customer service like student service bookings. In my job I enjoy mostly communicating with students.

Parrot: Was it easy the first time?

Lyubov: It wasn't easy in the beginning. It was hard for me because my native language is Russian/Ukrainian, and I talk in English as a second language. So, it was very hard for me, but every day I improved because I helped people, communicated, interviewed. It helped me a lot. I am growing and every time I know I'm helping other people to grow.

Parrot: Do you think ARC is a good place to work?

Lyubov: It is the perfect place because here you have steps for growth if you are talking about stu-

dents. For me it is the best place. I think it is the best place for me and for other people.

Parrot: Nice. You are from Russia, right?

Lyubov: No, I am from Ukraine, very close to Russia, but I speak Russian.

Parrot: Do you speak two languages?

Lyubov: I speak American, I mean English. I speak Russian, and I speak Ukrainian.

Parrot: Wow, it's great! Can you compare working in the US with working in your country?

Lyubov: Yes, I can. I worked as a secretary in Ukraine in a bank. The difficult part was that I was working behind a typewriter. I typed a lot and it was everything mechanical. Here I work on the computer. I have advanced knowledge.

Parrot: Of technology?

Lyubov: Yes. I had advanced learning about computers and about programs. The easy part is it is the same language to help people.

Parrot: Yes.

Lyubov: I am still learning. I learned a lot and it's become easier for me now. So a job is a job, my country or here, if you are honest. If you are open for students, you will always be helpful.

Parrot: And get experience, too.

Lyubov: Yes.

Parrot: If you look back to your high school and college days, would you make changes?

Lyubov: Yes, I would.

Parrot: Of course.

Lyubov: I would be more serious about going to school, study more, and spend more time reading books.

Parrot: Working hard too.

Lyubov: I worked hard but I would push myself to be even better.

Parrot: And you get good results in the end.

Lyubov: Yes.

Parrot: I have more simple questions if you don't mind, please.

Lyubov: Okay, yes please.

Parrot: What is your idea of a dream vacation?

Lyubov: Do you mean if I would go somewhere on vacation?

Parrot: Yes, your idea.

Lyubov: You know, I never in my life had vacation.

Parrot: Really! You have kids?

Lyubov: Yes, I have kids but I never, no time for that. So I wish I would go back to Ukraine because I have been here for 15 years.

Parrot: Wow!!!!

Lyubov: So I would like to visit but I still can't and I want to go to Hawaii and Mexico.

Parrot: Everybody wishes for Hawaii. Good.

Lyubov: But I hope the future will be brighter for me.

Parrot: If you had 1 million dollars, what would you do?

Lyubov: Oh, my gosh, I would help people because many people need support and especially people I know. I would give them some support - some money. What is exactly the most important, school or kids, I want to give some money to them or transfer money for that.

Parrot: Nice. Do you think you have achieved something special in your life?

Lyubov: I believe yes. I had my job, graduated from school. I have a good job. I have a nice family. I have

a good husband. I think everything in my life is what I wanted. I still would go to the university and maybe next year I want to achieve more.

Parrot: Next question. What is the biggest challenge in your life you have ever had to face?

Lyubov: The challenge for me is to speak in front of people. To do a presentation is hard for me.

Parrot: Like today.

Lyubov: One on one is OK. Like if it is three people, it is fine but if it is a class, it just challenges me and I want to know how. I believe this is the biggest challenge for me.

Parrot: In my country we never studied something like that.

Lyubov: To do presentations?

Parrot: To be strong. What do you like to do in your free time?

Lyubov: Free time, you know I have a four-year-old baby. I am full-time every day at work, so I just mostly spend time with her because I feel she doesn't have enough time to spend with me. So, I do play with her, or go to the park.

Parrot: What is her name?

Lyubov: Her name is Ellie.

Parrot: Nice.

Lyubov: I like now to read books, I like to clean the house. I'm sure everybody likes to clean the house. I don't like to cook, but I like to clean the house and make everything strict and everything be nice.

Parrot: Do you have a pet like a cat?

Lyubov: No, we don't because our child has asthma and we have to be very careful. No pets in the house and I was raised to have a pet not in the house, but outside. I know how I will be understood. I will be different from others, but this is how we feel.

Parrot: Which of the following items could you not



live without for a year: the Internet, television, car, or cellphone?

Lyubov: I would say a car.

Parrot: You can't?

Lyubov: Yes, because without a cellphone we can still be connected, but if I would not have a car, I would not be able to drive to work or a store anywhere.

Parrot: Sacramento is big and we should have a car because the personal transportation is very necessary. They don't have much public transportation here.

Lyubov: Yes, I would not be able to live without a car.

Parrot: I can't either.

Lyubov: Me either.

Parrot: I take my kid, go to school, shopping. If I spend three hours on the bus, I waste too much time.

Lyubov: Right, yes. The car for me is important to have. Maybe I can live without a TV. I don't care.

Parrot: Thank you.

Lyubov: I hope you get a good grade for your class.

Parrot: Thank you and have a wonderful day.

Lyubov: You too.

*Fatma Taibi
ESL L50*



The EOP&S program's mission is to encourage you to remain in college, provide services for you to successfully complete your classes every semester, and to push you closer to graduating and/or completing your degree goals. As you are aware, the EOP&S staff is committed to providing "above and beyond" services to see you succeed; we only ask that you show determination and discipline. You must remain responsible and become an advocate for your goals.

Dean: *Kolleen Ostgaard*

Coordinator: *Diane Delgado*

Office Location: Student Services Building (next door to the ARC Financial Aid Office).

Hours: Fall, Spring, and Summer Semester

M.,Th.,Fr.: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tu.,W.: 8:00am - 7:00pm

Phone: 916 484-8128

FAX: 916 484-8151

http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Support_Services/EOPS.htm

EOPS

STUDENTS

Out of the Cage

Scholarship Seminars

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm and 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

A scholarship is considered a gift of money to assist a student in financing their higher education. The amount available for individual students varies. Private financial aid may come from foundations, civic or service clubs, corporations, &/or private individuals. Do you 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: Orientation Room, Student Services Building

My Time in Africa: Two Students Share Their Stories

Thursday, March 27, 2014

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

For Courtney -- a student studying International Development at the University of the Pacific in Stockton -- living, studying, and working for three and a half months in a developing country in West Africa was a dream come true, until the realities of actually living, studying, and working in the developing world kicked in. Culture shock, the dichotomy of expectations and realities, as well as the constant struggle of communication all make up the invaluable experience that was a semester in Senegal. In June 2013, current ARC student Madeline Gerlach began an all-too-brief volunteering stint at an orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania. Two outrageously memorable months later, she returned with a wealth of memories to share and inspiration for Boarders over Borders, a charity project dedicated to sponsoring the public school students with whom she worked to attend boarding school.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Visits by Universities

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

11:30 am - 6:30 pm

- CSUS Rep Visits
- Drop-in 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Call the Transfer Center for an appointment 916-484-8685

Thursday, April 3, 2014

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

- University of the Pacific Rep Visits
- Sierra Nevada College Rep Visits
- Drexel University Rep Visits
- University of Phoenix Rep Visits

Location: Library Quad

R.A.D. Presents One Book: Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz

Thursday, April 3, 2014

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: Life is challenging, and we all have stories of overcoming the obstacles we encounter, but what makes a person turn from a life of welfare, abuse, and gangs to a life of serving his/her community as a police officer? Join us as we discuss why some people never escape from the stronghold of despair and poverty while others from the same backgrounds move on to live successful, fulfilling lives.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Questions/Comments?



Student Editors: Christian Valenzuela and Olga Cuzeac.

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