



The ESL Parrot

Your ARC newsletter for and by ESL students

Issue # 10

Fall 2006

Interviewing Tatiana Hramtsova

Tell me a little about your background and what exactly do you do now.

My name is Tatiana Hramtsova and I'm from Odessa, Ukraine. I immigrated to America in the year 2000 and basically started life anew here. I started going to ARC and am in the process of finishing up my degree.

Simultaneously, I started working for a Russian radio station as well. I myself had a necessity to know more about American life and therefore thought it would be a great idea to familiarize myself with this culture and present it to the Slavic Community through a radio station. Also, back where I come from, I used to have my own musical group which we would constantly travel and perform with. Thus, I organized my own jazz band here as well. We give concerts and often times work with different types of fundraiser organizations to help out financially or help promote something.

How did you become so successful in so many aspects of life? What did you do to accomplish it all? Did it require any specific sacrifices or contribution?

First off, I would like to ask that question to myself personally. How DID it all work out and put me to where I stand in life? I myself often think about how I happened to fall into the category of those who have the

opportunity to give so much to the community and achieve so much in life and become a person who not only pays attention to daily basics, but actually cares about their community and plainly put, people?

I personally didn't do anything because I didn't have a specific goal in that regard. I just did it -- that's it. Whatever opportunity came my way, I



grasped it and did everything possible to make the best of it. I admit I still volunteer in all that I do for the Slavic community, but I think what helped me with the achievements was my goal to not only help MY well-being, but the well-being of the community around me as well. What I do that's related to music is out of personal interest. I absolutely adore singing and consider it my hobby.

How many albums do you have?

This year I am having my second album come out around Christmas 2006. It will be called Ne Pechalsa (roughly translated as "Do Not Weary").

What type of music do you play?

Well, it depends where I'm playing and what the public expects. For instance, if I'm at a church, it'll be gospel music or if it's at a wedding, it will be love songs. If I'm performing elsewhere, it will be based on where it is and what's expected.

What radio station are you on and when?

It's called "The New Russian Radio" and I head the program every Wednesday from 5-6 pm on 1690 am.

What has been your biggest success and the most rewarding?

What I consider the most rewarding to me, personally, is hearing a plain

thank-you from a person. I consider it a success when someone gives me a call and simply tells me it's great to have someone like me alive and on the go. That's how I define success in my life!

What is the most pleasant thing about your work?

My most important goal in life has always been to have an opportunity to work for people. I sing live music and perform it, as well as work with people

When we are motivated by goals that have deep meaning, by dreams that need completion, by pure love that needs expressing, then we truly live life.

Greg Anderson



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get a phone call from one of my listeners who needs some form of help. To me, it becomes the greatest thing in life when I can empathize, when I have the opportunity to be able to understand someone's emotional state completely while solving a problem or an issue.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm planning on putting on my own concert to present my new album to the public and basically continue what I'm doing now.

What advice would you like to give to ESL students?

First of all, I would like to

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Student Chirpings

Cyrus Was Born Again

On a cloudy winter day, I was working in my quiet lab, which was in a small clinic on the border of Iran and Iraq. It was in the year 1985 and it was in the middle of the war with Iraq. Kermanshah, a big city on the border, was evacuated and its people had gone to small towns where there were no factories, industrial buildings, or army houses, which were the important target for Iraq's bombardment. Harsine, a small town where I worked, was 30 minutes away from Kermanshah, and I could hear the sound of missiles which were thrown onto Kermanshah in the middle of the night and the airplanes' vibrations when they flew over the top of the city, trying to break the sound barrier. This town was very poor, and it had just a few small stores, one bank, one post office and two small clinics, and at that time it was the host of many people who had chosen this city as a shelter for themselves. It was almost 11 o'clock in the morning, and I had finished collecting samples from my patients. I started to work on each sample and was looking through the eyepiece of my microscope when a knock on my door drew my attention. I stood up and I opened the door. I saw a man and a woman standing there. The woman wore a black chador while she held a small boy in her arms. She was very pale and sad. The man, who was trying to be calm, came to me with a small smile, and he said hello. Both of them were very young, but poverty and anxiety made them seem old. The man, who wore an old, green overcoat with faded shoulder blades that had turned grey, handed me a white piece of paper that was nothing more than a doctor's request. The request was in the name of Cyrus Valizadeh.

I asked, "Is Cyrus this child?" They answered "Yes." I asked, "How old is he?"

They answered, "Two years old." I said, "Please come in and have a seat." The woman brought out Cyrus from her chador and I saw that he was a very chubby and cute boy with blond and curly hair. I took his hand and I tried to make him happy. I talked to him in a child-like manner, "How are you Cyrus?" He laughed at me and he hid his head in his mother's bosom. I made everything ready to take his blood sample. I asked, "What's his problem?" His father told me, "He has Thalassemia*." I asked, "Are you sure?" They said, "Yes, every month we go to the city and we give him new



blood, but now, because of the war and Iraq's bombardment, we can't go to the city, so we try to do everything here. I stared at Cyrus, and I thought what a hard and challenging road he had to face in his life if he wanted to stay alive. His mother said that he had had a fever since the previous week. His spleen was so big that they had to take it out and now he didn't sleep very well. I wondered — now, here in this small town, with these modest possibilities, with the war, and the poverty of his parents, what would happen to him.

I took his hand, which was adorned with a bracelet of blue pearls. Some people in this land believe that blue can bless people and take away every bad thing. I got his blood sample and I gave him a piece of candy. He was crying and was trying to press his head to his mother's chest. That was the best place for escaping from every pain. He didn't look at me at all, and they went. His father came back to get the results of the test. Next month, they came back. Cyrus was feeling worse. After a while, when the war quieted, Cyrus didn't come to my lab anymore, but, one day, I saw his father in the clinic and I asked about his son. The tears flooded from his eyes and he told me that Cyrus had died. This news was very tragic, and I didn't want to believe it, but it was true. Mr. Valizadeh left the clinic, but I was thinking about Cyrus' face and those blue pearls.

A few months later, while I was working I saw Mr. Valizadeh and his wife standing at the door again. I considered that they might have forgotten the death of their son. I asked them, "How's it going?" They showed me a newborn baby and told me that they were worried about him. I was shocked. How could they have had another child? This innocent baby didn't move a lot. I got his blood sample and unfortunately he had severe anemia. I told them to take him to the doctor immediately. When I wanted to write the report of the test, I asked them that what his name was. His father told me Cyrus. I became very mad, very sad, and I tried to prevent myself from crying. I told them, "Here you are; take the report of Cyrus. They went and I started to cry loudly because I couldn't understand why Cyrus was born again.

Parisa Samadi

*Thalassemia-It describes a group of inherited disorders characterized by reduced or absent

Parrot Warblings

Speak Like a Parrot: Rules of Word Stress in English

Rule		Example
Stress on first syllable	Most 2-syllable nouns	PRESent, EXport, CHIna,
	Most 2-syllable adjectives	PRESent, SLEnder,
Stress on last syllable	Most 2-syllable verbs	to preSENT, to exPORT, to deCIDE, to beGIN
Stress on penultimate syllable	Words ending in -ic	GRAPHiC, geoGRAPHiC, geoLOGic
	Words ending in -sion and -tion	teleVIsion, reveLAtion
Stress on antepenultimate syllable	Words ending in -cy , -ty , -phy and -gy	deMOcracy, dependaBILity, phoTOgraphy, geOLogy
	Words ending in -al	CRITical, geoLOGical
Compound words (words with two parts)	For compound nouns , the stress is on the first part	BLACKbird, GREENhouse
	For compound adjectives , the stress is on the second part	bad-TEMpered, old-FASHioned
	For compound verbs , the stress is on the second part	to underSTAND, to overFLOW

Note:

- One word has only one stress.** One word cannot have two stresses. If you hear two stresses, you hear two words. Two stresses cannot be one word. It is true that there can be a "secondary" stress in some words. But a secondary stress is much smaller than the main [primary] stress, and is only used in long words.
- We can only stress vowels, not consonants.**



Wear one's heart on one's sleeve

Meaning:

Show emotions or feelings openly.

If you **wear your heart on your sleeve**, you openly express your feelings or emotions to others.

Example:

A: How did the interview go? Did he tell you what problems he has?

B: No, it was very difficult to make him open his heart and tell me his true feelings.

He's not a kind of guy who **wears his heart on his sleeve**.

ESL WEB LINKS

<http://www.efclub.com>

Is an interactive

website for young learners; includes quizzes, games, stories, songs, movie trailers, hangman, about you, a message board, and more!

<http://english-online.org.uk>

A large and growing English site, with lessons for all levels, exam practice for the Cambridge exams and TOEFL. Games to play online and download, and reading and a business course. These's also a



Grappling with Grammar

PROBLEMS WITH PREPOSITIONS

Rule 1. You may end a sentence with a preposition. Just do not use extra prepositions when the meaning is clear without them.

Correct That is something I cannot agree with. OR
That is something with which I cannot agree.

Correct Where did he go?

Incorrect Where did he go to?

Correct Where did you get this?

Incorrect Where did you get this at?

Rule 2. Use *on* with expressions that indicate the time of an occurrence.

Examples He was born on December 23.

Rule 3. *Of* should never be used in place of *have*.

Correct I should have done it.

Incorrect I should of done it.

Rule 4. *Between* refers to two. *Among* is used for three or more.

Examples Divide the candy among the three of you.
Divide the candy between the two of you.

Rule 5. *Into* implies entrance; *in* does not.

Examples Sofia walked into the house.
Sofia was waiting in the house.

Rule 6. The word *like*, when used to show comparison, is a preposition, meaning that it should be followed by an object of the preposition but not by a subject and verb.

Examples You look so much like your mother.
(Mother is the object of the preposition *like*.)

Dear Granny Noetal,

The students in our ESL class want to get a gift for our teacher. We always do this in our country at the end of the class. I heard that American teachers don't like this. Is this true?

Gifted Student



Dear Gifted,

Teachers in the US do not expect gifts from their students at the end of the semester. We do have images in our history of students periodically placing a nice, shiny, red, apple on the teacher's desk. Nonetheless, the ESL teachers do not expect anything from you except hard work and good attendance. Their reward is seeing you progress. Having said that, I will say that all of the ESL teachers are (still) human and would find it hard not to be gracious if they were given a token of thanks -- a candy, perhaps, or a trip to Bermuda (just joking). Your question is a good one because the teachers themselves are not always sure what to do or say --- such is the case whenever two different cultural traditions meet. So, Gifted, thanks for your question. I'm sure you and your classmates will arrive at a good decision. If your dilemma gets to be too much, you can always get a gift for Granny -- like another letter! (It makes me feel young)

Granny

Word Search
Christmas Words



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

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Frosty | Cranberry | Holly | Punch | Traffic |
| Noel | Dressing | Jubilee | Reunion | Vacation |
| Scrooge | Eggnog | Merry | Sauce | Wassail |
| Bells | Family | Mistletoe | Season | Wreath |
| Bread | Festival | Parades | Spirit | Yule |
| Candles | Fruitcake | Party | Stocking | Yuletide |
| Candy | Greetings | Pie | Stockings | Trip |
| Cards | Ham | Poinsettia | Stuffers | Turkey |
| Celebrate | Holiday | Pumpkin | Tidings | |

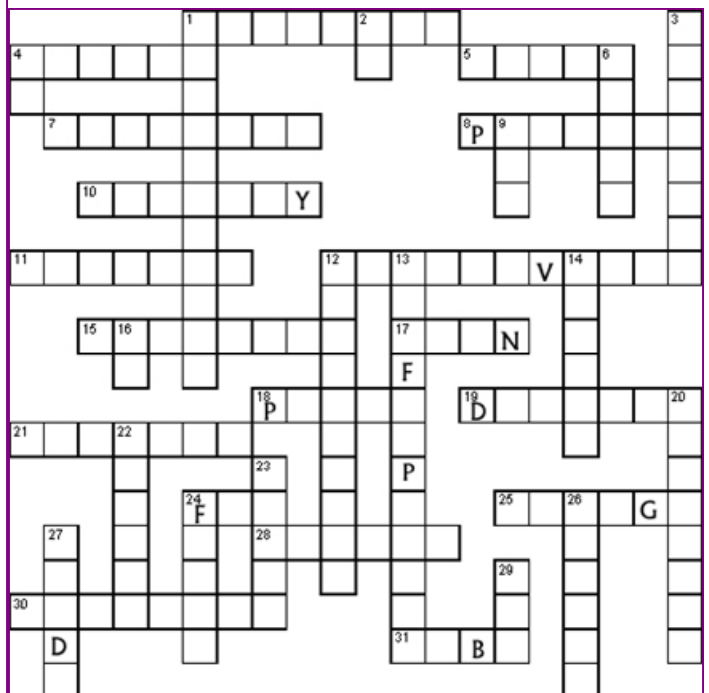
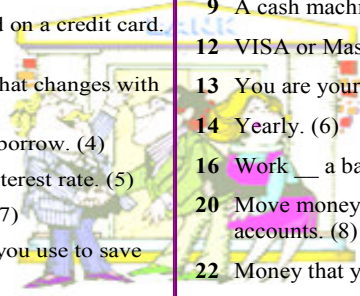
Banking and Finance Vocabulary Crossword

Across

- A bank account you use to pay everyday expenses. (8)
- A bank employee. (6)
- Income before you pay taxes. (5)
- Take money out of the bank. (8)
- Borrowed money that you pay back at a regular interval. (7)
- Every month. (7)
- Put money in the bank. (7)
- Money borrowed on a credit card. (11)
- An interest rate that changes with time. (8)
- Money that you borrow. (4)
- A bank's main interest rate. (5)
- Not pay a loan. (7)
- A bank account you use to save money. (7)
- Money you pay to do something. (3)
- Guarantee a loan for somebody else. (6)
- The opposite of lend. (6)
- A monthly fee on borrowed money. (8)
- What you have if you borrow money (4)

Down

- The maximum you can borrow on your credit card. (11)
- Keep your money ___ the bank. (2)
- A house loan. (8)
- Go ___ the bank. (2)
- The opposite of save. (5)
- A cash machine. (3)
- VISA or MasterCard. (10)
- You are your own boss. (12)
- Yearly. (6)
- Work ___ a bank. (2)
- Move money between bank accounts. (8)
- Money that you earn. (6)
- Money that you withdrew from your account. (5)
- An interest rate that stays the same. (5)
- Your monthly wage. (6)
- Another word for money. (5)
- Income after you pay taxes. (3)



More Student Chirpings

How To Choose Classes At College

Have you ever taken a class at college? If you have, you must be familiar with the problem of choosing classes. Are you satisfied with what you have chosen? If the answer is yes, it is good for you. If it is not, this procedure may help you. I am currently a student at American River College and I have some experience with choosing classes. Choosing the right classes at college is easy for me when I follow this system.

I begin by making some decisions. First of all, I have to ask myself: Am I sure about my major? Do I want to continue taking classes at ARC? The next thing to do is to make an appointment with a counselor and to find out what classes are left to take,

according to my educational plan and college catalog. Of course, I can do it by myself, but the counselor's advice is more helpful. I save time in this way. It is also an effective way in case I have some doubts or questions about my major or about a priority between work and classes. I may continue the course of action when my updated educational plan is in my hand.

Now it is time to look at the schedule for the following semester. How many classes are offered in the semester? What time are they? What is

the location of the class? Who is the instructor in the class? Which one goes with my schedule? What is really important in this step of choosing is to choose the right instructor. When I don't know whom to ask, I can do it on-line. There is an interesting, maybe informative website, www.ratemyprofessor.com, where I may find some comments or



opinions about teachers. I like to read students' opinions and suggestions. Even if there can be many different opinions, some of them are better not to ignore.

Now I am ready to use the on-line student service register for my classes. Registration has its own simple steps. They are to fill out supplemental information forms, to find out registration appointments, search for class schedules, to select class codes, to submit the forms, and to update e-mail and mailing addresses. Perhaps I can not enroll the first time, or there are no more

classes open, or some of my preferred classes don't suit my plan. Therefore, I may need to go back and select alternative classes. The next problem that can happen is there are too many students who want to take the same class. I may stay on a waiting list as soon I am in position of less than eight. It means I have the chance to be enrolled late. At this time I may go over my program, and think if I have enough units to take. And the most important question is if I have enough time to study for each class. After that, I may print my class schedule. It is my fifth semester at American River College and I follow these steps. All the classes that I have taken I liked.

As you can see, it is really not very difficult to choose the right classes at college when I follow this "to-do" list. It is only a matter of time and effort. It is simple to follow a list of steps that I need to do. However, if I have something to add to this list, I can do it. Just try to take all these steps and you will have your own great experience.

By Gulira Atakeeva,
ESL-W50, Fall 06



Parrot Recipes for the Holidays, not Recipes for Parrot

Sergei Ciloci

My meal is mushrooms with the eggs

I will prepare some components for this meal. I need 2 lb mushrooms, 40 grams of butter, vegetable oil, pepper, salt, 2 eggs, 1 onion and 1 garlic. I will clean and wash the mushrooms, cut them into the pieces.

I will put it into the pan and pour water into it. Water should cover the mushrooms, I will add: salt, pepper, onion and garlic. As soon as the pan boils on the small flame, constantly stir them slowly. My meal will be ready after twenty minutes to serve.



Marina Nikulina

This is a very popular recipe in my family. It is not very hard to make **BEEF STROGOONNOFF** if you have all ingredients. You need 1 1/2 pounds beef cut into thin strips. Salt and pepper, 3 tablespoons of flour, 3 sunflower oil, onion, 3 tablespoons of tomato paste, 1/2 fresh basil, 1 cup sliced mushrooms, 2 cups cooked rice or noodles. Season beef with salt and pep-

per to taste, then dust with flour, tossing until all surfaces are coated. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, warm oil, then add onion and beef. Cook about 6 minutes. Add tomato paste, basil, and mushrooms. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 min. Remove from heat and serve over rice or noodles. And ENJOY it!!!



Quesadilla Recipe

Juventino Camacho

I am going to show you how to prepare quesadillas in only 20 minutes from start to finish. For 4 servings you will need:

- 1 1/2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 3/4 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 small can whole green Chilis drained
- 3 tbsp. Sliced green onions with tops
- 2 small tomatoes chopped (fresh or canned tomatoes)
- 4 flour tortillas

Once you have everything ready, begin to prepare the quesadillas.

- *Combine the cheeses, cut the Chilis in half and take the seeds out.
- *Put about 1/2 cup cheese mixture over half of each tortilla. To top each with a piece of Chili. Fold in half and secure it with a tooth pick.
- *Cook on ungreased hot plate over medium, heat until cheese melts.
- *Remove toothpicks. Top tortillas with onions and tomatoes. Right after that, serve and enjoy it with your friends

Galina P's Anonymous Spouse

1 1/2 cups whipped cream

Instructions

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes
Total Time: 45 minutes
Servings: 10

Preheat oven to temperature 325 F. Combine egg yolks with condensed milk and lemon juice in a bowl. Mix thoroughly. Pour into crust and bake 30 minutes. Combine raspberries and cornstarch in a heavy saucepan over medium high heat. Cook about 3 minutes, stirring frequently, until thickened and clear. Spoon raspberry mixture evenly over top of pie. Chill 4 hours or until set. Serve with a dollop

Ingredients:
3 whole egg yolks
1-2/3 cups sweetened condensed milk
1/2 cup lemon juice
1 9-inch graham cracker pie crust
10 oz. sweetened frozen raspberries, thawed
1 tsp cornstarch

Questions / Comments?

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The ESL Parrot".

We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's

Svetlana Dragni Marinated Mushrooms

You need:

- 200 grams corn oil
- 160 gram of vinegar
- 4 teaspoons of sugar
- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 6 cloves of garlic
- 10 whole black pepper
- 4 bay leaves

In the beginning you need to wash 3 lb of mushrooms. Then put the mushrooms in the pot and boil for

five minutes. While the mushrooms are boiling, take another pot and put in corn oil, vinegar, sugar, salt, 6 cloves of garlic and 10 whole black peppers. Then it's supposed to boil. After that, take the mushrooms out of the pot and put them in the second pot with the ingredients. Then the mushrooms are supposed to boil for ten minutes. Then turn off the heat and add 3-4 bay leaves, cool it off and put mushrooms in the jar. It's very delicious with fried potatoes.



Pondu Losamo Yenga

Pondu is cassava leaves finely ground — a vegetable from Africa.

Here is how I cook Pondu:

First, I need to put some ingredients together in order to cook a delicious Pondu.

The ingredients that I need are: Cassava leaves (which is called Pondu in my native language), palm oil, green onion, green pepper, eggplant, garlic powder, and salt.

Second, I am going to put Pondu and palm oil in a cooking pan, then mix

them together with some water, then put on the stove, and then let them boil together for about 45 – 60 minutes. While waiting, I'm going to cut the rest of my ingredients in small pieces (green onion, green pepper, and eggplant.) After 45 minutes, I am going to put everything that I just cut in the boiling cooking pan and add salt and garlic powder to them, and then I stir them all together. I am going to let everything boil together on the stove for about 15 – 20 more minutes. Ok, it's ready!

I can serve my recipe that I just finished cooking with rice and fried meat or fried fish or fried chicken. It tastes delicious, believe me!



Bulgarian Dinner Plate Elka Hristova

Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound of ground beef and 1/2 pound of ground pork mixed
- 1 pound of potatoes peeled and finely chopped in cubes.
- 2 tomatoes finely chopped
- Parsley, 1/3 cup peel, finely chopped, one onion
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup yogurt
- 2 tbsp. flour, salt and pepper to taste
- Oil for cooking
- 2 tbsp chubritza (we can buy from

Russian store)

How to make it:

Fry the onion and the ground meats in a little oil in 1-gallon pot. The more fatty the meat is, the less oil you will need. In about 10 minutes, take it off the burner and mix well with potatoes, tomatoes, and parsley. Add salt and pepper to taste. Bake for about 45 minutes at 350 F, or until the potatoes are cooked. Stir the eggs, the yogurt and the flour together and pour it over the dish. Bake for 10 more minutes. It's delicious with cold yogurt on the side.

Even More Students' Chirpings

Student Responses to Granny Noetal Column About Teachers Postponing Tests

I do not like postponing of a test. If I have studied the whole night for a test but the teacher postpones the test then, I am annoyed. If I have not studied for the test, and the teacher postpones the test then I would feel delighted. For example, when I was in India, I had studied a lot for my final test. Unfortunately, the test was postponed in the morning. I was upset. So it depends on the student and how much the student has studied.

Sukhwant Kaur

In my opinion, teachers should not postpone tests because most students struggle to find time to study and prepare for them so that they would be ready to take their tests at the time they were scheduled. Moreover, it would be a waste of time for students to spend many hours studying for a test that they will not take. However if there is any valid reason for a teacher to postpone a test such as illness, car accidents, and so on, students should understand.

Christian Valenzuela

Sometime my teacher postpones our tests at the last minute because he/she runs out of time. I understand that my teacher tries the best that he/she can and he/she wants to make sure that all the students understand the lesson. For me, I think it is not a big deal if my teacher postpones our tests at the last minute because if I'm ready for it, I can take it any time. If my teacher gives it on time, that is good. If she/he runs out of time and I have to take it the next class, that is good, too, because I can study it more carefully. If I didn't study for the test, this is going to be my last chance to study for it.

Tina Loc

In the most cases, I agree with a professor when he postpones a test at the last minute. That can give me additional time to prepare much better. Even if I studied for this test, the delay gives me an opportunity to check myself. Also it benefits my memory. It can happen that I just forgot about the test. So, when I don't remember about the quiz or test, it is very good if the teacher postpones it.

Olesya Sytnyk

I don't think it is a good idea to postpone tests at the last minute. I believe if a teacher says there is going to be a test on Friday, then I get ready and study the subject. Students don't want to get confused because of suddenly giving tests at a later time.

Valentina Pellya

I have two different opinions. I agree with "Testy" because she has a good reason to be angry. She studied for her test and it isn't fair that the other students who didn't study for it have the same rights as the students who really studied. But my other opinion is if the teacher would have the test without enough time for finishing the test, it would be a problem for all the students. Personally, I like when this happens because I have more time to study and this helps me have a good grade.

Anny Gonzales

There are some strange teachers in our college. They like to give students tests at the last minute of class. Some students do not agree with this, because they spent a lot of time doing their homework. Many of them want to hit their teachers after those tests. The students become angry with them because students study hard. But teachers give them very little time to do their tests.

Vasilij Lubko

I like my English teacher when he postpones our tests at the last minute because during the whole period I can study some vocabulary or some particular events that could help me on the test. Also, my mind gets refreshed during the lesson. So, when I write my test, my mind is full of vocabulary words and examples that could help me to do the test easily and without worry.

Lyudmila Lubko

Teachers postpone the tests because they have their reasons. Some teachers postpone the tests because they have a new or a special technique to teach their students. Some teachers want to give more time for their students to study more. For me, I feel comfortable with my teacher and appreciate that my teacher postpones the tests because my teacher always has new techniques to teach us. Some of my classmates don't like that our teacher postpones the tests. In my opinion, they should thank our teacher for postponing the tests, even though they've studied for the tests. If I've studied for the test, and my teacher postpones the test I should be happy because I have more time to review my lessons over and over, so none of the students should be disappointed if their teacher postpones a test.

Rathana Uy

In my opinion, I agree with our professor postponing the test at the last minute. If he or she postpones the test, we have more time to study carefully about our test. Moreover, while we are waiting for our teachers, we can also discuss our lessons with our classmates. So if we did not solve any problems when we tried to solve them ourselves, we discuss the problems with our classmates and we can recognize our problems. So at that time, we can develop our lessons. I think it also helps you to succeed in your test and maybe you also get a better grade. What do you think about my opinion? Maybe you think I am a lazy student and not ready for my test but that's not so because for me time is money.

My An Quach

I agree when teachers postpone tests because in this way people who don't study for the test have more time to prepare themselves and this helps them have possibilities for having a good grade.

Raul Jaime

Sometimes teachers postpone a test. For the lazy students, it is good but some student don't like it because they studied hard so they are ready for the test; but if you really study well, any time later the teacher gives a test students should be able to answer. Students sometimes study but they are not ready yet although they think they are ready for a test.

Jilla Kianfar

I agree with my professor postponing the test at the last minute. It trains our memory. After your repetition at home, you will know everything much better. Don't forget, repetition is the mother of studies.

Ludmila Demchuy

Postponing a test is good news for many students, most of the time for those that did not study enough. When a test is postponed, what lazy students think is that they will have more time to study. But this rarely happens because if they did not study before, they will not do it later. I always study for a test, but sometimes I cannot study enough because I do not have enough time to prepare myself well for the test. But if I have the opportunity to study more when a test is postponed, I really make this time very useful.

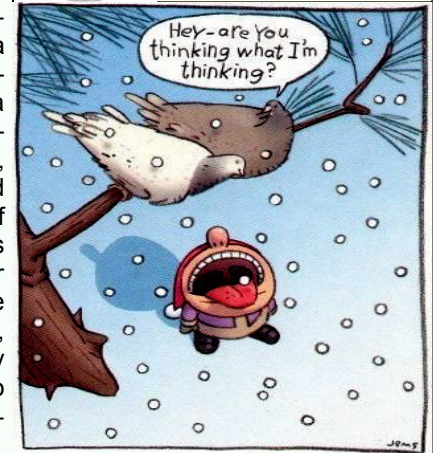
Irene Andrea Carrero

Tail Feathers

Cultural Holiday Celebrations



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



Although the mainstream media often focuses on Christmas as the primary American holiday, people around the world have other rich traditions and ceremonies to show honor to their religious or cultural histories. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who is recognized as the Holy Father in Christian religion.

However, there are other celebrations that occur in the month of December besides Christmas. These celebrations include Hanukkah, a Jewish celebration; Kwanzaa, an African American celebration of heritage; and Three Kings Day, the Mexican celebration of the Christmas story.

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that is also known as The Festival of Lights. It begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month Kislev and is celebrated for 8 days, ending on the 2nd or 3rd day of the Hebrew Tevet. Symbolic to the holiday is the lighting of candles. The candles are placed in the Menorah, or candleholder, which is placed in the window of the family's home. Each night a different candle is lit. During

the eight days people eat fried delicacies like doughnuts or latke. Hannukah celebrates the military victory of the ancient Jewish Hasmoneans over the Grecian Seleucid Empire, and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. It also celebrates the triumph of Judaism's spiritual values as embodied in the Torah, over Hellenistic civilization which had attempted to culturally assimilate the Jewish. The Torah, in a broad sense of the word, can be used to refer to the whole of Jewish law and teachings.

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration that begins on December 26th and ends on January 2nd. Kwanzaa honors the African-American heritage and is primarily celebrated in America. This holiday, celebrated since 1996, is not religious, but cultural, based on various elements of the first harvest celebration on Africa. The word Kwanzaa derives from Swahili and means "first fruits." Each letter in term 'Kwanza' has a principle attached to it, creating the Seven Principles. Each day in Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the principles. These principles are:

umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Hosts of Kwanzaa observances generally decorate their homes with elaborate African cloths, pottery, art, and fresh fruit. Every object is supposed to represent African idealism.

Three Kings Day is primarily celebrated in the Mexican culture, and commemorates the Christian story of the three kings who followed a star to bring gifts to Jesus Christ. It is celebrated on January 6, twelve days after Christmas. Traditionally, in Mexico this is the time during which they exchange gifts, contrary to Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Children often leave trays of hay out for the camels of the kings, similar to the American children's tradition of leaving out cookies for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. They also share Rosca de Reyes, which is a decorated sweet bread that is

covered with pieces of orange and lime, and filled with nuts, figs, and cherries. Hot chocolate is also traditionally served.

Celebrating in the month of December is comprised of various rituals that are akin to the different religions and ethnicities that make up the melting pot of Americans. It is a month of joy, celebration, reflection, and spirituality.

By Courtney Lyn Watkins

http://www.omsa.uiuc.edu/publications/spectrum/2005_2_3/articles/diduknow_culturalholidays.htm

Continues from page 1

encourage each and every person to never give up! Sometimes we all feel like saying, "Oh, I just can't do it anymore."

However, remember to look into the future. Try and compare what life will/can be like later and what it is now. Let the future keep you going. The present will not always be like it is; therefore, the agonizing pain or whatever it is we're experiencing right now will not follow us around forever. We need to remember that what we put in or sow is what we will reap. For instance, if you are educated,

obviously you'll have an opportunity to get a far better job than someone uneducated.

Secondly, we all have to understand that in America life is different than life where we come from. Thus, we have to have the ability to communicate with this society of people and try our best to participate in the life of this country. For instance, we need to participate in elections or support certain political parties if we want what's best for us and our children. We need to let the government know our opinion in order for

them to help make this world a better place for us and our future generation.

And last, I would like for ESL students to remember Napoleon. He once said, "I never lost because I never had that white flag," meaning when one gives up, one is showing the white flag. Therefore, it's better to not have the white flag of defeat with us. That way, we will never have that opportunity to give up!

If there were one thing you could change about your

past, what would it be?

The only thing I regret from my past is the lack of opportunity to work for the community. Back in Ukraine, most of what I do now for the community was impossible. Of course it always hurts to know you could have done more if you could have had either the opportunity or the accessibility; however, overall I'm happy with everything I am, everything I've achieved and everything I have the opportunity to do!

By Yelena Oliferchik