



# The ESL Parrot

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

Issue # 16

Spring 2008

Interviewing **Tatyana Torgashev**, Admin. Asst. Computer & Info Tech

### Why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Originally I'm from St Petersburg, Russia. In March, next month, it is going to be 16 years since I came to the United States. Soon I will have been a US citizen for ten years.

### So, you came here as a young girl, basically.

I actually came when I was 21 years old, with no English. Well, actually I had the basics because we all study general British English in school. Of course, we didn't have practice at that time and American English is totally different.

### Did you take our ESL courses here?

Absolutely, first I went for six months to adult school just to get prepared for college, which was really good. ARC has become just like my second home.

### Do you still take classes once in a while?

Actually, I graduated 8 years ago with my AA degree in business administration and began my full time work here, but now I'm beginning to take classes again.

### So, learning English is a life-time activity?

Yes.

### What actually is your job?

We are probably the second largest department on campus

because its not just computer science but we also take care of all accounting, all general business, marketing, real estate, management...

### So, how are your computer skills ha, ha, ha?

Excellent, without computer skills I couldn't do my job.



### Let me ask you something — what was the hardest thing about learning English for you?

The hardest thing was... I can't say that it was hard because — if I had come with no base — but I *had* a base. All I needed was to build on it; I needed to open my ears to hear American English and all it takes is just practice.

### May I ask you a personal question? Are you married, have family?

Yes, my husband is from Belarus, but we speak Russian.

### So you work all day in English, but you go home and speak Russian. What's that like?

We prefer that our kids don't

forget our first language. My son is almost seventeen, my daughter is twelve, my little one is three and I'm going to have another one. The kids speak English, but at home we try to make them speak Russian.

### It's not really tiring for you to work all day in English and then go home to Russian?

Not now, it was ... the hardest thing was to overcome the barrier, the accent. We think, "Oh, we have an accent." We feel ashamed. Now I train my (ESL) student help because I give them the opportunity to learn and speak only English in the office. Sometimes they try to ask questions in the office although they sometimes would like, maybe, to ask questions in Russian but ...

### So you try to maintain English in the workplace?

Oh absolutely. I look at myself. When I started, I didn't have anyone to translate for me. So I was pretty much by myself and I had to figure out things. That was kind of tough in the very beginning. When you are in class it is different. When you are in the workplace, people assume you understand ... You have to take it slow, don't panic.

### Do you have one piece of advice for our ESL students?

First, I would suggest ... they try to go to too fast, they try to jump over classes... they need

*When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.*

*Henny Youngman,  
American comedian  
(1906– 1998)*



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vocabulary. Its better to build up a really good base slowly, but surely. What happens is even if students graduate, they can't find jobs because they didn't achieve good English and they fail at interviews because they could not express themselves in the proper English.

### You are still very young. What are your plans for the future?

I'm not very young now (ha, ha) I *was* very young! I'm planning to get my BA and my Master's too. With my family and my full-time job, I have to take it slowly.

### One last question: How does it feel to know you are going to be on the cover of The Parrot?

I'm surprised, basically, because I'm just an ordinary office-staff person.

**Well, you're an inspiration!**

# Student Chirpings

## *My Friend Is In Trouble*

Last month one of my single male friends asked me, "How can I create a romantic evening with my classmate?" I answered him, "Buy it." He laughed at me and repeated strangely, "Buy it?" I asked him, "Does she love you?" He answered, "I don't know." I said to him, "Having a romantic evening without love or money nowadays is impossible." He said, "What do you mean by that?" I told him, "Nowadays, girls are interested in your income, not in romantic stuff." Having a romantic evening also is an old-fashioned, traditional custom. Many people have already forgotten about them. However, if you want to have a romantic evening, you should spend your money. So I wrote a process essay for him. I would like to share it with you. To create a romantic evening there are three major stages: invitation, preparation, and transportation.

Firstly, get an invitation card and write your note on it. Wal-Mart has plenty of those cards in a variety of designs. Your note should be very simple and clear, something like, "I can't wait to see you again on Saturday evening in any restau-

rant of your choice." Don't forget to sign and date it, and include your contact information on the card if she doesn't have it already. Make sure to emphasize how important this is to you, and how much you are interested in her. I think the most romantic way to invite her is to take her fa-



vorite magazine which she is reading regularly and add an invitation card to the magazine. The card you add should be sprayed slightly with perfume. Personally put it in her mail box in order to make sure she will get it by a specific time. Wait one day. If she doesn't respond, which is very normal, you call her three times a day and mention how hard it is for you to wait for her positive response. If she accepts your invitation, which is not surprising because you are a good boy, call her and tell her

how much you are excited. Then your life is in danger! Why? Ask any married man. Perhaps they will explain to you what a bad idea it is to fall in love, especially nowadays. If you don't want to give up, then read the next paragraph.

Secondly, prepare yourself by watching romantic DVDs, and reading romantic books, especially "Cinderella". It will help you to understand how girls like to be treated. Reserve a table in a fancy restaurant, the best suite at a fancy hotel, and a black limousine. Then it is time for shopping. The first things that you should pre-pay for and have delivered to the restaurant are a gift for her, considering your budget and her expectations. Also you should get special alphabetic candles to create her and your name and a symbol of love: her name, a red color heart symbol, and your name.

Ask a waitress at the restaurant to light those candles and place them on your table before you arrive there. The second things that you should pre-pay for and have delivered to the hotel are a bottle of famous brand wine (Chateau Laffite-Rothschild 1967 is recommended), two by eight

candles, perfume, special soft music, exotic pastries, candies which she likes and her portrait (*a smart boy should have a portrait of his loved one*). Ask a waiter at the hotel to hang her portrait in your suite, spray some of the perfume, and place the exotic pastries and candies beside the bed; also have the waiter place those candles around the bed and light them. Play the music before you arrive there. If your money is gone already, don't worry; there is still hope to have a real romantic life by listening to my advice: "Forget it, tomorrow you have midterm exam." But if you don't want to give-up, go to Macy's and buy some new clothes that will make you look special and don't forget to call her while you are there and ask her to help you to choose the right clothes. Make sure she knows how much you are going to pay. Go to a florist and pay for the type of flowers she likes and schedule to pick them up. Go to the hair dresser or barber and have your hair cut. If you don't want to give-up, then read the next paragraph.

Thirdly, is transportation. Call her in advance to remind her of pick up time. Usually girls are late. Take a shower, shave your face, brush your teeth, shine your shoes, eat some food but not too

much, and wear your new clothes and perfume. These are very basic rules that you should already know; if you don't know them, listen to my advice: "Just forget it." You are a young man, so live free. If not, sit in the limousine and give the address of the florist, restaurant, and hotel to the driver. As soon as you see her, look at her carefully like you are looking at a car or a house in order to buy it. Praise her beauty and her taste of dressing and wearing makeup. Thank her for accepting your invitation. It is highly recommended to notice only her, like kids when they are watching their favorite cartoon. From now on, never take your eyes off her. Bend and take her right hand and kiss it softly while your eyes are focused on her eyes and you are telling her softly, honestly, "I love you." This is the most important part of the whole scenario, so use all your sensation. You have to do that in such a way to take her breath away and melt her heart. If she blushes, that implies you did a great job. Act like the gentleman you saw on those DVDs or you read in books. Place her hand on your arm while you are guiding her toward the limousine. Help her to sit in the limousine by holding her jacket or handbag while you are holding the

limousine's door open. Wait a few seconds before you hand her her belongings and sit in the limousine. Say to her, "Oh my God, I forgot an important thing, because all the time I was thinking about you." Say to the driver loudly, "Florist, please." As soon as the driver stops at the florist, ask her if she is interested in going into the florist store. Perhaps she will say, "Yes." Tell her, "Which type of flower is your favorite?" Perhaps she will say, "All of them are beautiful." Then hand to her the flowers you pre-paid for. Sit in the limousine and go to the restaurant. "Good luck and have a nice evening, my friend." I guess the rest is very personal.

In brief, for creating a romantic evening nowadays you should spend a lot of money. The more money you spend, the better results you'll get, unless you find your true love. If you find a true love, all your life is romantic, regardless of what you do or what your loved one does to you. Every single moment of your life is romantic and enjoyable. Thirteen years ago there weren't fancy restaurants, hotels and limousines but most of the couples had a romantic life, more than we have nowadays.

## Parrot Warbling



### Conjunctions

A conjunction is a word that "joins". A conjunction joins two parts of a sentence. We can consider conjunctions from three aspects.

#### 1. Form

Conjunctions have three basic forms:

**Single Word** for example: and, but, because, although

**Compound** (often ending with *as* or *that*) for example: provided that, as long as, in order that

**Correlative** (surrounding an adverb or adjective) for example: so...that

#### 2. Function:

Conjunctions have two basic functions or "jobs":

**Coordinating conjunctions** are used to join two parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal. The two parts may be single words or clauses, for example: - *Jack and Jill* went up the hill. - *The water was warm, but I didn't go swimming.*

**Subordinating conjunctions** are used to join a subordinate dependent clause to a main clause, for example: - *I went swimming although it was cold.*

#### 3. Position

**Coordinating conjunctions** always come between the words or clauses that they join.

**Subordinating conjunctions** usually come at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

## Idiom Attic



**Back Burner:** If an issue is on the back burner, it is being given low priority.

**Back to square one :** If you are back to square one, you have to start from the beginning again

**Bad apple:** A person who is bad and makes other bad is a bad apple

**Bad shape:** If something's in bad shape, it's in bad condition. If a person's in bad shape, they are unfit or unhealthy.

**Barrel of laughs:** If someone's a barrel of laughs, they are always joking and you find them funny



### Rigoberto's Valentine's Riddles

**What did the boy light bulb say to the girl light bulb?**  
I wuv you watts and watts.

**What did the boy snake say to the girl snake ?**  
Give me a hug and a hiss, honey.

**What did the little boy sheep say to the little girl sheep?**  
I love ewe.

**What did the little girl sheep say to the little boy sheep?**  
You're not so baaaaaad yourself.

**What did the boy pickle say to the girl pickle?**  
You mean a great dill to me.

### Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



"I just love to do special things for my wife on Valentine's day. Like open the door for her when she puts all the laundry in the washing machine, or plug and unplug the vacuum as she moves from room to room cleaning. Guys, it's these little thoughtful things you can do to have a marriage such as mine."

*Anonymous*

"I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day.

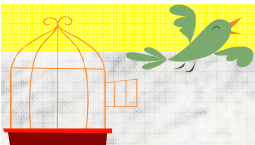
When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon."



*Anonymous*

"Sales Ad at a Store: 'You are my one and only' Valentine Cards, now on sale: 4 for \$5."

*Anonymous*



# Out of The Cage

## Completing the 2008-2009 FAFSA online

Tuesday, February 12  
4:00 pm - 7:30 pm



This workshop will assist students in completing their 2008/2009 FAFSA on-line.

Students should bring their Social Security Card (SSN), Parent's Social Security Card if dependent,

2007 Federal Tax return or estimated taxes for 2007, personal income information, asset information, and any investments and/or other financial information available.

The workshop will be located in the Assessment lab in the Student Services building on a first-come-first-served basis with limited space. Students must arrive before 6:30 p.m. Due to limited seating, if there is not room for the student at 6:30 p.m., the student will need to return to a different workshop. Students who are not able to complete the FAFSA by the end of the workshop will need to save their work and either complete it on their own or return to another workshop.

This workshop will be able to assist both English and Spanish speaking students.

## Black History From a Personal Perspective

Wednesday, February 20  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Black History Month at ARC: Celebrating Black History...Culture...and Accomplishments.

Focused Lessons From Our Special Older Women Regarding Black History From a Personal Perspective in the Ranch House, 12-1:30 p.m.

## Career Center Overview Workshop

Wednesday, February 20  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Discover the many resources available in the Career & Job Opportunity Center. Students can explore assessments that assist with career choices, "job-related" workshops, current job postings, resume critiquing, scholarship search, and much more.



## Interview Success Workshop

Tuesday, February 26  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This workshop includes information on researching the organization, reviewing anticipated questions, specific strategies, assessing your skills, making a professional presentation, and body language and presentation.



## Kimchee and Chitlins

February 22, 23, 24, 28 29  
8:00 pm



Named after the trademark dishes of Koreans and African-Americans, this wickedly funny play skewers the news media and modern race relations in America.



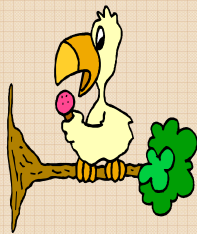
## Athletic Events



February 21: Women's Softball, ARC vs. Los Medanos College at 1:00 / 3:00 pm

February 22: Men's Baseball, ARC vs. West Valley College at 2:00 pm

February 23: Men's Tennis, ARC vs. Foothill College at 10:00 am

Would you like to work for a powerful news organization with untold glamour and excitement? So would we. In the meantime, there's the Parrot! Join us. Contact Prof. Bracco at 484-8988 [braccop@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:braccop@arc.losrios.edu)

**Dear Granny Noetal,**

I'm new to this country. Who is this Valentine? Why do I have to give candy to my wife? I thought Halloween was the candy day.

**Pavel**

**Dear Pavel,**

According to the library (you know we have a great one here on campus), St. Valentine was a Christian saint who was a martyr. My



guess is he liked sweets. Actually, you don't have to give your wife candy but if you do, make sure it's not your old, leftover Halloween candy. You need only to do something to show her you love her. I'm sure a few diamonds will do just as well.

**Granny  
Granny**

### *Valentine's Day Facts*

- Long before St. Valentine lived, February 14th had strong links with fertility. The date traditionally is known for when birds choose their mates.
- The Roman festival of Lupercalia used to be celebrated on February 15th, when young men held a lottery to determine which girl would be theirs.
- In Medieval times, girls ate bizarre foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future spouses.
- In the Middle Ages, there was a belief that the first unmarried person of the opposite sex you met on the morning of St. Valentine's Day would become your spouse.
- The first Valentine gift was sent by the Duke of Orleans to his wife, after he was captured in 1415.
- 73% of Valentine Day flowers are bought by men, whereas women buy only 23% of Valentine flowers.
- Around 3% of pet owners prefer to give Valentine gifts to their pets, as pets are more grateful than humans!

### *Just a Few Moments in a Fall Afternoon*

*One afternoon, in the fall  
I sat on a bench in Oak Villa Park  
Under the shadow of a tall Sequoia  
Tall, tall, and tall*

*The trees were stripped  
And they had put away their old clothes  
To take a shower  
In the fall rain*

*Nobody was there  
No car passed  
Nobody crunched the gray and white gravels  
With heavy foot steps  
The squeak of the swing was not heard  
And it still hung waiting for a guest*

*Everywhere slept in the shadow of a silent fall*

*I stared up at the sky  
Covered with white and gray foamy clouds  
I saw a flock of migrant birds  
Flying in the air  
On the top of that tall sequoia*

*I walked in the labyrinth road of my thought  
Ran in the green hills of my memories  
I found myself like these birds  
Coming from a far land  
Searching for a new nest*

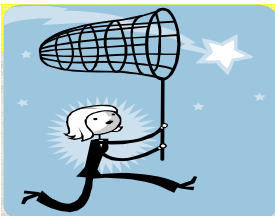
*The sky was covered with gray and white foamy  
clouds*

*And I sank in my ocean of thoughts  
Moving by the waves of memories  
I felt some drops of wet rain  
Dropping on my forehead*

*I stood up and I stared up at the sky  
I opened my mouth to catch  
These rain drops*

*I walked home  
The rain was washing all my overflowing thoughts  
And I was refreshed on that fall afternoon*

**Parisa Samadi**



# NET Escape - Articles from the net.

## Presidents Day — History of the Holiday

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). Washington, according to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, however, he was born on February 11. At least in 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

By the early 19th century, Washington's Birthday had taken firm root in the American experience as a bona fide national holiday. Its traditions included Birthnight Balls in various regions, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures, and a lot of revelry in taverns throughout the land. Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered president and fellow February baby (born on the 12th of the month). The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln's Birthday did not become a

federal holiday like George Washington's, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

In 1968, legislation (HR 15951) was enacted that affected several federal holidays. One of these was Washington's Birthday, the observation of which was shifted to the third Monday in February each year whether or not it fell on the 22nd. This act, which took effect in 1971, was designed to simplify the yearly calendar of holidays and give federal employees some standard three-day weekends in the process.



Apparently, while the holiday in February is still officially known as Washington's Birthday (at least according to the Office of Personnel Management), it has become popularly (and, perhaps in some cases at the state level, legally) known as "President's Day." This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as president.

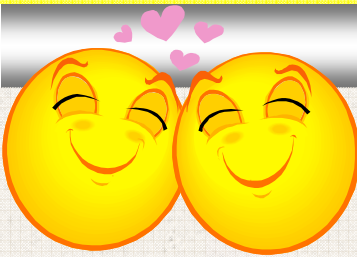
### Interesting Presidential Facts

- Woodrow Wilson is the only U.S. president to this day to receive an earned Ph.D. His degree was in history from Johns Hopkins University.
- Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the U.S., didn't vote until he was 62 years old and didn't even vote in his own election because he was a soldier & moved so often he couldn't establish legal residency until he retired.
- When the White House (President's residence) was constructed, it was built of freestone, a form of sandstone that is very porous and is highly susceptible to water damage, so the masons sealed the stone with a wash of salt, rice, and glue. It was the building's first coat of white paint; soon it would be nicknamed the 'White House'.
- Only five presidents have ever worn facial hair when they sought the office. The last was over a century ago, in 1889 — Benjamin Harrison.
- Ronald Reagan was the only president to have ever worn a NAZI uniform. (He wore it as an actor in a movie)

- There have been seven left-handed presidents, including three of the last four (Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ronald Reagan).
- The first president to smoke a cigar in office was James Madison. In fact, Madison regularly smoked cigars until his death in 1836 at the age of 85. Madison was also the shortest president at five-feet four-inches tall.
- George W. Bush, 43rd president of the United States, and his wife Laura got married just three months after meeting each other.
- The 40th president of the United States, Ronald Reagan, broke the so-called "20-year curse," in which every president elected in a year ending in 0 died in office.
- Military leader and 34th president of the U.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower loved to cook; he developed a recipe for vegetable soup that is 894 words long and includes the stems of nasturtium flowers as one of the ingredients.
- The letter "S" comprises the full middle name of the 33rd president, Harry S. Truman. It represents two of his grandfathers, whose names both had "S" in them.
- Did you know that a vice-president got away with murder? Aaron Burr, who was Jefferson's VP, shot and killed Alexander Hamilton on July 11, 1804 in a duel. The men decided on the duel based on insults exchanged over political issues. Burr was charged with murder in New Jersey, but the state never tried to convict him, on the grounds that 'civilized nations' do not treat dueling deaths as 'common murders.'
- The four presidential heads of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt were sculpted on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota by Gutzon Borglum who had completed a colossal bas-relief of Confederate heroes on the face of Stone Mountain in Georgia. Work began in the summer of 1927 and dragged on for 14 years, its cost escalating to \$1 million. He died in 1941, shortly before it was completed. His son oversaw the final work.
- Thomas Marshall (1854-1925), U.S. Vice-President from 1913-1918, once remarked, "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar." Will Rogers (1879-1935), American humorist, retorted, "Our country has plenty of good five-cent cigars, but the trouble is they charge fifteen cents for them."
- Ulysses S. Grant, 18th president of the United States, died of throat cancer. During his life, Grant had smoked about 20 cigars per day.
- Both ambidextrous and multilingual, 20th president of the United States James Garfield could write Greek with one hand while writing Latin with the other.
- Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th president of the United States, underwent a secret operation aboard a yacht to remove his cancerous upper jaw in 1893.
- The teddy bear derived from 26th U.S. president Theodore ("Teddy") Roosevelt's refusal to shoot a bear with her cub while on a hunting trip in Mississippi.
- William Taft, 27th president of the United States, weighed more than 300 pounds and had a special oversized bathtub installed in the White House.
- Warren Harding, 29th U.S. president, played poker at least twice a week, and once gambled away an entire set of White House china. His advisors were nicknamed the "Poker Cabinet" because they joined the president in his poker games.
- Calvin Coolidge, 30th president of the United States, had chronic stomach pain and required 10 to 11 hours of sleep and an afternoon nap every day.
- Herbert Hoover, 31st U.S. president, published more than 16 books, including one called Fishing for Fun-And to Wash Your Soul.
- John F. Kennedy had a sister, Rosemary, who was mentally retarded. She had a lobotomy, at that time not known to be that bad. She is still living and is eighty-five years old.
- John Tyler, 10th U.S. president, fathered 15 children (more than any other president)--8 by his first wife, and 7 by his second wife. Tyler was past his seventieth birthday when his 15th child was born.



## Worldwide Mating Rituals



Everyone all over the world engages in "love doings", but how might it be different if you suddenly "rocked up" in Papua New Guinea or India? Hop on our virtual plane to find out. As you read this, all around the world people are making nice with each other. So why do we do it? Apart from the obvious 'it feels nice?', evolutionary psychologists reckon there's an instinctive desire in humans (like all animals) to continue the species. It might not feel like you're going out to get pregnant /get someone pregnant (in fact, we might be trying hard not to) but underneath this longing for a nice time is a stronger longing to see the human race carry on for another generation.

American psychologist David Buss reckons when it comes down to it, we're pretty clear about what we're looking for in a mate: women look for a provider - guys with power, good health and ambition, while men go for beautiful, fertile, and often young women to, ahem, 'continue the species' with.

**How we differ :** So, basically, under the skin we're all the same. But just because we all do it like they do it on the Discovery Channel doesn't mean we don't build up to the big act in different ways. Different cultures can have very different mating rituals that can change over time.

### India

Traditionally, young Indians who were looking to "hook up" might have gone with their parents to a spouse-selection service. The 'matchmaker' would use astrology and the parents' feelings to come up with the right partner for the young person. Often protracted negotiations would then take place between both sets of parents. Interestingly, the Internet is said to be replacing these matchmakers these days as young people look to matching sites to set themselves up.



### Hollywood

According to [Salon](#) magazine, A-list celebs have their own mating rituals that take a different tack to those of you and me, involving proclamations of love, impulsive



engagements and clandestine wedding preparations, all heavily covered by the gossip rags. Apparently Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas went through a "nine-month sacred love dance"

before hitching up. Not something we would recommend on The Site.

### Puritanical America

For 17th Century Puritans, a couple's compatibility was partly judged on whether or not they were able to get a good night's sleep together. To test this without putting the poor girl's innocence in danger, a board was placed in the bed between the couple. If they managed to sleep well next to each other, despite this bloody great wedge of timber between them, it was seen as a good sign.



### Thailand

Members of the Hmong tribe in Thailand do it this way: When a bloke is interested in a woman, he approaches her and tugs at a piece of string at her waist. They then wander off together for a chat and, at a later point, the man "kidnaps" the girl from her parents' house.



### Papua New Guinea

Some of the highland tribes of Papua New Guinea have their own take on courting. The couple in question dress up in traditional ceremonial outfits and meet in the ceremonial grounds. They sit next to each other and talk, and sometimes rub their faces together.



# More Student Chirpings

## “Don’t Snicker – A Letter to my Friend”

Hi, my forgotten friend, Iriska. It was nice running into you now. I’m looking at you and realizing, “We haven’t seen each other for a long time. I remember our first date in my childhood when I stretched out my little hands to reach for you. I remember your attractive looks, your pleasant smell, and your sweet taste. I know it was love at first sight. I had loved you and was faithful to you. And you? How did you treat me? Can you say, “I gave you delight?” Yes, it is true, but the cost of this delight was my heavy weight, my high level of blood sugar, and regular toothache. After that, I understood that you had brought me too many problems. Even though you changed your name, (you were no longer old-fashioned Iriska; you had become modern, American Snickers), I decided to forget you.



However, I’m holding you in my hands right now. I’m looking at your brown beauty and your shiny, rustling wrapper, smelling your wonderful fragrance, and thinking, “I love you again, and I will love you all my life.”

You will always be with me. When I have a party, you will be in a nice vase on my table. When I have a difficult test or an essay, you will help me. You will raise my mood and make me happy. You will be the nice decoration of my Christmas tree. I will send you in a package to Ukraine, and you’ll make friends there. I promise you will have a great future.

Bashful, W50

**Editor’s note:** “Iriska” is the name of a famous candy in Ukraine.

## What Would You Like for Valentine’s Day? Asked at the ESL Center

- “I would like a romantic dinner.” *Lesya*
- “I would like to spend time with my family.” *Yelena Sharikov*
- “I want 999 roses for Valentine’s Day because people say if someone gives you 999 roses, it means they will love you till the rest of their life.” *Viphalatgh Manikhong*
- “I want chocolate for Valentine’s Day because they say that if someone gives you chocolate, it means you look sweet to them.” *Viphada Manikhong*
- “I would like to have (a) romantic evening.” *Lilia*
- “To go to some nice place with my husband.” *Nataliya Yasinsky*
- “I would like to get a nice present from my husband and 1 day off from college.” *Raisa*
- “I would like to go to Las Vegas.” *Lena*
- “I would like to go to Paris.” *Lesya*
- “I would like to go to the Russian Tundra.” *Olga*
- “I would like to get anything special for Valentine’s Day. It doesn’t matter what the present is. For me, it matters who I get the present from. It is always obvious how someone feels when he or she gives a present to me.” *Liza R.*
- “Bubble bath and a good book.” *Ilse*
- “I would like to have a party with a lot of friends and drink beer on that day.” *Sokheng Sim*
- “I would like to go to the concert with my husband and have our own time to have a long conversation.” *Heyeyong Pak.*