



The Parrot

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

Issue # 25

Fall 2008

Inspecting Dr. Specker – ESL's Latest Gem!

*He who does not
when he can,
cannot when he will.*

Italian Proverb

How long have you been teaching in ARC?

Nine weeks. I just started this semester.

How do you like it?

I love it here.

Why did you choose to teach in ARC?

Well, I don't know. I just moved here in August. I love this part of Sacramento and ARC. That is why I am here.

Have you ever taught somewhere else?

Yes, I taught at the University of Arizona, Ohio State University, Ohio University and in the Peace Corps in Romania.

I noticed that your B.A. is in Anthropology. Why did your M.A. and Ph.D. suddenly change to Applied Linguistics, TESOL (Teaching English to Speaker of Other Languages) and SLAT (Second Language Acquisition and Teaching)?

Originally I wanted to get a

degree in International Relations. You know it is just a job working with people and to help people to understand each other. And then I went into the Peace Corps, and after I came back, I ended up getting a degree in Applied Linguistics, TESOL, which is Teaching English to Speaker of Other Languages. And then I decided to continue studying because I just think I am always a student.



What made you want to be an ESL teacher?

I have no idea. I think that different jobs and lives just let me in this way. When I was younger, I never wanted to be a teacher, never. I wanted to be, like a reporter or something. I just ended up at jobs that were teaching and working with children, or with adults. So here I am, still teaching.

Do you think you are a strict or fun teacher?

I think I am both. I want my students to come ready to learn, but I understand that,

you know, things happen. So I am flexible.

What do you expect from your students?

I want my students to prepare for the class. If I ask them to do the homework and they don't, I don't get mad but I do get a little bit annoyed and I think my students are not working well enough.

If you had a different life, other than ESL teacher, what do you think you would be?

Maybe I would be a media-arts person, working with computers, games or websites. I like interactive media. I like the idea of interaction and, doing something fun.

What do you do when you have spare time?

I just got a Netflix subscription and I love that right now, but that's at home. I would love to go out and see more of Sacramento and, I am dying to find a good coffee house. Just go there and hang out and do something fun. You know, just to get out and do something. I used to do that all the time.

What kind of TV shows do you like to watch?

I don't have cable. If I had cable, I would watch televi-

Tasty Holiday Parrot Dishes! (You know what we mean).

See pages 17-20



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sion all the time. I watch a lot of television on the Internet because I teach later in the evening and I can't watch the programs I want, so I just watch them later. I like Pushing Daisies and Chuck, one of my favorites. They are comedies. I don't like reality shows.

What kind of students do you prefer? Kid, teenagers or adults?

I couldn't say I prefer one over the other, and I have taught all three. I have taught kids ESL, I have taught young adults ESL. Now that I am teaching here in ARC, I teach a lot of older adults too. I think they are all great.

By Harry Chau

Student Chirpings

Differences Between American and Ukrainian Drivers

Have you ever driven a “Zaporowec-986m?” If not, you will never understand Ukrainian drivers. Why is it so critical? Ukrainian drivers are similar to American drivers, but they also have differences. Ukrainian drivers have different circumstances for driving, which make the driving style different from other styles. There are differences between the two driving styles that can explain how American drivers are different from Ukrainian.

For instance, American drivers are the same as Ukrainian. Both countries have official rules for driving, roads, and people who watch out for these rules, but we have a big difference between the two types of drivers. Cars have an influence on driving styles. Most American people have good cars and they are satisfied while they are driving, but it doesn't work with Ukrainian drivers. Having a bad and not reliable car has a bad influence on driving style. Many times I saw accidents that were caused by breakdowns of the car. Five years ago, for example, I saw an accident caused by failed brakes. While a man was driving his “Lada”, another car hit into his back because

the other driver had failed brakes. It is not just an exception; many accidents occur from broken cars. America does not have many accidents from faulty cars and American drivers are more satisfied while driving. That has an influence on driving styles.

Secondly, drivers in Ukraine do



not have respect for each other as drivers do in America. Many drivers do not want to respect other drivers or pedestrians. Just imagine: you are driving on the street your old and small car, and suddenly a “Lexus” drives in your way and you have to hit your brakes in order to avoid an accident. If your car is bigger or you have more money than the other driver, you can always be right on the road. Last year my brother-in-law was waiting for a green light at an intersection when another car hit him in the back. It wasn't his fault, but the other driver said that my brother-in-law was driving in reverse and hit

this person's car. That man had a lot of money and he won the process.

Finally, the main difference is fulfillment of the law. In the US there are official laws; people follow them, but drivers in Ukraine are very different. They are not afraid of breaking the law. I have seen many times when people broke the official law for drivers. Why aren't Ukrainian drivers afraid of breaking the law? The answer is their police. Police in Ukraine are accessible to bribery. If you break the law and a police officer stops you, you can give him some money, and he allows you to drive without penalty. That is why many drivers are not afraid of breaking a law. American drivers are different from Ukrainian because they know that breaking the law can have bad effects on them, and they are afraid of doing this.

In conclusion, American drivers have a different way of driving; almost all of them observe the law and have different feelings from driving. Ukrainian drivers are different than American, and above were some differences between the two types of drivers.

Big Business

I don't know exactly how big business operates in Mexico, but from what I've seen on the news it is somehow the same. First, people (business people) buy "acciones" (stocks) from companies for them to thrive. It could be a chain company like Sears, Coca-Cola, and Pepsi. And also there, like in the United States, there are foreign companies that invest and own a lot of the stocks in "la bolsa de valores" (stock market). We are a country that exports, but like the United States we also consume, or import like doing business with China and Japan; "everything is made in China. Also business is regulated by the federal government. The Senate "Camara de Senadores" regulates the laws to do business, and control the national interests like petroleum (natural resources). "Small business" is also part of the big business in any nation. A nation's economy grows from any business and even from an individual's salary. For instance, in the United States any business small or large, is entirely regulated by the government, and every indi-

vidual has to pay taxes on his/her annual income; regardless of the amount of revenue, everyone has to pay taxes on it. On the other hand, in Mexico most small businesses aren't regulated by anyone nor do all individual pay taxes on their income. They set up little convenience stores in their homes or stands on the streets. There are no small businesses when it comes to a



nation, because every little contribution contributes to the might of a nation. There is a big similarity in small business though—the bad guys. In United States we have to respond to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and in Mexico it is called "Hacienda" (Hacienda). These guys, like in the United States, audit business from time to time. I remember my father talking about it at dinner (he had a private practice office and a couple of pharmacies). Big businesses aren't

just regulated by tax companies, they are also regulated by other companies to "keep business honest"—believe it, or not.

"Salubridad" made sure that businesses had good working conditions, and that they kept a sanitary environment (especially at restaurants and grocery stores). Sometimes businesses were advised ahead of time that officials were going to do an inspection, but other times inspectors showed up with no warning. All of the laws are mainly followed in big cities, but smaller towns where most people know each other (it seems to me) that business "get a break." I could only speculate from my inexperience in Big Business since I did not own nor ever had a job when I lived in Mexico. I have limited knowledge from the media, relatives, and school since I never owned a business nor had a job in my twenty one years that I lived in Mexico—well my job was school, so that was what my father tirelessly said to me. My major wasn't business, so I cannot give an exact description.

How to Remember Information

People's lives are so busy. Every day we have lots of plans. We have to go somewhere and we have to do something. We are always in a hurry. Sometimes it's hard to keep all important information in our memory. Most people forget important things they should do or they did in the past, and they get in trouble. Here is some advice for you to retain information and keep it in your memory.

First, keep a diary. You can buy a notebook at any store, and start writing important or interesting things that happen to you every day. If you go on vacation, you can also take it with you. Also, in your diary write your plans for the future.

Second, you can take pictures. Looking at the pictures. You can think of events that were in the past. Pictures are very good reminders. Some people keep pictures in photo albums, and others in boxes. I would recommend you to keep your pic-



tures in a photo album because you can put labels on pictures. On the label you can write the date, place or event of that picture. It is very helpful. My sister, for example, takes her camera everywhere and takes lots of

pictures.

Third, you can mark the important days on a calendar. It's better if you put your calendar with a page of each month on the refrigerator, so you can see it every day. Every time you have an appointment or a meeting, mark it on your calendar and write the time of the event. This way you will always be on time.

Because our lives are very busy, we should have some help with remembering important information. You have to keep a diary, take pictures, and mark important days on your calendar. If you use my advice, you'll stay out of trouble.

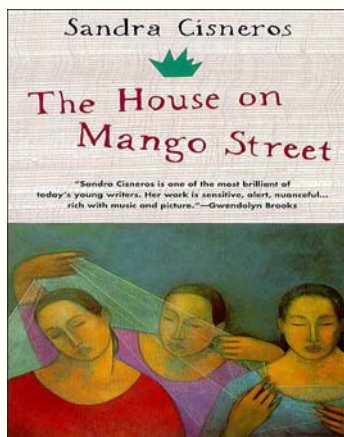
Galina Pukasenko W50

“The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros

“The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros is about a girl whose name is Esperanza. The narrator is Esperanza. She likes to tell stories about life and about each step in life. Also she discovers the hard realities of life – the letters of class and gender. Throughout the story Esperanza was going through a lot of changes, changes like, she was growing up in a big family, and she had to learn some lessons in her life and her problems.

My favorite part of the book is

“My Family.” In this chapter reader can see human behavior in general,



their feelings, dreams, relationship, desires, and expectations. I recom-

mend to reading this book because the author, Sandra Cisneros, sends a message about what it is like for people living and growing up in this world, Sandra describes ideas about specific types of people. When people read this book, they can understand the life of the characters in this story and their culture. The book “The House on Mango Street” was a successful book. Many schools and colleges use it in their classes.

Esmira Mudraya R340

My Lovely Old House

Do you remember how beautiful the houses usually are before Christmas? I have a lot of memories of it. I like to take pictures at Christmas. Do you ever take pictures around your house, inside it or outside? When we lived in Russia, in the beautiful city of Izobilny, we had a wonderful house. It was not such a big house, but our house was located in a convenient place in the center of the city. Our house was very comfortable. There was a big, light living room, three cozy bedrooms, almost modern kitchen, and dining room, and a large backyard. Every year we made our house (inside and outside) more beautiful on Christmas. We always had our Christmas tree in our living room. Now we are living in America. It is a very wonderful country. We live in an apartment because we don't have our own house yet. We decorate our apartment on Christmas, but I'll never forget our old house on Christmas.

Our living room was a very large room, paneled on several walls in mahogany. The rest of the walls were heavy combed plaster, original to the house from the 1930s. We had a nice stone fireplace in the corner, which added to the cozy feel. It was so nice to sit in front of the fireplace on cold winter evenings. You could look at the fire and dream about your future life. It

was a beautiful room! We had a big black piano there. It was near the window. My sister Vera, who studied at the musical school, liked to play the piano. She played Christmas carols for us. It was a lot of fun and it added a real festive mood to an event! There were a lot of books on a bookshelf. My father liked to read books. He loved to read novels and historical books. My father read a lot of books and he taught us to read books. There also was a model of a boat on top of a bookshelf in that room. My older brother, Oleg, had that hobby: to build models of boats.

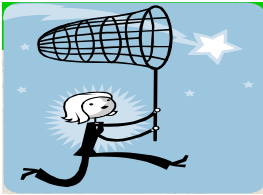
Our Christmas tree was near the window. It was very beautiful and fluffy fir with cones. A "firry" smell spread throughout the whole house. We put all lovable ornaments on it. There were fake candies, and nutcracker men, Santa, bears....everything old-fashioned and whimsical. It made me laugh because I was so happy. This little tree gave so much fun. I stuck some branches, pine-cones and lights in it to make it feel dressed up



for the holidays. There were many ornaments and garlands on the tree and on the top of our tree there was a white angel! We also decorated the stairway of the entry with garlands, lights, and ribbon so it gave a grand feeling!

You could see a bit of the garlands in the dining room. This room also had heavy combed plaster walls with antique white wainscoting. There was a round table with six chairs around it. At Christmas, we prepared many different kinds of tasty food. We, all our family, sat around the table for a big Christmas dinner. There were stubby candles and some sparkling garlands on a mirror. When we sat around the table on our cozy benches, we could see the kitchen. Our kitchen was equipped with a refrigerator, smooth top stove/oven, and dishwasher. All the appliances had been upgraded. In addition, there was a blender, toaster, microwave oven, and all kinds of dishes, glasses, pots, and pans.

Have you ever seen Christmas trees and houses that are just so perfectly designed? Well, our house was not one of them but we enjoyed it at that time. We have many pictures of our house and our family. It was so much fun to be in our house on the Christmas holiday. I'll never forget it.



NET Escape - Articles from the net.

January in History

- 1** Paul Revere was born (1735).
- 1** Emma M. Nutt becomes the first woman telephone operator (1878).
- 1** The ball is first dropped at Times Square in New York City (1908).
- 3** Construction begins on the Brooklyn Bridge (1870).
- 6** Samuel Morse demonstrates the telegraph (1838).
- 7** Astronomer Galileo Galilei discovers four of Jupiter's moons (1610).
- 9** The United Nations opens its headquarters in New York City.
- 10** The world's first underground passenger railway system opens in London, England (1863).
- 11** American League baseball adopts the "Designated Hitter" rule (1973).
- 12** Batman debuts on television (1966).
- 14** The United States of America ratifies a treaty with England ending the Revolutionary war (1784).
- 14** The Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins in Superbowl VII, and become the first undefeated team in NFL history (1973).
- 14** The Simpsons debut on television. Will TV ever be the same again!?! (1990)
- 15** The Pentagon opens (1943).
- 15** Happy Days premieres on television (1974).
- 16** Operation Desert Storm begins to oust Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces from Kuwait (1991).
- 17** The U.S. Supreme court rules that taping on home VCRs does not violate copyright laws (1984).
- 20** The Beatles release "Meet the Beatles", their first album to the U.S., sparking a new "English invasion" (1964).
- 20** At 69 years, 349 days old, Ronald Reagan becomes the oldest person to become U.S. president (1981).
- 21** Edward Jenner introduces the smallpox vaccine, which eventually leads to wiping out this deadly disease (1799).
- 21** The first Kiwanis club is formed in Detroit (1915).
- 21** Science fiction writer George Orwell dies (1950).
- 22** A historic Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade legalizes abortion (1973).
- 23** The deadliest earthquake in history strikes Shansi, China, killing 830,000 people (1556).
- 24** Beer was first sold in cans (1935).
- 24** WWII Yalta agreement is signed by the U.S., England, and Russia. The agreement defined how Germany would be divided and administered after the war's end (1945).
- 25** The first Winter Olympic games begin in Chamonix, France (1924).
- 25** The first Emmy awards are given out (1949).
- 26** The Dental Drill is patented (1875).
- 27** The Russians liberate Auschwitz in WWII (1945).
- 27** Tragedy strikes the Apollo space program as a fire in the command module kills astronauts Lt. Col. Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Lt. Col. Edward H. White, and Lt. Cdr. Roger Chafee (1967).
- 28** U.S. space shuttle Challenger explodes 72 seconds after liftoff, killing the seven crew members. Among the crew is school teacher Christa McAuliffe (1986).
- 29** Baseball's American League is founded (1900).
- 30** Tet New Year offensive is launched by Viet Cong guerrillas in Vietnam (1968).
- 31** Confederates appoint Robert E. Lee their Commander in Chief.

Some Hecka Cool Holidays for January

Festival of Sleep Day

When: Always on January 3rd

No, you are not dreaming. But, perhaps you should be. Festival of Sleep Day is today. It is an opportunity to sleep in, snooze, doze, nap, and catch 40 winks.

We feel this is the perfect date for Festival of Sleep Day. The holidays are over...Wow, weren't they exhausting! It's cold and snowy.... time to hibernate. And, why not re-charge the batteries as a new year of school and work begins?

Festival of Sleep Day is a favorite holiday to catch up



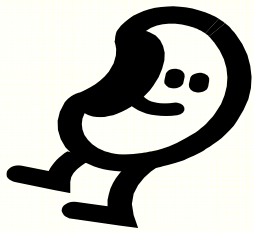
on a little sleep. Whether it's all day, a full 8 hours, or just a power nap, enjoy the day sleeping. Cozy up in bed on the couch, or any other comfortable place. Oh.... don't forget your favorite stuffed animal. It's okay to sleep alone, sleep alone or with someone else. We do not recommend groups sleeps.

Caution: Sleeping at work is not recommended, today, or any day. The only exception is for mattress testers.

Bean Day

When: Always January 6th

Every once in a while, you come across a special day that just doesn't seem to have any rhyme or reason. Bean Day appears to be one of those days. Bean Day is a day of unknown origin, and unknown cause. But, this day gets plenty of recognition from Ecard companies and calendar oriented sites.



We suggest that you celebrate this day by eating beans. After all... Beans, beans, they're good for the heart...."

There are other ways to celebrate Bean Day:

- Newlyweds can add a few beans to their bean jar today.
- Gardeners can enjoy this day surfing through seed catalogs to select beans to grow in the spring.
- Read the story "Jack and the Beanstalk" to your pre-schooler.
- Teachers can use bean seeds for learning exercises in course material.
- Others, can bone up on the history of beans....doesn't that sound like fun!?

Compliment Day

When: Always January 24th

How nice of you to visit our site today. I can see by your choice of websites, that you are an intelligent person. You are a kind and inquisitive person. I love the way you.....Yes, its Compliment Day. Compliment is a great opportunity to say something positive about the people you come into contact with. Everyone has good attributes. ...that's right..... everyone.



- Its a cinch to find compliments for family and loved ones, even for your Mother-in-Law. (Tip: She's probably a good cook.)
- Friends are friends because you see something good about them. Here's an easy compliment to a friend: "Wow, you're very intelligent...you choose your friends wisely".
- It's more challenging to compliment your boss, or people you don't like. Take up the challenge, and find a compliment for them today, too.

The Electoral College

Did you know that voters in the United States don't vote for the president? People actually vote for a group of electors when they go to the polls on Election Day. These electors have pledged to support a party's nominee for president. In many states the ballot lists only the names of the nominees and not the names of the electors, so many people believe they are voting for the president.

In 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention decided on this system of indirect election of the president. Long debates took place about how to make sure the best candidate would be chosen as president. Some delegates supported a direct election by citizens. Others favored having Congress choose the president. Still others thought that state legislatures should make the choice.

The delegates finally agreed on a compromise. Electors chosen by each state would elect the president. Ordinary citizens in each state would have a say this way, but the final decision would be made by people who were better informed about the candidates and the issues.

The Electoral College, this system of presidential electors, is still in effect today, although some adjustments have been made over the years. The electors voted for two candidates at first. The one with the highest number of votes became president. The one with the second-highest number became vice president. In 1796,

political foes were chosen for the two posts -- Federalist John Adams for president and Democratic-Republican Thomas Jefferson for vice president.

There was a tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr in the next election. The House of Representatives had to decide who would be president. The fact that the system needed to be adjusted was clear. The 12th Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1804. Candidates are now nominated to run only for president or only for vice president. Electors vote for

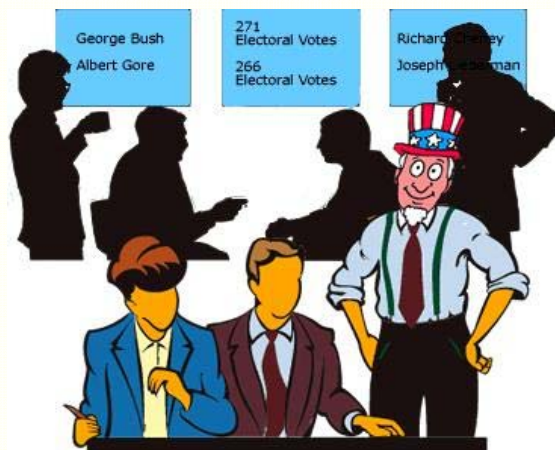
president and vice president separately.

How the states elect electors has changed, too. Some states held direct popular elections for the electors in the beginning. The state legislatures made the choice in other states. All the states gradually adopted direct

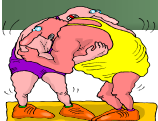
popular elections for electors.

There were no political parties when the Constitution was written. They soon developed, and the party organizations in each state began proposing a slate, or list, of electors who were pledged to vote for their party's nominee. Voters no longer choose individual electors. Voters choose between party slates.

Political parties want winner-take-all elections for electors. This means that the slate that receives the most popular votes wins all the state's electoral votes. All the states except Maine use this winner-take-all system today.



Parrot Warbling



Grappling with grammar

Conditionals: Summary

Here is a chart to help you visualize the basic English conditionals. Do not take the 50% and 10% figures too literally. They are just to help you.

probability	conditional	example	time
100%	zero conditional	If you heat ice, it melts.	any time
50%	first conditional	If it rains, I will stay at home.	future
10%	second conditional	If I won the lottery, I would buy a car.	future
0%	third conditional	If I had won the lottery, I would have bought a car.	past

Rigoberto's Riddles

Dark with white markings and smooth like a rock. Where learning occurs help convey thought. What am I?

- Blackboard/chalkboard.



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



Classmates at college were lamenting the cost of long distance phone service and debating the relative advantages of AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. "I've found CTC to be the cheapest plan around," offered one. "CTC? Who are they?" "You know," he responded. "Call Them Collect."



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 office D387 (Davies Hall), or call (916) 484-8988, braccop@arc.losrios.edu. Student editors— Christian Valenzuela , Natalia Arboleda, Ivy Balansag.

Idiom-Attic



Bite the Dust

Andy did exceptionally well in all of the track events, but he **bit the dust** in the high jump competition. Much to the disappointment of his fans, he **went down in defeat, losing to a competitor** from the visiting team.

Where am I From

*Sometimes many people ask me
About my country and me.
I like to describe my country
And tell them about me*

*My country is very picturesque
With beautiful natural places
The sky is very bottomless
When clouds run away*

*The sound throws light on the people
And caresses all fields of wheat
The Great Karpaty Mountains
With juicy smell of pine trees*

*Cold wind is gusty all winter
The trees are flowering in spring
Gold leaves fall towards the feet
Making autumn a "golden dream"*

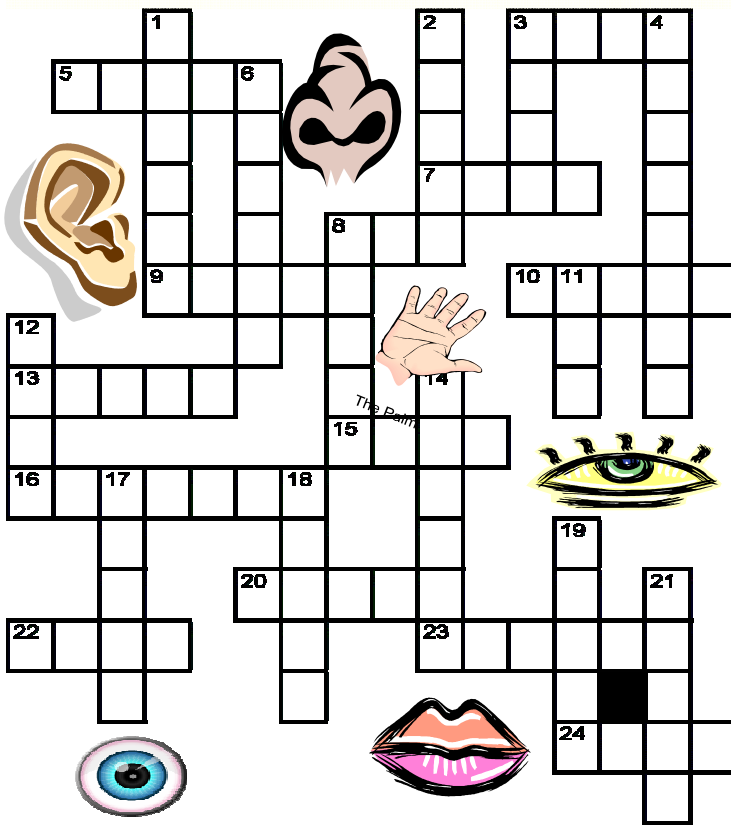
*The flowers are decorated
By shiny drops of dew
And summer hairy bees
Spin round, buzz and snooze*

*The people invite other people
And treat them to delicious meals
Everyday they meet each other
And help each other*

Anna Gorda

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Five Senses Crossword



Across

3. Another word for touch.
5. That cloud _____ like a fish.
7. You need these to see.
8. A flying animal that uses sonar to sense things.
9. I _____ a flower.
10. Smell bad.
13. How many eyes do most spiders have?
15. No light.
16. You use these to touch things.
20. I _____ TV.
22. The organ you use to smell.
23. The organ you use to taste.
24. What you hear with.

Down

1. That _____ like a siren.
2. Not noisy.
3. How many senses do you have?
4. I _____ to music yesterday.
6. Sight, smell, and hearing.
8. Not able to see.
11. How many eyes do you have?
12. Not able to hear.
14. Lots of light.
17. Loud sounds.
18. A ferocious fish with an excellent sense of smell.
19. A bird with excellent sight.
21. I _____ a rumor yesterday.

English is Not An Easy Language!

- Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose." -- *A sign in a Swiss hotel*
- "Warning! Difficult to swim out if wearing wader filled with water by falling down! Therefore, please avoid deep water where danger of drowning possibility exists." -- *On the label of a pair of chest waders manufactured in Taiwan.*
- "You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday." -- *A sign in a Moscow hotel across the street from a Russian Orthodox monastery.*
- "Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation." -- *A sign in a Rhodes tailor shop.*
- "It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose." -- *A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest.*
- "Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11am daily." -- *A sign in a hotel in Athens.*
- "Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar." -- *A sign in a Norwegian cocktail lounge.*
- "You did not report yourself by the Alien police. You have to do this in a short time, otherwise you get troubles! When you don't come to our office, we demand you to come! And when you don't come again, you maybe have to pay a fine, and it is possible that you will be expanded." -- *A letter sent by the Rotterdam (Netherlands) foreign police to someone who did not show up for a registration appointment.*
- "Caution: Water On Road During Rain" -- *A sign in Malaysia.*

Origins of State Names

- **ALABAMA.** Possibly from the Creek Indian word *alibamo*, meaning “we stay here.”
- **ALASKA.** From the Aleutian word *alakshak*, which means “great lands,” or “land that is not an island.”
- **ARIZONA.** Taken either from the Pima Indian words *ali shonak*, meaning “little spring,” or from the Aztec word *arizuma*, meaning “silver-bearing.”
- **ARKANSAS.** The French somehow coined it from the name of the Siouan *Quapaw* tribe.
- **CALIFORNIA.** According to one theory, Spanish settlers named it after a utopian society described in a popular 16th-century novel called *Serged de Esplandian*.
- **COLORADO.** Means “red” in Spanish. The name was originally applied to the Colorado River, whose waters are reddish with canyon clay.
- **CONNECTICUT.** Taken from the Mohican word *kuenihtekot*, which means “long river place.”
- **DELAWARE.** Named after Lord De La Warr, a governor of Virginia. Originally used only to name the Delaware River.
- **FLORIDA.** Explorer Ponce de Leon named the state *Pascua Florida* - “flowery Easter”-on Easter Sunday in 1513.
- **GEORGIA.** Named after King George II of England, who charted the colony in 1732.
- **HAWAII.** An English adaptation of the native word *owhyhee*, which means “homeland.”
- **IDAHO.** Possibly taken from the Kiowa Apache word for the Comanche Indians.
- **ILLINOIS.** The French bastardization of the Algonquin word *illini*, which means “men.”
- **INDIANA.** Named by English-speaking settlers because the territory was full of Indians.
- **IOWA.** The Sioux word for “beautiful land,” or “one who puts to sleep.”
- **KANSAS.** Taken from the Sioux word for “south wind people,” their name for anyone who lived south of Sioux territory.
- **KENTUCKY.** Possibly derived from the Indian word *kan-tuk-kee*, meaning “dark and bloody ground.” Or *kan-tuc-kec*, “land of green reeds”, or *ken-take*, meaning “meadowland.”
- **LOUISIANA.** Named after French King Louis XIV.
- **MAINE.** The Old French word for “province.”
- **MARYLAND.** Named after Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of English King George I.
- **MASSACHUSETTS.** Named after the Massachusetts Indian tribe. Means “large hill place.”
- **MICHIGAN.** Most likely from the Chippewa word for “great water.” *Micigama*.

- **MINNESOTA.** From the Sioux word for “sky tinted” or “muddy water.”
- **MISSISSIPPI.** Most likely taken from the Chippewa words *mici* (“great”) and *zibi* (“river”).
- **MISSOURI.** From the Algonquin word for “muddy water.”
- **MONTANA.** Taken from the Latin word for “mountainous.”
- **NEBRASKA.** From the Otos Indian word for “broad water.”
- **NEVADA.** Means “snow-clad” in Spanish.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE.** Capt. John Mason, one of the original colonists, named it after his English home county of Hampshire.
- **NEW JERSEY.** Named after the English Isle of Jersey.
- **NEW MEXICO.** The Spanish name for the territory north of the Rio Grande.
- **NEW YORK.** Named after the Duke of York and Albany.
- **NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA.** From the Latin name *Carolus*; named in honor of King Charles I of England.
- **NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA.** Taken from the Sioux word for “friend,” or “ally.”
- **OHIO.** Means “great,” “fine,” or “good river” in Iriquois.
- **OKLAHOMA.** The Choctaw word for “red man.”
- **OREGON.** Possibly derived from *Ouaricon-sint*, the French name for the Wisconsin River.
- **PENNSYLVANIA.** Named after William Penn, Sr., the father of the colony’s founder, William Penn. Means “Penn’s woods.”
- **RHODE ISLAND.** Named “Roode Eylandt” (Red Island) because of its red clay.
- **TENNESSEE.** Named after the Cherokee *tanasi* villages along the banks of the Little Tennessee River.
- **TEXAS.** Derived from the Caddo Indian word for “friend,” or “ally.”
- **UTAH.** Means “upper,” or “higher,” and was originally the name that Navajos called the Shoshone tribe.
- **VERMONT.** A combination of the French words *vert* (“green”) and *mont* (“mountain”).
- **VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA.** Named after Queen Elizabeth I of England, the “virgin” queen, by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584.
- **WASHINGTON.** Named after George Washington.
- **WISCONSIN.** Taken from the Chippewa word for “grassy place.”
- **WYOMING.** Derived from the Algonquin word for “large prairie place.”

Got Needs ?

Ask the College Nurses!

Dear Nurses:

How can I avoid stress during the holidays

D. Viar

Dear D. Viar,

The holiday season should be a time of festivity and fun but with all the shopping to be done, the parties to be planned and attended, the religious observances, and the decorating what can occur is stress! We contribute to this stress sometimes by placing unreasonable expectations on ourselves and those around us. With today's economic problems the level of stress may be more than years past. While each of us handles our stressors in a different way, there are some simple tasks we can all do to help decrease the overall stress that surrounds us. These steps include setting priorities, planning ahead, keeping it simple, staying on budget and taking care of YOU.

These steps can be accomplished by not overextending oneself. Take the time to think of what you want to do and



how you can do it comfortably. Learn to say "no" before you feel stressed. Make lists of things you want to accomplish and set a time line. Consider setting an "I'm Done" date and stick to it. Remember no one else knows what was on your list so it is okay to stop. Keep it simple when it comes to shopping, dinners, and gift exchange. Consider a potluck and asking your friends or family to participate.

What about catalog shopping? It is certainly easier to grab gifts off your porch instead of waiting in long lines at the mall. Remember to set yourself a budget and stick to it. Do we really need to spend that much money if we cannot afford it? Those bills will come due even if it is after the Holiday Season ends. Use your best judgment and leave your emotions at home when your credit card is in your hand.

And finally, take care of YOU. Take time to sit back and relax. Share the simple things of the season with your family and loved ones. Don't just think about exercising...do it! Celebrate life...including yours. And remember start the New Year with a medical checkup so you can set your personal health goals for 2009.

Granny Noetal

I was always wondering how people in this country know if something is feminine, masculine or neither. For example, In my language, we have a specific letters at the end of the word to identify whether it is feminine, masculine or neither. For instance, cat is masculine in my language and to make it feminine we would leave the root of the word the same and add suffix and ending to make it feminine. The car, for instance, is feminine, period. There are no options in our language to make it any different. How do you know if car is feminine? Is there some big secret that is not achievable by non native speakers?

Tatyana Kalachik, Accout Clerk II, Business Office

Granny: Tatyana, I'll keep it simple; the answer is fairly



straightforward. You know a car is feminine if it's pink; if it's blue or black, it's probably masculine, especially if it's one of those really jacked-up little toy trucks. I've also included another explanation, perhaps more technically correct from the esteemed Prof. Gamber:

Prof. Gamber: Oh, it's more fun than that, Tatyana. If it's a car or other machine that you like to treat as a person, you can decide all by yourself if you want to consider it masculine or feminine. Generally, though, non-living things are all neuter (it). Living beings besides people are neuter if you don't care what sex they are, or male or female if you do. People have to get masculine or feminine pronoun forms – which is why we use plurals so much for talking about people in general.

More Student Chirpings

The Development of Vietnamese TV

Nowadays, with advanced technology, entertainment is also fast-growing in Viet Nam. Especially with television, there is a lot of development in comparison with many years ago. Therefore, television is becoming an indispensable entertainment for Vietnamese people. Television entertains people 24 hours a day and 7 days a week with many interesting programs on every field.

I read a Vietnamese student's paragraph in the ESL Parrot last year. He (or she) wrote that: "In Viet Nam, television and movies don't serve to entertain people. They only serve the political objectives of government". I deny that to be the case. On this occasion, I want to describe TV and movies in my country so that you can have the right view about it.

Like any TV, Vietnamese TV is to entertain people. It has many interesting programs such as news programs, weather reports, sports programs, music programs, animated films for kids, movies for adults, and documentary films. It

also includes different kind of shows such as game shows, talk shows, music shows, and sitcoms, and so on.

Generally, TV starts a new day with a "Good Morning!" program at 5am. The program begins with a physical training program in the morning such as rhythmic gymnastics



or yoga for 30 minutes, then the home news and overseas news. After that, it will be a short talk show or introductory words about a good book which has already been published or a best-selling book. The program ends with some songs to sing the praise of the country's beautiful scenes. It's great. It's my favorite program which I often watch every morning.

After this program, there will be science and technology programs, music programs, movies, game

shows, cartoon... and so on.

The game shows on Vietnamese TV are great. I enjoy watching them.

There have many amazing and satisfying things on each show. These shows always carry their TV viewers with them. Especially for young people, Vietnamese TV has the talk shows which discuss the difficulties and problems of young people, and they with the advisors together look for some ways for the solution.

These talk shows are very useful and educational. They attract the young people's attention very much. In addition, Vietnamese television also gives pleasure to children with wonderful cartoons or music programs for kids. In short, Vietnamese TV entertains people of all ages.

Among the TV programs, movies are an important program. Vietnamese TV has lots of kinds of movies, not only Vietnamese movies but also foreign movies. Although Vietnamese movie production isn't developed as much as in other countries in the area such as China, Korea, and Hong Kong..., it is making progress. In addition, Vietnamese

movie production isn't developed as much as in other countries in the area such as China, Korea, and Hong Kong...., it is making progress. In addition, Vietnamese movie production has recently cooperated with foreign movie productions from countries such as China, Korea....

These movies are paid special attention to by the viewer. Besides, there are many foreign movies, and they also attract many people. Actually, TV is becoming indispensable to Vietnamese people's entertainment. As well as American TV or other TV all over the world, nowa-

days Vietnamese TV also has cable TV and satellite television. Therefore, they provide Vietnamese people with more choices for their entertainment. These things prove that Vietnamese TV is developing, and it is no way inferior to other countries.

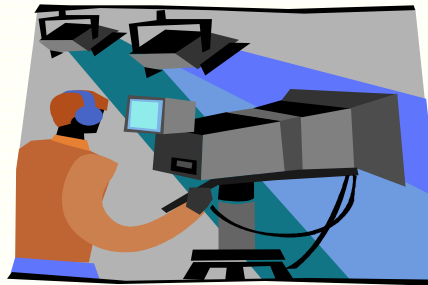
Mai Nguyen R320

American TV vs Russian TV Shows

Every country in the world is unique. Therefore it is normal to be different from any other country. Television shows in America are different from Russian television shows.

Russian Television has a show called "Pole Chudes" once a week. I loved to watch it when I lived in Russia, or even in the United States. Some Russian people have a cable to be able to watch Russian television. I remember that I saw that show in America at somebody's house. It feels very good when a television show refreshes my memory and reminds me of my childhood. The "Pole Chudes" show invites people to play a word game, and win small and big prizes. That show is interesting not because of the word game itself, but because the moderator asks each player a ques-

tion to introduce them to the audience. People get a lot of prizes on that game and there is a final part, when the three best players from the game play and try to win sometimes a car or a lot of money. I saw the same game on American television, but it was not that interesting and consistent.



Another difference is cartoons and movies. Most cartoons in America are not interesting and this is my opinion. I did watch cartoons here, in the USA, and I was disappointed when I heard inappropriate words from cartoon characters. Cartoons on Russian TV are more ap-

propriate for children. They have a good theme mostly. Movies are the same way, but I think that industry of Russian movies is becoming more and more inappropriate. The thing I like on American TV that Russian TV does not have is funny shows. American actors play the role more naturally and freely. I think that a lot of Russian shows or movies are not presented at a high level. I usually can feel that I watch a movie, and it is not taking my full attention because Russian actors don't play their roles freely.

Both Russian and American television shows have their advantages and disadvantages, similarities and differences and it is normal to be different from one another.

Elvira Losetskaya R320

Even More Student Chirpings

My Sixth Visit to Ukraine in Six Years

Many young people like summer time since this is the time of vacations and holidays. For me, every summer is special because I spend these hot days in my native country. Every time I go to Ukraine, people ask me how I can go there so often and for such a long period of time. My answer is: 'because there is my home.'

Every time I visit my country, I mostly stay in the city where I was born, raised, and had lived all the time before moving in the United States. This is a beautiful small city called Chernivtsy. This year people celebrate its 600th anniversary. Therefore, there were several festivals of celebration in the city while I was there. One summer evening I spent in one of our beautiful parks participating in a special program of songs and sayings that was prepared for that evening. I sang in a choir, and I also sang one special song that my friend Maria, who is a poet, wrote for me. Here're the words of that song translated into English:



*It is not on the map of the world,
But it's been in my heart for long,
It's also in the holy hand of God,
It's my city – it's Chernivtsy.
There are a lot of great cities in the world:
Berlin and London, Moscow and Paris,
But I won't change any of these
For my city Chernivtsy.
Linden smells here, and rain sings,
Wind writes poems to flowers,
Mercy of God is proclaimed by Bells,
It is my fate – it's Chernivtsy.
I am like a bird across from the ocean
Flying to Chernivtsy every summer,
I wish to come here with all my heart,
I am understood here without words.*



All in all, I had a great time in Ukraine. There were a lot more interesting activities I did and places I visited. Therefore, I'm looking forward to go there again.

*A word to the reader:

If someone tells you only bad things about Ukraine, don't believe it! Every part of this country is different; moreover, every person has a different opinion about everything. Therefore, my advice is to visit my great city and get your own opinion.

Recipes for the Holidays

How to Make Pelmeni

Have you ever eaten Pelmeni? Do you know what Pelmeni is and how to make it? Pelmeni is a traditional Russian food. You may make and eat it right away or freeze it if you made too much. You can keep frozen Pelmeni in the refrigerator for a long time, even for a few months. It doesn't take you a lot of time if somebody helps you. You may ask your friends or children to help you. In my family, we always make Pelmeni together, so it doesn't take a long time for us. You may buy Pelmeni in the store, but home-made Pelmeni is tastier and cheaper. There are three main steps to make Pelmeni: preparing a grid (mince), making a dough, and doing Pelmeni. If you follow these steps, you will have a delicious meal.

The first step is making a grind meat (mince). First of all, you should go to the store and buy good, fresh meat such as pork, beef, or lamb. Whatever you want and

like. Then you have to grind this meat on the meat grinder two times. You need to add some onions, salt, and pepper. Your mince will be tastier if you add some dill and parsley. After that, add a bit of milk to make it juicy and mix your



A 1952 Soviet poster advertising Pelmeni

mince. Now it is ready!

Then, start the second step — making dough. First of all, you need some good flour. Sift the flour onto a smooth, clean surface. Then make a hole in the middle of the flour, add three eggs and some milk. Don't forget to add salt. After that, mix the dough slowly and carefully. When the dough becomes elastic and soft, you will see that it is ready. Then put it into the refrigerator for about 30 to 40 minutes.

The third and main step is making the Pelmeni. We already have the mince and dough. Now we begin to make our Pelmeni. Cut the dough and make a few little balls. Then roll the dough to make it thin. Sometimes we roll out a large portion of the dough and then one person cuts into a circle with a glass. The other person puts the mince in the middle of this circle.

The next little step is to assemble the sides of this circle together. Your Pelmeni will look beautiful. Sometimes people make Pelmeni with this form. These Pelmeni look standard and similar to each other. But, in my opinion, that Pelmeni which were made by hand is better and tastier than Pelmeni made in this form. But, it only seems so. When you make Pelmeni, put them onto a floured surface so they don't stick to each other.

Finally, to prepare Pelmeni, we need to boil the water or broth (for better flavor). Then, we slowly

drop our Pelmeni into the boiling water or broth. Don't forget to stir it. Pelmeni will be ready when it arises on the top of the water. You may serve Pelmeni with butter and sour cream. Some people like to eat Pelmeni with vinegar or ketchup. It is especially important that even though Pelmeni is a traditional Russian food, a lot of people all over the world like to eat Pelmeni too. There are many ways to make Pelmeni, but if you make it with love, they will be better and tastier. You also need to follow these steps when you make Pelmeni: Prepare a grind meat, make dough, and do the delicious Pelmeni. Try it yourself and you will have fun! You will enjoy this delicious meal.

Anastasiya Buchneva W50

How to Prepare Cake "Skazka"

People all over the world love to eat delicious cake, but not all of them know how to prepare cake "Skazka". I want to share with you how to do it, and preparation is not difficult if you follow my recipe. This recipe has several steps and you should follow it directly.

First of all you should make a list of ingredients and go to the store to buy them. Make sure these ingredients are fresh. Also you should prepare cream for this cake and put it in the refrigerator to be cold. Now that you have all needed ingredients, you can start to make this cake. Break six eggs and separate white from yellow, whip white first. When white increases for three times, put yellow and continue to whip. After two-three minutes you have to add one cup of white sugar and continue to whip. Then, you should add flour. Carefully mix it up and put this dough onto the baking sheet. But, I am very sorry, I forget to tell you how to prepare this baking sheet. You must anoint the baking



sheet with butter and sprinkle it with flour. And then put ready dough onto the ready baking sheet and put it into the oven. The oven must be preheat for 350 F. The cake will be baked for thirty minutes. You should go to the next step when the cake is being baked.

The next step is to lay the cake out on the wet towel and roll it with the towel. Wait until the cake is cold. After that, unfold the cake from the towel, and take the towel away. Get the soaked cake and smear the cream onto the cake. You should be very careful. Roll the cake again now with cream, decorate it, and put it into the refrigerator.

This type of cake in my native country Uzbekistan is called "Skazka." Believe me, it is a very delicious cake and I think you would like it very much. But it is not the end. You must cut it into pieces and enjoy it.

As you can see, this delicious cake "Skazka" is not difficult to prepare. If you follow my recipe, you can do it easily.

Natalia Lebardin W50

Eating Romanian Style

“I had for breakfast more paprika, and a sort of porridge of maize flour which they said was “mamaliga,” and egg-plant stuffed with forcemeat, a very excellent dish, which they call “ impletata”.- Bram Stoker, Dracula, Chapter I . This is talking about the food that Romanians cooked a long time ago and from this you can get recipe. Every country has special foods. The special foods are made for special events or periods. If people are rich or poor, they have special foods on their tables at Christmas and Easter. Romanians have many traditional dishes and they take their food everywhere they go. When my parents came to the US, we kids had to cook food for everyone. One Christmas my sister Daniela, my brother Daniel, and I cooked all the dishes for that meal. My sister had to make the soup because she knew to cook. My brother had to cook the roast because that was his specialty. He was good at making the roast. I had to bake the dessert because I was good at that. In every weekend before my mother came here; I helped her with the cakes. There are three types of essential foods in my country: many kinds of soups, certain main dishes, and special desserts.

The first type of special food in my country is soup. Soups are a special kind of food for Romanians because they eat soup every day. They have all kinds of soup; every region is different. Romanians cook a traditional meatball soup when they have something special or unusual to celebrate. Before my mother came here, she cooked traditional meatball soup every other weekend. At that time, I



didn't like to eat this soup. After she came here, we made this soup and I began to eat it because it reminded me of my mother when she was in Romania. Another kind of soup that Romanians cook is tripe soup. One time in Romania my little brother wanted to cook this soup and he prepared the beef stomach to boil. The whole apartment began to smell so bad from that. We said to him, “Octavian, go and close the door to the kitchen and open the window because then the smell will go out through the window”. Another kind of soup is dry bean with

smoked pork legs or smoked meat. All Romanians cook this after the pork is cut because the meat is fresh. Another soup that Romanians have is chicken soup or pork with noodles. This is often served with cooked dumplings. I remember that my grandmother cooked this kind of soup, and she made the dumplings for the soup. Another kind of soup is “Papricas,” which Romanians often cook. This soup is made with potatoes and chicken meat, an onion and various spices. Another soup is yellow pod bean soup which all Romanians enjoy in the summer. My mother cooks this soup when the beans from our garden are grown and up until the cold weather comes. All Romanians in the US look for the right beans to make this dish.

The second types of special food is certain main dishes. One is “sarmale” (cabbage rolls). Romanians have this dish almost every weekend. It is cooked with rice, onions, meat (beef, pork, chicken, etc) and various spices all mixed together. The rolls are covered in a rich tomato sauce. When I was little, my grandmother made sarmale with corn flour. This food is also eaten at weddings and on all holidays. Another kind of sarmale is

rolled with grapes leaves. Many eat this food with sour cream.

“Mamaliga” is one of the main special dishes of Romanians. A long time ago this was considered a “poor man’s” dish, but now it is more appreciated. Polenta was often used as a substitute for bread. It is cooked by boiling water, salt and cornmeal and is often served with sour cream and cheese or served in a bowl with hot milk. When I was little, my mother cooked mamaliga and after that, we would eat it with whatever we wanted. Another special dish is “mititei” (grilled minced-meat rolls). All Romanians eat these when they are at a picnic or somewhere on vacation and camping. During Christmas, traditionally a pig is cut and prepared by every Romanian family to make a wide variety of traditional recipes such as “carnati”- a kind of long sausage with meat, “cartabosi” – sausages made with liver and “toba”- sausage stuffed with pork jelly, liver and skin. When I was little, in my grandparents’ village, I had cartabosi and carnati, and we liked to eat those. At Easter, lamb is a special. It is served and the main dishes are roast lamb and “drob”- a special dish made out of lamb liver, kidney and meat mixed with vegetables, etc. “Chiftele” (a type of

large meatballs) is another sort of food that can be eaten with mashed potatoes or rice pilaf. My mother makes this from chicken, a potato, one or two slices of bread, an egg and various spices.

The last types of special food is desserts. The Christmas meal is sweetened with traditional cozonac-panettone (sweet bread with nuts, or rahat loukoum) for dessert. My grandmother liked to bake panettone because this was her favorite cake. Romanian dessert pancakes are thin and filled with jam and chocolate cream, and are called “clatite.” My mother bakes these pancakes so thin, and we eat them with jam or Nutella. Last week she bought Nutella because she planned to make pancakes; she did, and they were so delicious! Others types of dessert are many kinds of cakes that all Romanian women know how to bake. Of many kinds of cakes Savarine (Savarinas) is specific. Amandine (chocolate sponge cake filled with almond cream) is cake with honey. My mother cooks this kind of cake because my father likes this cake. Rice pudding is another dessert. When we were kids back in Romania, my grandmother made this dessert for us often because we liked cooking this. Cream of wheat is one of all desserts that

all Romanians like. We would eat it with sugar and cinnamon or cacao on top. My mother used to cook this when we were little too. Gingerbread is another dessert that Romanians like so much to eat. Sometimes we kids would argue because others ate too much and the rest of us didn’t have enough! Ice cream is the favorite dessert for everybody. Romanians usually eat this dessert in the summer. Ice creams in Romania are many flavors such as ice cream with caramel on top, strawberry, vanilla, etc.

In brief, Romania has many special foods and recipes that are prepared and enjoyed depending on the season or the special event.

These dishes fall into three main groups: soups, main dishes and desserts. All those dishes remind me of Romania and which dishes are from there. The Romanian question is: “Do we eat to live, or live to eat?” A great proverb that Romanians say after eating:

*Thank you for the meal
It was good and tasty
and the cook lady was beautiful.
Thank you Lord
for I have eaten and I am hungry
again.”*

What are some special foods in your country?