



The Parrot

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

Issue # 28

Spring 2009

On the Go with Dr. O!

Love your enemies. It makes them so damned mad.

PD East

Hi, Dr. Limaneeprasert! You're from Thailand and teach ESL at ARC. Did you study or teach English in Thailand before you came here?

I studied and taught English in Thailand. In school, I only studied English grammar. I learned to speak English by practicing with the Peace Corps volunteers who traded lessons with me. They helped me improve my speaking and listening skills in English, and I taught them Mandarin Chinese and Thai.

When did you come to the US?



In 1987. I came to this country as an international student

Did you have any problems studying in college in the English language?

Not really. When I arrived in this country, I had



already spoken English well.

Is it hard to become a teacher?

Yes, you have to go to school for a long time.

Also, it's not easy to become a full-time teacher at a university or college because you have to com-

pete with many other qualified professionals.

Have you taught in any other colleges or universities?

I've taught at the University of Hawaii and Butte College.

What do you find the most challenging about teaching at ARC?

In general, it's great to teach ESL students. However, it's challenging when students don't take the opportunity to practice speaking, reading, and writing. It's also difficult when a student has a lot of other responsibilities and can't do the work to improve his or her English.

What are your plans in the future, for example, after retirement?

I don't have any plans. I enjoy teaching very much

Tired of English? Give up! Try "Volapuk"!

See page 6



American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841

and want to continue doing this for the rest of my life. Honestly, I think teaching is the best job in the world.

One last question: What's your idea of perfect happiness?

Well, I don't think there's such a thing as perfect happiness. Personally, I think we are happier and the world is a better place if we care about one another and do what we can for other people.

Contact The Parrot: Braccop@arc.losrios.edu

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Student Chirpings

Review of the Book *The Bride Price* by Buchi Emecheta

Summary: The scene: Nigeria. After their father's death, Aku-nna and her younger brother Nna-nndo had no one to look after them. Their mother was in the town of Ibuza, where she asked the river goddess to send her a baby. After she found out that her husband died, she took the kids with her from Lagos to Ibuza, where she started a new life with her husband's brother as his wife. The kids were successful in the new school and Aku-nna became a desired bride for some guys, because she was born into a proud family and was about to get a good education, and her stepfather Okonkwo, who was ambitious to be made a chief, began to anticipate a large bride price for her. He wanted her to marry the neighbor's son, but she started to fall in love with her teacher Chike, who loved her too. But Chike was born into a slave's family and even then, when they lived as free people, the others still thought of them as slaves. Chike's family could afford the large bride price for Aku-nna, but when she was at a Christmas celebration, men burst in and kidnapped her for Okoboshi, son of an arrogant family. On her wedding night, she lied and told Okoboshi that she was not a vir-

gin, and he refused to touch her. Chike rescued her and the young couple began a happy life together. Although Aku-nna felt guilty about her unpaid bride price, Okonkwo didn't accept any of the increasingly generous offers made by Chike's father. He divorced Aku-nna's mother and tortured a doll made in Aku-nna's image. When Aku-nna became pregnant, she was sick throughout the



pregnancy. She died after giving birth to a daughter, who Chike named Joy. This was the beginning of the tale in the village to persuade young women not to marry against their father's wishes and without a bride price being paid.

Response: The book is very easy to read because Buchi Emecheta, the author, used simple language and simple sentences to write it. The *Bride Price* reads on "one breath". The chapters are unpredictable and surprising is as also the ending of the story. I was actually surprised when

Aku-nna died in the end. I read the last chapter again, because I thought I didn't understand something. But no "happy end" as I expected. This story should be called an "unexpected twist". That's how I see it.

During my reading of this book, I found out that I know nothing about Nigeria. There are many historical facts in this story. I found some information about slaves, and who they were; how people lived in Nigeria and their traditions. Also there are many interesting details about Nigerian food, houses, clothes, crafts, even the funerals and weddings.

The vocabulary in this book is very rich with new words, but which are very easy to learn for people whose native language is not English, because the author explains them very well and repeats them often.

I would recommend this book for everybody who likes to read, and also for people who want to learn something new about not only the history of Nigerian, but also about the culture and traditions of Africans in general, because it's much more interesting to read, learn and have fun than just read boring scientific historical facts.

The Parking Lot at ARC

Poor students at ARC on the first days of each semester look pretty tired. The reason is that they drive around the parking lot several times and they can hardly find a spot to park. The parking lot at ARC is very limited. I think it's a big issue for both students and staff. However, it's easier for staff to find a spot, because the number of professors and clerks are lower than students. Every semester we can observe that the number of students is increasing at ARC, but we have the same number of spots in the parking lot. Last semester, I saw some students arguing with each other over a spot in the parking lot at ARC. One of them got angry and shouted, "I got the spot first". Then, the other student said an appropriate word and left. I thought they didn't start the first day of college very pleasantly. These behaviors are not expected in an educational environment. There are several problems for students caused by the lack of parking at ARC and they might be solved with some small solutions.

The first difficulty caused by lack of parking spaces for students is stress. Students are already under high pressure on the first days. For instance, some of them are on a waiting list and they are not sure about their schedule and they need professors to add them to classes. Students are scared on the first days just like every person who starts a new job. The parking lot at ARC is another thing that increases the amount of their stress. I see students running toward classes with pale faces. Last week I saw a student who was in a hurry and fell down on the stairs. Her

leg was hurt. I think she missed that class and she even needed to stay at home for a while.

Another problem is that students are usually late for their classes. This problem affects themselves and professors and other students. The students, who are late, miss some information which the professors teach before they arrived. They interrupt classes, so it's hard for other students to concentrate. The professor also may forget some information which he or she wanted to



teach. As a result, the level of education is lowered. The students who are late may ask professors repetitious questions and make other students bored. These are examples of the effects of students' lateness.

The last problem created by limited parking spots is wasting students' time and money. Each semester, students pay for a parking permit, and they sometimes have to be at campus one or two hours earlier than their classes start to be able to find a parking spot. After that, because they can't find a parking spot, they go on the street and park there. When they return after class, they see tickets on their windshields. They think they waste their time and money and although they came early and they already paid for

parking, they should pay for tickets too.

The last time I came to ARC and saw that it was not possible to park in the parking lot, I went to a street. I was looking for a space there, and I saw two policemen on each side of the street who ticketed the cars parked there, because they parked on no parking area. I was thinking what can I do now? Then suddenly I found an unusual solution. I came back to the parking lot and stayed in front of the exit spot and asked some students "Are you leaving?." Their response was positive and they got in my car and showed me their spot and finally I could park. At that time I got some angry looks from other students, who were looking for parking spot and watched what I did.

These problems need to be solved fast. Students may lose their interest to come to college because of this problem. The board of directors can build a multiple story parking lot or more colleges in Sacramento. They can ask the government to help them. Students can help solve this problem too. They can use other transportation such as bike, or bus. They can carpool.

In conclusion, the problems which the parking lot at ARC causes for students such as stress, lateness for classes, and wasting time and money should be solved. It would be solved more easily if students and staff assist each other. The board of directors may ask students for the solution to parking and they can decide wisely in this way.

To Save the Teacher

Everyone can be in danger. Even teachers need help sometimes. There are many ways to help your teacher. Some students make grammatical mistakes in order to provide teachers' job security because we don't need teachers if we don't make mistakes. Others care about the lesson time limitation for hard working teachers by reminding them to finish the lesson when its time is over. Some students even ask to leave class earlier in order to give the teacher more time for rest. All listed help is important but I had a situation which challenged me to save the teacher from real danger. I did everything I could and even missed my writing class.

It was a usual evening until I decided to relax before going to bed. My wife refused to scratch my back while I lay on the sofa and watched TV. She was angry and gave me her explanation for such a bad mood: *"You always return tired from your writing class. Also, you waste the whole weekend on this boring subject. You've lost your ability to speak as a regular man. Everything you say consists of 'introduction', 'context', and 'conclusion'. I am tired of your endless, boring talk. Can you speak like other people? More than that, I've noticed you pay no attention to me. You should make a choice be-*

tween me and the writing class or I will sue your writing class teacher for ruining my family. My patience has expired!" I had nothing to say. I was so scared and nervous that I couldn't sleep. I began to think about finding a solution.

The next morning was the start of a regular day, but I received a sign. A huge, black cat crossed my



path in front of me when I went to my car to drive to college. At first look, it seemed like a witch, but later I figured out that there is no reason for an American witch to change into a cat. They have the legal right for their activity and most of them moved to financial businesses and politics. In fact, it was a really big cat and seemed like a KGB or CIA agent after plastic surgery. Regardless of its origin, the cat was a sign. Older people say that a black cat which crosses your path is a very bad sign. I don't believe in magic but who knows? Then I started to suspect that it could be a sign of my teacher's future in

jail. I decided to skip my writing class and returned home. I felt a vital need to do something in order to save my teacher from danger. I came back home and had this conversation with my wife:

She: *Did you forget something?*

Me: *No. The teacher called me and said that I could stay home today. He said, "You work too hard and spend too much time on your homework. You had better spend this day and weekend with your wife. So, you have no homework; just smell the flowers. Good luck!"*

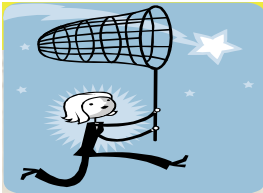
She: *Oh, I see, he is not as bad a person as people say.*

Me: *Oh, yes, as I told you – people like to accuse each other. Do you still want to sue him?*

She: *No, I was wrong.*

It was a lie but it worked and my anxiety vanished. I started to feel better and for sure that teacher is no longer in danger.

Of course, someone can accuse me of lying to my wife about my absence from the class. It could be right from the formal view, but who are we if we can not help each other or save each other? I'm pretty sure that everyone who accepts my excuse for being absent and shares my attitude towards humanity belongs to a class of good people, like me.



NET Escape - Articles from the net.

Sleeping with Ghosts in California

Benicia

Union Hotel – In the heart of historic Benicia, the gracious 1882 Union Hotel is reminiscent of California's colorful past. During the late 1800's, a young woman allegedly hanged herself in one of the rooms of this historic hotel. Today, this unfortunate soul reportedly continues to be seen in a window that faces the street and others heard her talking or crying. Union Hotel, 401 First Street, PO Box 874, Benicia, California 94510, 707-746-0110.

Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills Hotel – Presiding majestically above Sunset Boulevard, the Beverly Hills Hotel has been welcoming royalty, legends, world leaders and luminaries to its luxurious accommodations since 1912. Its bungalows are said to be haunted by several ghosts including Rachmaninoff and Harpo Marx. Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California 90210, : 310-276-2251 or 800-283-8885.

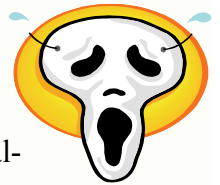
Yosemite

Ahwahnee Hotel – Open since 1927, The Ahwahnee is one of America's most distinctive Registered National Landmarks. In the beginning, as well as now, the hotel offered every comfort in the midst of the rugged Sierra Mountains. Yosemite Miwok woven cooking baskets, linguistic symbols and decorative patterns can be seen throughout the Ahwahnee's rooms and halls. Allegedly, there are two World War II era ghosts that haunt the mezzanine level and the 3rd floor! Ahwahnee Hotel, East of Yosemite Village, Yosemite National Park, California 95389, 559-253-5635.

Death Valley

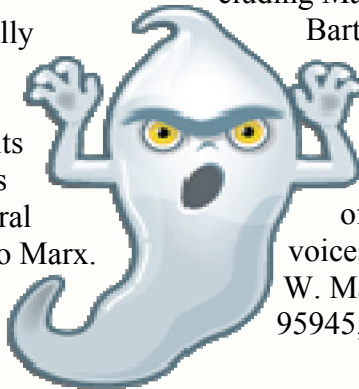
Amargosa Opera House and Hotel - In 1923, the Pacific Coast Borax Company built a "company town" consisting of a U-shaped complex of Spanish Colonial style buildings. Today, there is little left of Death Valley Junction other than empty buildings and the historic Amargosa Opera House and Hotel. Today, it is said to be haunted by a number of spirits who called

this home during its borax mining days. Amargosa Opera House and Hotel, Highway 127, PO Box 8, Death Valley, California 92328, 760-852-4441.



Grass Valley

The Holbrooke Hotel – Established in 1851 to cater to the needs of the Gold Rush pioneers, this historic hotel has hosted such dignitaries as Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, James A. Garfield and Grover Cleveland, as well as other famous guests, including Mark Twain and infamous outlaw Black Bart. Today the historic hotel is said to remain home to a number of former guests. In the reception hall, they supposedly have been known to drag chairs across the floor, and turn lights on and off. Guests and staff have often heard voices in the hall when no one is there. H, 212 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, California, 95945, 530-273-1353 or 800-933-7077.



Fort Bragg

Glass Beach Inn – Built as a private home in the 1920's, the building was fully renovated in 1980 as a guest house which today offers nine distinctively styled rooms. However, inside the inn is a chair that is evidently not so good for guests. According to the tale, many who have sat in it mysteriously die afterwards. Glass Beach Inn, 726 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, California 95437, 707-964-6774.

Carmel

La Playa Hotel – Often called the Grande Dame of Carmel, the original building served as a home for Christopher Jorgensen and his bride Angela Ghirardelli, heir to the San Francisco chocolate fortune. After the couple left the area, it became a hotel and in the 1920's a second building was constructed. Today a woman is said to haunt the hotel, who is thought to be Angela Ghirardelli or her cousin who drowned in Carmel Bay. La Playa Hotel, PO Box 900, Camino Real at Eighth, Carmel, California 93921, 831-624-6476 or 800-582-8900

Think English is Tough? — Volapük, an Artificial Language

Volapük is a constructed language, created in 1879–1880 by Johann Martin Schleyer, a Roman Catholic priest in Baden, Germany. Schleyer felt that God had told him in a dream to create an international language. Volapük conventions took place in 1884 (Friedrichshafen), 1887 (Munich) and 1889 (Paris). The first two conventions used German, and the last conference used only Volapük. In 1889, there were an estimated 283 clubs, 25 periodicals in or about Volapük, and 316 textbooks in 25 languages. Today there are an estimated 20–30 Volapük speakers in the world. Volapük was largely displaced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by simpler and more easily-learned languages, such as Esperanto and Latino Sine Flexione.

Grammar

Schleyer adapted the vocabulary mostly from English, with a smattering of German and French. Some words are modified beyond easy recognizability, though many others remain readily recognizable for a speaker of one of the source languages. For instance, *vol* and *pük* are derived from the English words “world” and “speak”. Polysyllabic words are always stressed on the final syllable, regardless of how the source language places the stress. Although unimportant linguistically, and regardless of the simplicity and consistency of the stress rule, these deformations were greatly mocked by the language's detractors. It seems to have been Schleyer's intention, however, to alter its loan words in such a way that they would be hard to recognise, thus losing their ties to the languages (and, by extension, nations) they came from. Compare the common criticism that Esperanto and Interlingua are much easier to learn for Europeans than for those with non-European native languages. The letter *r* was avoided in Schleyer's original Volapük, on the principle that it would be difficult for Chinese speakers to pronounce. In the adoption of foreign roots *r* was generally changed to *l*, e.g. English *rose* becomes *lol*. However, Arie de Jong added /*r*/ in his revision of the language; the modern form has minimal pairs such as *rel* “religion” vs *lel* “iron”. Other phonemes difficult for speakers of many languages (such as *ö* /*ø*/ and *ü* /*y*/) are common.

The grammar is roughly based on that of Indo-European languages but with a regularized agglutina-

tive character: grammatical features are indicated by putting together unchanging elements, rather than shifting, multi-meaning inflections.

As in German, the Volapük noun has four cases: nominative, genitive, dative and accusative. In compound words, the first part of the compound is usually separated from the second by the genitive termination *-a*, e.g. *Vola-pük*, “of-world language”. However, the other case endings (*-e* dative, *-i* accusative) are sometimes used, or the roots may be agglutinated in the nominative, with no separating vowel.

The following is the declension of the Volapük word *vol*, “world”:

Volapük declension	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>vol</i> (world)	<i>vols</i> (worlds)
Genitive	<i>vola</i> (of the world)	<i>volas</i> (of the worlds)
Dative	<i>vole</i> (to the world)	<i>voles</i> (to the worlds)
Accusative	<i>voli</i> (world)	<i>volis</i> (worlds)

- Adjectives, formed by the suffix *-ik*, normally follow the noun they modify. They do not agree with the noun in number and case unless they precede the noun or stand alone.
- Adverbs are formed by suffixing *-o*, either to the root or to the adjectival *-ik*; they normally follow the verb or adjective they modify.
- The verb carries a fine degree of detail, with morphemes marking tense, aspect, voice, person, number and (in the third person) the subject's gender. However, many of these categories are optional, and a verb can stand in an unmarked state. A Volapük verb can be conjugated in 1,584 ways (including infinitives and reflexives).

- Not only verbs, adjectives and adverbs, but prepositions, conjunctions and interjections can be formed from noun roots by appending appropriate suffixes.

History

Schleyer first published a sketch of Volapük in May 1879 in *Sionsharfe*, a Catholic poetry magazine of which he was editor. This was followed in 1880 by a full-length book in German. Schleyer himself did not write books on Volapük in other languages, but other authors soon did.

André Cherpillod writes of the third Volapük convention,

In August 1889 the third convention was held in Paris. About two hundred people from many countries attended. And, unlike in the first two conventions, people spoke only Volapük. For the first time in the history of mankind, sixteen years before the Boulogne convention, an international convention spoke an international language.

The Dutch cryptographer Dr. Auguste Kerckhoffs was for a number of years Director of the Academy of Volapük, and introduced the movement to several countries. However tensions arose between Dr. Kerckhoffs and others in the Academy, who wanted reforms made to the language, and Schleyer, who insisted strongly on retaining his proprietary rights. This led to schism, with much of the Academy abandoning Schleyer's Volapük in favor of Idiom Neutral and other new constructed language projects. Another reason for the decline of Volapük may have been the rise of Esperanto. In 1887, the first Esperanto book (*Unua Libro*) was published. As the language was easier to learn, many Volapük clubs became Esperanto clubs. By 1900, there were only 159 members of Volapük clubs recognized by Schleyer.

In the 1920s, Arie de Jong, with the consent of the leaders of the small remnant of Volapük speakers, made a revision of Volapük which was published in 1931. This revision was accepted by the few speakers of the language. De Jong simplified the grammar, eliminating some rarely-used verb forms, and eliminated some perceived sexism in the pronouns and gendered verb endings. He also rehabilitated the phoneme /r/ and used it to make some morphemes more recognizable. For instance, *lömib* "rain" became *rein*. Volapük enjoyed a brief renewal of popularity in the Netherlands and Germany under de Jong's leadership,

but was suppressed (along with other constructed languages) in countries under Nazi rule and never recovered. There are an estimated 20 Volapük speakers in the world today. There has been a continuous Volapük speaker community since Schleyer's time, with an unbroken succession of *Cifals* (leaders), the current cifal being Mr. Brian R. Bishop.

Large Volapük collections are held by the International Esperanto Museum in Vienna, Austria; the Centre de documentation et d'étude sur la langue internationale in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland; and the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Examples

The Lord's Prayer (1880 version)

O Fat obas, kel binol in süls, paisaludomöz nem ola!
 Kömomöd monargän ola!
 Jenomöz vil olik, äs in sül, i su tal!
 Bodi obsik vädeliki givolös obes adelo!
 E pardolös obes debis obsik,
 äs id obs aipardobs debeles obas.
 E no obis nindukolös in tendadi;
 sod aidalivolös obis de bad.
 Jenosöd!

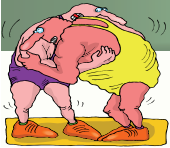
The Lord's Prayer (1930 version)

O Fat obas, kel binol in süls! Nem olik pasalüdükönöd!
 Regän ola kömonöd!
 Vil olik jenonöd, äsä in sül, i su tal!
 Givolös obes adelo bodi aldelik obsik!
 E pardolös obes döbotis obsik,
 äsä i obs pardobs utanes, kels edöbons kol obs.
 E no blufodolös obis,
 ab livükolös obis de bad!
 (Ibä dutons lü ol regän, e nämäd e glor jü ün laidüp.)
 So binosös!

Usage as common noun

The word *Volapük* is also used in certain languages to mean "nonsense" and "gibberish". For example, in Esperanto, a rival constructed language, the expression "Tio estas volapukaĵo por mi" (that is a Volapük-thing for me) is sometimes used like the English "it's Greek to me" (that is, "I can't understand this" or "this is nonsense").

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with grammar

Going to

Going to is not a tense. It is a special expression to talk about the future.

Structure: subject + be + going + infinitive

The verb **be** is conjugated (past, present or future).

	subject	be	(not)	going	infinitive	
+	I	am		going	to buy	a new car.
+	I'm			going	to go	swimming.
-	He	is	not	going	to take	the exam.
-	It	isn't		going	to rain.	
?	Are	you		going	to paint	the house?

Use of Going to

Going to - intention: We use **going to** when we have the intention to do something before we speak. We have already made a decision before speaking. Look at these examples:

- Jo has won the lottery. He says he's **going to buy** a Porsche.
- We're not **going to paint** our bedroom tomorrow.
- When **are** you **going to go** on holiday?

Going to - prediction: We often use going to to make a prediction about the future. Our prediction is based on present evidence. We are saying what we think will happen. Here are some examples:

- The sky is very black. It's **going to snow**.
- It's 8.30! You're **going to miss** the train!
- I crashed the company car. My boss **isn't going to be** very happy!

Idiom-Attic



Not Have a Leg to Stand On

Tom maintains that the firm owes him some back wages for having worked overtime. However, he **won't have a leg to stand on** unless he can prove that he put in all those extra hours. He doesn't stand a chance of getting his money **without a strong foundation of facts to support his position**.

March Wind

*March wind is a jolly fellow;
He likes to joke and play.
He turns umbrellas inside out
And blows men's hats away.
He calls the pussy willows
And whispers in each ear,
"Wake up you lazy little seeds;
Don't you know that spring is here?"*

Unknown Author

Rigoberto's Riddles

Almost every one sees me without noticing me, for what is beyond is what he or she seeks. What am I?



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(916) 484-8988; braccop@arc.losrios.edu Questions? Comments?

Please let us know what we can do to improve the "Parrot" We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D387 (Davies Hall), or call (916) 484-8988, braccop@arc.losrios.edu.

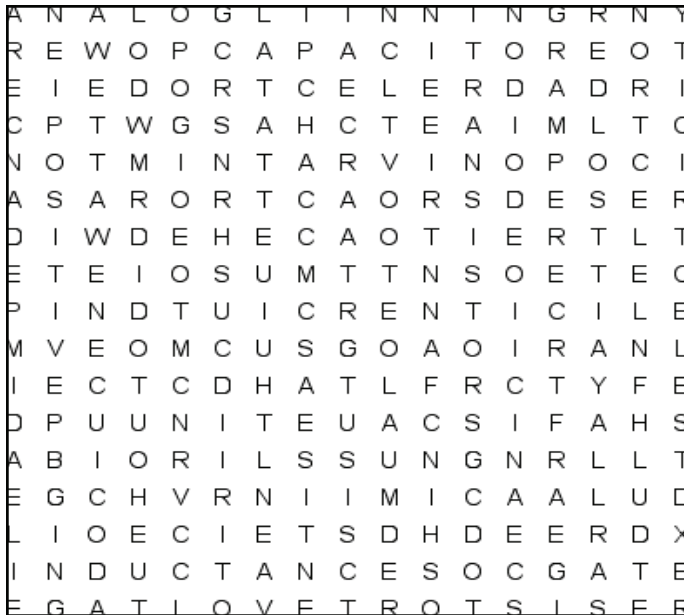


More Parrot Fun Stuff



Electronics Word Search

Find and circle all of the Electronics related terms that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a common electronic component.



- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Ampere | Digital | Lead |
| Analog | Diode | Negative |
| Anode | Electricity | Ohms |
| Capacitor | Electrode | Positive |
| Cathode | Electron | Power |
| Cells | Farads | Resistance |
| Chip | Flux | Resistor |
| Circuit | Gate | Silicon |
| Conductor | Impedance | Solder |
| Contacts | Inductance | Switches |
| Current | Insulators | Thyristor |

Interesting Facts About Parrots



- The African grey is the champion parrot at mimicking and talking. Unusually, it's the male African grey who is often the better talker, the females just seem to listen - interesting.
- In 2007 it was reported that an African grey called N'kisi, had a vocabulary of over 900 words. That's 800 more than the average soccer manager, furthermore, unlike most managers, N'kisi had a sense of humor.
- The only trouble with African greys is they don't look the part. For a genuine pirate type parrot with attitude, you cannot beat the macaw.
- Amongst the macaws, it is the Military macaw which is the best talker, however it's conservation status is 'vulnerable', so you are better off choosing another species. Indeed, many species of parrot are endangered, and illegal importing is widespread and cannot be condoned. It is therefore interesting to discover that the monk (green) parakeet often escapes from captivity, and there are now several wild colonies in the USA.
- What makes a parrot a parrot is his curved peak, also his 4 toes, two of which point forwards and two backwards.

Funny Metaphors

- He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.
- The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
- She grew on him like she was a colony of E. coli, and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.
- Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
- The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
- His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
- The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM machine.

Some Hecka Cool Holidays for March

Extraterrestrial Abductions Day



When: Always March 20th

Keep one eye on the sky. And, be ready to duck, dodge, and to hide. UFO's may be everywhere, looking to abduct humans. If you are not careful, perhaps they will find you! Of course, there are more than a few people out there who are looking to be abducted by aliens, so they can travel to another planet. Celebrate today by reading and watching science fiction stories about UFOs and Extraterrestrials. And, make sure to keep out of sight of extraterrestrials.

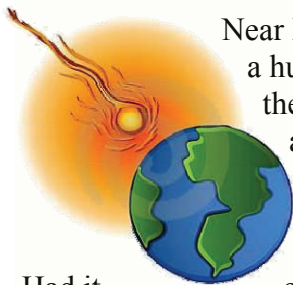
Most lovable alien: "ET"

Origin of "Extraterrestrial Abductions Day:

From what we have gathered, we believe the creator has been abducted. The suspects are believed to have fled the area in a very high speed vehicle.

Near Miss Day

When: Always March 23rd



Near Miss Day commemorates the day a huge Asteroid nearly missed hitting the earth. On March 23, 1989, an asteroid the size of a mountain, came within 500,000 miles of a collision with Earth. In interstellar terms, it was a near miss. Had it collided with the Earth, it would

have left a devastating crater the size of Washington, D.C. Its effect on the planet would have been catastrophic. Since then, there have been other near misses.

- SQ222 - Approximately 10 meters in diameter, came within 54,700 miles of earth on September 27, 2003.
- Asteroid 2002 EM7 - Approximately, 70 meters long, this rock came within 288,000 miles in March, 2002.

Proposal Day

When: Always March 20th

Ladies and gentlemen, this could be a big, big day. It's Proposal Day! Valentine's Day last month came and went. He didn't, or couldn't, gather up the nerve to ask you. Along comes another day and another opportunity. For those in love, this could very well be the big day that will change your lives.

Use caution on this day. When he begins by saying: "I would like to propose to you....", he may end with ".....that we go see a movie." Remember, it's Proposal Day. It is a day to make proposals. However, it may not be the one you want to hear.

Important Note: If you don't want to entertain a proposal today, we suggest that you make yourself sparse.



Make Your Own Holiday Day

When: Always March 26th

Make Your Own Holiday Day allows you to make a special day for anything you want. The objective of "Make Your Own Holiday ay" is to allow one day for any topic or event that has otherwise escaped recognition... up to now.



We didn't create this day. But, we are glad its here. Over the years, many site visitors have emailed us and inquired as to how to create a holiday or special day. It's not easy, and it's even more difficult to create a truly national day.

Today, is your day to skip all of the red tape, bypass all of the effort, and create a special day of any kind. Simply declare your special day on Make Your Own Holiday Day!

More Student Chirpings-Final Exams: One Draft!

Shopping at the Food Stores in Thailand Instead of the Food Stores in the U.S.

People always buy their food from the food stores. There are many food stores in every country on earth. Some of them are similar and some of them are different. The purpose of this essay is to compare and contrast the differences between the food stores in the U.S. and the food stores in my country, Thailand. The three main differences are cost, service and convenience.

The most notable differences between two types of food stores is cost. Unlike the food stores in the U.S., the food stores in Thailand is cheaper. For example, the Thai's currency, 35 bath, is equal to one dollar. If we spend the U.S. money at the food stores in Thailand, we could buy many kinds of food. But we can not the cheap, original Thai food in the food stores in the U.S. It is still cheap, if we use Thai's currency. Thai people love to cook and like buy a little of everything at the food stores in Thailand.

Comparing between two kinds of food stores we notice another difference. There is service. For instance, Thailand is a smile country. Most Thai people love to help others.



While some food stores in the U.S. have bad services. I got some feedback from most American that they love to visit Thailand, especially they like to shop at the food stores.

Yet, another differences between two kinds of food stores is convenience. For example, we can find many food stores in the U.S. Some of them are big and some of them are small. However, there are not many food stores in Thailand. Thai people prefer to shop at the morning markets than the food stores. They think that the morning markets are cheaper but not convenience because the need to get up very early in the morning to buy food from the morning markets.

In short, there are differences (cost, service and convenience) between shopping at the food stores in Thailand. As we can see it comes to a personal choice, base on the places we live and the money we have. To me, I prefer to shop at the food stores in Thailand because the cost is cheap, and also I can find the unique Thai food which I cannot find from the food stores in the U.S.

Tanyaluch C. W50

National and International Food Stores

When I came here to the United States, the first thing I noticed was that in order to get food you have to use your car. In most of the cities, food stores are far from the houses. Grocery stores or supermarkets are never in residential areas, so people have to walk many blocks or use their cars to buy some food. In other countries it's totally different, and especially South America where many circumstances make the food stores so different from here. The size of the stores, the location, and the specific products are the three main differences between national and international food stores.

The first huge difference is the size of the stores. In the United States the stores are huge, and the reason is the population. When the number of the amount of people increases, the size of the food stores increases as well. The population of the United States it's around 300 million people. It will be impossible to handle the people if the size of the food stores were not huge as they are now. On the other hand, the population in many countries in South America it's lower, and that is why the food stores are not so big. In some countries like Colombia or Ecuador, many food stores have the size of a room, or less. Sometimes that is all what the people need. In South America you will find many small food stores everywhere.

The location it's another difference between food stores here and South America. Do you want to know why Americans drive so much? It is because of the location of the



stores, and in this case to go to a grocery store or a supermarket you will have to drive. Putting the food stores far away you will have a more organized city, but you will have to spend gasoline besides the pollution that you make when you drive. In South America, food stores with the size of a room are in each block of the cities, so when you are hungry all what you have to do is walk one block and there you go. I accept that does not look organized, but I think it is better for everybody.

The last difference is the specific products that food stores sell. In The United States when you go to the food stores, those sell everything. You can find products from food to machines in the same store. It is amazing how they can have everything. In South America just a few of the food stores are like that. Usually if you got to buy just vegetables, it is a store that only sells that. If you want to buy meat, it is a store that only sells that. Probably this is because they are small stores, so they can not have so much variety, but they can have a lot of a specific kind of product.

In short, the food stores here in United States are really different from the rest of the countries. I found that one of the reasons why are different, it is the population. Both kinds of food stores have positive and negative things. The only truth is that the higher the number of the population, the bigger the number of differences.

Miguel Robertson W50

Food Stores in America and Moldova

There are many types of food stores all over the world. Some stores are big enough and you can find all kinds of food there, but some stores are really small, that sell only necessary products; such as, salt, sugar, milk and etc. They all are similar in that they provide food and services and have customers who rely on the stores. Otherwise, there are lots of outstanding differences between food stores in USA and Moldova such as their sizes, variety of food they provide and parking lots near stores.

Food stores in Moldova aren't as large as food stores in the USA. American Winco food store, for example, is so big that when I was first time there I got lost. There are so many departments and shelves that I believe all Moldavians would be surprise of it. In spite of Winco, a regular food store in Moldova is as small as a classroom in a school. One Winco food store may contain 60 Moldavian food stores, that is a really big difference.

Other difference is between the variety of food the store provides. Winco food stores, for instance, has lots of different food. They sell there almost all kinds of food from the world. You can find there vegetables, fruits, meat, frozen and cooked food, seafood and much more. Unlike Winco, in a



Moldavian store you can buy only necessary products such as salt, sugar, milk and some kinds of dry food. If you want to buy meat or some vegetables and fruit you have to go to a market. That is very comfortable when you can buy all variety of food you want in one store.

The other difference between the stores in the USA and in Moldova is the parking lots surround the stores. American stores have a lot of parking space everywhere, because most people in America drive their own cars and if they go shopping, for example, in a food store, they need to park their car somewhere. In spite of Americans, most people in Moldova use public transportation and the Moldavian stores don't have much parking space. Some food stores don't have parking lots at all and that is a normal thing in Moldavians.

In summary, all food stores have similarities and differences. They all sell food and have some customers buying their products. However, there are differences that are most visible in the size of the stores, variety of food the stores provide and, finally, parking lots surround the stores.

Liudmila Panicerscaia W50

Food Stores in Ukraine in Contrast with Food Stores in the USA

Where do you go when you want something to eat? Of course, you go to the grocery store. All food stores in all countries are similar in number of ways. They provide different kind of food; they want to have many customer and try to advertise themselves on media (newspapers and local TV) or mail their booklets to customers. Despite of these similarities, there are several differences between food stores in Ukraine and in the USA: they differ in assortment and they differ in service.

First of all, grocery in Ukraine are different from grocery stores in the USA in size. In my country these stores are usually small. In contrast, food stores in the USA are huge; they have many departments where you can find different kind of food. In addition, food stores in Ukraine aren't comfortable because of their small size. When many people want to buy food in the same time, they can not even see or find what they need because of overcrowding. However, food stores in the USA are very comfortable. You can find all things without pushing somebody. I think size of any store influent on business.

Secondly, grocery stores in Ukraine are different from grocery stores in the USA in assortment of food. As usual, food stores in Ukraine focus on one kind of food. My country have stores where you can buy only bread or meat, or vegetables. On the other hand, stores in the USA see all kind of food in one place. For example, in "Raley's" or "Win-Co" you can buy meat, milk, candies and vegetables



and economize your time. On top of that, Ukrainian's stores don't sell domestic or other supplies, alcohol and clothes together with food. In contrast, supermarkets in the USA sell all these things together. In addition, food stores in Ukraine don't have rich assortment of food. In contrast, grocery stores in the USA have many kind of cheese, milk, sausage, seafood, and, of course, candies! I think it is good when you have a choice.

The last important difference between food stores in Ukraine and in the USA is service. To begin with, cashiers and salesperson in Ukraine aren't always polite. However, cashiers in American stores are polite and kind. They always say, "How are you" and "Thank you very much!" If you want to change something or ask for help, they always do this with smile. While grocery stores in Ukraine don't have shopping cart and you have to carry all your purchases by yourself, grocery stores in the USA provide this service. In addition, supermarkets in Ukraine usually accept cash. You can't buy food by credit card. However, supermarkets in the USA accept all kinds of payments. You never be hungry (if you don't even have money in this moment).

In conclusion, food stores in different countries have some contrasts. They differ in size, assortment and service, but purpose the same – provide the best food and service for their customers. Are you hungry? Go to the nearest grocery store, buy your favorite food and enjoy!

Natalya Galchenko W50

Got Needs?

Ask the College Nurse: Cindy Watson

Peanut Butter Update

In the on-going food safety scandal with contaminated peanut butter, over 600 people in 44 states, more than half of them children, have been sickened and eight people have died. More than 430 product brands including Kellogg's Keebler brand peanut butter crackers. California continues to lead the nation in the number of cases, 76. It took nearly three weeks after the contaminated peanut butter



manufactured by the Peanut Corporation of America was identified as the source of the outbreak for the product to be recalled. A worldwide recall is now in place. Company officials were called before Congress to testify. A criminal investigation into the distribution and sale of the contaminated peanut butter is on-going. The company has been shipping tainted peanut butter since 2007, according to the New York Times.

Granny Noetal

Dear Granny,

I see some men teachers dress up in suits and ties but others dress casually. It's the same for the women teachers. Some dress with high-heel shoes and lots of jewelry but others dress in pants and no makeup. I am confused. In my country, teachers dress always formally. I am not sure what I like. Do teachers have a dress code? My children have a dress code at school.



Ala Moda

Dear Ala Moda

You've asked a good question. First of all, teachers are like most people. They like to dress as they feel and, as far as I know, there is no serious dress code for teachers at ARC. At the same time, some teachers are "old-school" and feel it's important to dress up; they

believe it sends a message of seriousness and sets a good example. Other teachers wish to put their students at ease and feel dressing casually relaxes students, reduces the distance felt between teacher and student; they feel students learn best when they feel "at home". This question about how to dress, of course, is a question always on the minds of parents and teachers with regard to school-age students. Many adults would like to see uniforms become mandatory at school. *Well, readers, what do you think?* Write: Granny, at braccop@losrios.edu (By the way, I'm in my office, with my slippers on, my long underwear, and my housecoat. I like to be comfortable when I work! Maybe that's the new American way — but, of course, I work alone!).

Granny

Presenting the Past — The Accidental Historian



ESL Prof. Brenda
McTighe

A few weeks ago my husband and I were taking our cats, one very vocally objecting, to a vet in Elk Grove. I exited the freeway at Elk Grove Boulevard. Sitting at the light, trying to fight off the headache developing as a result of the yowls coming from the box in the back seat, I glanced over and noticed a sign indicating that a historical marker could be found nearby. It said the site of California's first county free library was on Elk Grove Boulevard, not far from where we were sitting. Curious, I made my husband stop (over objections from him and the yowler in the backseat) at the marker before continuing to the vet. The marker was on the small white Elk Grove Grange No. 86 Building. Not much to see, but an interesting note in local California history nonetheless. I decided to do a little research and find out exactly what constitutes a "county library", and how California's first came to be in Elk Grove, of all places.

It begins with a remarkable woman by the name of Harriet Eddy. She was a highly educated and well-traveled woman who served as the first female principal of Elk Grove Union High School from 1907 to 1909, unusual accomplishments for a woman at that time. During her time as principal, she opened the Elk Grove Branch Library, then the state's first "county" free library, and served as the first librarian. As I discovered, "county" means in this case "rural", as opposed to a city library. She established the library in order to achieve the school's accredited status, allowing students who graduated from the high school to directly transfer to university. The library opened to high school students and the public on October 19, 1908.

The first location was at the high school at what is now Elk Grove Boulevard and Derr Street. In the library's long history, it has occupied several different locations, but all have been in the heart of original Elk Grove, now the city's historical Old Town area. In December 2008, just over 100 years after the original library was established, the library moved into its newest facility at 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard. This facility has the distinction of being the first stand-alone building it has ever occupied, an exciting new chapter in the history of California's first county free library.

Nowadays, with information always available at the click of a mouse button, it's easy to forget how significant the establishment of a library was to the local population, most particularly in the rural areas. At the time, the state of California recognized Harriet Eddy's impor-

tant contribution, hiring her to help establish more rural libraries during her career. Now, the Harriet G. Eddy Middle School in Elk Grove stands as a tribute to her hard work and dedication to the education and betterment of the state's rural populations.

Next time to see one of those historical markers, stop and check it out. You may learn that something fascinating happened practically in your own backyard!

(Sources include articles by Elk Grove historians Lance Armstrong and Elizabeth Pinkerton.)

To reach Prof McTighe: McTighB@arc.losrios.edu



The inscription reads: "In 1908 Elk Grove acquired through the efforts of Miss Harriet G. Eddy, then principal of Elk Grove Union High School, the first county free library branch in California. Subsequently, California's county free library branch system has become one of the most out-

Boots on the Ground: Take a Hike with Trail Mick!

Do you like hiking and enjoying our natural environment? If you don't want to travel far, you'll enjoy a walk on the Cosumnes River Preserve Trail, which is located between Elk Grove and Galt. This region has escaped development because of occasional flooding, and it's a nice place for us nature lovers to spend a couple of hours. The preserve is a natural area with a network of walking trails where you can see native plants, birds, and other wild species that live here along the quietly flowing river.

Sounds nice, doesn't it? Grab your walking shoes, and let's go! Take Highway 99 south, and shortly after Elk Grove, take the SR 104 exit (Twin Cities Road) and continue west. After several miles, turn south onto Franklin Boulevard and drive a short distance to the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center, which is located on the left side of the road. You will notice a sign indicating that the gate is closed at sunset. If you arrive in the late afternoon, you should park along Franklin Road outside the gate so your car isn't locked in. That could definitely ruin your day.

If the visitor center is closed, you can look at the information boards describing the area. You will find free maps and trail guides, and you should take both.

There are many trails in the preserve. I chose the three-mile loop walk, which starts from the visitor center and runs along a forested levee next to a large swamp. (It's too cold for alligators, I promise!) The path continues through wetlands, grasslands, and a forest with large native Valley Oak Trees. You'll be walking along the peaceful Cosumnes River in many places, and you'll see signposts with numbers that match the descriptions in the trail guide. You'll also see a lot of water birds: Canada Geese, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and a lot of ducks. Some people have seen Bald Eagles, but I didn't see any during my 90-minute walk.



Trail Mick Lacing Up his size 17's

Unfortunately, bikes, wheelchairs, dogs, and horses aren't permitted. Because this is a nature preserve, fishing and hunting are prohibited. As the saying goes, "Take only pictures and leave only footprints".

For maps, trail guides, and more information about the Cosumnes River Preserve, check out this website:

www.cosumnes.org.

Happy Hiking!

Trail Mick

Mim's Cafe



Today's recipe is for super busy people who love patties, especially turkey patties. I got this tasty and aromatic recipe from a friend. If you have thirty minutes to spare, this is a good recipe to try. I usually go to Costco and get my ground turkey and triple



Prof. Montgomery with happy eater.

the recipe. This way I can make about 40 patties to freeze.

For this recipe, you'll need to go to your local Asian grocery stores for several ingredients: lemon grass, curry powder, and turmeric powder. If you have never heard of turmeric, here's a little history. Turmeric powder comes from a root plant that belongs to the ginger family and is usually grown in South and Southeast Asia. The root is dried and grounded after being steamed or boiled. Turmeric is used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes as well as a food colorant (the color is

bright yellowish-orange, 3 to 4 shades darker than saffron). Women across India, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia have been known to use turmeric to clean, polish, and beautify their skin. Be careful when handling turmeric powder as it stains clothes easily.

Once the turkey patties are made, you can use a skillet or a barbecue grill to cook them. You do not need to thaw the patties if they are frozen. Depending on the thickness of your patties, the cooking time ranges from 2-5 minutes. The turkey patties are best on burger buns, especially with sliced jicama and iceberg lettuce. The recipe below serves 4 people.

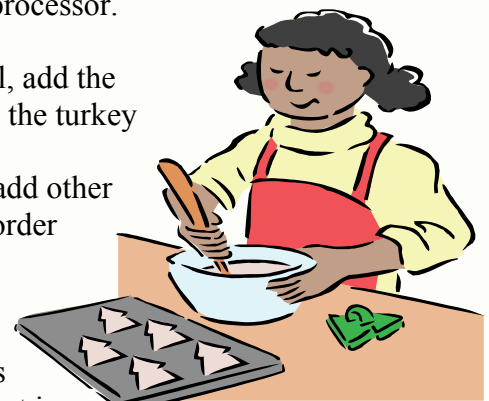
Ingredients:

- 1 stalks of lemon grass (shredded and chopped finely to make about 2-3 tablespoons)
- 1/2 cup of chopped cilantro (stem and all)
- 1/2 cup of chopped mint
- 4-5 cloves of garlic (chopped as well)
- 1 teaspoon of paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon of curry powder
- 1/8 teaspoon of turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon of sugar
- 2 teaspoons of lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil
- 2 pounds of ground turkey



Mixing Instructions

1. Coarsely chop cilantro, mint, lemon grass, and garlic using a food processor.
2. In a large bowl, add the chopped herbs to the turkey
3. Mix well and add other ingredients (the order doesn't matter)
4. Refrigerate for thirty minutes for the flavor to set in before making the patties
5. When ready, make your patties and freeze them.



6. Cook patties in skillet for 2-5 minutes (make sure juice is clear) and serve hot



Artie's Studio

Dear Artie,

What type of art do you collect for yourself? I'm interested in purchasing some nice pieces of art for my home.

Yours truly,

Prospective Art Buyer

Dear Prospective Art Buyer,

Personally, I tend to purchase pieces of art that represent many distinct and varied styles, including watercolors, oils, limited edition prints, pen and ink drawings, antique and modern ivory carvings, pottery and basketry. I also purchase a wide variety of jewelry from well-known makers.



Whenever I travel, I try to visit regional museums and art galleries in order to find out what they are particularly famous for, and then I purchase one or two representative art pieces made in that region. I especially like to purchase at least one piece of cultural art from the area. Later, I use my art to introduce my artists' work to friends and students. I always tell my friends that I can live without furniture, but I can't live without beautiful art around me. Question for my readers: What kind of art do you like?

Artie

To contact Artie: whiteg@arc.losrios.edu

ESL Survey: Which is more important — grammar or vocabulary when learning a language?

List of Classes

Prof. Bracco's L320: 14 vocabulary, 3 grammar
 Prof. Dilgard's L40: 13 vocabulary, 13 grammar.
 Prof. Hoggan's L40: 18 vocabulary, 8 grammar.

Prof. Komura's L30: 21 vocabulary, 5 grammar.
 Prof. Creighton's L30: 23 vocabulary, 8 grammar.
 Prof. Ryther's L40: 17 vocabulary, 7 grammar.

Actual Comments from Prof. Creighton's ESL L30 Class

Grammar

- Because if we know grammar we will know vocabulary too and if we want to get a good job, both are important.
- If you don't know tense, you can't speak and understand. You must know what is subject, object, adjective.
- People should speak correct.
- Vocabulary we can study by ourselves.
- We feel comfortable in expressing our ideas in English.

Vocabulary

- Vocabulary is more important than grammar because if you don't know words, you can't speak.
- Because if you know many vocabulary you can communicate with people even if the grammar isn't correct.



- Vocabulary words need everywhere for conversation with people in the store, appointment, at work, traveling.
- We can't use grammar if we don't know enough words.
 - If you don't know words, how can we use grammar.
 - When I know more vocabulary, I can speak better.
 - If I don't know vocabulary, I don't understand and speak English.
 - Vocabulary is problem with pronunciation.
- We will know many new words.

Total Students Surveyed: 160

Vocabulary: 106 students

Grammar: 54 students.