



# The Parrot

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

Issue #42

Spring 2010

## Around the World to ARC

**Parrot:** Hello, How are you?

**Denise:** I'm fine.

**Parrot:** I'm Mohamed from Egypt. I want to interview you for my ESL 320 class. Can you introduce yourself?

**Denise:** I'm Denise Saur, (Hello, Hello Denise), and I'm from Sacramento, California, but I have two adopted countries. Egypt is one of them. I lived in Egypt for ten years. Oman is the other one and I lived in Oman for ten years.



guage - (ESL) listening , grammar, writing, and reading.

**Parrot:** This will be cool to tell Mr. Bracco. Why did you choose this subject?

**Denise:** I love grammar, and I like communicating, and I like foreign students. It is interactive. I was so lucky to find a job I really love.

**Parrot:** Ok, that's good. I think the different accents for English are interesting too. Also because I think ESL teachers find it easy to

understand my English and other foreign student's English also. Yes, ok.

**Parrot:** That's cool. What is the subject you teach?

**Denise:** I teach English as a Second Lan-

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## Fun Trips Without Breaking the Bank

It's the end of the semester. We are all looking forward to a little rest and relaxation (R&R) and we all deserve it. Yet, we can't afford to jet off to Hawaii or even Florida for some fun in the sun. So how can we enjoy our vacation and not break our bank?

There are several ways to save money and still have a great summer. One of the best ways is to check the internet for coupons and special discounts. All you have to do is type in your destination in the search box and the word discounts [marineworld + discounts]. Another way to save on fun summer trips is to look for coupons in the Sacramento Bee or the weekly flyers that



come in the mail. Often times businesses will be giving away ticket discounts if you buy something from them, such as when Shell Gas Station gave away 'Buy one get one free lift tickets' this winter if you filled your car with 10 or more gallons of gas at their stations. You may also want to ask a friend or look online for an entertainment coupon book. At the beginning of the year these books sell for \$40-50. Now, you may be able to get one for as cheap as \$10. These books have coupons to restaurants, hotels, amusement parks and so much more. In addition, you may want to think

*Continued on page 17*

**Video Games – Good or Bad ?**

**See page 5**

*"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity"*

Dorothy Parker



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### Parrot Innerds

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# Student Chirpings

## Sitting in Class

I remember, I always sat in the front of the row when I was in school. Sitting in rows is very familiar to me. I like to sit in the front seat of the row because I am only four feet eleven. When I had to sit in a circle in my writing class, I felt strange. It was a new experience for me. In class, wherever you sit, you have to listen to your teacher. In my opinion, sitting in rows is different from sitting in a circle in many ways

Sitting in rows is a traditional way to arrange the seats in a classroom. Most schools in Thailand have this setting. There will be several rows that line up in the class. All students will face the blackboard and the teacher. Students who are sitting in the back rows are distracted easily. They also participate in the class less than students who are sitting in the front rows. When I was a student in Thailand, my teacher had to deal with my classmates who were sitting in the back seat of the rows many times. They did not listen to the teacher. They read cartoon books, they ate some food, and they talked to other students. Not only in Thailand, when I was in my grammar class at ARC, our professor had to stop teaching because some students who sat in the back rows were talking to other students in their own languages. When students sit in rows, they can not see other students' faces. They will see only their classmates' necks. Because I always sat in the front rows in my grammar class at ARC, I couldn't remember my classmates' faces and their names at all. In addition with this set up, the teacher can walk only from the front to the back between the rows and it's not good for group work because students have to move the desks and it takes time to get into the groups.

On the other hand, sitting in a circle is far different from sitting in rows. While sitting in rows is a traditional way, sit-

ting in a circle is a more modern way to use a classroom. Sitting in rows has more than one row but sitting in a circle has one line in a class. I had no experience sitting in a circle until I was in a writing class at ARC last semester. From my experience, sitting in a circle, students can participate equally and they will be distracted less easily than students who are sitting in rows. Sitting in rows, students are facing the blackboard and the teacher. In contrast, sitting in a circle, students are facing each other. While students sitting in rows see the classmates' necks, students sitting in a circle can see all the classmates' faces. When I was sitting in a circle in my writing class, I saw my classmates' faces and I remembered their names. We looked and smiled at each other. The class was fun and made me want to come to school every day. Whereas the teacher can walk from the back to the front when sitting in rows, the teacher can walk in many directions in a circle setting. Whereas sitting in rows is not good for group study, sitting in a circle is better for group study. They can work together easily because they are sitting next to each other.

As a student, you have to attend class and if you want to succeed, you have to pay attention in class. In class, the teacher might change your seat or rearrange the seat setting based on your needs. Each setting is different and has different advantages. I had experiences of sitting in rows when I was in my country. When I came to the United States, I had an experience of sitting in a circle at ARC. In summary, there are big differences between sitting in rows and sitting in a circle and I like sitting in a circle better.

Jutarat Klahan  
ESLW50

## Embarrassing Incident

The most embarrassing thing that ever happened to me occurred when I visited my best friend Analesa's house.



We were having a picnic with her whole family in the back yard. My mom was there as well helping Analesa's family setting up dishes of food. All of a sudden, I saw the boy I had a crush on coming towards me to say hello. The worst thing was, that he was

my best friend's cousin. What was I going to do and say? I was only 14, so I was inexperienced with boys.

As he came closer, the most embarrassing thing happened, I fell off the bench that I was sitting on. All of a sudden, everybody started laughing at me -even the boy I liked. So the next time something like this happens, I'll think twice and try to not get as nervous.

Victoria Rachel Wahl  
ESLG 350

## The People in Mariupol

How would you classify the people that live in your town? There are people that can be classified by their athletic abilities, education, strength, and age. In my native town Mariupol, which is located in Ukraine, I divide the people into three groups. The three groups in which I would classify the people in my town Mariupol are children, adults, and elders.

The first group of people in Mariupol is children. The children are more educated and communicative than their grandparents used to be in their childhood. They have lots of books, cell phones, computers and other things that make them more educated and communicative. So, comparing children to elders, you can see a big difference between their childhoods and the opportunities that elders had in their time and the opportunities that children have now. Also, I often hear the stories that in old times people had little education and sometimes they could not get a high degree of education even though they really wanted it. The reasons for that could be if students didn't study hard and got bad grades in high school or simply because of their belief in God. For example, my father had a really hard time getting a high degree of education after he finished high school. He didn't even become a university student even though he dreamed about it! That's because he believed in God and schools at that time especially didn't let Christian people enter universities and get an education after finishing high school. However, my father is still happy because he became an engineer, raised a big family, and the family got to an even better country, the United States. The children that live in Mariupol don't have such difficulties now. After the USSR divided, countries such as Ukraine, Russia, and others became free and independent. For instance, my older sisters finished universities in Ukraine and became nurses after the 90s at which time persecution against Christian people in Ukraine almost stopped. So children have more education and opportunities than elders used to have.



Mariupol Flag

The second group of people in Mariupol is adults. They are mostly busy people compared to children and elders. In Mariupol we have two big metal factories so everyone who is able to work can get a job at these factories. So the people that mostly work in Mariupol are adults. Most of the time you can see them leaving or coming home. Everyone has his own schedule. Mariupol has lots of people that are hard workers but the problems are with wages. Workers very often don't get as much money as they should. However, you can still see honest and real smiles on their faces. They are very talkative and lovely people. So the group of people that are mostly hard workers and busy people are the adults.

The last group of people in Mariupol is elders. Elders are not as active as adults and not as active as children. In Mariupol and especially in my place where I lived there were a lot of 9-floor buildings in which people lived sharing one building with lots of families. About 5 to 6 such buildings made a circle and inside of the circle was a big playground for children, called, "Yard". The elders sat on the benches and watched the children playing. I think that many of them were happy to watch their grandchildren growing up. Elders took their grandchildren in the hands and played with them. They taught them what is right and wrong and the kids played in the yard under the control of their grandparents while the kids' parents worked. Even though elders get low pensions because of a struggling economy in Ukraine, they still are happy to be among their heritage or generation. So the elders are the third group of people in Mariupol and are happy and not very busy people.

In conclusion, there are three groups of people in Mariupol: children, adults, and elders. The children have a lot more education than their grandparents used to have, adults are hard workers, and elders happily watch their grandchildren.

Daniel Kulyukin  
ESLW50

### Some More Info About Mariupol

First settlers are known to have appeared in Mariupol in the 16th century. They quickly formed Cossack fortress Kalmius that grew into a city after the Crimean Greeks had migrated to Priazovye at the end of the 18th century.

Mariupol became the first settlement in Donetsk Region to receive the right to be called a city in 1779. A hundred years later, the railway, a new big sea port, and a steel mill appeared to provide jobs for the citizens.

During the Soviet time, the city became a center of industrialization because a large "Azovstal" plant appeared to produce huge amount of steel for the country.

Apart from being an industrial monster, Mariupol is a beautiful sea resort with nice beaches, parks and very hospitable local people many of whom have Greek ancestors.

## A Parrot Who Cries for Attention From Me

We have a Goffin cockatoo at home, who is part of the family. His name is Goffy and he's 20 years old. He is a small, white color parrot, and one of the smallest cockatoos. He is very active, stubborn, clever, and cries for attention most of the time. Goffy is very special for everybody in the family, he is very spoiled and excitable. He wants to stay with people all the time, especially with me. When I hug him, he becomes very happy and excited, he starts dancing, singing and talking a lot to me. For example he says: "Hi baby!, are you ok?, are you a bird?, give me five!, go potty!, you got a bird!," and many other words and sentences, as well as barking with the dogs. But, when I don't give attention to him, he screams very loud, turns angry, and aggressive with everybody. In the past, he plucked all the feathers from his chest and legs just for attention, so, he can't stay in his cage all the time, actually almost never. All he wants is just to stay beside me and nobody else. Other times, he is a very busy parrot, working, trouble-



shooting with toys, destroying the house, or doing something else. He has the mentality of a 2 year old child, and behaves like one. He becomes very curious when he finds something new. He wants to discover by himself that new toy, and he can spend hours with that. He is very destructive, but sweet, cute and a lovely parrot when he's calm.

I love Goffy, but he wants attention from me all the time, and I don't have all the time in the world for him. I have a full time job, and I 'm a full time student; therefore, I don't have much time for other things or relaxing for a long time .

However, When I feel sad, depressed or frustrated, Goffy is my best therapy. He makes me laugh, makes me feel very happy, relaxed and especially a very important person in this world.

Fredi Huacoto  
ESLR 40

## Visiting my Home Country

I live in Palestine. It is a small country but it is a beautiful country. When you come to my home country you will be busy and surprised because my country is such an interesting country.

On the first day we are going to see my beautiful hometown Rammallah. It is the main city in the west of my country. we can walk on the street and look around to see the whole city. We can eat breakfast. We are going to eat hummus and falafel with a shawerma "Gyro" to give us power so we can finish visiting all the places on the first day. Next, we should go to the market. There are a lot of people selling fresh fruit and vegetables. You will be surprised there because they will give you food, but you don't have to buy it. The sellers will be shouting to invite us to try their products. Then, I think we should visit a very big building, but this building was built without a roof. You can't believe how they built it because I think nobody can do that. It is unbelievable. We can take some photos there and I like to eat some deserts called 'knafa' available in this old place. After that we can go to the old town to see the buildings there and we can visit some churches. Finally, in the evening we can go to the café and meet many people there. We can relax and play cards while drinking café or tea, like in the old ways. We can also meet my friends there. At the same time, if you look through the window of the café, you can see the whole city.



On the second day we will go to Jerusalem, my favorite city in the world. It is a big and amazing city. All the visitors like to stay in Jerusalem. I don't know where to start, but I think we will begin in old town. We can start with the big wall. There is a very old wall surrounding the town. We can walk

on the wall and see the best view you can see in all your life. Next, we can visit the oldest churches in the world, such as Bethany, the Church of Agony, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Dome of the Ascension. Then, we can visit the old market. We can look around and take pictures with your camera. Don't say you don't have a camera because if you don't take any pictures it means you didn't visit this city. After all that, we will keep walking until we enter the big mosque by a very big gate. This mosque is called 'Al-Aqsa Mosque'. The top of this mosque is made of gold. Then, we can go to a place that has many old things.

On the third day we will visit many cities around the sea. It is called the Mediterranean Sea. I like to start from Aka so you can see a very old and big wall built on the sea around the city. If you like to swim, we should go to the other side and we can relax there. Next, we can go to Tabarrya so we can take a big boat with a lot of people and go into the sea for at least two hours while dancing and singing. Next, we can go to Tel-Aviv, a very nice and busy city. We are able to enter the sea through a long elevator, over 100 Km deep, to see the fish under the sea through the glass of the elevator.

We can go to many other places, but sorry three days is not enough to see everything. Many of the cities here have historical backgrounds, but we can visit them when you return. Thank you for visiting my country and I hope you like your visit. I hope you will have a good trip back to the United States.

Munzer Shihadeh  
ESLW40

## Children and Video Games: A Husband and Wife's View

### Husband's View:

A lot of people say that video games are bad for children. However, every year thousands of people get hurt in car accidents, and nobody says that cars are bad for people. All you need is to just use them correctly. This is the same situation with video games. In my opinion, if you will check your child's video games they can be useful because they teach, entertain and help them to learn how to use a computer effectively.

First, video games can help in education. A child will learn something new in history, techniques or art. They can help to learn letters, new words or even foreign words. Small children can learn different colors or shapes. For example, psychologists have noted that working with the computer develops a logical mind and abstract thinking. Video games help kids to make independent decisions, and switch from one activity to another quickly.

Second, video games can be one of the ways to learn how to use the computer for kids, and it will be good for their future. If a child will play video games, he also will learn how to use a keyboard and be able to type. In addition, your child perhaps will be able to install or delete some files. When he or she will grow up, it will help them in working on computers, and may even help him or her to find a better job.

Third, video games can be a good stimulus! For example, I have an 8 year-old son. He really likes to play video games, but we have a contract. If he gets a bad grade, he doesn't play. If he hasn't cleaned up his room, I also don't allow him to play. That's why video games are one more reason for him to be responsible with his time and school work.

In conclusion, video games can be useful for children of any age. The most important thing for parents is to choose the right video games for their children. Video games can entertain and educate our children.

### Wife's View:

Every year computer technology develops. It is good and it is necessary, but also it has some minuses, for example video games. I think that video games are bad because they hurt eyes, lead to

being overweight and have a bad effect on one's mental condition.

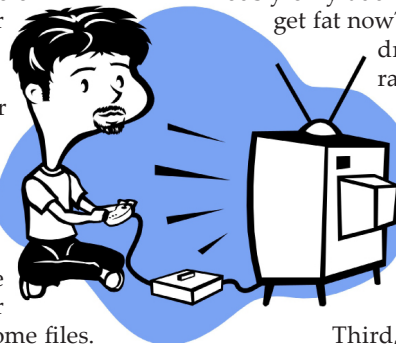
First, video games hurt eyes. Kids who spend a lot of time at the computer may be at risk of developing eye-strain and even "computer vision syndrome". Some well-known signs of eye-strain include headaches, constant rubbing of the eyes, dry eyes and fuzzy vision. These symptoms usually go away once a child takes a break from the computer, but if children spend too much time at the computer it can hurt their eyes for their entire life. My sister began to wear glasses because she spent too much time with video games.

Second, video games can be the cause of being overweight. Previously only adults suffered from being overweight. Why do kids get fat now? I think one of the reasons is video games. Children must run, jump and ride bikes. Some children rarely run or play sport games. Instead of playing outside, kids play at the computer. Children waste too much time in front of the computer. As a result, they are overweight and they have problems with their health. In my native country I have friends whose children spend too much time playing video games. As a result, they are overweight.

Third, video games can have a big negative effect on one's mental condition. Some computer games promote violence and cruelty, which has a negative effect on the mental condition of a child. There are many children who worsen their condition sitting in a tense posture at the computer and are nervous about their success in the game. Even in games for young children they need something to steal or to kill someone. When a child plays a lot, he begins to imitate the main hero of the game, which for example steals money. My nephew began to steal his friend's toys after playing a lot of video games.

In conclusion, I think that video games have more bad things than good. They hurt eyes, lead to being overweight and have a bad effect on one's mental condition. Therefore, I think video games are bad for children and parents should control how much time their children spend playing video games.

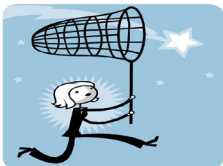
Vitaly & Anna Chirka  
ESLW40



### Cool Video Game Facts

- The Nintendo N64 marked the first time that computer graphics workstation manufacturer Silicon Graphics Inc. (SGI) developed game hardware technology.
- The first console to have games available in the form of add-on cartridges was the Fairchild Channel F console, introduced in August 1976.
- The first color portable video game system was the Atari Lynx, introduced in 1989 and priced at \$149.
- The PlayStation 2 was the first system to have graphics capability better than that of the leading-edge personal computer at the time of its release.
- The Sega Dreamcast was the first console to implement online play over a phone line, calling the system Sega Net.
- The Microsoft Xbox was the first video game system to provide full support for HDTV.
- Introduced in 1993, the 3DO was the first video game system to be based entirely on CD technology.
- Nintendo's Game Boy was the most successful game system ever, with more than 100 million units sold worldwide.





## Netscape - Articles from the Web

### Katla, the 'Witch' Volcano, Looms Over Iceland

SOLHEIMAJOKULL GLACIER, Iceland (AFP) – A metal sign reads: "Warning! The glacier can be dangerous." A rumbling growl from under the mountains speaks far louder.

Solheimajokull glacier is part of the ice cap sealing Katla, a volcano 10 times more powerful than neighboring Eyjafjoell, whose eruption last week clogged Europe's skies with ash and grounded the continent's airlines.

If Katla blows up, the current eruption will resemble "a small rehearsal," Iceland's president, Olafur Grimsson, warned.

The frightening reputation of Katla is mirrored in a savage landscape of black volcanic ridges, blue ice, and snow swept and hardened by powerful winds.

Reaching the glacier requires a four-wheel-drive vehicle, or mountaineering equipment and snowmobiles to go further. During a visit Thursday, a huge raven on a boulder was the sole living creature visible.

The worry for Icelanders is that each time Eyjafjoell has erupted over the last millennium, Katla, named after an Icelandic witch, quickly followed.

Explosive percussions heard every few minutes here testify to lava explosions inside Eyjafjoell, a few kilometers (miles) to the west, and the threat that Katla might be awaiting its cue.

"There have been three Eyjafjoell eruptions and Katla has followed each time," said geophysicist Sigrun Hreinsdottir, at the Earth Sciences Institute. "They are very close."

Some believe the volcanoes are directly linked underground so that magma from one can flow into the other. Hreinsdottir said that what happens inside volcanoes is largely a mystery.

What's known is that Katla has erupted approximately every 80 years since Vikings first settled this island nestled under the Arctic Circle more than a thousand years ago.

The last eruption was in 1918 and "it's the longest pause of Katla on record, which is why we are monitoring it very carefully," Hreinsdottir said.

An eruption from Katla might not necessarily be dangerous.

But it has the potential every time to repeat the 1918 scene when a wall of melted glacier water swept down, bearing ice chunks the size of houses, and blanketing southern Iceland in thick ash.

What effect a monster eruption would have on a Europe crippled by the much milder Eyjafjoell can only be imagined. Much would depend on wind direction, the type of ash and height of the ash plume.

Living directly under Katla and the huge Myrdalsjokull glacier means a waiting game equally scary, frustrating and tiresome.



Elias Gudmunsson, manager of the Vikurskali cafe in the seaside village of Vik, says he's fed up with being questioned about the danger.

"Someone from a radio station called me yesterday and asked, 'Are you OK? Are you all still alive?'" he said, laughing humorlessly.

All the same, Katla -- known with the volcano Hekla as Iceland's "angry sisters" -- looms darkly in his life.

"We were brought up on this," Gudmunsson said. "In school we were told stories about Katla and we

trained to evacuate."

In case of a major eruption, a towering wave of melted glacier water could rush from the mountain across the narrow, flat coastal strip and, potentially, into Vik.

"I live in a house on the flat, so when Katla goes and the eruption starts we have to move up the hill," Gudmunsson said. "The odds are not very high but it can happen and it has happened."

Iceland's volcanologists watch Katla the way police keep suspected bomb makers under surveillance.

Monitors linked to Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) devices ring the volcano, measuring minute movements in the ground -- whether Katla is shifting up, down or across.

Similar sensors on Eyjafjoell detected significant motion during the current eruption as the mountain heaved and convulsed, says Kristin Vogfjord, a geologist at the Icelandic

Meteorological Office.

But there has recently been “none around Katla,” Vogfjord said. “There is no seismicity in Katla.”

Those reassurances have not calmed a torrent of speculation, much to the annoyance of Iceland’s growing tourist industry.

When the president referred in a BBC interview to the current eruption being a rehearsal for Katla, many here were furious.

Even Finance Minister Steingrímur Sigfússon joined critics, saying “we cannot give out the message that chaos or a frightening situation reigns.”

In her farmhouse at the foot of the mountains leading to Katla, Andrina Erlingsdóttir said she was sick and tired of waiting for something that seems inevitable.

“We are waiting for Katla. I hope it will come soon,” she

laughed. “But I think we are the only ones hoping for that.”

Her family runs tours to the Myrdalsjökull glacier on top of Katla and business is hurting.

She says her family would only have 15 minutes to evacuate if Katla’s eruption sent a flash flood down the valley near her house.

After 16 years of glacier tours, Erlingsdóttir has mixed feelings about this hidden menace.

“It’s really peaceful up there. You don’t even feel earthquakes when you’re on the glacier,” she said.

But the legend about the mountain hiding Katla the witch is never forgotten.

“She gets angry,” Erlingsdóttir said. “You better not bother her.”

<http://news.yahoo.com>

## General Facts About Volcanoes

### How many volcanoes have been identified in the world?

We know of at least 1,500 active volcanoes around the world. That is a big increase from the number that we used to think was correct. It means that more people are searching the earth for them. A graph of the number of volcanoes of the world shows that it goes up just about as fast as the number of people on the earth does.

### What country has the most volcanoes?

Indonesia has the most volcanoes, by far. It is really a special place because there seem to be volcanoes all around, in all directions. Merapi (which means “mountain of fire”) erupted in January 1994 and killed a few hundred people.

### How many volcanoes are there in the United States?

The lower 48 states in the U.S. have about 40 volcanoes that we think have had very recent activity, so they must be considered as active volcanoes. In Alaska, the number is more like 60. When we talk about whether a volcano is active or potentially a threat, it is important to look at the past ten years. Most of the important eruptions and disasters have happened at mountains that were not even recognized as being volcanoes, for example Pinatubo (Philippines, 1991), El Chichón (Mexico, 1982), Arenal (Costa Rica, 1968).

### Are there any volcanoes in the U.S. that are threatening at

### this time?

The most important volcano in the U.S. is probably Rainier, which is not showing signs of activity but has produced very large eruptions. The danger is many people live close to Rainier.

### Which is the biggest volcano?

The biggest volcano in the world is probably Mauna Loa, in Hawaii. It rises off of the seafloor to 13,000 feet above sea level or about 29,000 feet above the seafloor. Another huge volcano is Mt. Etna on the island of Sicily, in Italy.

### How old is the oldest volcano?

The oldest volcano is probably Etna and that is about 350,000 years old. Most of the active volcanoes that we know about seem to be less than 100,000 years old. Volcanoes grow because lava or ash accumulates on the volcano, adding layers and height.


### What is the longest period of time a volcano has been known to be active?

This is a tough one to answer because some volcanoes seem to erupt forever! Stromboli, in the Mediterranean of Italy, has been known to be erupting for more than 2,000 years. It is the “Lighthouse of the Mediterranean.”

<http://www2.scholastic.com>

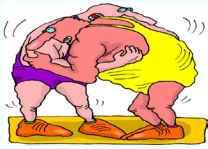


## This Month in History -- May

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- 8 The U.S. Post Office is established. (1794)
- 8 V-E Day, Germany signs unconditional surrender. (1945)
- 8 Mad Magazine hits the newsstands. (1952)
- 8 The World Health Organization announces that Smallpox has been eradicated worldwide. (1980)
- 9 A "Golden Spike" was driven into the railroad tracks at Promontory Summit, Utah, connecting the tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads, creating the first Transcontinental railroad. (1869)
- 9 The syrup for Coca Cola is invented by Atlanta Pharmacist John Styth Permerton. (1886)
- 9 The lawnmower is patented. (1899)
- 9 Americans Richard Boyd and Floyd Bennett become the first to fly over the North Pole. (1926)
- 9 The Birth control pill is approved by the FDA. (1960)
- 10 The first color pictures of Earth from space are sent back from Apollo 10. (1969)
- 10 Nelson Mandela becomes South Africa's first black president. (1994)
- 11 Einstein presents his Theory of General Relativity. (1916)
- 11 BF Goodrich manufactures the first tubeless tire. (1947)
- 11 Jay Forrester patents computer core memory. (1951)
- 12 The flush toilet is patented. (1792)
- 13 The Rolling Stones record the now infamous song "Satisfaction". (1965)
- 13 The Beatles movie "Let it Be" premieres. (1970)
- 13 "Mr. October", Reggie Jackson becomes the first major league ballplayer to strike out 2,000 times. (1983)
- 14 A party of settlers led by John Smith establish the first permanent English settlement in the New World at Jamestown Va. (1607)
- 14 Vaseline petroleum jelly slides onto store shelves for the first time. (1878)
- 14 The first U.S. space station, "Skylab" is launched. (1973)
- 14 The last episode of Seinfeld is aired. It's a sad day in May for millions of Seinfeld followers. (1998)
- 15 Regular airmail service inaugurated (between New York, Philadelphia & Washington DC) . (1918)
- 15 Nylon stockings hit the market for the first time (1940)
- 15 "If I had a Hammer" by Peter, Paul, and Mary wins a Grammy (1963)
- 16 Charles Hires invents Root Beer. (1866)
- 17 "And They're Off!" as the first Kentucky Derby is held at Churchill Downs. (1875)
- 18 Napoleon Bonaparte becomes Emperor of France (1804)
- 19 Ringling Brothers circus premieres. (1884)
- 20 Hubble Space Telescope transmits photograph's from space (1990)
- 21 The American Red Cross was formed. (1881)
- 22 Former Vice President Aaron Burr is tried and acquitted for treason. (1807)
- 22 The Great Train Robbery. (1868)
- 22 First reported sighting of the Loch Ness Monster. (1933)
- 22 The debut of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood". (1967)
- 23 Legendary bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde Barrow are shot to death in a police ambush in Louisiana. (1934)
- 24 Nursery Rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb" was written by Mary Hale of Boston. (1830)
- 25 Ford ceases production of the Model "T". (1927)
- 25 The movie blockbuster "Star Wars" is released. (1978)
- 26 Michael Jackson marries Elvis Presley's daughter Lisa Marie Presley. (1994)
- 27 Achsah Young is the first woman to be executed as a witch in Massachusetts. (1647)
- 27 The pop-up toaster is patented. (1919)
- 27 German battleship Bismarck sunk by British navy. (1941)
- 28 President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushes a button that opens San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. (1937)
- 29 Famous Abraham Lincoln quote: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, & some people some of time, but you can't fool all of the people all of time". (1849)
- 29 Sir Edmund Hillary is on top of the world. He is the first person to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. (1953)
- 29 Bing Crosby sings "White Christmas" into the record books as the biggest selling record. (1942)
- 30 The brassiere is invented. As we understand, it received a lot of support. (1889)
- 31 The trans-Alaska pipeline is completed. (1977)



# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### Simple Future Tense

The simple future tense is often called will, because we make the simple future tense with the modal auxiliary will.

How do we make the Simple Future Tense?

|         |   |                        |   |           |
|---------|---|------------------------|---|-----------|
| subject | + | auxiliary verb<br>WILL | + | main verb |
|         |   | invariable             |   | base      |
|         |   | will                   |   | V1        |

For negative sentences in the simple future tense, we insert not between the auxiliary verb and main verb. For question sentences, we exchange the subject and auxiliary verb. Look at these example sentences with the simple future tense:

|   | subject | auxiliary verb |     | main verb |                     |
|---|---------|----------------|-----|-----------|---------------------|
| + | I       | will           |     | open      | the door.           |
| + | You     | will           |     | finish    | before me.          |
| - | She     | will           | not | be        | at school tomorrow. |
| - | We      | will           | not | leave     | yet.                |
| ? | Will    | you            |     | arrive    | on time?            |
| ? | Will    | they           |     | want      | dinner?             |

When we use the simple future tense in speaking, we often contract the subject and auxiliary verb:

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| I will   | I'll   |
| you will | you'll |
| he will  | he'll  |
| she will | she'll |

Negative Contraction

will not = won't

## Idiom-Attic



### No Picnic

This outing is turning out to be **no picnic**, "Teddy declared. To say that something - a job or an examination, for example is a picnic is to say it is enjoyable or easy. If it is **unpleasant or difficult**, it is described as being no picnic. "It was a picnic getting here," Angela said, " but trying to eat with all these ants around has been no picnic!"

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

### Beak Speak

- "Therein" contains ten words without rearranging any of the letters: there, in, the, he, her, here, ere, therein, herein, rein.



- A, H, I, M, O, T, U, V, W, X, and Y are the symmetric capital letters.
- The symmetric lowercase letters are i, l, o, t, u, v, w, x..
- The letter combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways, which can be heard in this sentence: A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed.
- "Deeded" is the only word that is made using only two different letters, each used three times.
- There aren't any words that rhyme with orange, purple, silver, or month.
- The highest scoring word in the game Scrabble is "quartzly".
- If you spell out every number from 0 to 999, you will find every vowel except for "a". You have to count to one thousand to find an "a"!

<http://www.rinkworks.com/words/oddities.shtml>

## Some More Parrot Fun Stuff



### Astronomy Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message. Solutions on page...

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

|                  |            |                  |               |
|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| ANDROMEDA GALAXY | DEEP SPACE | MOON             | SOLAR SYSTEM  |
| APOGEE           | ECLIPSE    | NEBULA           | SOLAR WIND    |
| ASTEROID         | EQUINOX    | ORBIT            | SPACE SHUTTLE |
| ASTRONOMER       | GALAXIES   | PARSEC           | SPACECRAFT    |
| ATMOSPHERE       | GALILEO    | PERIGEE          | STARS         |
| AURORA           | GRAVITY    | POLARIS          | SUN           |
| BINARY STAR      | HUBBLE     | PROXIMA CENTAURI | SUPERNOVA     |
| BLACK HOLE       | KEPLER     | PULSARS          | TELESCOPE     |
| CONSTELLATION    | LIGHT YEAR | QUASARS          | TIDES         |
| CORONA           | METEOR     | RED GIANT        | UNIVERSE      |
| CRATER           | MILKY WAY  | SATELLITE        | WHITE DWARF   |

## The Teachers Jumped Out of the Windows

(Sing to the tune of "My Bonnie")

The teachers jumped out of the windows.  
 The principal ran for the door.  
 The nurse and librarian bolted.  
 They're not coming back anymore.  
 The counselor, hollering madly,  
 escaped out the door of the gym.  
 The coach and custodian shouted  
 and ran out the door after him.

Chorus

Oh my! Goodbye!  
 They're not coming back anymore, no more.  
 How fun! They've run!  
 They're not coming back anymore.

The lunch ladies threw up their ladles,  
 then fled from the kitchen in haste,  
 and all of the students looked puzzled  
 as staff members scurried and raced.

We'd never seen anything like it.  
 But still, it was pretty darned cool  
 to see all the staff so excited  
 to leave on the last day of school.

Kenn Nesbitt  
 www.gigglepoetry.com

## Rigoberto's Riddles

I can sizzle like bacon,  
 I am made with an egg,  
 I have plenty of backbone, but lack a good leg,  
 I peel layers like onions, but still remain whole,  
 I can be long, like a flagpole, yet fit in a hole,



What am I?

*Answer: A snake*

## Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

### Timing Is Everything

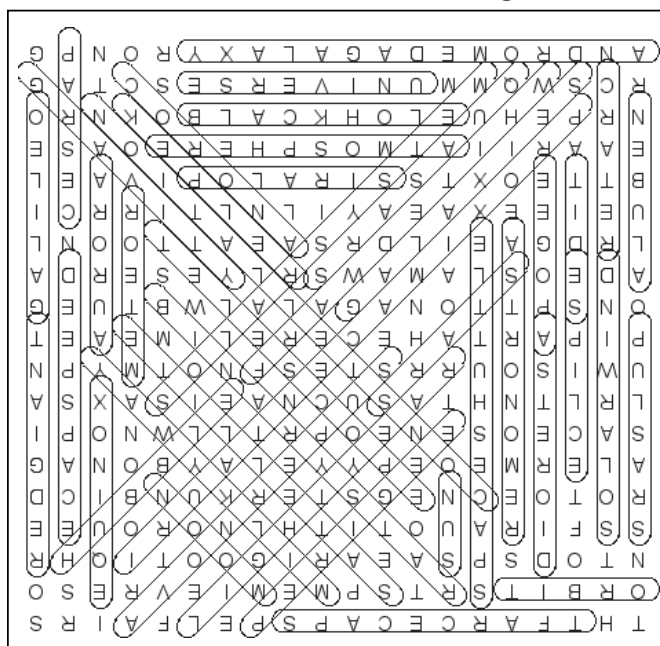
A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells, "You should've been here at 8:30!" The guy replies, "Why? What happened at 8:30?"



### Quacking Up

A duck walks into a drugstore and asks for a tube of ChapStick. The cashier says to the duck, "That'll be \$1.49." The duck replies, "Put it on my bill!"

## Solutions for Puzzle on Page



Hidden Sentence: The first person to set foot on the moon was Neil Armstrong

### English Words with Quirky Logic

- Have you noticed that there is neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
- French fries do not originate in France.
- A guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
- And there are no hogs in Hogmanay.
- Quicksand only works slowly.
- If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
- If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth?

## *The Three Sisters: Rada, Ella, Inga* (Counselors on Courting)

**Dear Sisters,**

I have had a really long semester. I have been so busy that I have had no time to spend with my boyfriend. I really want to spend some relaxing and special time with him this summer. What advice do you have for me?

**Inez Soomer**

Last semester my boyfriend and I barely got a chance to see each other because we had classes on different days. The rest of the time we were working. We were always tired, and seldom went on dates; we were always sleepy. I was worried that I would not pass my finals well. But a week before the finals, my boyfriend got me a couple of gift cards for a massage session. I went to get a massage the night before every final, and you would not believe the awesome results that brought. Besides feeling great, I was well rested, and peacefully relaxed during all of my finals. That was a huge help for me during that time.

I believe that there is no other place where you can relax and refresh your body and mind as you can during a good quality massage. My boyfriend and I know a great salon where you can get a wonderful massage, and also save some money on some of their discounts all year long. If anybody wants me to share more information about the place, write me at my e-mail: [i\\_am\\_rada@mail.ru](mailto:i_am_rada@mail.ru) or just ask me at college if you happen to run into me.

As for this summer, my boyfriend and I would like to go to a foreign country with our friends, probably France or Egypt. I would suggest for you to do the same if you have the opportunity to do so. But if for some reason you can't do that, then I think that at least once a week you should go to a park or some nice place, for a long walk with your loved one. Because when it comes down to it, it doesn't matter where and how you relax, the important thing is for

that special person in your life to be there, and no matter where you go, you will be happy and satisfied.

**Rada**

Last year I fell asleep during one of my final exams, because just as many other students are, I'm working full time and going to school. I barely had any time to do my homework or prepare for finals. That's why I was very sleepy and could not concentrate, and had somewhat bad grades.



Ella, Rada, Inga

This year I made a decision to get plenty of sleep the night before every final, exercise in the morning to let my blood flow better and help my brain think more clearly. And in the summer I want to go to a lake more often, play beach sports, run around, swim across the lake, sing my heart out, and spend those evenings in a circle of friends by the fire. I suggest you to do the same things. So this way you can get some rest, and spend some time with your significant one and your friends. Hooray! Summer is upon us :)

**Ella**

I have a boyfriend. His name is Ruslan M... he is a truck driver, so I end up spending a lot of time on the phone with him. Before every test I talk to him, and he wishes me good luck and tells me that he loves me very much. That helps me and inspires me a lot. I think that nobody or nothing else can help better than the kind and sweet words of your loved one.

In the summer California is going to be CALIFORNIA. HOT!!! So I think this summer my honey and I will go on a roadtrip and go visit every single state of our beautiful country. I suggest you go and visit at least one state during your summer break, but make sure to do it by car, so you can get lots of sightseeing. Don't forget your camera and a tent... (and, guys, don't forget about luck :) ) HAVE FUN!!!

**Inga**

### **Relaxing Through the Stress of Finals**

Daily life with jobs and school cause many of us to feel stressed. Here are four tips for relieving stress:

1. Exercise - at least 30 minutes a day of jogging or even walking around your neighborhood.
2. Eat Right - lots of fruit and vegetables with whole grain

bread or pastas. Cut out the soda & caffeine.

3. Spend Time with Friends & Family - having time with those you love always makes a person feel refreshed
4. Laugh- this is the number one way to relax. Watch a comedy or listen to some jokes and let yourself laugh out loud.

## Granny Noetal

Dear Granny,

**Subject:** Backside Fashion

I can't believe I'm writing you about this subject. In fact, I can't believe I'm writing anyone about this subject – it seems so ridiculous. But here it is – no pun intended. The subject is “butt cracks” or “cheek cleavage” or “fanny fissure” (I even hate the names!) There is no polite way to write about this but (even the conjunction is making me see red!) why can't people realize that it is an affront to civil sensibilities to see people lounging around the halls of learning, sitting on steps with their posteriors “overflowing” from their low-cut or low-rise blue jeans. Really! Who thinks this is attractive? I don't.

**Bummed Out**

Dear Bummed Out,

You seem to have a knack for making puns, unintended as they may be! In any case, you've posed an interesting question. I guess most people who find this trend a bit offensive simply turn a blind eye and hope that, as with most fashions, this one will pass. Who knows? Maybe the next fad will be “elbow holes” or something else. In my many years I've learned to roll with it all – crew cuts, pompadours, long hair, no hair, long sideburns, piercings, tattoos, tight pants, baggy pants, wonder bras, no bras, etc. I don't really have the answers. I looked on the Internet and someone out there has already responded, with a “shield” of sorts, believe it or not!



*“A US designer has come up with an invention that covers up your ‘butt cleavage’ when wearing low-rise jeans.*

*Kimberly Brewer has created the Bactacular Gluteal Cleft Shield, an adhesive fabric patch that's applied directly to the skin on the lower back.*

*She came up with the idea while sporting her favourite jeans, which exposed too much of her ‘gluteal cleft’ whenever she sat or bent over.*

*Made of hypo-allergenic denim and decorated with studs and rhinestones, the patches come in several colours and designs including butterflies, flowers, hearts and peace signs.”*

<http://www.modernghana.com/news/273388/1/designer-cracks-butt-problem.html>

And for those of you wishing to know how to refer to friends afflicted with this condition while using a gentler lexical register, this from Wikipedia (not Mapquest)

*“The intergluteal cleft, also known as the natal cleft, is the groove or crack between the buttocks that runs from just below the sacrum to the perineum, so named because it forms the visible border between the external rounded protrusions of the Gluteus maximus muscles. The intergluteal cleft is located directly above the anus.”*

Warnings: I'd refrain from confronting someone on this issue. They'd probably tell you to “butt out”! he he

**Granny**

## Worst Fashion Trends Ever

### Backwards Clothing

In the early 90's there was a young Hip-Hop group called “KriSS Kross”. To appear unique, they wore all of their clothes backwards. It looked ridiculous, but I do give them credit for coming up with something unique. Although in this case, unique = stupid looking.

### Baggy Jeans

This trend started in the early 90's, and sadly is still around today. Thankfully, it has progressed whereas the pants don't hang quite as low as they used to. I remember when this was going strong, and I always wondered why it was popular. Your pants would be continually falling down (or someone was yanking them down). Also, it looked like you had just taken a big dump in your jeans. How is that supposed to be cool?

### Mens Cut Off Jerseys / Belly Shirts

What the hell was this? It's some sort of football/fruit cake combination. During the 80's, men (usually ones in good shape) would cut off a football jersey (or t-shirt) to show off their toned stomachs. As far as I'm concerned, all it did was raise questions as to their sexual preference. One of the worst trends men have ever come up with.

### The Mullet

Oh, the mullet. The mullet is without a doubt, the ugliest hairstyle of all time and that is saying a lot. The funny thing about the mullet though, is that it was so bad, that people actually embrace it now. It's become such a joke, that some men or women will grow one just for laughs. If you see someone with a mullet, you don't look at them like “what an idiot”. It's more like “wow, this person is awesome!”

<http://mattgunn.ca>

# Parenting the Parrot Way!

## Summer Fun with Our Kids, Friends and Family



Prof. Moon's kids

Our lives are so busy during the school year. Often times we can not think beyond our everyday responsibilities. For this reason, I feel summer is our reminder to slow down and enjoy just being. It is the perfect time to strengthen our bonds with our children, extended family members and friends. Summer can also be a time of experiential learning for our children, which gets them outside the walls of the school and away from the desk.

My own children look forward to their lazy days of summer, sleeping later, hanging out in their pajamas and playing water games in the street with all the neighborhood children. However, over the years we have found some fantastic day trips to enjoy here in the Sacramento/San Francisco Region. So, for this month I want to share with all of you three of our most favorite places to visit in the summer.

### 1. The Local Library

Every week we visit our local library to sit for a whole afternoon. We look for books, cds, & dvds. The children play some computer games and we READ, READ, & READ magazines and books. Often we time our visits to join in the library's special free storytime events which we find posted on their website. Also, every summer my children join in the reading challenge and make a commitment to read and talk about a certain number of books/pages everyday. At the end of the summer they get to choose a book to bring home if they reach their goal. All of this is free and available at almost all local libraries. Look up your local library today.

### 2. Explorit Science Center ([www.explorit.org](http://www.explorit.org))

This is a fantastic hands-on science museum established for children and adults. They have a family-friendly museum and a nature site. What's more, they take science programs on the road to schools and community sites in 18 counties. The center offers everyone the chance to "Think it... Try it... Explorit."

- It is located at 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618.
- Hours: Sat/Sun 11-5pm & Tues. 10 – 5pm.
- Admission: (Paid annual membership provides the benefit of free admission to many other science museums in the area, including San Francisco's Exploratorium)
- General Admission: \$4; Members and children 3 years and under & Teachers (w/school ID): Free
- Free Admission Day is the third Tuesday of each month, courtesy of the Kelly Foundation.
- Admission is free on the first weekend of each month to individuals with Bank of America credit or debit cards through the bank's "Museums on Us" program.

### 3. Mrs. Grossman's Sticker Factory([mrsgrossmans.com](http://mrsgrossmans.com))

- The one-hour tour includes:
- An award-winning video hosted by Angus, Mrs. Grossman's granddog
- A guided tour of the sticker factory
- A fun Sticker Art craft activity
- A visit to our Sticker Museum, where you can see every sticker we've made
- A coupon for \$3 off your purchase of \$20 at the Company Store

#### Location & Hours:

June 7 through September 3 2010 Monday through Thursday on the hour starting at 9:00am . The last tour is at 3:00 p m.

**Mrs. Grossman's Friday Virtual Tours:** Mrs. Grossman's offers a Virtual Tour on Fridays. This includes watching a 20-minute video, free stickers and a chance to visit our sticker museum and company store. There will be no actual tour on the factory floor. You can drop by anytime from 9:30 to 4:30, there is no cost and no reservations required

**Location:** They are located at 3810 Cypress Drive, on the corner of South McDowell Boulevard and Cypress Drive in Petaluma, California.

**Cost:** Tours are \$3.00 per person for ages 3 and up. With your admission ticket, you will receive a coupon for \$3.00 off purchases of \$20.00 or more in our Company Store!

**Reservations:** Tours are by reservation only. Call 1 (800) 429-4549 to reserve your space!

Parenting during the summer is full of many challenges and lots of fun. Take the time out of your day and look around you for fun, cheap day trips your family will never forget!

To contact Prof Moon: [moone@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:moone@arc.losrios.edu)

## Mim's Cafe

Nina Simonds provided this amazing dish in her cookbook "Asian Wraps" and it is a family favorite in the summer time. The flavors are fresh, vibrant and sensuous. Sometimes I substitute ground turkey for the traditional pork or beef, as a healthful alternative. It is wonderful chilled and served as an appetizer with a glass of a fancy summer drink while waiting for the BBQ to warm up.



Prof. Montgomery with happy eater.

### Vietnamese French Mint Salad

#### Ingredients

1 cup Japanese rice vinegar  
 ¼ cup sugar  
 1 ½ medium-size red onions, cut into small pieces (about 2 ½ cups)  
 3 medium-size carrots, grated or shredded (about 3 ½ cups)  
 1 ¼ pounds ground beef, pork or turkey  
 1 stalk of lemongrass, ends trimmed, tough outer leaves removed, cut into 2-inch lengths, and minced (cut really small) in a food processor or blender. (I sometimes use lemon zest instead, because I have a lemon tree in my backyard.)  
 1 ½ tablespoons fish sauce  
 2 teaspoons safflower or corn oil

#### For the Vietnamese dressing (mixed together):

2 small fresh red chili peppers, ends trimmed, seeds removed and cut into fine long shreds  
 3 tablespoons minced garlic  
 ½ cup fish sauce  
 5 ½ tablespoons sugar (I usually put in half this amount because we don't like it too sweet)  
 3 ½ tablespoons chopped fresh mint leaves (I usually take these from my neighbors front yard where it grows in bunches)  
 3 ½ tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves (These I also usually get from my garden or my neighbors)

#### To Serve:

2 heads of Boston or leafy lettuce arranged around the rime of a serving platter

#### Instructions



Pour the rice vinegar and sugar in a bowl and stir to dissolve the sugar. Place the onions and carrots in the bowl and let sit for 15 to 20 minutes.

Mix together the meat, lemongrass, and fish sauce in a large bowl.

Heat a wok or large heavy skillet over high heat until very hot. Add the oil and heat until hot, about 30 seconds. Add the meat mixture and stir-fry over medium-high heat, mashing to break up any clumps of meat, until the meat changes color and separates. Drain in a colander and wipe out the pan.

Using a slotted (with holes) spoon, remove the carrots and onions from the vinegar, draining well, and arrange them on the serving platter, leaving a slight well in the center of the cooked meat. Add the vinegar from the carrots and onions to the dressing. Spoon the cooked meat into the center of the vegetables and sprinkle the fresh herbs on top. Just before serving, pour the dressing over the salad and toss lightly. To eat spoon some of the salad onto a lettuce leaf, roll it up, tucking in the sides, and eat with your fingers.

### Five Summer Food Safety Tips

1. Observe the 'two-hour' rule: Don't leave food requiring refrigeration out on the kitchen bench for longer than two hours. Better still refrigerate as soon as you get them home. These foods include poultry, meat, eggs, cooked seafood, produce, leftovers and takeout food.
2. In really hot weather observe the one hour rule: When the air temperature is above 90 F (32 C), put food in the fridge within an hour.
3. Store leftovers safely: leftovers in the fridge should be eaten up within three to five days. If you don't plan to eat them within three to five days, freeze leftovers straight away.
4. Don't leave hot foods to cool before refrigerating: Hot foods can go straight into the fridge or freezer. They can be rapidly cooled first by dipping the bowl or container in ice or a cold-water bath.
5. Pack leftovers into small containers: Leftovers from a large pot of food will cool more quickly in the fridge when divided into smaller, shallower containers.

## A Little Noon Music

On March 23, *Professor Joanna Zadra* performed some beautiful piano pieces during a noon-time concert to a large audience in Music Room 547. Here are some reactions of students who attended.

You can't imagine how beautiful Professor Zadra plays the piano! With her music, she can take people to different places in their minds. For example, during the concert, she played beautiful melodies. She played three parts of a piece named "Fleeting Visions" by Sergei Prokofiev. I was really surprised by the beautiful tone these songs had. After she played those melodies, she asked the audience what they thought about during the song? Many people answered what they felt at that moment. I felt happiness in the first part of the song, frustration in the second, and in the third, I thought I felt a sadness that the composer had experienced at some moment in his life. It is amazing how music can transport people to images of other times and places. Professor Zadra took the audience to a wonderful place and time with her music.

Virginia Ramirez  
ESL G320

Professor Zadra played four pieces. Her performance opened with Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in F-Sharp Major." The piece, "Maple Leaf Rag," by Scott Joplin was very exciting and very enjoyable. I was surprised by Professor



Zadra's performance because she played piano without any printed music in front of her. She played everything from memory! She also explained each piece of music. I was really impressed. She played her music very well, and I enjoyed myself. This was a great experience for me.

Soonjung Hur  
ESL G320

It is amazing what music can do to people when they are listening to it. Music can transport us to different places in our minds. It can also change people's moods. Piano music can help us deal with stress. It can be a good therapy to relax. People who know how to play an instrument are very talented people. I really liked the piano concert performed by Joanna Zadra. I was delighted by listening to all the pieces that she played. My favorite piece was "Maple Leaf Rag" by Scott Joplin because it has a nice rhythm. Listening to Professor Zadra inspired me to learn more about piano music.

Maria Garcia  
ESL G320

### Fascinating Facts About Pianos

- Pianos are called "the king of musical instruments" because they cover the tonal range of every other instrument in the orchestra, from below the lowest note of the double bassoon to above the top note of the piccolo, and because they are the largest musical instrument, excluding the pipe organ.
- The piano was invented in 1698 by Bartolomeo Cristofori, an Italian instrument maker who had little interest in pianos. Cristofori spent most of his working life building and working with harpsichords.
- The first piano was basically a modified harpsichord. Cristofori invented the escapement mechanism, which allows the hammers to recoil from the strings and the mechanism to reset between each key press. This minor design change had major consequences, allowing the instrument to be played at different volumes according to how hard a key is struck.
- Cristofori named his new instrument "gravicembalo col piano e forte", which translates to "harpsichord with soft and loud". This was subsequently shortened to pianoforte, which means soft and loud.
- The piano took some time to become popular, but by 1783 it had begun to overtake the harpsichord in popularity.
- The first upright piano appeared in 1800.
- By 1850, the piano had moved from having four octaves (in 1709) through six octaves (in the late 18th and early 19th centuries) to seven full octaves.
- Liszt and Chopin helped to popularise the instrument through the 19th century, composing works which relied on the piano's dynamic and expressive range.
- The modern piano has 88 keys (36 black and 52 white) about 230 strings and a total of about 12,000 parts, 10,000 of which are moving
- About 70% of a piano is made of wood. The keys are made of plastic. The hammers and other parts are made of wood, paper, iron, copper, steel and felt, amongst others
- The world's largest piano is made by the Challen company. The concert grand is 11'8" long and weighs more than one ton.



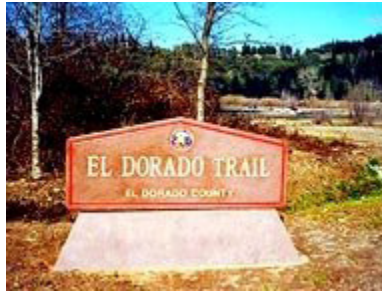
## Boots on the Ground: Get Slick with Trail Mick

### The El Dorado Trail, Placerville to Camino

In America, there is a movement afoot to create hiking, horse riding, and biking trails on old, abandoned railroad pathways. The El Dorado Trail is a reality because a local group "Trails Now" allied with the national "Rails-To-Trails" organization to create a multiuse trail in a portion of the defunct Folsom to Camino railroad spur line. The main trail begins in downtown Placerville and continues eastward within the rail easement for over 6 miles to near Camino Heights.

To get there from the Sacramento area, take U.S. Highway 50 east to Placerville. Once in town, take the Broadway exit and turn right on Broadway. Within a block turn right onto Mosquito Road, traveling under the Highway 50 overpass. After a short distance on your left you will see the Placerville Public Bus Station. Pull into the station's public lot, where ample free parking is available.

Across the street to the east you will see the El Dorado Trail markers. Hop on it! You will head gently uphill in an easterly direction. The El Dorado Trail here consists of a paved bike path and a side path of decomposed granite for horses and hikers. As this is a popular trail, you can expect to find company! The first portion transitions from urban residential to more rural residential land. There are many Ponderosa Pines and Black Oak trees to provide shade and, for a time, a small creek flows next to the trail. After 2 miles, you will arrive at rural Jaquier Road, where you will find another trailhead parking lot. Jaquier marks the lower end



of the Apple Hill farm country. If you've had enough hiking for one day, enjoy the view of apple orchards and rolling hills, then turn around and retrace your steps to your car. If not, keep going on. Shortly thereafter the trail crosses Highway 50 on a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over crossing. Continue on for up to 4 more miles through sparsely populated, woody residential country. Though the paved bike path ends after 2.5 more miles at Las Trampas Drive, a good dirt trail continues for another 1.5 miles where it ends abruptly at a cyclone fence by Highway 50. Nowhere to go from here but back down the trail! There are plans to extend the trail from here (Camino Heights) all the way up to Pollock Pines and beyond – but that's still a down the road piece, in the future.

As mentioned earlier the trail is open to bicycling, horseback riding, and hiking. Trail courtesy calls for bikers give way to hikers and horses, and for hikers to yield to horses. A few rural roads cross the trail, so watch out for cars in those places. Dogs are fine if kept on leashes. Don't forget to carry some water with you.

You can learn more about trails created on abandoned railroad beds by going to the following websites: [trailsnow.org](http://trailsnow.org) (local organization); and [railstotrails.org](http://railstotrails.org) (national organization).

*Happy hiking and biking!*

To contact Mick: [braccop@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:braccop@arc.losrios.edu)

*Continued from page 1*

about buying a membership to a local museum or public attraction that will then allow you to enter similar places all over the country for free. For example, my family's Explorit Science Museum membership has allowed us to visit the Exploratorium in San Francisco, The Oakland Space Center, The Bay Area Discovery Museum, The Orlando Science Museum & Turtle Bay Aquarium in Redding, all for free.

Finally, the best way to plan fun trips without breaking the bank is to find exciting activities to do right here in the Sacramento Region. You can take long bike rides on the *Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail*, a 32-mile paved path that runs from Discovery Park up to Folsom Lake. You can also ride on down to *Old Town Sacramento* and enjoy the *California State Railroad Museum* and their daily steam train rides, or walk on down to Front Street and hop aboard the *Hornblower Historic River Tours* for an hour-long boat cruise up and down the waterfront. Of course it wouldn't be summer unless you caught one of the *Sacramento River Cats* games at

Raley Field and ate \$1 hotdogs on Tuesday nights.

Summer is best enjoyed being with those you care about and finding an activity that brings you closer together and not closer into debt.



**Parrot:** How long have you been teaching?

**Denise:** Let me think now, I think it's maybe thirty years now (Wow a long time). My husband and I have been married twenty-nine years ago and I taught one year before I met him, so this will be thirty years. A long time. I'm so old.

**Parrot:** No, that is good. OK. May I ask you a personal question?

**Denise:** Sure.

**Parrot:** Ok, what is the name of your husband?

**Denise:** Ted

**Parrot:** Ted, and is he also an ESL teacher?

**Denise:** Yes, he is.

**Parrot:** Ok, How many kids do you have?

**Denise:** Two sons

**Parrot:** Two sons, can you speak about them?

**Denise:** Yes, my oldest son, Isaac, 25 and he lives here in Sacramento in Rocklin actually. He is a mechanical engineer. My son Jacob is 24 and he is in IT and he has been teaching IT in Africa the last two years with the Peace Corps.

**Parrot:** This sounds good, and it seems like both love traveling like you and Ted.

**Denise:** Yes, both love traveling, that's for sure.

**Parrot:** Ok, mmmm.

**Denise:** You are a good interviewer .

**Parrot:** Hmmmm, really, maybe because I know you. This is maybe a big reason to be a good interviewer but if you were a different person, really I would be nervous.

**Parrot:** Can you speak about your life in Egypt, Muscat, Dubai and the Middle East area generally?

**Denise:** Yes, Ted and I moved to Egypt when Jacob ..... Isaac was born in Egypt actually. So we began our married life there and we lived for ten years. I think it's a wonderful place to raise a family. Egypt is very family-oriented and loves kids. We had so many Egyptian friends. Very crowded (I know), noisy, and ..... but the people are so nice and interesting. They are very nice to foreigners. So we were

very good in Egypt and we taught in the American University of Cairo. It is a really good university . We also had a lot of good colleagues in Oman. We lived there ten years. We lived on the university campus with other professors. Our neighbors were people from all over the world. I lived there ten years, you know, our neighbors were from Uganda and some others from Belgium and our sons had friends and that was really nice. It is beautiful for camping and the desert is beautiful, quiet, and clean (not like Egypt I know). Although the people aren't as openly friendly, they are kind of tough on the outside, they become very open once you get to know them.

**Parrot:** I think this is because the desert environment makes them tougher, not like Egyptians or some other places.



**Denise:** Where I worked at the university was a very good job. I also worked in the United Arab Emirates. I did not enjoy that as much. It was impossible to make any Emirati friends. Also, teaching was not as rewarding because the students did not choose to take English. It was mandatory. Most of the students didn't take learning English seriously.

**Parrot:** Which countries would you like to revisit?

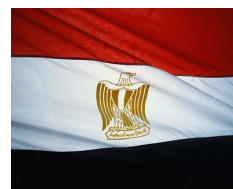
**Denise:** Dubai was a nice city, but it wouldn't be my first choice. However, I would go back to Egypt or Oman in a minute.

**Parrot:** Do you have anything you want to add for this interview?

**Denise:** Well, I just want to say that this year fourteen Egyptian students have come to Sacramento. American River College has maybe six or seven and this is delightful to have a little Egypt in California. I'm really enjoying it all.

**Parrot:** Thank you, thank you for this interview. Bye!

Mohamed Saleh  
ESLL320



# Multicultural Week

Multicultural Week was organized by the ARC Equity Committee, Associated Student Body, Campus Life Center, and Inter-Club Council. It was a weeklong event on campus from April 27 to April 29, 2010. Once again, American River college students presented the fact that although every culture has differences, people can live peacefully together in an environment with diverse ethnicities, and nationalities. Even though the weather was rainy and a little chilly, the event was successful with the number of people who did not hesitate to stop by the tables.

ESL students, with the kind help of Professors Oranit Limmaneeprasert, John Gamber, and Susan Pezone, participated in this event by presenting ethnic food, artifacts and crafts from Albania, Armenia, China, Iran, Libya, Russia, Thailand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.



Professor Gamber and students enjoying some of the delicious food at Multicultural week.



Professor Limmaneeprasert and students sharing in the beautiful textiles of different countries.



Professor Pezone and students staying warm while sharing information from different countries.



Beautiful trinkets from Russia and the Ukraine.

## Out of the Cage

### CSUS Spring Sting annual event

Wednesday, May 5  
9:30 am - 1:30 pm

CSUS Spring Sting is coming to visit American River College between 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Location to be announced. This is an annual event where different departments from Sac State come to answer questions and help get our students transferred! Call the Transfer Center for more information about this event at 916-484-8685.

### Work Experience & Internship Career Fair

Thursday, May 6  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



This fair offers information about Work Experience & Internships from invited employers and ARC program staff. Explore possible career options and internship opportunities for summer, fall, and the future.

**Location:** Student Services Building Lobby

### A Little Taste of Paradise in the Classroom

Thursday, May 6  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

It's representative of one of the most beautiful places on Earth, it's a shining star during tough economic times, it has a rich history and a promising future, it's gaining popularity throughout the world, and it's become a teaching/learning tool in a math classroom. What is it? It's the ukulele!

**Location:** Raef Hall 160

### Kairos Quartet

Saturday, May 8  
7:00 pm

Kairos Quartet with Steve Lishman: Saxophone, Dyne Eifertsen: Trombone/Didjeridu, Matt Robinson: Bass, Alex Jenkins: Drums, will perform a new set of original music. Special guests on the program will be the ARC Jazz Collective.



For more info on Kairos, visit [www.kairosquartet.com](http://www.kairosquartet.com).

The concert will be held in the American River College Music Dept. room 547.

Admission is \$10 general/\$5 students.

### ARC Instrumental Jazz Ensembles

Thursday, May 6  
7:30 pm



The Community, Latin, and Studio Jazz Ensembles, directed by Dr. Dyne Eifertsen, will perform big band and Latin jazz standards. The concert will also feature the Sheldon High School Jazz Band.

The concert will take place in the ARC Theater at 7:30pm. Ticket prices are \$8.00 General; \$5.00 Student/Senior.

For more information, contact Dr. Dyne Eifertsen, 484-8676.

### Club Day

Thursday, May 6  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Please join our Student Clubs and Organizations at Club Days this semester in the Book Store Quad! We hope to see you there!

### 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](mailto:braccop@arc.losrios.edu)

Senior Editor: Christian Valenzuela, [parrot-arc@live.com](mailto:parrot-arc@live.com)

### Interview Success Workshop

Tuesday, May 11  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm



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

Please call the Career Center and register for this workshop. 916-484-8492

Location: Career & Job Opportunity Center

### Graduation (Commencement)

Wednesday, May 19  
7:00 pm



Graduation is for Summer '09 & Fall '09 graduates, and Spring '10 candidates for graduation.

Cap & gown for the ceremony must be purchased at the ARC Bookstore, available May 1, \$25.

Commencement ceremony is 7:00 p.m. students must check in by 6:15 p.m. A mandatory rehearsal is scheduled for 8:00 a.m., May 19, in the stadium.

Students with special needs (mobility challenges, hearing impairment, visual impairment) are encouraged to contact the Dean of Enrollment Services Office, in advance, for special accommodations: (916) 484-8171.

The graduate may bring any number of guests, unless it rains. If it rains, the ceremony will be moved to the gymnasium and only 2 guests will be allowed per grad (2 tickets are included in the packet sent to all graduates and candidates April 1).

Professional pictures will be taken of each graduate/candidate as he/she passes across the stage. Proofs will be e-mailed to student by the photographer.

### Do You Have a FACEBOOK Page? Add us as a Fan!



“ARC ESL Department”  
Has a FACEBOOK page for our  
students!!

Post and Read Items About:

- The ARC campus
- Fun things happening around Sacramento and CA -- Your favorite restaurants, art exhibits..., parks and hikes ...
- Your dance or musical recital
- What's happening in ESL -- cool links to use to study that crazy English grammar.

Search for ARC ESL Department  
and click on “Become a Fan”



**The ESL Center at ARC  
Presents:**

**The Summer English Program**

*Practice your English skills in the  
air-conditioned comfort of the ESL  
Center located in the*

**Learning Resource Center**

**June 7th - July 16th**

*We will offer all of our regular modules:*

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**Grammar & Writing**

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**AND**

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**Explore and discuss a variety of vocations . . .**

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- **Register for as little as .25 unit or for as many as 3 units.**
- **Earn credit by completing attendance requirements and assigned work. It is possible to start late or finish early.**
- **Times are flexible: You can come during *any open hours* on Monday through Thursday from 8:00am – 2:00pm**