



# The Parrot

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

Issue # 68 Spring 2013

## Nancianne Pfister -- Speech! Speech!



**Parrot:** Prof. Pfister, you have been at ARC for a while! Would you please tell me how you got here?

**Nancy:** Almost by accident. I was teaching part time at UC Davis, where I graduated with two degrees. And I was teaching part-time two and three classes at Sac State. The chair-

man at Sac State had a wife who was teaching here (ARC) and they needed somebody. So I came and applied and they said "We will call you some-time." It was four or five years later when they called me and said come on in. I have been here ever since. I have been here twenty-three or twenty-four years.

**Parrot:** Wow, have you been teaching speech for all those years at ARC? How did you get interested in your area of expertise?

**Nancy:** I talk a lot. Do you think this will look good in the interview? Put that in the paper! How do you get to be an expert? I just talk a lot. That will humor your interview. This is too long

*Continued on page*

## Austrian Bus Driver Finds, Turns in About \$500,000!

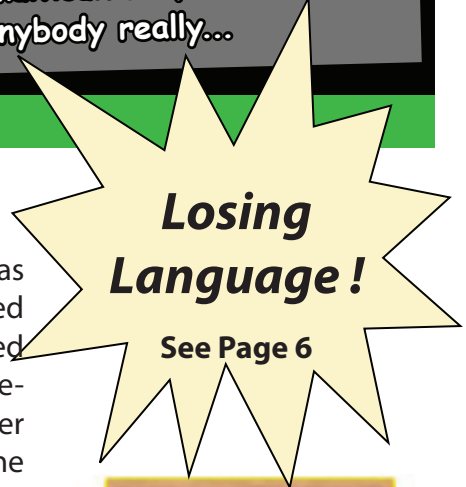
VIENNA (AP) — Vienna's transport authority says a city bus driver checking a bag left behind by a passenger had the surprise of his life — €390,000 (more than \$500,000) in neatly stacked 500-euro bills.

Transit authority spokeswoman Anna-Maria Reich says the driver handed the stash to police who tracked down the owner, an unidentified elderly woman.

But the driver has nothing to show for his honesty beyond praise from superiors. Weeks later, the owner has not contacted him to offer a reward.

The incident happened last month [November] and Reich confirmed details first reported Thursday by several Austrian tabloids. It was unclear why the woman was carrying so much cash.

<http://www.sfgate.com>



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a story for you to put in the paper but I am going to tell you anyway. "In my first grade when I was a kid about six years old, there was a girl sitting in front of me whose name was Rosemary. One of the tricks first graders used to get you into trouble was to pull out a long hair and put it on the desk and say, "Oh, look your desk is all scratched." So Rosemary turned around and said to me, "Your desk is all scratched." I said that it was just a hair and brushed it off and it was really that the desk was scratched. Rosemary and I were talking and the teacher said Rosemary is there some reason you are turning around from your desk and chatting?, if you are so anxious to chat please come up front and tell all of us what you are talking about. Well this is student abuse. Now you wouldn't dare to do it but then it was fine. So Rosemary got up front and she looked around and started to cry. Then it was time for recess and we went out. And I said, just off-handedly, I wouldn't be afraid to stand up in front of people and talk. I did not know if I ever had. So when we got back in, the teacher said, "It seems we have two little birdies who want to sing to us." So we both got to the front of the room and I could feel the tears just starting and I thought, "No, I am not doing this," so I said, "Rosemary was telling me about a scratch on my desk"...I said that. Rosemary stood there and cried. So that was my first public speech. I was six years old then. It was 1941. Then I went into taking speech classes, debate classes, and drama classes and stuff as I went along in various stages.

**Parrot:** Wow, this was a wonderful story. How did you get into the teaching field?

**Nancy:** Well I got interested in teaching even before I gave my wonderful first speech.

**Parrot:** That was even before you were six years old.

**Nancy:** In 1940. If you want a frame of reference for students, the Second World War had not even started yet. My best friend, who lived next door to me was one year older and she got to go to kindergarten one year before I did and I cried. She would come home and say wonderful things...this...that.. this. She would talk about her teacher did this, her

teacher did that... all good stuff. I thought it was wonderful. I decided I wanted to be a teacher. I had not been in school for even one day, but I decided I wanted to be a teacher. So finally my mother called the school and asked if they would let Nancyanne sit in a couple of kindergarten classes, she will get bored and that will be the end of it....sure...you couldn't do it now, but then you could do it. So I got to go to school with Rosemary. She started staying away from me because it was like having a younger sister around... No fun that kind of stuff...I had lots of fun. I started to do something. A teacher said, "The rest of you should follow what Nancyanne is doing... even though she is younger, she got it all." I loved it. So I spent a lot of time in kindergarten that year. There were no laws against it. Then it was OK. It was a good thing. When I went to school next year I got chickenpox, I got measles, I got whooping cough, I got pneumonia and I fractured my heel. I would not have gone more than 34 days of the whole school year because I was always sick. So it was a good thing I went the year before with my friend Rosemary.

**Parrot:** That was nice.....See how things work out... WOW...

**Nancy:** This is how I decided to be a teacher. I had never decided not to be a teacher. It is absolutely the best job ever.

**Parrot:** What advice do you think is the most important for your students or students in general?

**Nancy:** Well like most people, I have a lot of opinions. Let me see the best advice. Let me see the best advice! One teacher has a thing for students that cracks me up when students are not doing their homework and they do not get good grades he says to them "Never mind, you will get it next semester." But my very best college mentor used to tell us schools are the place to make inexpensive mistakes. If you screw up and get a D, that is really bad for you but it is not as bad as if you have a \$150,000 dollar-a-year job and you screwed up so much that you got fired. So think of school as a place to experiment and find things you like that you might be interested in. And think

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# Student Chirpings

## Faith

In 1989, my country, Mongolia was in the time of a big revolution. The revolution was to start a democracy instead of having communism. During this sudden change, a huge amount of the population suffered from poverty and unemployment. My parents were part of this big change. At the time of my birth in 1993, my parents had no money and no legitimate work that paid. At the time of my first year of kindergarten, my parents decided to work abroad, in South Korea, and leave me with my aunt and her family. Everything seemed bad when they left, but if I think about it now, everything turned out to be good.

I spent two years with my aunt and her family. She had two children: a daughter and a son. They were about the same age as me. In fact, the son was only five days older than me. The unfortunate thing was my aunt's husband was a bit of a drinker. Almost every night her husband would come home drunk. Whenever he came home drunk, he would start a fight with my aunt. At that time I would be really scared and shocked. My aunt had a strong mentality and she never wanted to give up. The only thing that kept me there was her children. They were my best friends in early childhood. They would always play with me and keep me company. Even though my parents were not with me, my aunt always treated me as her own child. She taught me to listen to what others are saying and most importantly to learn from them and ignore unnecessary advice. Living with my aunt's family never made me feel lonely.

Because of my aunt's husband, I had to move to my other aunt's house. She was the oldest sister of my mother. When I moved into her house, I was starting my first year of school. Her husband was a nice man and obviously he was better than the previous one. This family had two children and both of

them were girls. My aunt's husband taught me how to be a handyman and how to drive a car. He even taught me to fix minor mechanical problems. I always thought he wanted his own son. My aunt and her husband were usually very busy. My aunt was a children's doctor and her husband was an actor so they had to work all the time. Consequently, I began to take care of myself, which was a very useful thing to learn in life. Until the time of my middle school, I was almost on my own. My parents would send me money for food, clothes, and school supplies. When my aunt's two daughters reached their teens, I had

to move out. The reason was they wanted their own space. Fortunately, my aunt and her husband decided to work abroad and they left their children and me with our grandparents.

My grandparents were really nice people and they would always take care of me. They were concerned about my education and my future. With their support, I gained confidence in my life and taught myself to "stay faithful whatever bad happens

to me". Seven years after they left me, my parents finally came back. Right after their arrival, my parents bought a house and my father started working in his home country, Mongolia. Ever since they came back, my life got better and more relaxing.

In conclusion, as I grew from a small kid to a teenager, my life had always seemed bad to me. But the things that I went through made me stronger. When my parents returned, everything seemed good to me. No matter how tough life becomes, I have learned that never giving up and to keep trying is very useful in life.

### NEVER GIVE UP!



## My Sacred Place

Have you ever tried to escape from problems that surrounded you? Have you ever tried to find a place where you can calm down and relax? I tried, but all of my efforts were useless. Finally, I realized that the best way to find the place I had been searching for was to create it. It wasn't easy. However, I did it. I remodeled my room in my parents' apartment to fit my lifestyle. I love my room.

My room, as a part of my parents' flat, was situated on the eighth floor in a big, long building. This was in my country, Belarus. It was not very big but it had enough space to smell like the spirit of freedom. At first sight, my room looked like the casual room of a crazy young man. There was a huge French window on the left side and it was covered with dark purple blinds. A big closet from the floor to the ceiling found its place in the right corner of the room. It was brown, covered with glaze, with different scratches that gave it an old vintage appearance. The room's capacity shocked me. I used to lose a lot of stuff there. In the middle of the room was my king size bed. Sometimes I thought that it was much bigger. It was low, and had the most comfortable mattress in the universe. Besides that, there was a massive book closet. I lost count of how many books were there; it was a perfect collection. The final touch of furniture in my room was a very old table which served me as a computer table. That was all the furniture that I had. It was enough for me. It was the lifeless part of my room.

My ambitions, dreams, lifestyle, deeds, and individuality were represented in minor stuff that crowded my room. First of all, my four walls had different colors. There was beige, dark pink, purple, and light gray. Although I was satisfied with the colors, one day I got tired of the gray wall and drew a huge variety of flowers in yellow, red, black, light green, and orange. It was so realistic that when you looked at them, you could feel the light smell of flowers. More than that, all the walls in my room were decorated

with self-made paintings. They had been drawn in an impressionistic style, with a huge variety of colors, and a very positive mood. That mood became a part of my room's atmosphere. Very close to my bed, there was the artificial pelt of a white bear. As I used to paint while on the floor, actually on that pelt, the pelt changed color from white to the full spectrum of colors. It looked very funny, and I always told stories how I had killed the unseen bear. More than that, a lot of shelves protruded from the walls of my room. All of them were full of small knick-knacks that evoked a variety of memories. To illustrate, there was a shell that I had found on the beach during my vacation; there was my self-made wooden tank, which I made when I was six. All of that memorabilia made my room very pleasing, creative; in other words, it was my shelter from the cruel world.



Everyone has bad days, dark strips in life. Constant stress makes our lives impossible and hopeless. My room helped me to deal with that in different ways. For example, I would come home in a bad mood, and I didn't want to do anything. I closed myself in my room, turned on soft, relaxing music, and lay on my bed. In ten minutes I was back to life. My room inspired and stimulated me. Sometimes my room became the workshop of an artist, where my imagination had possibility to paint gray reality. When I was very tired, I could just enjoy the urban scenery from my window.

Everything is changing. Time is passing. I moved to another country. I've lost my reliable spot. I'll do my best to find a new one, actually, to create a new one. But it would be just a new one. The new room will not replace in me my old one. I miss my room very much because I really loved it. Sometimes I pretend that my room is a real person, and one day I will bring her here to keep sharing my life with her, as in old times.

Egor Aranovich  
ESLW50

## Home School is Cool

The first time I heard about home school was a few years ago and I was in my country, Romania, and I didn't understand what that was. I was surprised because in my country such things do not exist. At the beginning, I thought that this kind of school is for smart students, where they can study without professors. But this is not the case. The difference is that parents decide to teach their children at home or they can send them to a school of their choice, public or private. I remembered again that home schooling is possible only in the United States. In my opinion, I approve of home schooling.

My first argument for this proposition is that I like people to have the chance to decide for themselves what is best for them. They can choose between home school and public school. I met a family here in the US, a Serbian family, who decided to do home school with their kids. They told me that they are okay if their children do not finish universities or higher education. Another mother, Mrs. Choban, told me that in her family, they believe that the mother has to stay at home with the children and has to educate the children. Their belief is that hundreds of years ago all the mothers stayed at home and they educated and taught their kids. The mothers didn't work outside the home, only at home or in the fields with their husbands and family. The Choban family, which has ten children, prefers that their married daughters stay at home and raise the children and home school them. Because of such families, who want to teach their children in a private and intimate way, I agree with the idea of home school.

The second argument for this proposition is that children can learn not only good things at school, but

they can learn bad things such as smoking, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, learning bad words, and developing relationships with bad people and other things. I noticed that in some families where nobody smokes, their children have some friends who smoke. This can persuade them to try smoking and some of them start to smoke. In my native country, Romania, I saw how some students went from their small towns to the city to study and they started to do bad things the first year they got there. The first year in high school, because teenagers want to be accepted, they start to do bad things. They never saw bad habits at home, but they learn from their classmates.



My parent's generation was so poor that they never had enough clothes, shoes and food. They never thought about cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. But in my generation, when I was at the university, many of my colleagues smoked, drank, and a few of them took drugs. Sometimes, when I would go to

the bathroom, I would see needles in the trash can. For such bad things that happen in schools, some parents decide to teach their children at home.

The third argument for this proposition is the way and what they learn in school might hurt them later in life. I do not know the school system in America because I never went to high school in the United States and don't have any children yet to go to school, but in my country, I grew up under communism which taught many bad things. For example, they taught that there is no God and that man came from the monkey. This implied that you had no choice under communism, but to learn what they said. The effect of this philosophy was that a lot of people were killed as a result of people not going

along with their program. For example, lots of people were killed because they believed in God, lots of people were killed because they believed in capitalism, and lots of people were killed because they did not believe in communism and all of this was taught in their schools. They brainwashed the children in their schools and a generation which did not have to answer to anybody came out. Another bad thing that children learn in school is that homosexuality should be accepted as normal. Recently, the state of California passed a law where small children must learn about homosexuality and the history of certain homosexual people. When I was in the university working in the medical field, they taught us that ho-

mosexuality is a disease. For this reason children are best taught at home where they receive good values from their parents. If parents send their children to schools, they must evaluate the risks they take.

In conclusion, I agree with home schooling for families who want to teach their children family values and to prevent their children from bad habits and a bad way of thinking. In my opinion, if you don't have money for a private school, and you don't have time to spend with your children, it is better to leave your job and have homeschooling.

Dorotya Pop  
ESLW50

## Corruption in Piatigorsk

I grew up in a small city, Piatigorsk, Russia. The population of the city is about four hundred thousand people. It's a good place to study because we have many colleges and universities there. Many students from different countries come to study in Piatigorsk, but we have a very huge problem there. If you want to enroll in college or university, you have to pay a bribe. Depending on the college or university, you may pay a lot of money in order to be enrolled in classes. All that money goes to the director's pockets. When students begin to study, they have to pay bribes for many tests and exams because teachers want to have money in their pockets, too. When I studied in Piatigorsk, my teacher asked us to pay her a bribe in order to have good grades. She told us how much it should be and she wasn't embarrassed by it. However, there are some ways to resolve the problem of corruption in the educational system in Piatigorsk.

The first solution to the problem of corruption in the educational system in Piatigorsk is to pay better salaries to the teachers and professors. Unfortunately, teachers and professors are not well paid in Piatigorsk, so it forces them to ask students for extra money. Many of them don't have enough money to pay utilities and buy food. Many teachers have children and they try to provide them with a good education, too. It will be very good if the government increases their salaries. It will help to prevent corruption in colleges and universities in Piatigorsk.

The next solution to the problem of corruption in the

educational system in Piatigorsk is to create a group of people who will oversee dishonest teachers, professors, and directors of colleges and universities. This problem became very common in Piatigorsk, so teachers, professors and directors are not shy to ask directly about bribes. The special group of people who will watch corruption in the educational system can secretly record discussions between teachers and students. For example, if student have problems with corruption, they can call this special service and ask for help.

The last solution to the problem of corruption in the educational system in Piatigorsk is to make severe punishment for it. People who work in the educational system are usually not afraid of punishment because of corruption. They know that the maximum that will happen to them is a fine. After that, they do the same thing to their students. Professors continue to ask for money for good grades and they are not afraid of the consequences.

Corruption in the educational system in many places of Russia, including Piatigorsk, is a huge problem. It has to be stopped because students who are very intelligent and students who don't have money can't get a good education. These students also can't enroll in the university because we have to pay for education and we have to pay extra money because of corruption. It should be stopped by paying good salaries to the teachers, by creating a group of people who will investigate corruption, and by severely punishing corrupt officials.

Liudmila Kurilyak  
ESLW50

# Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

## "Happy Birthday, Mr. President"

### Facts About George Washington



- Washington was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. That would make him 281 years old this year!
- Washington had his first job as a surveyor of Culpeper County in Virginia. He was only 16/17 years old when he started.
- George Washington was the first President of the United States of America, from 1789-1797.
- Many people think General Washington had wooden teeth. He did, in fact, wear false teeth, but they were not wood at all, but bone and ivory. The animal bone would stain after awhile from drinking or eating certain foods making them look like the brown color of wood.
- George Washington died at his home in Mount Vernon in 1799. General H. Lee said that Washington was, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." This is to remind us that Washington was our first military leader as an independent nation, our first President during peace after the war, and that he will always be remembered in American history.

<http://www.ushistory.org>

### Facts About Abraham Lincoln



- He was born on February 12th 1809, and died April 15th 1865 at the age of fifty six.
- His home state was Illinois.
- His party was Republican and he was president for four years from 1861-1865, when he was assassinated.
- His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, was brought up into a very wealthy family.
- Mary's parents disagreed with her marrying Abraham because he was from a poor background.
- Abraham had four children, Robert Todd Lincoln, Edward Lincoln, Willie Lincoln, Tad Lincoln. Only Robert Todd Lincoln survived into adulthood.
- Abraham was an unaffiliated Christian, as he never officially acquired church membership.
- He created a national banking system with the National Banking Act in 1863, resulting in a standardized currency.
- He was the first president to be assassinated.
- He had deep depression, even though he would frequently tell stories and jokes to friends and family.
- He patented a system to alter buoyancy of steamboats in 1849.
- His birth mother died from milk sickness.
- His father remarried a widow, and Abraham was very close to his stepmother.

<http://www.alincoln-library.com>

# Language News from National Geographic

## New Talking Dictionaries

The Enduring Voices team is pleased to announce the launch of Talking Dictionaries, giving listeners around the world a chance to hear some of the most little-known sounds of human speech.

Several communities are now offering the online record of their language to be shared by any interested person around the world. While you probably won't walk away from these Talking Dictionaries knowing how to speak a new language, you will encounter fascinating and beautiful sounds—forms of human speech you've never heard before—and through them, get a further glimpse into the rich diversity of culture and experience that humans have created in every part of the globe.

## Losing Our World's Languages

Every 14 days a language dies. By 2100, more than half of the more than 7,000 languages spoken on Earth—many of them not yet recorded—may disappear, taking with them a wealth of knowledge about history, culture, the natural environment, and the human brain.

National Geographic's Enduring Voices Project (conducted in collaboration with the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages) strives to preserve endangered languages by identifying language hot-spots—the places on our planet with the most unique, poorly understood, or threatened indigenous languages—and documenting the languages and cultures within them.

## Why Is It Important?

Language defines a culture, through the people who speak it and what it allows speakers to say. Words that describe a particular cultural practice or idea may not translate precisely into another language. Many en-

dangered languages have rich oral cultures with stories, songs, and histories passed on to younger generations, but no written forms. With the extinction of a language, an entire culture is lost.

Much of what humans know about nature is encoded only in oral languages. Indigenous groups that have interacted closely with the natural world for thousands of years often have profound insights into local lands, plants, animals, and ecosystems—many still undocumented by science. Studying indigenous languages therefore benefits environmental understanding and conservation efforts. Studying various languages also

increases our understanding of how humans communicate and store knowledge. Every time a language dies, we lose part of the picture of what our brains can do.

## Why Do Languages Die Out?

Throughout human history, the languages of powerful groups have spread while the languages of smaller cultures have become extinct. This occurs through official language policies or through the allure that the high prestige of speaking an

imperial language can bring. These trends explain, for instance, why more language diversity exists in Bolivia than on the entire European continent, which has a long history of large states and imperial powers.

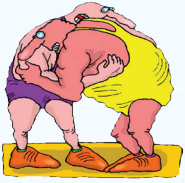
As big languages spread, children whose parents speak a small language often grow up learning the dominant language. Depending on attitudes toward the ancestral language, those children or their children may never learn the smaller language, or they may forget it as it falls out of use. This has occurred throughout human history, but the rate of language disappearance has accelerated dramatically in recent years.

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/enduring-voices/>





# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### Words with More than One Job

Many words in English can have more than one job, or be more than one part of speech. For example, "work" can be a verb and a noun; "but" can be a conjunction and a preposition; "well" can be an adjective, an adverb and an interjection. In addition, many nouns can act as adjectives.

To analyze the part of speech, ask yourself: "What job is this word doing in this sentence?"

In the table below you can see a few examples. Of course, there are more, even for some of the words in the table. In fact, if you look in a good dictionary you will see that the word "but" has six jobs to do

Word	Part of speech	Example
work	noun	My <b>work</b> is easy.
	verb	I <b>work</b> in London.
but	conjunction	John came <b>but</b> Mary didn't come.
	preposition	Everyone came <b>but</b> Mary.
well	adjective	Are you <b>well</b> ?
	adverb	She speaks <b>well</b> .
	interjection	<b>Well!</b> That's expensive!
afternoon	noun	We ate in the <b>afternoon</b> .
	noun acting as adjective	We had <b>afternoon</b> tea.

<http://www.englishclub.com>

## Idiom-Attic

### An Old Salt



"Look, there's an old salt coming off that ship!" Teddy exclaimed. "That looks like a sailor," Angela answered. "An experienced sailor is often called an old salt," Teddy explained. "Is that because the sea is salty?" Angela asked. "That's right, but we don't call people who sail boats on weekends old salts," Teddy said. "The term is reserved for sailors who have been to sea a long time.

[www.englishdaily626.com](http://www.englishdaily626.com)

## Beak Speak!

### ESL Pronunciation Tip: Rising Intonation in WH- and Yes/No Questions

- Questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no" answer (often referred to as "yes/no questions") usually end in rising intonation. The voice tone goes up at the end of the sentence.



Examples: Is it five o'clock yet?  
Is that Mrs. Smith?  
Is he coming?

- In addition, wh-questions that ask for clarification or restating end in rising intonation.

Examples: What did you just say?  
What did you say your name was?

<http://www.esltrail.com>

## Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

### USA Presidents Wordsearch

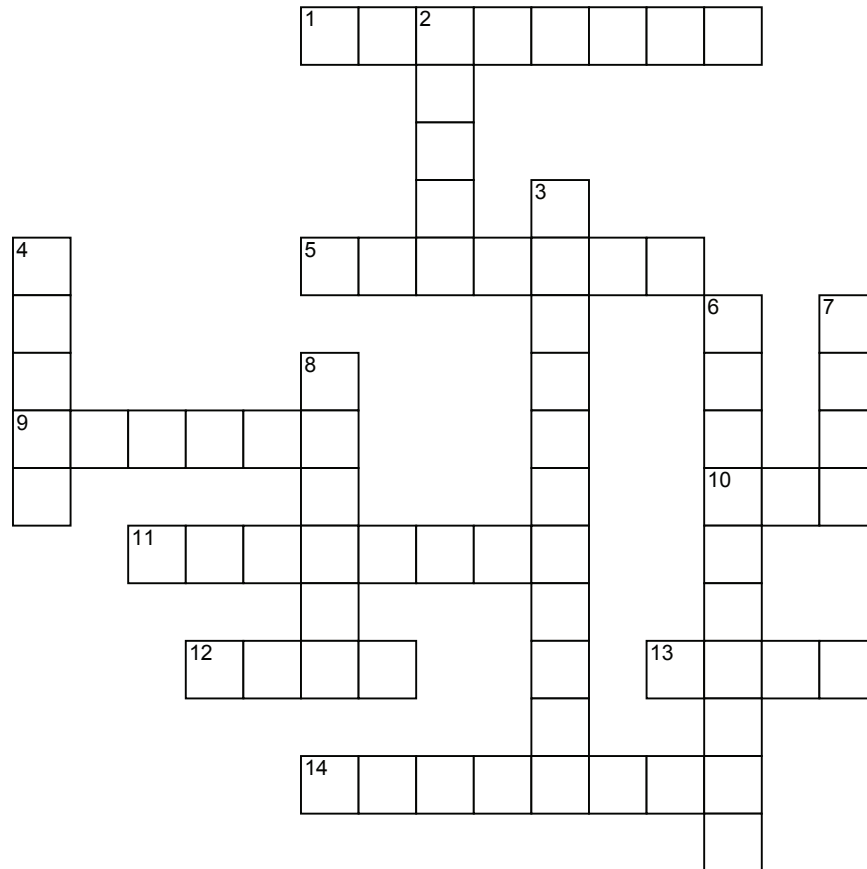
Find and circle all of the United States Presidents that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.



WASHINGTON	TAYLOR	B HARRISON	KENNEDY
J ADAMS	FILLMORE	MCKINLEY	L JOHNSON
JEFFERSON	PIERCE	T ROOSEVELT	NIXON
MADISON	BUCHANAN	TAFT	FORD
MONROE	LINCOLN	WILSON	CARTER
J Q ADAMS	A JOHNSON	HARDING	REAGAN
JACKSON	GRANT	COOLIDGE	G H W BUSH
VAN BUREN	HAYES	HOOVER	CLINTON
W HARRISON	GARFIELD	F D ROOSEVELT	G W BUSH
TYLER	ARTHUR	TRUMAN	OBAMA
POLK	CLEVELAND	EISENHOWER	

# Presidents Day

Third Monday in February



www.elcivics.com

## ACROSS

- 1 month Presidents Day is in
- 5 last name of the 16th President of the United States
- 9 first name of George Washington's wife
- 10 number of full terms that presidents can serve
- 11 first name of the current first lady
- 12 first name of Abraham Lincoln's wife
- 13 number of years in a single presidential term
- 14 state Abraham Lincoln is buried in

## DOWN

- 2 last name of the current Vice President of the United States
- 3 name of George Washington's plantation in Virginia (2 words)
- 4 last name of the current President of the United States
- 6 official home of the President of the United States (2 words)
- 7 chauffeur-driven vehicle that presidents ride in
- 8 George Washington is called the "\_\_\_\_\_ of our Country"

### Welcoming Day

On the first day of class, I sat on my duff  
 Knowing the semester might prove to be tough  
 A glassy-eyed look distinguished my peers  
 As the beady-eyed instructor confirmed all our fears  
 Homework would rule, no late work would do  
 Listening was paramount or the course we would rue  
 No alternative was given for the hundred-buck text  
 Had we heard the death-knell signaling essays were next?  
 I glanced at my phone to check on a tweet  
 Saw the day and the date and leaped to my feet  
 It's the wrong class, the wrong day – I sang Hallelujah --  
 First days at college can certainly fool ya.  
 Red Bull in my hand, from this nightmare I fled  
 A reprieve, I'm on leave, but day two I would dread.

Luap Occarb

### Rigoberto’s Riddles

A donkey was tied to a rope six feet long. A bale of hay was 18 feet away and the donkey wanted to eat the hay. How could he do it?



Answer: Very easily as the rope wasn't tied to anything.

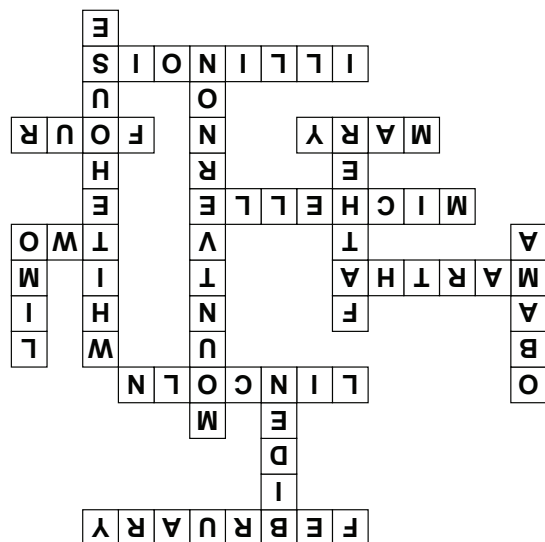
### Silly Vasily’s Chuckle Chamber



A prince had a curse put on him when he was a little boy. He could only speak two words every year. But, if he didn't speak for a whole year, he would then be able to speak 4 words the next year and so on.

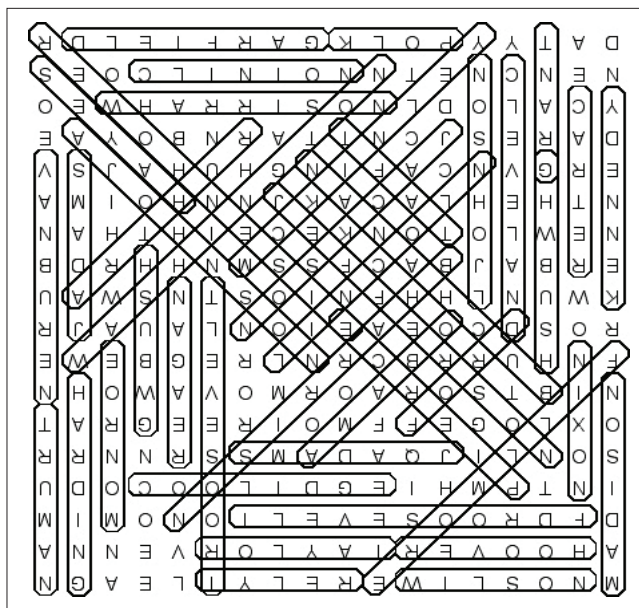
One day he met a princess named Josie and he wanted to say "My Princess". The next year he saw her he wanted to say "My princess, i love you". The third year he saw her he wanted to say "My princess I love you, will you marry me?" But, the young prince, now growing older knew he would have to wait a couple more years. So, on the fifth year, excited to finally present his question, he visited the princess. He approached her respectfully and asked, "JOSIE, MY PRINCESS, I LOVE YOU. WILL YOU MARRY ME?" And the princess said, "Pardon?"

Solutions crossword puzzle on page 11



Solution:

Solutions to wordsearch on page 10



## Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I heard in America we're supposed to make New Year's resolutions, which means promises, right? I promised to get my homework done on time so that I have less stress and don't get a bad grade. Did you make any New Year's resolutions?

A Determined Student

Dear Determined,

Among other promises to myself was my vow to eat more bran. I also promised to walk more. That last resolution's not so hard to keep because more and more I'm misplacing my glasses, which means I tramp about a mile a day from room to room looking for them. I also tend to misplace my keys, which



adds further mileage to my daily walking. I told my doctor this and she agreed that it's a good way to increase my exercising without leaving the house and without joining one of those fitness centers and buying all that spandex. Losing my glasses and keys and having to replace them is annoying, but my good friend Pollyanna says if I need to replace lost things, I am stimulating the economy by providing jobs for unemployed optometrists and key makers. She suggests that I look at the bright side of things ("the silver lining", as they say) so that is my final new year's resolution: to see the positive as much as possible, even when the outlook appears bleak – like having no glasses and not being able to leave and lock up the house!

Granny



*Have a question for Granny Noetal? It can be about anything! Granny knows it all. Send an e-mail to [grannynoetal@yahoo.com](mailto:grannynoetal@yahoo.com)*

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*Continued from page 2*

of school as a place to make inexpensive mistakes and keep learning. My other advice for teachers and students is - do not let learning stop when you leave the classes. For teachers too.

**Parrot:** When you call on students to answer a question, do you target the ones who sit in the back, front or middle?

**Nancy:** No to any of the above. In speech class what you have to do, there are many who have taken speech classes in high school or they have been in the workplace for twenty five years. They have been supervisors, they think they know how to talk, and the problem is you have to tell them to be quiet and let somebody else answer. Like in some speeches I will assign maybe five speeches due that day and I will assign one person each to the speakers and I would say when we finish all the speeches, I want you to turn around to the speaker and tell him what you liked best about the speech. That forces at least five people to listen.

**Parrot:** You have got 20 minutes free time and have a choice to read People's magazine or The Parrot. What would you read?

**Nancy:** The only time I read People's magazine is when I am off to get a haircut and I have to wait for somebody and it's sitting there in the rack and I think it is just a rag. The Parrot is far classier than People's magazine. The fact you don't have celebrities is not the important point. There are real people. People's magazine! What a real rag! What do I care if Charley Sheen is going to get fired? That was the only good thing about the Japanese tsunami -- to take Charley Sheen off the cover. It does not affect me. Like most people I want to know what is in it for me, and People's magazine has nothing in it for me.

**Parrot:** What comes to you naturally?

**Nancy:** Haaaaaa! I guess I am naturally a smart mouth! It comes naturally to me to be grateful. "You know my mother used to say when I did stuff and I was complaining and she said "There are people far

worse off than you." One time I said (I was not smart enough to shut up) I did not care if someone had two broken legs, that it did not fix my one broken leg. She said, "Just think about that. Be grateful that you do not have two broken legs." I was just astonished. Absolutely grateful for my life. All the people in it. That sense of gratitude, especially, I have an astounding collection of friends. If anyone has a collection of friends that I have, there would be no wars and all psychiatric people would be out of work. I have friends who were there for me during the days when I was not even there for me. They are wonderful people. I am grateful that I have a job which is so much fun that if the administration knew what a wonderful time I am having in the classes, they would not only pay me but probably would send me a bill. What could be nicer than getting paid for what you like to do best?

**Parrot:** So you teach the same thing to your students!

**Nancy:** I hope so! I keep trying to tell them. You have got this class...and it is mandatory. Yes, it pays my rent, and I'm glad that it's mandatory because I'm not out of work, but on the other hand, you gotta remember: Somebody has to speak for those who can't speak for themselves. And it is gotta be you, because you know how to speak. So you speak for the people and especially for those who can't speak for themselves.

**Parrot:** Right, that is very nice. So this sense of gratitude is God gifted or you have learned it?

**Nancy:** I think my mother probably drilled it into us subconsciously because she would say "I think that murder was a lesser sin than to be ungrateful!"

**Parrot:** Oh, really! That strong!

**Nancy:** Yeah, she'd say something and somebody would say something and she'd say, "Oh, that is terribly ungrateful of him. Why didn't he figure this out?" And I probably have more than a lot of people. More things that I am grateful for. I look around me, and I think, "Yeah" Somebody said to me the other day

"How's life going?" and I said, "Well, it'd be fine if I had a pile of money." And then I thought and said, "Well, on the other hand, I have friends who have problems that no pile of money will fix, so I figure I'm doing real well. If all I need is a pile of money, fine. Of course, if anybody wants to send me a pile of money, send me a pile of money."

**Parrot:** I know people who have lots of money but are still complaining.

**Nancy:** I have friends, you know. I have a friend whose youngest son is confined to a wheelchair. He is now eighteen years old. He cannot talk. He cannot feed himself. He has to wear diapers. And he is the most joyful spirit you would ever want to be around. And somebody said, "Well, he doesn't know that there's anything wrong with him," and I said, "Well, yeah but there you go. He doesn't know that people would feel sorry for him, because he doesn't feel sorry for himself. He likes music. Yeah, and other people have problems with their kids on drugs or people are worried that their parents are developing Alzheimer's and what do you do with that, and you know, I don't have those problems. It's not that I don't have my own set of problems, but no amount of money is going to fix those.

**Parrot:** And as you know money does not bring happiness.

**Nancy:** Yeah, it doesn't bring happiness, but it brings a much more comfortable style of misery. How about that?

**Parrot:** Oh, I like it! What are the best words of wisdom you have received?

**Nancy:** I do not know if it was wisdom or maybe a very practical suggestion. I was living in Davis and a Davis Police Officer gave me good advice seventeen or eighteen years ago. I was getting a series of obscene phone calls. I mean just gross stuff, and I would hang up, and a few days later, he would call back again with some heavy breathing. So finally I called the police, and they said, "Do you have an answering machine?" Let it ring, and just do that, and I

said, "Yeah, but I don't want to discourage students trying to get a hold of me," and they said, "Okay, take this: Never say "Hello" twice. If you pick up the phone and say "Hello," and nobody responds, hang up right then because it's either somebody on an obscene phone call or somebody who's trying to sell you something." So, I guess that's the most practical. I don't know if it's the best advice, but it's specific, so it's very practical. So, I hang up if I pick up and say "Hello", and I don't get an answer.

**Parrot:** So you just hang up?

**Nancy:** I just hang up right then and there.

**Parrot:** Hmm, I will do the same thing. What do you like to do in your spare time if you have any?

**Nancy:** I am sure if you ask people about their spare time, you'll get a big laugh. Well, I like to read things that aren't required reading. I like to be involved with theatre stuff. If I have any extra money, it goes to theatre tickets. Actually, tomorrow night I am going to be somebody who watches a final dress rehearsal of a show that's going on in Davis, because the director has asked me to come and take a look at it and take some notes, and for thirty-some years I was a volunteer with the Davis Comic Opera Company, and it's a community theater situation and it was great fun. We only did two shows a year, so we'd be exhausted after one show, but we'd have four or five months off before we started the next one, and I liked to do that. I like to hang out with those wonderful friends that I talked to you about. I like to have conversations with my descendants, my son, my granddaughter, who is wonderful, my honorary granddaughter who has produced two children, an honorary great-grandson, an honorary great-granddaughter, and then the third week in April, my blood-grandson and his wife will produce a blood-great-granddaughter, and it is the third week in April, and my birthday's the third week in April, and I told her mom, "You better be sure that this child is born on my birthday if you know what's good for you" And she said, "Yeah, yeah." So that's spare time, but every so often I have an important thing, and I ask, "If you have three extra hours some day, what would you do?" and consistently

they'd say, "Sleep, sleep sleep." So now I amended the card to say, "Don't say sleep, be more creative. "They usually think of forty-seven things they want to do in three hours.

**Parrot:** That sounds fun. What is your dream vacation?

**Nancy:** My dream ...?

**Parrot:** Vacation...You know where you go for holidays.

**Nancy:** Oh...vacation... uhm... I'm going to...wow, a week from tomorrow I go to San Diego, and a man who was in foster care in our family when he was growing up now lives in Phoenix, and he would drive in from Phoenix. He likes the ocean, but there's not a lot of coastline in Phoenix, you know? Arizona's pretty desert. So he will come in on Thursday. He used to live in San Diego. He has friends there. So he will drive from Phoenix on Thursday night and book the motel room and stuff like that, and then I'll fly down on Friday morning and get there at 8:30 in the morning, and he will pick me up. So I will have, when he picks me up at the airport, a chauffeur, a

guide, because he knows his way around, and somebody with the same health problems that I have so if one of us says, "I'm really tired. I need to go lie down," and it's only 10:30 in the morning, then the other will say, "Okay, fine, call my room when you wake up." So he's the perfect travel companion. Yeah, so four days in San Diego, can't beat it. Now once my great-granddaughter gets born in April, I'm hoping to go to Washington D.C. because that's where her parents live, so she will probably be with them, and I have always wanted to see that city, so that'll be fun.

**Parrot:** That's really nice of you. You have answered all my question, and it was nice meeting you.

**Nancy:** It was lovely meeting you. Did I babble? I don't know how you're going to put this into a story, but feel free. Somebody has to have a blue pencil.

**Parrot:** Thank you very much

**Nancy:** Bye-Bye. I am honored.

Shahida Malik  
ESLL320

## Out of the Cage

### Sprachhilfe!!! Drop In German Conversation Nights

Thursday, January 31, 2013  
7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

Not only is a foreign language (German) practiced, but also the culture of German-speaking countries is presented and discussed. Various regional realia is brought in, i.e. books, newspapers, video clips, toys, foods, etc.

Location: Davies Hall 218

### Scholarship Seminar

Wednesday, February 6, 2013  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Have questions about scholarships, the essay process, etc? Then please attend one of the semester's hour-long seminars. This is for students who need to explore alternative options for financing their education.

Location: Davies Hall 218

### 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 D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail braccop@arc.losrios.edu