



The Parrot

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

Issue # 72 Fall 2013

German's Frau Dr. Martin "Gegrillt" by dem Papagei



Parrot: My name is Laurindo, I am an ESL student and we have this interesting newsletter called "The Parrot". I don't know if you have heard about The Parrot and normally we have an interview with a teacher or a worker here on campus. Professor Bracco suggested I interview you and thank you very much for this opportunity. First of all, can you briefly introduce yourself please?



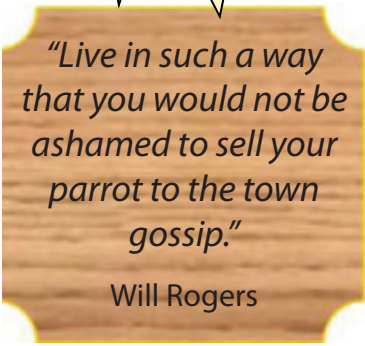
Susannah: My name is Susannah Martin and I teach German. I have been here since 2008.

Parrot: That's not a long time, 2008! Is that the only class you teach?

Susannah: Yeah that's the only one I do.

Parrot: And why did you choose German?

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Coffee from an Elephant's Gut fills a \$50 Cup

GOLDEN TRIANGLE, Thailand (AP) — In the lush hills of northern Thailand, a herd of 20 elephants is excreting some of the world's most expensive coffee.

Trumpeted as earthy in flavor and smooth on the palate, the exotic new brew is made from beans eaten by Thai elephants and plucked a day later from their dung. A gut reaction inside the elephant creates what its founder calls the coffee's unique taste.

Stomach turning or oddly alluring,

this is not just one of the world's most unusual specialty coffees. At \$1,100 per kilogram (\$500 per pound), it's also among the world's priciest.

For now, only the wealthy or well-traveled have access to the cuppa, which is called Black Ivory Coffee. It was launched last month at a few luxury hotels in remote corners of the world — first in northern Thailand, then the Maldives and now Abu Dhabi — with the price tag of about

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Student Chirpings

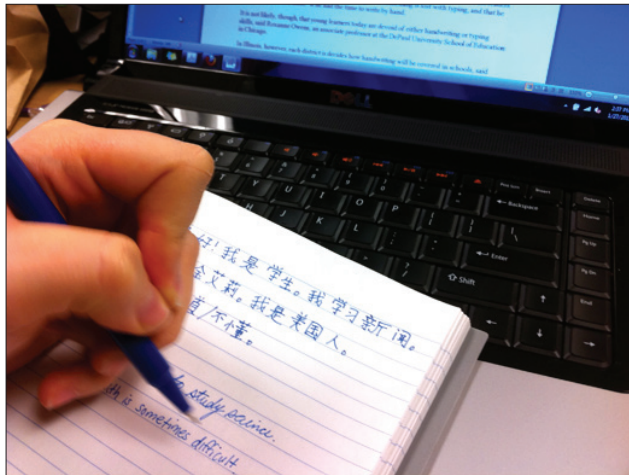
The Contrast Between Writing by Hand and Typing

Nowadays technologies are rapidly developing. They play a significant role in our lives. In addition, technologies are being applied to many fields such as economics, science, and medicine. Moreover, many new technologies are being using for education. They help students learn better and help teachers teach better. For example, some of my friends and I in writing class used computers to write our essays. However, others still wrote their essays by hand. In my view, while there are some similarities, there are far more differences between writing an essay on a computer and writing an essay by hand.

Ans essay being easy to read and correct is the first difference between writing an essay on a computer and writing an essay by hand. My classmates in the writing class come from many countries, so they use many different languages. In addition, some of them did not use the American alphabet before. Therefore, their handwriting is very different from the people who used the American alphabet to write. Furthermore, we usually exchange essays and read together. Sometimes, I have to take a lot of time to read an essay because my classmate's handwriting is totally illegible. On the other hand, it's very easy to read an essay if it is written on a computer. After that, we can discuss the essays and learn from each other. For my professor, he can not correct an essay if the student who wrote the essay had bad handwriting. In contrast, he can correct an essay quickly when it is written on a computer. Then we can get a lot of feedback from our professor if he can read our essays clearly.

The second difference between writing an essay on a computer and writing an essay by hand is the way of storing data. Writing is a long process, so you need to take time to improve your writing skill. In order to have a perfect essay, you need to write many drafts until it's perfect. In addition, you must have a smart method to do that in order to save time. Writing an essay on a computer is the smart method. Some of my classmates wrote their essays by hand. Then they lost their first drafts, so they

had to write again. It's a waste of time. Unlike writing an essay by hand, writing an essay on a computer is safe and it's always in your computer. In my writing class, we have second drafts every week. If you write an essay by hand, you have to take time to write the whole essay again. However, when you write an essay on a computer, it saves time because you only correct your mistakes, don't have to write the whole essay again, and it's easy to add new ideas. It saves a lot of time. To study for a test, people who write essays by hand have to collect all their essays and read them again. They will have problems if some of their essays are lost. In contrast, people who write essays on a computer will find it easy to study for test. They just sit in front of their computers, read again, and don't have any problems with losing an essay.



The final difference between writing an essay on a computer and writing an essay by hand is the development of computer skills. When you apply for a job, many employers require computer skills. Especially, they will ask you about some office programs like Microsoft office programs. I think people who

write essays by hand don't have good skills at computer programs. They are not used to computer programs. On the other hand, people who write essay on computers are acquainted with computer programs and have good computer skills. It helps their careers in the future. Another thing is the typing skill. Whereas the typing speed of the people who write essay by hand is very slow, the typing speed of the people who write essays on computers becomes faster day by day.

In conclusion, the process of writing an essay is the same when you write by hand or on a computer. However, there are some reasons for writing an essay on a computer: to avoid being illegible, to save your essay safely, and to improve your computer skills.

Thach Nguyen
ESLW50

The Advantages of Being the Youngest Child

Are you the youngest or the oldest child? Have you ever thought about the advantages of being the youngest child in the family? There are a lot of advantages to being the youngest child if one looks around the whole world. Sometimes, some of those youngest children gain advantages easily. In my opinion, there are three really important advantages in being the youngest child: one inherits the whole family property, one receives a lot of love and help from siblings and parents, and one can live with parents longer than the other siblings.

The first advantage in being the youngest child in my part of the world is inheriting the family property. This case is always practiced in my homeland, Cambodia, and some countries such as Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and other countries in Asia. From my experience, the youngest child always takes care of the elderly parents, and therefore this

person is entitled to receive all the property. For instance, my youngest sister is living with my parents nowadays, and my siblings and I presume that she is going to receive all the wealth from my parents. Moreover, my youngest aunt received the entire family heritage from my grandparents in my father's generation, so this case makes sense to me in

Asian culture. In addition, for example, most of my Cambodian friends' families follow the same path, which is the youngest child is supposed to receive all the family's property from her parents, as my family does. Clearly being the youngest child in the family means a great chance to receive all the property from the parents.

Another advantage in being the youngest child is being the person to receive a long period of time to take care of old, dear parents. Because I believe in Buddha, the person who takes care of the elder parents is the most pleased person in the whole world. That is the chance to give back the love, generosity, and patience of the children to their parents. For example, my youngest sister always tells my siblings and me that she is really happy to live with and take care of my parents longer than anybody else in the family. In addition, one of my friends, who moved with her family to Thailand five years ago told me on Facebook that she appreciates living with her parents even though she sometimes feels lonely, and her parents always complain too much about her business. My cousin, who lives

with his parents in the U.S, also loves his chance to live with his parents longer than his brothers and sisters because he has enough time to gain experience and receive advice from his parents, he told me. In short, being the youngest child does not mean getting a headache from parents' complaints, but instead means gaining a lot of experience and receiving advice from parents.

A final, and perhaps the most important advantage in being the youngest child is receiving a lot of love and help from both siblings and parents. From what I have experienced, the entire family always hangs out at the house where the parents are living when they have a party or traditional events. In addition, the youngest child has a wonderful chance to stay close to the relatives and parents. It is also a nice time for the youngest child to gain love and help from brothers, sisters, and parents. Truly,

my parents, siblings and I love my youngest sister very much, and we always support her activities all the time. Moreover, my uncle's youngest sister, who lives in Cambodia, gets a lot of love and help from her relatives even though she can make a living independently. More than that, honestly, my cousin whom I live with has been staying in touch with his

siblings, relatives, and me very well. In brief, the advantage of being the youngest child is a great chance to live with happiness and warm relationship throughout the entire family.

In conclusion, the advantages of being the youngest child in the family is the chance to inherit wealth from the parents, the chance to be the person who is loved, helped, and appreciated by all the siblings, parents, and relatives, and the chance to live close to the parents for the longest time. From my experience, those youngest children always appreciate their lives because it is the wonderful and meaningful gift of human life for every single nation, age, and religion. I want to be the youngest child too because this person receives a lot that everyone in the world would like to have in their lives.

*Bora Hourt
ESLW50*



The Effects of Facebook on People's Lives

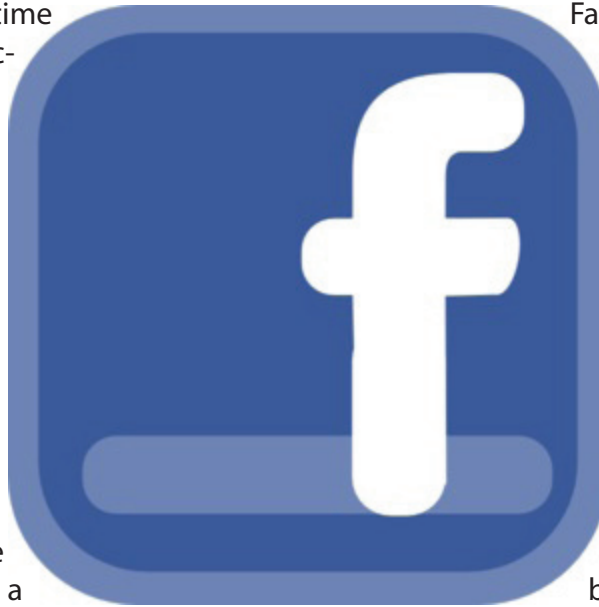
All around the world people use Facebook. It's not only a social network; it's also a way to communicate with other people or spend time interestingly. Many people can't imagine their lives without Facebook and spend a lot of their time on it. Facebook influence can be different on different people. There are three main effects of Facebook on people's lives.

The first effect of Facebook on people's lives is people are now not easily bored. Every person who is bored can find something to do on Facebook. There are many different games there, such as driving cars, planting vegetables, or just playing with balls. My brother spends a lot of time playing his favorite game racing cars on Facebook. Everyone can find a group he is interested in there. Some of them are poetry groups, or how to make something, while others are educational groups. For me, these groups are very interesting. I like to make clothes, so I often re-view groups I joined. I always find new styles of dresses and helpful tips for making them there. In addition, there are many ads on Facebook. If a person is looking for a new car or wants to buy his favorite singer's CDs, he can find it on Facebook. In brief, Facebook helps people not to be bored and, to spend time usefully.

The second effect of Facebook on people's lives is people can now keep their information organized. Everyone who has a page on Facebook is able to keep all the information organized. He can update personal pictures or videos. For me, I try to update my pictures not less than once a week. As well as updating pictures, it's a good idea to write new posts daily. I always write my feelings or what I'm doing on Facebook every day. In addition, there is a lot of other information that needs to be checked. For example, some people want to "friend" you, while other invite you to join new groups or games. It takes some time

to check all the new information and organize it. To summarize, having a page on Facebook helps you to be organized and keep your information current.

The third effect of Facebook on people's lives is the ability to now stay connected with friends. Through Facebook everybody can stay in touch with friends from other countries. For example, I can communicate with my friends from Russia and Ukraine through Facebook. I can chat with my friends across the ocean, see their pictures, and read their posts. I always know what is happening in my friends' lives because of Facebook. One more thing is that on



Facebook everyone can find his old classmates. For example, my mom found her old classmate, who was her best friend in high school, on Facebook. They hadn't heard from each other for 28 years! Sometimes, through Facebook people make new friends. I have a few friends on Facebook I've never met in real life. However, we have similar interests and communicate with each other as if we were best friends. Therefore, Facebook is very helpful for friends who live in different places and for friends who are trying to stay connected.

In conclusion, the effects of Facebook on people's lives are now our lives are more interesting, our information can be better organized, and our connections with friends are easily maintained. People spend a lot of time to keep their pages on Facebook organized, to play different games, or to try and find new and new friends. They don't take notice that their real friends are leaving them. Maybe, they should stop spending all their time on Facebook and begin to spend more time in real life? Who knows?

Maryna Nieskova
ESLW50

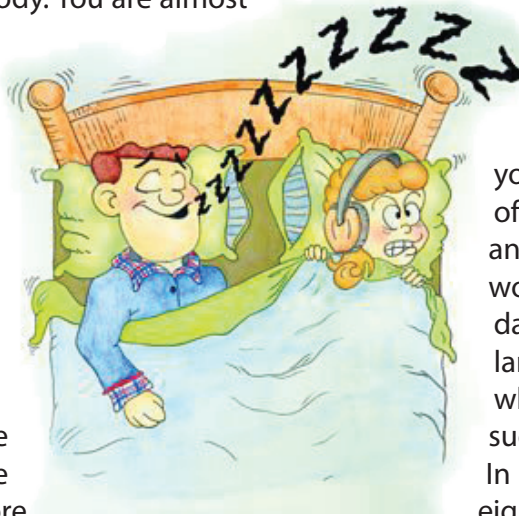
“Hrrrrrrrrrrrr!”

People can't live without sleeping. This process is our power outlet. We have to sleep to recharge our body energy. It is very important. Everybody likes to sleep. Some people like to do it longer. On the other hand, some people don't like to sleep for a long period of time and prefer a couple of two-three hour naps during the day. However, nobody likes interruptions of their sleeping process. By interruptions I mean something that makes you wake up. Snoring is an interruption. The most terrible thing about it is that it doesn't let you fall asleep. Just imagine the following situation. You came home after a hardworking day. You have dinner, and you want to sleep so badly. You come to your soft warm bed. You lie on it. You feel that a wave of relax covers your body. You are almost in your dreams... Suddenly you hear your roommate's snore: “HHrrrrrrrrrr!” Oh my God! You want to kill him, don't you? That thing is very annoying and pisses everybody off. However, there are three main solutions to the snoring problem.

The first main solution to the snoring problem is to visit a doctor. Sometimes people snore because of illnesses. It could be simple flu or even something more serious like problems with a breathing channel. I was always told that people who snore have medical problems. For example, a very good friend of mine, Dima, had never snored, but after one small street fight his wife started to complain about her husband's snoring. He tried to do a lot of things to get rid of snoring. Nothing helped him. His wife even moved to another room. It continued for a long period of time and Dima was extremely unhappy with that. Then he decided to visit a doctor. It was his last hope. A doctor found out the reason for his snoring. The reason was the damage during that street fight which brought some changes to his nose's structure. The doctor fixed that by one simple and light movement of Dima's nose. Dima was happy. His wife was the happiest woman in the universe.

The second solution to the snoring problem is to

sleep with earplugs or headphones. It is a very simple and useful solution, because it doesn't require a lot of effort or money. Just go and buy two dollar earplugs and sleep like a toddler. This solution has universal practice. You can even sleep when your roommates have a party or listen to loud music. For example, I lived with a guy in San Francisco. He snored every night and did it super loudly. I think even the neighbors could hear that. More than that, while he was awake, he listened to hard metal rock. That was terrible. So I bought earplugs. When I put them into my ears, I faced true silence. It was very useful and I continue to use earplugs and recommend you get some.



The last solution to the snoring problem is to hit a source of noise. He or she will immediately stop snoring, for sure. More than that, it is very funny and you get the unbelievable satisfaction of hitting your roommate without any revenge actions. Your roommate won't remember anything the next day. I love this solution. Back in Belarus, I studied in a military school, where we had army classifications such as companies, platoons, etc. In every platoon there were twenty eight students. We lived together. So

we had a huge sleeping room, where were our beds. We went to sleep at the same time; however somebody could fall asleep earlier than others and could start to snore. It was fun then. We called that event “Hunt for the Tiger”. We took pillows, flip flops, sneakers and all together threw it at the person who was snoring. Boom-Boom-Boom. That person, of course, got up and tried to find the “hunter”, but everybody pretended that they were sleeping. This game was effective. Everybody was just afraid to snore.

So, I offer you three solutions which will be effective and useful. Don't wait. Don't suffer from snoring. Act! Bring my solutions into your life and you will see what kind of mood you will have in the mornings.

*Aranovich Egor
ESLW50*

Flying on the Mountains

Have you ever tried flying on a snowy mountain? I was born and grew up in southern China, where it never snowed, so building a snowman and having a snowball fight only appeared in my dreams when I was little. Four years ago, my best friend showed me the video clips of his ski trip to Colorado in the United States. I was impressed by the white stuff over the big mountains and the skiers sliding down the slopes. Since then, I had been dreaming of having a ski trip, and finally my dream came true when I moved to the United States in 2010. My first experience with snow skiing was exciting, and I will never forget the feeling of flying on the snowy mountain.

It took me a lot of time and effort to get everything ready for my first ski lesson, which began at 9:30 on a freezing January morning at Heavenly Mountain Resort. The thermometer indicated that it was 23 degrees Fahrenheit outside. I put on a ski jacket, pants, and gloves before I got out of my car. I had booked a two-hour lesson on line, so I went directly to the ski school and signed in. After I filled out all kinds of forms, the office lady told me to get my gear at the rental hall. There were two long lines at the rental hall, and an employee told me to input my data in the computer first and then to get my gear at the counter. Finally, I got my gear: a pair of skis, boots, poles, and a helmet. I tried to imitate others, but the boots were incredibly difficult to put on. I felt frustrated, and my forehead grew damp. While I was struggling with the boots, an employee came to help me. He grasped the tongue of my boot and pulled it upwards and let my foot slide into the shaft of the boot. I copied the way he had just done and put on the other boot. It was easy! I thanked him and then with my gear went to meet my instructor.

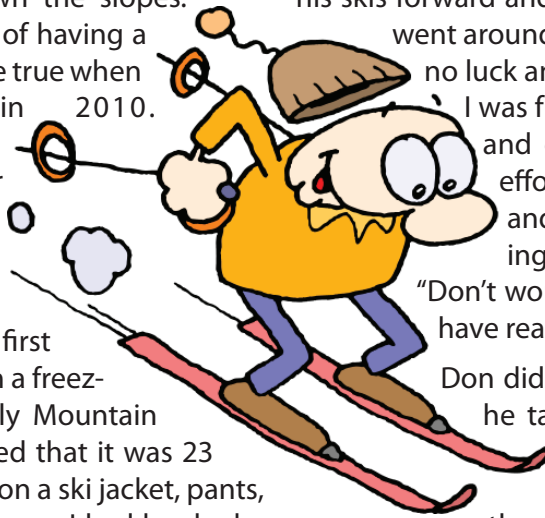
My instructor, Don, greeted me warmly when we met at the beginner's area, and soon he began his teaching. "First, I'll show you how to put skis on," Don said. He put his skis on the snow pointing in the same direction about a foot apart and placed the front of one ski boot into the front part of the binding on the ski. Then, he placed the back of his ski boot over the rear part of the binding and slowly pushed down. The binding closed with a click. He repeated this step with his second ski.

He gave me a thumbs up sign when I copied him and got into my skis. After walking around in skis for a while to get used to them, I followed Don to move to a nearby chairlift, which would carry us up to the top of a slope. Don guided me to get into the loading area. We waited until a chair came around and allowed it to pick us up. When our chair reached the top, Don pointed his skis forward and pushed away from the chair as it went around. I tried to copy his action but with no luck and fell down at the unloading area. I was frightened, broke into a cold sweat, and couldn't stand up under my own effort. Don walked toward me quickly and helped me to leave the unloading area. He comforted me by saying, "Don't worry. Everyone falls. We are going to have real fun in a second."

Don did bring me the real fun soon. First, he taught me the technique for stopping or slowing down: put the front of the skis together and then push the rear of the skis wide open to form a pizza shape. He vividly described this action as "making a pizza." It sounded funny, but it was useful and easy to learn. After I had "made the pizza" a few times, Don said I was ready to turn. Don explained while demonstrating in front of me. I simply followed him step by step and thought about his words in my mind. I practiced a lot of times. Don seemed really glad when he was convinced I was able to make good turns. We began to ski down the slope, first slowly, and gradually faster and faster when I felt more confident after applying a few turns and making several pizzas. Finally, near the half way point of the slope, I rushed along at full speed. At that moment, I felt I wasn't skiing but flying on the mountain. It gave me a strong feeling of excitement and happiness.

My first ski experience was amazing, and the feeling of flying was really thrilling. I'll never forget that special day and that splendid moment. They have left a deep impression on my mind. Now skiing has become my favorite sport, and I always want to do it again and again. Whenever I ski on a snowy mountain, I always feel like I am flying. That feeling is terrific!

Ninghua Zhang
ESLW310



Lost my Partner

My cell phone is very important for me. I use it all the time. I can not go anywhere without my cell phone. It is my assistant. It is not for calling and receiving a call, but I use it as an alarm clock, as a reminder, as a watch, as a navigator, and so on..... I will never forget when I lost my cell phone one month ago. It was the most terrible day of my whole life.

In the afternoon, I was ready to go to my job. I found out I did not have my cell phone with me. How could I go without it? I started to look for it, but I did not have enough time to look carefully. I looked every where: in the kitchen, living room, bathroom, and in the car. I did not find it. Then, I thought of a quick idea. I used my home phone and dialed my number. I listened carefully, but I did not hear anything. I dialed again and again, but nothing changed. After 15 minutes, I decided to go without it. I used the home phone, and called my husband to tell him what had happened.

My feeling was horrible that day. I could not concentrate on my driving very well. I felt lonely in this world without communication with other people.

When I arrived at Costco where I work, I stopped thinking about my cell phone. I had to focus on my job. In the evening, I finished my job. I drove home. I kept thinking of my cell phone. What should I do? Do I need to buy a new one, and do I have to tell all my friends about my new number? Also I thought about my husband and my kids. I missed them very much. I usually talk to them during my breaks. I could not imagine how people in the past lived without cell phones.



Finally, when I arrived home, I found all my kids were waiting for me.

All of them said, "Mom, we found your cell phone." I could not believe that. "Where did you find it?" I asked. "In the chest drawer." Then I started to laugh and gave them a big hug.

I would start my life again with my partner.

In conclusion, I will never forget that day. All my horrible feelings went to the wind. I learned from that that I have to take care of my important things, so I won't lose them again.

*Dahla Abdullah
ESLW50*



Interesting Facts about Lost Mobile Phones

An infographic that gives amusing information about lost mobile phones. Cell phones worth billions of dollars are lost around the globe every year.

Security companies Background Check and Lookout Mobile Security have published interesting information about people losing mobile phones. Sample a fact: 4 mobile phones are lost every day as people accidentally drop them into Niagara Falls!

1. \$7 million worth of mobile phones are lost every day around the world
2. Two thirds of losses take place between 9:00pm and 2:00am (drunk people forgetting phones in bars? mugging?)
3. During the Cologne "Karnival" in Germany about 30% more phones were lost than within a week!
4. Lookout Mobile Security located mobile phones worth \$2.5 billion in 2011. Most of these were Android based and were found within the USA.
5. You should be more careful when you visit apartments, pizza outlets, coffee shops and fast food restaurant as these places are among those where people tend to lose their mobiles!

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Coffee from an Elephant's Gut fills a \$50 Cup
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\$50 a serving.

The Associated Press traveled to the coffee's production site in the Golden Triangle, an area historically known for producing drugs more potent than coffee, to see the jumbo baristas at work. And to sip the finished product from a dainty demitasse.

In the misty mountains where Thailand meets Laos and Myanmar, the coffee's creator cites biology and scientific research to answer the basic question: Why elephants?

"When an elephant eats coffee, its stomach acid breaks down the protein found in coffee, which is a key factor in bitterness," said Blake Dinkin, who has spent \$300,000 developing the coffee. "You end up with a cup that's very smooth without the bitterness of regular coffee."

The result is similar in "civet" coffee, or "kopi luwak", another exorbitantly expensive variety extracted from the excrement of the weasel-like civet. But the elephants' massive stomach provides a bonus.

Think of the elephant as the animal kingdom's equivalent of a slow cooker. It takes between 15-30 hours to digest the beans, which stew together with bananas, sugar cane and other ingredients in the elephant's vegetarian diet to infuse unique earthy and fruity flavors, said the 42-year-old Canadian, who has a background in civet coffee.

"My theory is that a natural fermentation process takes place in the elephant's gut," said Dinkin. "That fermentation imparts flavors you wouldn't get from other coffees."

At the jungle retreat that is home to the herd, conservationists were initially skeptical about the idea.

"My initial thought was about caffeine — won't the elephants get wired on it or addicted to coffee?" said John Roberts, director of elephants at the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation, a refuge for rescued elephants. It now earns 8 percent of the coffee's total sales, which go toward the herd's health care. "As far as we can tell there is definitely no harm to the elephants."

Before presenting his proposal to the foundation, Dinkin said he worked with a Canadian-based veteri-

narian that ran blood tests on zoo elephants showing they don't absorb any caffeine from eating raw coffee cherries.

"I thought it was well worth a try because we're looking for anything that can help elephants to make a living," said Roberts, who estimates the cost of keeping each elephant is about \$1,000 a month.



Tongue-in-cheek photo by coffee purveyor

As for the coffee's inflated price, Dinkin half-joked that elephants are highly inefficient workers. It takes 33 kilograms (72 pounds) of raw coffee cherries to produce 1 kilogram (2 pounds) of Black Ivory coffee. The majority of beans get chewed up, broken or lost in tall grass after being excreted.

And, his artisanal process is labor-intensive. He uses pure Arabica beans hand-picked by hill-tribe women from a small mountain estate. Once the elephants do their business, the wives of elephant mahouts collect the dung, break it open and pick out the coffee. After a thorough washing, the coffee cherries are processed to extract the beans, which are then brought to a gourmet roaster in Bangkok.

Inevitably, the elephant coffee has become the butt

of jokes. Dinkin shared his favorites: Crap-accino. Good to the last dropping. Elephant poop coffee.

As far away as Hollywood, even Jay Leno has taken cracks.

"Here's my question," Leno quipped recently. "Who is the first person that saw a bunch of coffee beans and a pile of elephant dung and said, 'You know, if I ground those up and drank it, I'll bet that would be delicious.'"

Jokes aside, people are drinking it. Black Ivory's maiden batch of 70 kilograms (150 pounds) has sold out. Dinkin hopes to crank out six times that amount in 2013, catering to customers he sees as relatively affluent, open-minded and adventurous with a desire to tell a good story.

For now, the only places to get it are a few Anantara luxury resorts, including one at the Golden Triangle beside the elephant foundation.

At sunset one recent evening in the hotel's hilltop bar, an American couple sampled the brew. They said it surpassed their expectations.

"I thought it would be repulsive," said Ryan Nelson, 31, of Tampa, Florida. "But I loved it. It was something different. There's definitely something wild about it that I can't put a name on."

His wife Asleigh, a biologist and coffee lover, called it a "fantastic product for an eco-conscious consumer," since the coffee helps fund elephant conservation.

But how does it taste?

"Very interesting," she said, choosing her words carefully. "Very novel."

"I don't think I could afford it every day on my zoo-keeper's salary," she said. "But I'm certainly enjoying it sitting here overlooking the elephants, on vacation."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/sciencefair/2012/12/07/coffee-elephants-dung/1753385/>

10 Odd Facts About Coffee



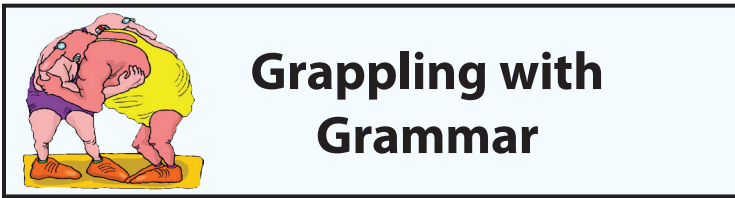
- ◆ At one point, Brazil had such a coffee surplus that they tried to find other uses for it, including using it to make plastic.
- ◆ **The world record for most coffee consumption is 82 cups of coffee in 7 hours.**
- ◆ Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets got his start doing coffee ads.
- ◆ **During World War II there was a coffee drinking competition between the branches of the military. The Marines claimed to drink the most – twenty cups a day.**

- ◆ Coffee was so scarce in Germany that during WWII "coffee bombs" or bags of coffee were dropped from planes to turn the people against their government.
- ◆ **In Staten Island, there's a restaurant owner that drinks fifty cups of coffee a day.**
- ◆ The actress who played the Wicked Witch Of The West in the Wizard Of Oz, Margaret Hamilton, was promoting Maxwell House in the 1970's.
- ◆ **There's a tourist agency for people wanting to take coffee vacations called Cafe Away.**
- ◆ Norway drinks the most coffee per person. The United States is ranked number 12.
- ◆ **The only place where coffee is grown in the United States is Hawaii.**

"Coffee should be black as hell, strong as death, and as sweet as love"
Turkish Proverb

<http://www.care2.com/greenliving/10-odd-facts-about-coffee.html?page=1>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Had better

We use "had better" plus the infinitive without "to" to give advice. Although "had" is the past form of "have", we use "had better" to give advice about the present or future.

- You'd better tell her everything.
- I'd better get back to work.
- We'd better meet early.

The negative form is "had better not".

- You'd better not say anything.
- I'd better not come.
- We'd better not miss the start of his presentation.

We use "had better" to give advice about specific situations, not general ones. If you want to talk about general situations, you must use "should".

- You should brush your teeth before you go to bed.
- I shouldn't listen to negative people.
- He should dress more appropriately for the office.

When we give advice about specific situations, it is also possible to use "should".

- You shouldn't say anything.
- I should get back to work.
- We should meet early

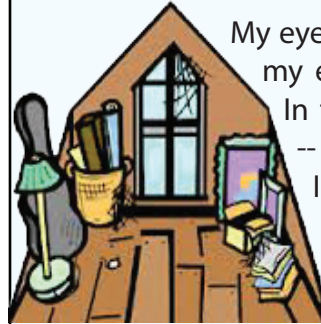
However, when we use "had better" there is a suggestion that if the advice is not followed, that something bad will happen.

- You'd better do what I say or else you will get into trouble.
- I'd better get back to work or my boss will be angry with me.
- We'd better get to the airport by five or else we may miss the flight.

<http://www.englishgrammarssecrets.com/hadbetter/menu.php>

Idiom--Attic

Eyes popped out



My eyes popped out when I saw my electricity bill last month. In that case, I was surprised -- even shocked -- at what I saw. It's much better, though, to have one's eyes pop out when he or she is nicely surprised.

"My eyes popped out when I saw Miriam. I hadn't seen her in years."

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

Beak Speak Consonant Replacement



The sounds of some words change, depending on the combination of letters used to form the word. Two such sound changes are the flap and the glottal stop.

The Flap occurs in three situations.

A). A flap occurs when a 't' comes between two vowels. The pronunciation of the 't' in these incidences sounds like a 'd' and is said very quickly.

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| water becomes wader | Do you need some water? |
| letter become ledder | The letter was in the mail box. |

B). Flaps also occur when a 'd' comes between two vowels. The 'd' is still pronounced with a d sound, but it is said very quickly. In the normal pronunciation of the d sound the tip of the tongue is placed on the tooth ridge (the area where the top front teeth meet the top of the mouth) before the expiration of air to produce the sound.

With a flap, the tip of the tongue barely touches the tooth ridge and the 'd' sound is made very quickly.

She is a medical student.

A spider has eight legs.

C). The third flap occurs when with linking of the consonant final letter of one word and the vowel letter of the next.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| "right away" becomes righ(d) da way | I'll get your bags right away. |
| "what if" becomes whad dif | What if we go there? |

<http://pronunciationtips.com>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Chocolate Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 55 letters spell a secret message.



ADDICTIVE
BAKING
BARS
BITTERSWEET
BROWNIES
CAKES
CANDY
CHIPS
CHOCOLATIERS
COCOA

CONFECTIONERY
COOKIES
CREAM PIE
CUPCAKE
DARK
DECADENT
DELICIOUS
DESSERT
DRINKS
FILLING

FONDUE
FOOD
FUDGE
ICE CREAM
ICING
INGREDIENT
MILK
MOUSSE
PUDDING
SEMISWEET

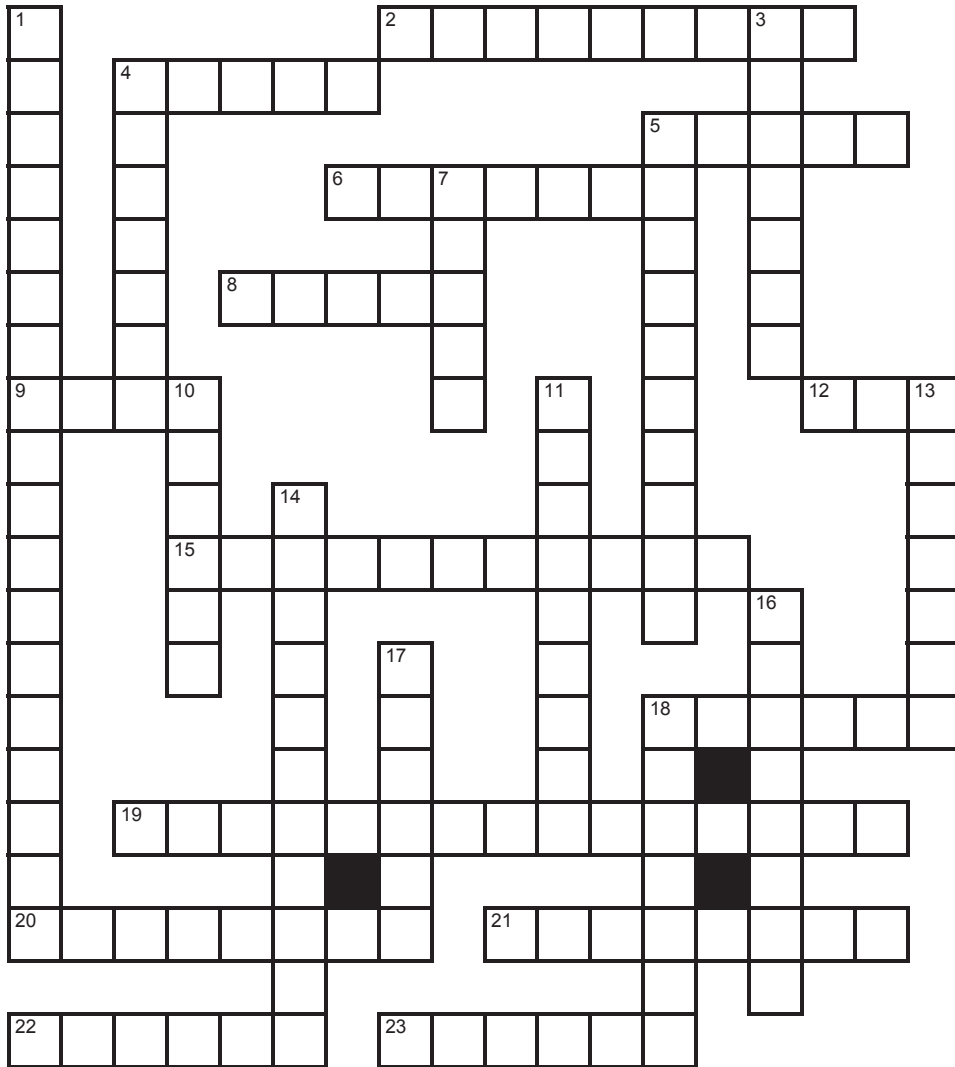
SUGAR
SWISS
SYRUP
TREAT
TRUFFLES
UNSWEETENED
WHITE

Jobs

Crossword:

Across

- 2. A person who does experiments.
- 4. Someone who stars in a movie.
- 5. Somebody who flies airplanes.
- 6. Someone who cleans buildings.
- 8. Someone who digs for metal ore in the ground.
- 9. Someone who cooks food.
- 12. Somebody who helps sick animals.
- 15. Someone who delivers mail.
- 18. Somebody who helps sick people.
- 19. Someone who serves people on airplanes.



Down

- 1. Someone who builds houses.
- 3. A person who protects a country.
- 4. A person who plays sports.
- 5. A person who makes computer games.
- 7. A person who helps a doctor.
- 10. Someone who grows crops.
- 11. A person who goes to outer space.
- 13. Somebody who teaches.
- 14. Somebody who puts out fires.
- 16. Someone who fixes cars.
- 17. A person who serves food.
- 18. Somebody who fixes teeth.



Hope is a Thing with Feathers

Hope is a thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings a tune without words
And never stops at all.

And sweetest, in the gale, is heard
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That keeps so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest sea
Yet, never, in extremity
It ask a crumb of me.

Emily Dickinson

Rigoberto's Riddles

I run over fields and woods all day. Under the bed at night I sit not alone. My tongue hangs out, up and to the rear, awaiting to be filled in the morning. What am I?



Answer: A shoe

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



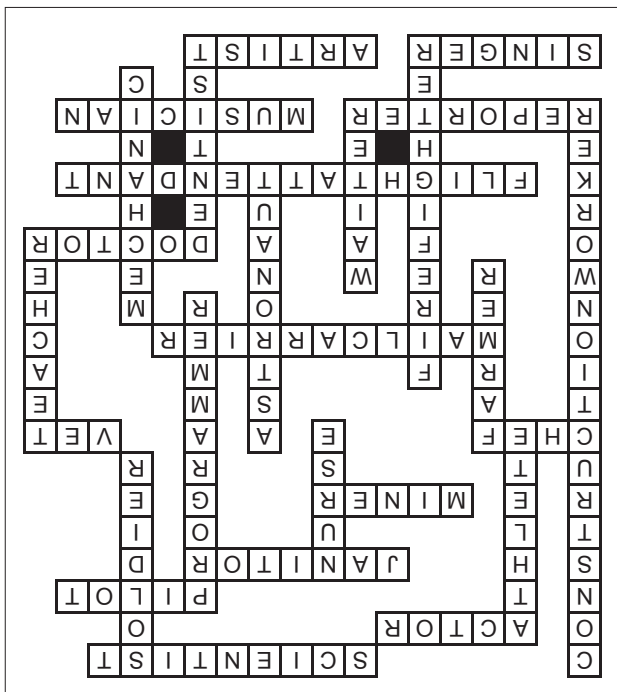
A boy walked into a pharmacy and asked the pharmacist to give him something to cure the hiccups. The pharmacist merely leaned over and slapped the kid on the back.

"Why did you do that to me?" asked the boy.

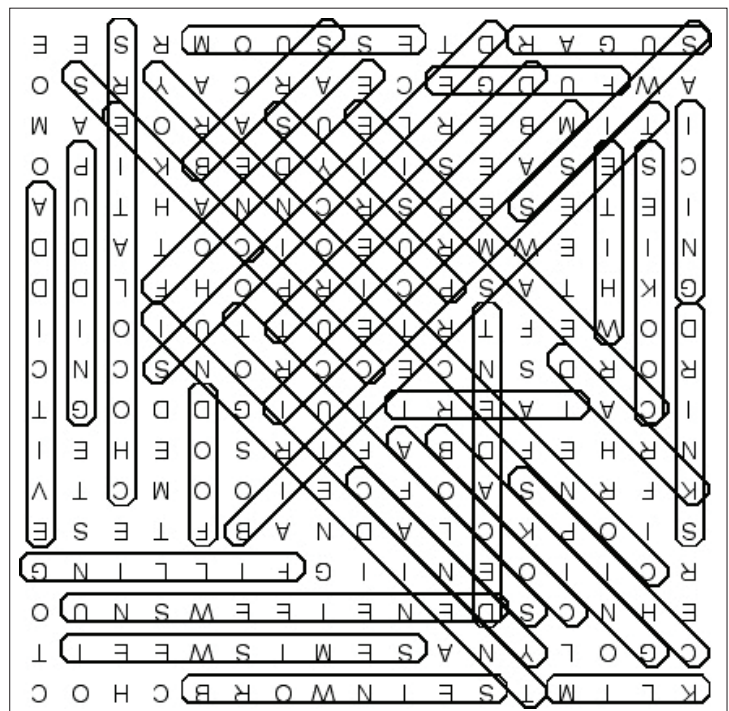
"Well, you don't have the hiccups now, do you!"

"No, but my Mom out in the car still does!" the boy replied.

Solutions to crossword puzzle on page 12



Solutions to wordsearch on page 11



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

In my country, at the university you can share a beer or glass of wine with a friend or have an alcoholic drink with your lunch-time meal. Why can't we do this on our campus?

Respectfully,

Petro dePivo

Dear Petro,

A quick answer is simply that the drinking age in California and probably most states is twenty-one. We have a lot of students on campus who are younger than that. So many of our students drive; we certainly don't wish to inadvertently promote drinking and subsequent driving.

I was told that the ban on alcohol on campus is regulated by state law, in specific Title 5 of the education code.



I can certainly understand your question and even your questioning of the need for such a regulation. In many countries of Europe, alcohol is seen as a complement to food, not a drug, a regular part of meals; at home, adolescents might routinely be offered a bit of wine at meals with their parents. Subsequently, perhaps the mystique of and fascination with alcohol diminishes. At the same time, in some countries, bars are often family-type places where one can have a coffee, an alcoholic beverage, maybe an ice-cream. Children with their parents can routinely be seen in these places.

The US has long had a mixed history with regard to the place alcohol should have in our lives. To better understand this, I would sit down with one of our stellar history professors (over a milkshake) to get a more complete picture than I can give in this space.

Granny

Historical Background of Alcohol in the United States

A Congressman was once asked by a constituent to explain his attitude toward whiskey. "If you mean the demon drink that poisons the mind, pollutes the body, desecrates family life, and inflames sinners, then I'm against it," the Congressman said. "But if you mean the elixir of Christmas cheer, the shield against winter chill, the taxable potion that puts needed funds into public coffers to comfort little crippled children, then I'm for it. This is my position, and I will not compromise."

The legal history of alcohol in the United States closely parallels the economic and social trends that shaped the country. The libertarian philosophy that ignited the Whiskey Rebellion was born in the American Revolution. Shifting concerns about morality and family harmony that were characteristic of the Industrial Revolution inspired the Temperance Movement and brought about Prohibition, which began with the passage of the Eight-



teenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1919 and ended with its repeal in 1933. The return of legalized drinking in the United States led to renewed discussion of the many health and safety issues associated with alcohol consumption. Over the years, the states have addressed these issues through a variety of laws, such as those dealing with a minimum age for the purchase or consumption of alcohol, the labeling of alcoholic beverages, and drunk driving. Private litigants have expanded protections against harm from alcohol through tort actions, and various groups, both national and local, continue to lobby for increased legislation

and higher penalties for alcohol-related acts that lead to injury.

<http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Historical+Background+of+Alcohol+in+the+United+States>

Nutritional Nuggets

Plant Stanols/Sterols and Your Cholesterol

If your LDL levels (“bad cholesterol”) are too high, the doctor has instructed you to lower dietary saturated fat and cholesterol while increasing soluble fiber and exercise. You may also have been put on a statin drug if those alterations did not reduce it enough. Although effective, statins may cause side effects like stomach upset, muscle pain and weakness, and liver damage that may require their cessation.

Another strategy to consider is consuming foods with added plant stanols/sterols. It has been known since the 50’s that these compounds lower total and LDL cholesterol. They have recently shown up in margarine, orange juice, chocolates, energy bars, and yogurt products, as well as a wide number of supplements. The amount found to significantly lower LDL cholesterol by up to 20% is 2 grams. Anything over that has not provided additional reductions. Having that amount at one meal has the same effect as smaller quantities throughout the day. These manufactured products are not recommended for those with normal cholesterol levels. They need to be taken with a meal since they work by preventing cholesterol absorption, but may, over time, decrease the body’s levels of fat-soluble vita-



mins and beneficial antioxidants. Therefore, a healthy diet high in fruits and vegetables is still necessary.

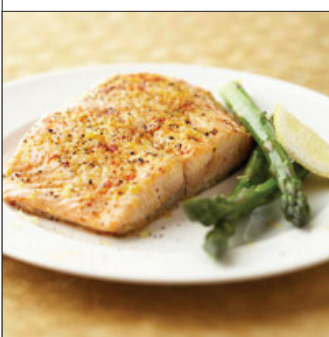
It is close to impossible to get enough from natural sources alone to lower LDLs, but some foods relatively high in sterols are peanuts, other nuts and seeds; whole grains, various brans, and wheat germ; dried beans, peas and lentils; avocados, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, and vegetable oils. All of which have many other beneficial nutrients in them.

Foods with added stanols are meant to be another weapon in your arsenal of cholesterol lowering strategies. Stores that sell supplements carry many brands with varying levels of stanols. Be forewarned that these manufacturers are not regulated by the FDA. The FDA does regulate food products and recently told Smart Balance that they cannot claim that their product can lower cholesterol because it does not contain high enough levels of stanols. If you choose to try taking the supplements, do not stop taking your statin drugs without first consulting with your physician.

*Prof. Irene Roltsch
Nutrition*

Recipe That Helps Lower Parrot-Killing Cholesterol

Salmon and Asparagus



Ingredients

- 1 pound fresh asparagus spears, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 1/2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
- Course sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 pound fresh or frozen salmon fillets with skin

- 1 teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel
- 1 teaspoon snipped fresh parsley

Directions

1. Place two (1 large and 1 medium) cast-iron skillet or oven-safe heavy skillet in a cold oven; heat oven to 450 degrees F. In a medium bowl combine asparagus and 1/2 teaspoon olive oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Brush the remaining 1 teaspoon of olive oil on both sides of fish; sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper.
2. Carefully remove hot skillet from oven. Place fish, skin side down, in the large skillet. Place asparagus in medium skillet. Return skillet to oven. Bake for 12 minutes, or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork and asparagus is crisp-tender.
3. To serve, sprinkle fish with lemon peel and parsley.

<http://www.bhg.com/recipes/healthy/low-cholesterol/recipes-that-help-lower-cholesterol/>

German's Frau Dr. Martin "Gesquawked" by dem Papagei

continued from page 1

Susannah: Heritage and it's definitely a soul connection. I absolutely have since my earliest stage been in love with language and been in love with my heritage.

Parrot: What do you mean by your heritage? Are you from Germany?

Susannah: I am not, but my father was 100% German. My mother, my grandmother was German; but it's very very strange! I don't have any family, I have a mother, a sister, and then my two children but all my relatives died a long time ago and despite that I've already been able to speak the language of my grandparents and beyond always since I can remember and they died before I was born.

Parrot: Wow!

Susannah: I know it's strange very very strange, but as soon as I could, I took to it and it's funny because Germans have always said "Girl, where are you from, where are you from?" They don't know that I'm an American. I always played a joke. I talked about this village outside Berlin and how this little, tiny village nobody ever knows its name is Sacramento and then they say, "Get out of here!" Then they realize I'm joking. There's no village outside of Berlin called Sacramento; it's pretty funny!

Parrot: Do you feel American or German?

Susannah: Both! It's hard because I lived over there so many years; I lived in Germany, then in Switzerland. Kalde Gussa, Karl the Great, most people know him as the French Charlemagne, but he actually was a German. He said, "When you learn another language, you get two souls and you are never completely comfortable in either place because part of your lungs is for the other all the time". And that's what I am.

Parrot: How long did you live in Germany?

Susannah: In total, about 5 years.

Parrot: And at what age did you live there?

Susannah: Twenties, mostly in my twenties, some in my thirties. I always go back and forth. I'd go live there for a year, come back, stay here for a while, go back. I did my early education here.

Parrot: That would be actually my next question if you have ever visited Germany, but you answered it already.

Susannah: Yeah! I'm leaving; I've got tickets already for this spring. I'll be there for this spring but I just had two children, so I haven't been able to travel. Now they are a little older. I can go again.

Parrot: And when you go, do you go with your children or do you go by yourself?

Susannah: I haven't gone since they've been born and I have a four-year old and a two-year old so they kept me home, but next time I'm going by myself.

Parrot: Do your children speak German as well?

Susannah: Yes!

Parrot: Fluently?

Susannah: No! My older daughter looks me straight in the eye and says, "Mama, I speak English", and I say something quickly in German like "Would you please go run and get me this and do something like that?" "Yeah, I'll be right back". "See, you understood me!" So she made perfectly clear that she speaks English but she understands absolutely everything. And the other one is really really sweet about mixing up the language. She'll say something like "Mama I liebe dich." That's a mix of English and German "I love you" "Ich liebe dich" is what you should say, but she says "I liebe dich" or something like that. She really seems to enjoy the German. Different kids do different things, so it's pretty funny.

Parrot: I was searching about languages most frequently spoken in the US, at least spoken at home, and the top three were: Spanish, Chinese, and French. Do they teach those languages at ARC as well?

Susannah: They do teach French and definitely teach Spanish and that's it. We teach Italian here as well as German. The Russian program got closed, the

Japanese program got closed.

Parrot: Do you have an idea why they don't teach Chinese, since it is the second most spoken language at home here in America?

Susannah: You know, I don't know. I would have ... I guess, it has something to do with the district and if they thought another school ... I don't know. That has to do with greater powers than mine.

Parrot: You said you started teaching German in 2008.

Susannah: Here at ARC.

Parrot: Have you ever taught somewhere else?

Susannah: I have. As a graduate student I taught at UC Davis. I've taught at the University of Pacific, and I have taught in Germany at a university in central Germany. I also teach at Sacramento Waldorf School.

Parrot: Wow. So how many years in total have you been teaching?

Susannah: Since 1995.

Parrot: That's a long time. That's a very long time. And where did you learn German?

Susannah: I learned in school the official way, but I learned some of it at home and the rest of it I learned by doing. I learned by listening.

Parrot: Here in the USA or in Germany?

Susannah: Germany, and because of that one of my big goals is to get my students to visit, and I've actively searched for scholarships. I go actively search for internships, opportunities to get the AR kids to Germany. And I am pretty successful. I've got several students applying this year and I just had one student come in last week who had a full-ride scholarship over summer to Brausberg, which is a city in Germany, and I wrote his letter of rec. to get there. So I try really hard to get them there at some point and that's my goal.

Parrot: This internship is for free, right? The students don't have to pay anything?

Susannah: No! The flight was paid, the living was paid, and he got a stipend every month.

Parrot: And what are the prerequisites for students to get these scholarships?

Susannah: This particular scholarship is called W.I.S.P., in the German state of Baden-Württemberg and specifically for community college students. And the requirement is I think you have to be younger than 24, enrolled in 12 units or something, have a good GPA, good letters of recommendation, and then go from there.

Parrot: Who sponsors this scholarship? Is it in the USA or in Germany?

Susannah: Both. It was cooperative.

Parrot: Was this your major? German?

Susannah: It was, yeah! I have a PHD and MA and BA and I am very proud of my AA from Sacramento City College.

Parrot: That's interesting! And if you would change your major, what would it be?

Susannah: You know I truly believe in the old adage, "First study what you love and what's gonna happen is gonna happen". I wouldn't have changed it. I probably would branch out more and have done something also like ESL or business or something else and that's what I hope to encourage my students to do as well. To double major: German is amazing and I had a lot of fun studying it, and I still study it. I mean every day I study it. And there is no regret. I mean my heart is with it completely and I think my students see it as well.

Parrot: Do you have international students in your class or are most of them American?

Susannah: You know, it depends on what you mean by international students.

Parrot: I mean what nationalities do you have in your class?

Susannah: I've got one young man whose parents are from Jamaica and San Croix. I've got several,

three from Ukraine, and one from Russia, one from Belorussia. Let me see. I've got one from Germany this session. Let me see. What else? Yeah, I mean, I always get international students. I got two from Germany this time, but the one young lady was originally from Latvia, I think. Latvia, I believe. So yes, to answer your question, yes!

Parrot: Because I was looking at your students and all of them look American.

Susannah: And so do you, and so do I. And who's going to guess, right? The goal is to not let anybody know, right? To be able to use your accent; your ability to fit in...

Parrot: I guess this question you've answered already, whether your family speaks German.

Susannah: My husband is Native American. He's from this area; but his family is from the Winton tribe which is in Northern California. That's something that we also encourage our children to be part of. So not just the German, but also the Wilton, which is the California tribe; and so that they know their heritage, I think is important they know who they are.

Parrot: Besides at ARC do you teach somewhere else? You are a part-time teacher, right?

Susannah: I am a part-time teacher, yes!

Parrot: And do you teach in another place?

Susannah: I do. I teach at Sacramento Waldorf School.

Parrot: I think this year at ARC they were cutting a lot of classes, and were you afraid that they would cut German?

Susannah: I don't know if the word would be afraid.

Parrot: Because you so love German and your students.

Susannah: I do! I love my students. I'm just cautious, you just need to be prepared and hope for the best you know, definitely cautious; afraid, no! What's going to happen - we really can't do anything about it. I truly believe that the decisions at the Los Rios ad-

ministrative level are wise decisions and I don't think they cut without a lot of thought.

Parrot: What is your present goal regarding German?

Susannah: To teach here full time. As I said, I am a graduate of Sacramento City College. I had no clue what I was going to do when I grew up; I had OK grades in high school, but I never applied myself. I knew that I wanted to travel; I knew that I wanted to go to Germany; I knew that I wanted to speak German. I started three months after graduating from high school over at Sacramento Community College. I met incredible people, had some amazing professors, and a couple of them have passed on already. It's still something that I think about, my two years there. I graduated with honors, I had direction, and got a scholarship. It completely changed my life. So as a result I knew that I want to come back at some point. AR is right now the only school in the Los Rios Community College District that offers German and only because two ESL professors, John Gamber and Patrick Hoggan saved it. They taught the class until they could find a part-timer, one of which is me. Those two men saved German here at AR; in my opinion, they saved it. I got lucky. I live close, I was going to settle down and have children anyway; here I am. I don't know if it's providence or what, but my goal is to be here full time!

Parrot: Do you have any idea why your students study German? What application can they have with German in the USA?

Susannah: You know a lot of students come to take German because there's something of connections, whether it's a family connection, or whether they were in the army, children of the military, there's usually a connection, but not always. Some people just like it, it's interesting. Maybe there's an author that's a German author and they really feel that they want to know more about why this person wrote what they did kind of thing. What I do is I take whatever passion brought them here and I grab this class of movements, and of songs, and with the rhythms, and learnings. And I always say, "When you get to Germany," I don't even say "if", I always say "when", and I'm trying to change their thinking for it's just some-

thing that I can look at in a book, reading in a book, and I get to learn these words too. This will serve me, and I can tell anybody whatever major they have, whatever thing they studied why German will benefit them. And my goal (I've got a few), is to change their life that way. Maybe their goal is to move onto a university. I say, "What university do you want to go to? Let's see if they have a German program. Let's get to double major, and if you can't double major, let's minor. I make it, "Let's do it together," versus "Have fun, and maybe I'll see you around". I'm trying to let them know I'm there to help them. So, I had one student today, one of my students from Ukraine, say "Why are you always so nice and helpful?" I'm like, "Why shouldn't I be, man?" So yeah, it's fun and it's cool because I get great postcards. I get emails, "Hey, I just came back from working in Austria." "I just came back from traveling in Germany. Guess what? I'm going to go and spend next year in Berlin." I'm like, "I did it!" You know, three years later it happens, but it happened.

Parrot: I'm not your student, but I feel the energy. I can see how positive you are. I can see that. And blessed are your students to have a teacher like you.

Susannah: Oh, thanks!

Parrot: The reason why I asked that question is because normally students start something that will benefit them, like in a job, and I was thinking that I've never seen any company that needs people who speak German.

Susannah: Shall I give you some examples?

Parrot: I would appreciate that.

Susannah: Right here in Sacramento, there are three major solar companies that come from Germany. Go look on SMAAmerica.com I think that's what their URL is. They're up in Rocklin. On a regular basis, they have jobs open for people in the tech field, for people in green technology, for people in promotion advertising, whatever, and if they can speak German, they go right to the top. There's another one in El Dorado Hills, and there is another one in West Sacramento, Siemens, which does our light rail cars for Sacramento.

Parrot: You said rail cars?

Susannah: Not the railways, but the light rail. The one that runs here to South Sacramento and here to Folsom. German company. They have a branch here in Sacramento as well; also always looking for German speakers. I have a friend, a good friend of mine, who works for SACTO, which is a Sacramento Area Trade and Commerce organization. It is a city-government run organization. His job is to encourage European companies, mainly German companies, to come to the Sacramento area, and they're too, on a regular basis, looking for people who speak German. And I also help students find internships. I mean, not people to get into internships, but, I can put them in contact with someone who can. German is needed. It is very very needed.

Parrot: It's interesting. I never knew that.

Susannah: SAP is a German company. They are in Palto Alto. There are more. I can come up with more. You put me on the spot.

Parrot: What were the most challenges that you ever faced as a German teacher?

Susannah: Challenges? You know, I mean, there's always the mundane stuff like, "look at the stack of papers I've got. I've got three hours. I've got to do do it." That kind of thing. You know, there's never enough time, there's so much I want to do and would like to be able to bring and do. There's just not enough time to do it. I'm involved in a German club, for example, and there are things I want to do with that, I just don't have time to do them. And nobody has time. I mean, I'm not alone in that, so time, I think, is the biggest challenge. I wish I could do more.

Parrot: Can you tell us a little bit about this German club?

Susannah: Its's a brand new club. You know, the objective is just for people to know that there's a German life on campus, you know, to come and to be able to talk about German music or movies. It's just a social club where German is the focus: food, fun, going out together, and doing something. We have a 150-year-old German organization in town, and seasonally they have events to go with the groups, and

just pretend we are in Germany, or something like that. To learn some new words; It's a social club to learn and to prove that there's a life here, a German life on campus.

Parrot: Oh. Is it here on campus or off campus?

Susannah: On campus, yeah. But the German club I was talking about is off campus, that is 50 years old, that's the Sacramento Turn Verein. That's on J Street.

Parrot: A club? So there is a big community of Germans here.

Susannah: There are a lot of German speakers here in Sacramento. A lot. There is a large group that came over after the Second World War, of young men coming to find a new opportunity and a lot of people settled in Sacramento, and my grandparents too. Some of the people helped the Germans come and establish themselves. And my father has memories of people that came and stayed. He's dead now. He passed these memories onto me, but now, because of business, there are a lot of people coming, or are already here, from Germany, and have established themselves. They don't make themselves well-known because they already speak English, but, for example, the other school where I teach at, there are a quite a few families, and, you know, I've got ten or so German mothers that I hang out with with kids, do things with, so they're here. Look for them.

Parrot: What would you like students, or people in general, to know about German?

Susannah: It's fun! It's not very difficult. If I can do it, everybody can do it!

Parrot: Is it not difficult?

Susannah: It's not really difficult! It's very formulaic. Once you memorize the formula, all you have to do is plug in the vocabulary. There are a lot of cognates with English. "Der Mann ist intelligent." What do you think that means?

Parrot: The man is intelligent.

Susannah: Yeah! There you go! You spoke German! Right! There are a lot of cognates. There are not

that many words in the whole language compared to English. English has a million words for pretty or happy. German doesn't have that many, there's not nearly the synonyms that English has, for example, and it's cool! German is really cool. I mean, look what's really popular right now. Techno music, for example. Where does techno come from? Germany.

Parrot: Are you serious?

Susannah: Absolutely! The first techno band come out in Germany in the 70's and was called Kraftwerk. Name a cool car. Oh OK, BMW, Audi, Mercedes, Volkswagen, Porsche. Think about cool clothes: Adidas, Puma, two German brothers, right? What kind of liquid do many college kids like to drink?

Parrot: Coke?

Susannah: Beer, come on! What kind of drink is that? It's German! Come on.

Parrot: So beer is from Germany. It was invented in Germany, you mean?

Susannah: Yeah.

Parrot: Actually, Germany is a very beautiful country.

Susannah: They're not by choice holding up the entire European Union on their shoulders. With all the economic problems that happened recently they're doing the best they can. We'll see how long it lasts. I don't know. I haven't been following it.

Parrot: I love their cars! They are the most beautiful, powerful and strongest in the world.

Susannah: The first automobile was not a Ford.

Parrot: Not a Ford, really?

Susannah: It was a Daimler! What is a Daimler? Daimler is a Mercedes. It was 1890's that they came out with the first car and it was a Daimler from Germany. Mercedes was the name of the man's daughter. Mercedes is a woman's name, so Mercedes Benz was actually Daimler Benz, a German car.

Parrot: I'm learning so much history today! Okay!

Is there anything you want to share with us? About your experience, about your life, that you want to share?

Susannah: Oh well, as a person I am much about sustainable living. I grow my own food, I knit my own clothes. Like I said, I make my own sauerkraut and kilbasa and I try really hard to give more back to the earth than what I take away. I'm teaching my kids that as well. You know, the old adage, "Do no harm if you can." What else? I read a lot, I don't have a TV, I don't have Internet at home.

Parrot: How could you live without the Internet or T.V.?

Susannah: I do fun things like talk, play games...

Parrot: Don't your children complain?

Susannah: They don't know the difference!

Parrot: Oh, they have never had a TV?

Susannah: No! We're not going to let them watch TV until they're at least seven, better for the brain.

Parrot: Do you think that the Internet or TV is a bad influence for your children? What is the actual reason that you don't have a TV or Internet at home.?

Susannah: I think it is too violent at home. I do have Internet at work! That's not a question; because that's just a normal communication tool, if you don't have it, it means you are just tricking yourself, that kind of thing. My personal opinion on TV is that I think the images change too quickly and it's been proven that it's rewiring the brain work of children and so you see a lot of problems come out of kids, that's been, you know, spoon fed on TV, like difficulties to concentrate, difficulties to make critical connections, as well as behavior problems. There is an interesting article that I read today; the average under two-year-old in the US is watching over two hours of television and for me that's just sad and sickening; that people aren't communicating with their kids, instead they are just pushing them off into television land. Not saying, "go outside, dig in the dirt, look at the butterflies, climb the tree!" Instead, sit down in front of the TV and working on obesity problems, tied to dia-

betes in young children. Food is another issue that I can go off on. And there's another interesting article that I read on BBC today as well that there is a rise in shortsightedness of vision for young people because they are spending too much time inside and not having the opportunity to see long distance.

Parrot: Do you have a religious background that influences you acting that way?

Susannah: No! My religion respects everybody and loves the earth and you know all is going to come back to you, you'd better be good.

Parrot: You said you grow your own food?

Susannah: Not all of it! I can't; I try to do as much as I can like fruit trees and vegetables garden and swapping with friends; like my sister grows fruits and cans fruits, so I mean you have to have a washing machine, you can't just wash your clothes on a rock; but I try really hard to maintain that connection to where my food comes from, where my clothes come from, where does this come from? Because once you lose the connection, I think there is a big part of humanity that gets lost.

Parrot: You said sometimes you make your own clothes?

Susannah: Yes, I do or I try really hard to shop with organizations that have a global consciousness. For example, there are some women cooperatives in Vietnam and in India that produce recycled clothing; because a lot of those women have been put in positions such as prostitution, not by their choice, and so this gives them another outlet to earn money in a way that doesn't harm their bodies or their souls or their brains.

Parrot: I see you spend your money wisely.

Susannah: I do! I don't have a whole lot of it! Everybody should! No, it's fun because in Germany, Europe in general, everything is small. You look at the houses in the United States, two people have 3000 square feet! I'm sorry! In Germany you have a little tiny apartment and you live and go outside, you go to the park and enjoy, and I just look here and that just makes me sad. I mean how many people in the

United States don't have enough to eat, no home to live in, and we've got people here in Sacramento that live in these mansions and they drive in their driveways and shut the door behind them and they don't meet their neighbors; although you could probably look through the bathroom window and see inside of the bathroom window of the neighbors, they don't know each other; there's no connection and it just makes me nuts.

Parrot: That's what I felt when I came from Angola; there is no connection here.

Susannah: Yeah, exactly! If I need help, where would I go? Well you have to go to the police or something; but they don't know you either. Do you think you can go to the neighbors? They would probably call the cops if you knock on their door in the middle of the night and say "I need help." "No I'm not going to help you" and shut the door. I mean it's very strange the society we turned into; very, very sad. So in my opinion, I'm trying hard to create a different place and you can only go one person at a time and reach out, hopefully that spreads.

Parrot: Do you consider yourself a conservative or liberal?

Susannah: I took a test when I was in Sacramento City College, a long time ago as to what political party you would fall under, and apparently I fell under libertarian which means don't bug me and I won't bug you. I don't fall into a category; and apparently it all comes down to, is this right? And do I have the right to say what is right for you, and do you have the right to say what is right for me? My philosophy is obviously don't hurt the Earth, but don't involve the children and don't involve the animals because they don't have a voice. Two consenting adults I don't care what you do behind closed doors; just don't involve children and don't involve animals.

Parrot: Can you be specific when you say don't involve children and animals?

Susannah: Well, look at some brutality that children face in the United States, one of the richest countries in the world. Our children are sold into slavery, our children are also put to work, and our children are also abused. It's disgusting and for me, I base society

on how they treat children and how they treat animals. I think the statistics I read recently and this was from a government website, I didn't get from somebody else's website. Thirty percent of the children in California live below the poverty line, thirty percent! Look at our literacy rates in the United States. California is way at the bottom. We're lucky to push eighty percent. Go to a country like Austria! Ninety eight percent! and our literacy rate at least once I read was based on people over the age of twenty five who completed high school. That's awful, that's awful... and yet, look at what people spend on Christmas! Do we need all that crap? Do we need four cars per family?

Parrot: And what do you think about those people that have ten cats at home?

Susannah: Ten cats, it's enough. You get much more than that and once the animal isn't seen as a distinct being, I have a problem with that; I don't have a problem with people eating meat. I don't have a problem with people wearing fur. What I do have a huge problem with is how these animals are maintained and kept until they're slaughtered. That's my problem because people have lost the connection with plants too; I know that sounds really strange, may sound a little out there; but once humans look at themselves as separate from everything, they're not humans. I have a real problem when people take away that living thought. I don't mind if you eat the animal but recognize the animal and treat it well until it's time to slaughter. Shouldn't be too hard!

Parrot: I've seen people in America love animals more than people; what do you have to say about that?

Susannah: That makes me very sad about their past history, to wonder what brought them to that, you know what I mean? That sounds very sad.

Parrot: Are you a vegetarian?

Susannah: I will eat animals if I know how they have been slaughtered. So I have got a friend who is like a hunter, and if he brings me meat, I know that animal lived in a forest and had a great life until it died. I don't eat low-level meat.

Parrot: What do you mean by low-level meat?

Susannah: Like the stuff you see at BelAir and see in a package, because I don't know how that animal lived. I don't know how it was treated.

Parrot: So if a hunter kills the animal that was in a jungle that's normal?

Susannah: I don't know if that's normal but I think that's better than living in a pen. Here is the crime, the slaughtering on a daily basis; living in fear and I don't want to feed that to my kids. So I don't need a lot of meat, it's just got to be a well-taken care of meat.

Parrot: Now for the last question. What advice or tip would you give to your students if they want to have German as a major?

Susannah: Oh, brilliant choice, num-

ber one. Number two: double major, unless you want to be a German teacher; the reality is there are not many German teaching jobs out there. Find something where you can put that focus on German, whether it's publishing or in the film world or whether it's in science. There are millions and millions of dollars out there for German-speaking scientists. I mean, it's amazing; something that they can use it for, the love of the language, the love of the literature, and the love of the culture is wonderful; but it can only take you so far; you need to be able to use it.

Parrot: Thank you very much! I really appreciate your time, the experience you shared with me or with us and I just want to tell you, to keep doing what you've been doing and wish you success.

Susannah: Thank you!



German Organizations in Sacramento



ARC Deutschklub

The ARC Deutschklub provides a forum for conversing in and improving German language skill, and learning about Germanic culture, language, and peoples. It also sponsors events emphasizing Germanic culture and promotes the Germanic heritage of Sacramento County. It enables those students with no prior knowledge or experience of Germanic nations or culture to learn more about them and offers those students with interest in visiting or studying in Germanic nations aid in application and transition.

Advisor: Professor Susannah Martin

President: Brock Aubel

Vice-President: Rina Kowinwipat

Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, with additional dates included for Sacramento area cultural events.

Room 218, Davies Hall 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM

E-mail: deutschklubarc@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/arc.deutschklub

YouTube: www.youtube.com/arcdeutschklub

German Club Meetings

They are dedicated to promoting knowledge and understanding of German language and culture at CSUS.

They have free viewings of classic and modern German movies. Movie nights are every other week, check the calendar or the club board for details.

German Club Meetings will be held on every other Monday, at 7:30 p.m. Location: Mountain Mike's Pizza.

Their club board can be found at Sacramento State, Mariposa Hall, Floor 2, on the wall outside Room 2003.

<http://www.csus.edu/org/german/>

Sacramento Turn Verein

Where is the center for German traditions in Sacramento? It's right here, at the Turn Verein, where folks with German ancestry and people with an interest in German culture congregate – to socialize, to study German, to party, to exercise, and to carry on some old German traditions – like Oktoberfest, Karneval, Erntedankfest, Bockbierfest, and other fun events.

Location: 3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA

Tel.: 916-442-7360

<http://sacramentoturnverein.com/>

Sacramento German Genealogy Society

They promote the search for family histories of members with a German heritage, SGGGS provides education resources for those seeking to learn about methods of researching their German ancestry, and at the same time seeks to increase the public's understanding the culture and history of ancestors who lived in German-speaking areas of Europe.

Mailing Address: Sacramento German Genealogy Society

P.O. Box 660061 Sacramento, CA 95866-0061

Telephone:(916) 361-2956

Email: sggs@sggs.us

<http://www.sacgergensoc.org/events.php>

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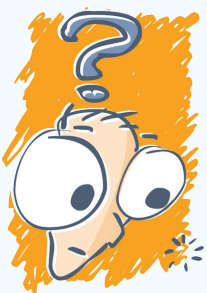


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Questions/Comments?



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) 484-8013, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu.