



The Parrot

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

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Mark his Words: Prof. Rau on Teaching ESL!

Parrot: Hello, Mr. Rau! First of all, thank you for helping me, giving me an interview. How long have you been teaching ESL-G and why did you choose to be a professor?



Prof. Rau: I've been teaching ESL including grammar for 25 years for Los Rios: part of that time was at Sacramento City College and most

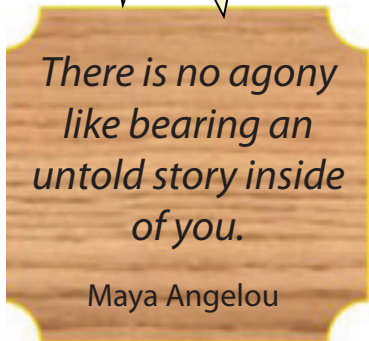
of that time was here at American River College. Why did I choose my career? I didn't really choose it originally. I sort of just fell into it. After I graduated from the university, I looked for work and I didn't find ESL work immediately. But coming out here to Califor-

Continued on page 20



2013 Words of the Year!

See Page 10



There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside of you.

Maya Angelou

What Drives Success?

A SEEMINGLY un-American fact about America today is that for some groups, much more than others, upward mobility and the American dream are alive and well. It may be taboo to say it, but certain ethnic, religious and national-origin groups are doing strikingly better than Americans overall.



Indian-Americans earn almost double the national figure (roughly \$90,000 per year in median household income versus \$50,000). Iranian-, Lebanese- and Chinese-Americans are also top-earners. In the last 30 years, Mormons have become leaders of corporate America, holding top

Continued on page 16



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Inside this Issue

- Neighbors: Uh-Oh! 2
- Family Moves..... 4
- Crowded Yerevan..... 6
- Free Drive..... 7
- Plastic or Not..... 8
- Determined!..... 9

Student Chirpings

Neighbors' Conflicts

In a sunny country like Iran, shade, (in Farsi, "saye", pronunciation [Sɑ:'je]) has an important place in Iranian thinking. "Ham sayeh", [hæm Sɑ :'je], a word that they use for "neighbor", symbolizes the individuals who have an equal share of shade. There is a Farsi proverb that says, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself", but it is not always easy to act upon this advice because, all things that people share, like "shade sharing" or neighboring, have some difficulties. Many years ago, notwithstanding the difficulties, neighbors were closer to each other; they were the same as relatives. In today's world, the convergence of increasing friction among neighbors with change in lifestyle is notable. Three main causes of the friction between neighbors can be described.

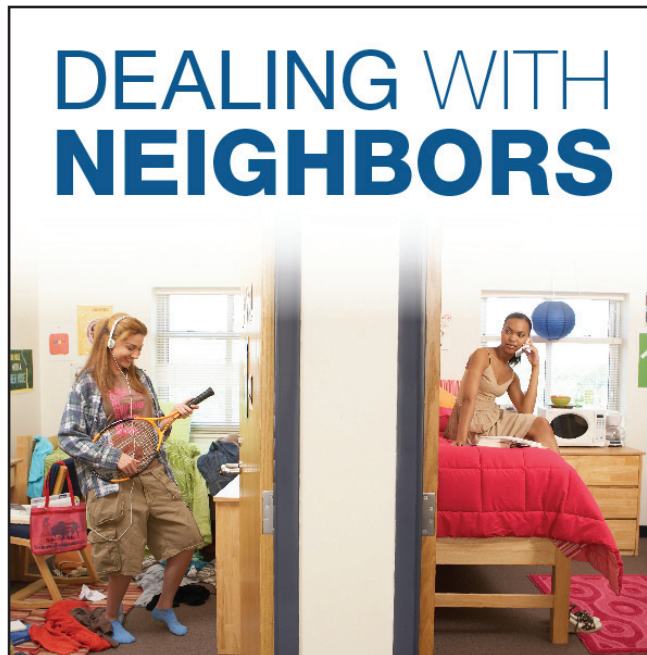
One of the main causes of discord between neighbors comes from a lack of proper communication between neighbors. For example, complaints about a noisy neighbor could happen anywhere in the world, especially when people live in an apartment or a condo. The complaints, however, may vary from place to place. In the US, sometime people call police about a neighbor's noise. The Sacramento Police Department, on its website, describes a noisy neighbor as, "A noisy neighbor may create a disturbance by having a loud television, stereo, or radio, or an out-of-control party." One of my friends in the US was annoyed because her neighbor had called the police and complained about her Iranian New Year's party. She said, "It is my property; I have the right to do everything I want. He hates me because he knows that I am from the

Middle East." While I realized that lack of communication is the cause of this problem, I could not convince her. If they knew each other a little more, maybe they would understand the other's point-of-view better; indeed, my friend could advise her neighbor in advance, and ask her pardon, or even better, she could invite her to the party, as Iranians do. Another instance of a noisy neighbor is my husband's nephew

and his neighbor. Our nephew works from 5 p.m. until 3 a.m.; he says that he can't sleep well because his neighbor is a mechanic and he starts to work in his garage at 8 a.m. Despite the engine noise annoying him, he's never spoken to his neighbor about that.

The other cause of disagreement between neighbors is a shortage of space. One century ago, land was plentiful and cheap, so people lived in large houses or manors. Because of an increase

in population, most people live in small houses or apartments; furthermore, the number of cars per household has increased in recent decades. These facts have been a thorn in the side of neighbors and their relationships, and have caused a new problem – parking space conflict. For example, when I lived in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, parking problems and air pollution were two big municipal concerns, so the governor had a plan called "odd-or-even car". Based on the plan, in some areas, people couldn't move their car on odd days of a week if the last digit of their car license plate was odd. We had three cars, but, unfortunately, all of them had an odd digit at the end. I lived on a dead end street that had a guard kiosk at the entrance. It was a big house with car-



port parking for three cars, so my family didn't have a parking problem the days that we couldn't use the car, except the time that we had guests. The first days that we moved in we were not familiar with the other neighbors; at that time, my parents came from another city to stay with us for a couple of weeks; they had to park their car on the street. On a Tuesday morning, three days after their arrival, while the car was still in the same place, I rushed toward the car-pool to go to work, and I saw a sheet of paper on the windshield of my parents' car. I stopped, and picked the paper up; I realized that it was a notice from the neighbor whose house my father had parked in front of. He didn't know whose car it was, but he'd asked the owner to move the car in very polite words and methods. I returned home, woke my father, and we moved the car. There was no space to park it except in front of the home with a big sign that indicated parking there is equal to a car with flat tires. It is a very common sign that you can see in front of many places in Tehran. We parked the car there, my father returned home, and I went to the guard kiosk to ask them watch the car. I also promised to move the car before noon, and asked the guard to speak to the property owner about the situation, if it was necessary. Three hours later I returned home and when I went to move the car I saw it was impossible; all four tires were flattened. He had the right because he'd warned us before. Also, he needed to keep the space empty because he used it for his car; it was my fault, but his deed wasn't acceptable either.

Diversity among the people who live in a neighborhood is the third main cause for friction between neighbors. One example is my friend's New Year's party and his neighbor. If both of them were from one culture, they would celebrate the New Year at the same time; therefore, the conflict between them could be less. Difference in moral values, also, can be another reason for conflicts among neighbors. Something that is a moral value for one person may not have the same value for another person. For instance, in the case of parking problems, my two neighbors acted in very different ways when they faced similar problems. It clearly shows there are many differences between their social level and their commitment to morality. Another example is

the problem that I have with one of my neighbors at my current home. The neighbor on my left is an old American man and the neighbor on the right side is from Ukraine. Both of them are friendly and if there are any issues, we talk and solve them easily, but residents across from us are very strange people. They look like East Asian people; we never talk or even smile at each other. The problem is that they insist on leaving their garbage can and recycling bins out on the street from Wednesday night until Friday evening, and then they put them in front of their garage doorway all week. They go to the cans if they want to add any trash to the cans instead of bringing the cans to their backyard or garage. The cans, and their garbage are not in my yard, so my only real issue with this comes from looking at the sloppy and messy cans. In summer time, an extremely disgusting odor is released from them; also, these cans give a very bad view from my family room. I am reluctant to ask them to bring the cans to their garage or backyard because I don't know them well, and also their image in my mind is of unfriendly people. I don't know how they think about their neighbors, and if in their culture one of the unspoken rules of owning a home deals with maintaining your outside space and keeping your neighborhood clean and beautiful.

In summing up, disagreement and conflict among neighbors is something people have had to deal with since they've shared their lands, walls, and tree shade. These conflicts are more evident and more highlighted in big cities where houses are smaller or people live in apartments and condominiums. The main causes of disagreements among neighbors can be classified into three categories: miscommunication, land shortages, and diversity in a neighborhood. This classification does not have a scientific basis. However, for sure, the same as all conflict among people, most friction between neighbors starts because of misunderstandings or inconsiderate behavior.

Fariba Darvishi
ESLW50

Three Main Effects On Families Moving To A New Country

One Russian immigrant told his friend, another immigrant from Ukraine, that he bought very delicious canned meat at a very cheap price. The Ukrainian friend asked him to show what it looked like because he wanted to buy it too. When the Russian brought him this canned meat, this friend, who knew just a little bit of English, read the label, "Cat Food". This real story happened twenty five years ago to my husband's friends, who were the first Christian Slavic immigrants in Sacramento and didn't know English. Not surprisingly, there are a lot of effects on a family when it moves to a new country, but three of them are the most common.

The first effect when you move to a new country is the need to get used to the food. When my parents flew from Russia to the US (they came to my wedding), they met a Russian woman who was traveling with two big suitcases of Russian food. Surprised, they asked, "Why did you take all these products with you?" That woman, who had gotten married to an American man and lived in Chicago, answered, "I don't like American food! I miss Russian food and Russian products!" This woman didn't know that there is an enormous Slavic community in Chicago and a huge Russian supermarket with food and products from Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. My friend Marina moved to China because she studied there. She had the same problem. Marina told me that Chinese food is very specific. You can eat it one week, but after that you can't look at this food, and one of her dreams was, "I want Russian borscht!" We can notice that people from all the world who move to a new country continue to eat their native food. My husband and I are not exceptions. Fortunately, there are several Russian shops in Sacramento. We often buy food and different products there.



Another effect on people moving to a new country is the need to adjust to the absence of your close relatives. There are many people who leave their country because they get married. My friend Victoria got married to a man from Moldova who lives in the US and has a Green Card. She is the only child in her family. Victoria and her parents have a very friendly and warm relationship. Therefore, it's very hard for her because her parents live in Russia. Victoria's parents have to come to the US twice a year to visit their daughter and son-in-law. In the near future they plan to move to the US because they want to be closer. My second friend Ana has the same problem. She got married to an American citizen. They have two wonderful children, but it's very difficult for her because she lives in an American society without any Russian people around. Her American husband is a soldier and has a lot of work. Her parents live in Russia and she doesn't have

any help. As for me, I have wonderful parents-in-law who help me all the time, a lot of Russian friends, and my favorite Slavic Christian church, but in spite of this, I miss my parents, my sister and brother, and my funny little nieces. It's very hard when you don't see them because they all live in Russia.

A final, and the most important effect of moving to a new country is problems with the language. One Ukrainian pastor told me how difficult it was when they moved to the US twenty-seven years ago. They didn't know English, so they had to ask some old Russian immigrants to translate and to speak for them. They couldn't do anything without their help. Some people are good at foreign languages and learn them very fast, while others don't. My father's friend moved to Germany with his family. Two years later he spoke German fluently, but his wife didn't.

It was a real problem for her because their two little daughters spoke German better than they did Russian. A language barrier arose between the mother and daughters. My friend Maria has language problems too. She moved to Germany because she studies at a German Economics University. She is very good in English, but she has an accent in German. She told me that it's very hard to find any job and friends there because German people don't like foreign people.

All people who leave their native lands and move

to a new country want to live better. Of course, it's not easy at first. They encounter some difficult situations and problems, but then they settle down. At least none of my friends want to go back to Russia. Today I asked my husband, "Do you miss your home in Ukraine?" He answered, "No. I feel that my home is here. I want to thank God for this opportunity to live in the US." That's why these three main effects on families moving to a new country are the most important.

Olga Strizheus
ESLW50

My Friend Michael

When I see a bear in the zoo, I always remember my classmate Michael. Comparisons of human and animals occur very often in our lives. Women are often compared to cats because of their plasticity and soft tone of voice. A comparison of men with lions or eagles flatters them because in many cultures these animals are a symbol of power, strength, and pride. The sneaky person is compared to a jackal, and a hardworking person is compared to an ant or bee. I have never met a man who would be more like a bear than my classmate Michael.

It was amazing how his name suits him. In Russian, the name Michael has a short name, Misha. Misha in the Russian fairy tales is the name of a bear. Michael was always bigger than all my classmates, and many people considered him older than his age. Now he is a big, tall man about two meters in height. He is very strong like a bear. I once saw how he straightened a horseshoe. Michael's voice is very low, and his laughter is sometimes like a growling bear's.

Not only his appearance, but also Michael's movements are reminiscent of the movements of a bear. He walks with long strides, swaying from side to side. His movements are unhurried. His grandmother said that he was as clumsy as a bear, from the fact that once he broke her favorite cup. She nev-



er trusted him to set the table and always kept saying "People don't allow a bear in a china shop." However, Michael did not take an offense.

His behavior sometimes is like a bear's behavior. He is sweet, kind, and understanding with those who treat him well and politely, but Michael is instantly transformed into an aggressive and intolerant person with rude and dangerous people. Once, a group of guys taunted our classmate. They removed his hat and threw it in the mud, and they pushed him and laughed. Michael instantly transformed from a cute boy chatting with me into an angry bear. He was big, strong and angry and the offenders escaped after one look at him.

The comparison of humans and animals often gives us shorter, full, and figurative representation about the person, but people should be careful because some comparisons can offend a person. My friend Michael is not offended when compared to a bear; he likes this.

Diana Orlova
ESLW 50

Solution to the Problem of Overcrowding In Yerevan

For every person, the city, town or village where he or she was born is very precious. However all cities or towns have problems. I was born and grew up in Yerevan. It is a small city; however, it is the capital and the largest city in Armenia. Yerevan is a very old city. It is two thousand, seven hundred ninety-five years old. At times it had many problems. In fact, I see one big problem Yerevan has; it is overcrowded. Because of a lack of a jobs and education, many people from villages and rural areas are moving to Yerevan. Some of them are students and after finishing the education, they don't go back to their towns. It worsens the conditions. There is no more space for new buildings. There is a lot of traffic in the streets too, during the day. It could take hours to commute from one place to another. However, every problem has a solution. In Yerevan the problem of overcrowding has three solutions: building new dwelling places, moving out the big businesses from the city, and building freeways.

Building new dwelling areas could be a good solution for Yerevan. There is a lot of space next to the city, but no one uses it. In my opinion, instead of overcrowding the city, the mayor has to make a decision and build new districts next to the city. New buildings will help to unburden the city. New towns will also need new shopping centers. People won't go to Yerevan to shop, and that will reduce traffic. Building new shopping centers also will help with job openings. People think it will cost too much to build new districts, but I think it will save the city from the worst.

One more solution to end overcrowding in Yerevan is moving the big businesses out of the town. For example, there are many factories in Yerevan. Having

factories in a small city is not so good. It pollutes the air and surroundings. By moving the factories out of the city, it will make more free space for new buildings or parks, which are very few in Yerevan. In addition, there are too many casinos in the city, which makes difficulties too. It disturbs the traffic flow because of many cars parked around them. There are also many buildings that are empty and abandoned. They just stay in their places and occupy big areas.

Rebuilding those old and damaged buildings will also be helpful.

The last solution to the overcrowding problem is to build freeways in Yerevan. As mentioned above, there is lots of traffic on the roads in this city. The streets of Yerevan are not large enough. They were not made for that many cars. The traffic used to be very good

about twenty-five years ago when there were not that many cars. However, freeways will help to ease the traffic. Large cars and trucks won't enter the city and get stuck on small streets. People also will reach their desired destination faster and safer. It will prevent accidents too.

To conclude, building new dwelling places, moving out the big businesses, and building freeways will be a solution to overcrowding problems in my native city Yerevan. All of us want the best for our mother towns and I will always love Yerevan with all its disadvantages and advantages. It is the place where I feel at home, and I hope I will have an opportunity to live there again.

Ani Margaryan
ESLW50



A License to Drive, Freedom To Thrive

I never could have imagined in all my life the 360 degree spin that my life had after driving my car alone for the first time. In my native country, Costa Rica, I never had the necessity to learn how to drive a car. It was always one of my dreams or goals. After I came to the United States, I realized how helpful having your own car is. Then I chose to buy one, even if I didn't know how to drive it. One month after I bought it, I had an injury to my back and my leg from my job. My car remained parked in my garage with my dream. Months later, my recovery gave me the opportunity to feel strong enough to learn how to drive my car. I had just two lessons with one of my best friends, but I was too scared to drive again until one day when necessity made me take my keys and go to drive alone! I won't ever forget my first day driving alone, and the magical effect it had on me.



It was a sunny spring afternoon in April 2012. I had sat more than 15 minutes in my car with my hands at the steering wheel, in shock. I was thinking about what I would do if I had an accident, or if I would confuse the streets and become lost. I didn't feel confident enough to do it, but I had to. Also, I was in my house alone for 4 continuous days, so I was so tired and bored to continue there. I turned my head to my right and saw my cane by my side. I started to think about what I could do if I could drive: I could go to the doctors and gym to recover from my injury, I could go study, I could meet more people in this country, I could be independent... With this last phrase I pressed my foot on the accelerator pedal, and my car started to move.

Driving at five miles per hour, I chose to drive in circles around the neighborhood to feel confident. On my first round I was still nervous; I saw the very shiny sun in front of me. Some people were walking their dogs and saw me like a stranger with my five miles per hour. Then, on my third round I started to feel better, less nauseated, and I could breathe. I turned on the radio and started to move the car-seat more comfortably. I was driving at fifteen miles per hour. On my fifth

round I felt really safe driving at forty miles per hour around the neighborhood, so I realized that I was ready to go outside to the main streets with cars, toward my destiny that was just two miles away. I felt nauseated again; I was sweating, crying, laughing, screaming, and telling myself "I can do it". That experience was worse than my first time on a roller coaster and I'm still afraid of roller coasters. But something was different this time.

I parked in front of my destination. It was ninety minutes after I picked up my keys. Sitting inside the car, I

felt the sunshine in front of me looked different; I felt some vibration inside me; a fresh breeze came from my window; everything was magic: I wasn't afraid anymore. I chose to drive a little more before going home. I drove around the Antelope area, the Watt Avenue area, Elkhorn Blvd. toward Rio

Linda, every time farther and with more adrenaline. I really started to like driving fast that day. I drove for two hours more and later went back home. There I was alone, but didn't feel alone. I had my adrenaline and my new secret. That day I felt alive again; I knew that my life would change thanks to that.

After my first day driving alone, my prediction turned into reality. My car became my best friend. I still feel free driving it. Since that day I drive it everywhere and every time farther. I still feel nauseated and I'm nervous sometimes, but it reminds me that I'm stronger than it. Now nobody can tell me "you can't do it". After that day, I made big decisions in my life. For example, I started to study at ARC, I have better relationships with my friends, I found a job, and I recovered from my injury. Now I have an idea that I can do whatever I want with big passion, and I have discovered different parts of me that I had never seen before. I will never forget my first day driving my car alone because then I started my new life in the U.S.A.

*Itzin Alpizar
ESLW40*

Having Plastic Bags or Banning Them

What kinds of containers do you always use to put your merchandise in whenever you check out while shopping? Plastic bags and paper bags are the most popular carriers, and they are being used at every single grocery store throughout Sacramento. Obviously, most customers not only leave a grocery store with many plastic bags in their hands, but they also take some small plastic bags that are used to put medicine in with them when they leave a pharmacy. They simply use all kinds of plastic bags to put whatever they want in. So, should Sacramento ban plastic bags at large grocery stores and chain pharmacies in order to protect the environment? In my opinion, since plastic bags are still being used popularly, Sacramento should not ban plastic bags at large grocery stores and chain pharmacies.

First, plastic bags are more convenient than other carriers, and they can be reused several times before they wear out. The plastic bags will be the first choice for customers to place some heavy food in. Imagine if a customer wants to have a gallon container of milk, he will grab a plastic bag right away in order to put his milk in. Also, before a customer wants to have a dozen tomatoes, this person needs to have a strong plastic bag to put them in. For example, whenever I buy food from Winco, Costco, Belair, or Walmart, I always use many plastic bags to carry my stuff because they are much easier than other carriers. Moreover, customers can reuse the plastic bags that they have already used to put other things in because these plastic bags are simply strong enough to be used again. For instance, everyone in my uncle's family whom I live with always reuses all the used plastic bags to put kitchen trash in, and those used ones are also used to cover every trash can that is used in every bedroom. To illustrate, I always have thrown away all my junk mail or papers into the trash can in my bedroom. In addition, my uncle and his wife love using the small clean



bags that they have gotten from their pharmacies to separate their medicine into seven days per week. He not only told me that plastic bags are being re-used conveniently, but they also have helped him to save a lot of money by not buying other plastic bags. Totally, plastic bags in every single large grocery store help all customers to carry their merchandise comfortably and conveniently, and they are able to be reused many times.

Second, most of the used plastic bags that are unusable and thrown away are being recycled in Sacramento. In reality, most of the people who live in the United States know how to control their trash, especially plastic bags, effectively, so they are able to control environmental issues successfully. For instance, almost all my neighbors in Antelope have different containers to organize their trash, such as garbage, green waste, and recycling, and they always bring to the street for pick up every Monday morning. Truly, because every single house in this city simply has its own trash cans, people can throw away the unusable plastic bags easily and responsibly. Furthermore, when everyone knows how to store their used plastic bags correctly, they do not need to be concerned deeply about environmental problems at all. For example, my uncle always says, "We do not see a lot of plastic bags along the roads or floating in the air here like we always see in our country, Cambodia." In addition, most of the used plastic bags are going to be sent to a recycling or dumping place, or factory. To illustrate, we can find a waste field, which we are going to know by the terrible smell, on the way to Thunder Valley Casino. Therefore, since people know how to control and get rid of their used plastic bags correctly, they do not need to worry about the environmental issues that are caused by their trash at all. In brief, people can recycle their plastic bags easily in Sacramento.

Some people may say that using plastic bags

from every large grocery store and chain pharmacy will harm or affect the environment, and they want people to use paper bags instead. It seems true for some reasons. However, in reality, plastic bags work much better than paper bags. A customer would not be able to put his heavy gallons of milk into a paper bag; it is better to use a strong plastic bag instead. Also, a customer prefers a big enough plastic bag to put all the tomatoes in before he leaves the store because he would trust the strength of plastic bags more than the paper bags. Moreover, imagine, if the number of paper bags used increases; a lot of trees, which are the main material, are going to be cut down in order to produce the paper bags. Moreover, when the trees are destroyed in immense number, a lot of environmental issues, such as climate change, floods, drought, etc, are going to happen immediately and severely, and these issues are worse than

issues that are caused by using plastic bags.

In conclusion, in my opinion, plastic bags at large grocery stores and chain pharmacies should not be banned in Sacramento. Because people know how to throw away all the used plastic bags appropriately, the environment will not be affected. Moreover, the plastic bags are more convenient to use in every store. I would like to urge the owners of every single grocery store to keep offering plastic bags for their customers, and we should not use a lot of paper bags in order to save the trees.

*Bora Hourt
ESLW310*

My Future

I study at American River College in ESL classes. I go to school Monday through Thursday. Usually, I get up early in the morning. I try to get to school on time every day. I study before I go to school every morning. I study after I get home from school, too.

I started going to college a few years ago. I have lived in the United States for many years. My children are all grown up. I want to understand English, and make my communication better. I have learned U.S. culture, too. So I try to study English, but English is hard. There is too much vocabulary, rules, pronunciation, writing and listening, which are all very difficult. I try to study, but sometimes I don't understand. Then I ask my children if they have time. They teach me, but they don't always have time to answer me. Mostly, my children try to encourage me. So

sometimes, I am too busy studying and I can't fix food. They fix their own food, and take care of me, too.

Every day I slowly understand English little by little. On the other hand, I easily forget English. These things are painful for me.

I am trying to expand my knowledge of English. I do enjoy studying English. I challenge myself. I don't give up, and I don't change my mind. No matter how my grade turns out. For my future, I am determined to study English.

*Kyoko Dominick
ESLW30*

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

2013 Words of the Year

This list serves as a shorthand of our preoccupations for the year 2013. It's a cross-section of words across all public arenas, flavored with the zeitgeist, powered by emotions and spread through innate usefulness. Pop culture, science, finance, the arts, politics, Internet culture, and more. Beautiful or ugly, they're words that are cultural indicators more than they are pageant winners. (An abbreviated version of this list will appear in *the New York Times* December 21-22.)

ag-gag law n.

Legislation that restricts the use of undercover video in places where food animals are raised or slaughtered. Animal rights advocates say these laws can make it difficult to document animal abuse. From agriculture + *gag law*.



air gap n. The space surrounding a computing device that is disconnected from all networks, which can protect it from digital attacks. A security researcher claims to have discovered malware that defeats the air gap by transmitting data encoded in high frequency sounds out of computer speakers and into the microphones of other nearby computers.

bae n. Spelling representation of a dialect pronunciation of babe or baby. The catchphrase "bae caught me slippin'" (meaning, "My baby caught me sleeping") came into vogue as a caption to photographs obviously taken by a person pretending to be asleep, a kind of incompetent narcissistic guile which may capture the spirit of our age.

Batkid n. Miles Scott, a five-year-old boy with leukemia who through the Make-a-Wish Foundation was able to play-act as his favorite hero, Batman, for a day. Thousands of people in San Francisco, including the mayor and sports celebrities, took part in a citywide role-play

as Batkid saved the city from the Penguin and the Riddler.

bitcoin or **Bitcoin** n. An anonymous, decentralized, digital, encrypted currency and payment system.

Boston Strong n. A catchphrase and slogan used to show solidarity after a bombing during the Boston Marathon on April 15th.

catfish v.

To impersonate someone or misrepresent oneself online, especially to pretend to have a relationship as part of a hoax or a scam.

From the 2010 documentary *Catfish*, in which a married woman in her 40s pretends to be younger and single while online.

cis adj. Matching or identifying with the gender or identity that one was born to. Short for cisgender, an antonym of transgender. Pronounced as /siss/.

cronut n. A wonderful pastry that is part croissant, part doughnut, and part hype.

deep state or **Deep State** n. A hard-to-perceive level of government or super-control that exists regardless of elections, and which may thwart popular movements or radical change. Some have said that Egypt is being manipulated by its deep state.

doge n. An intentional misspelling of dog. It's part of a popular Internet meme featuring pictures of Shiba Inu dogs surrounded by not-quite-grammatical Comic Sans captions.

dox v. To uncover and then publish someone's personal information. An abbreviation of document. Sometimes spelled doxx.

drone n. An unmanned flying machine, either autonomous or remotely piloted, used for things like surveillance, military sorties, and delivery. As a verb, to send a drone to a location, especially to bomb it. *"We droned most of the key militant leaders."*

fatberg n. A 15-ton ball of fat, grease, and solid sewage found in London sewers. In the UK Guardian, a spokesperson called a fatberg *"a heaving, sick-smelling, rotting mass of filth and feces."*

feels n.pl. Feelings. Originated online, thrived as a meme in 2012, and now in 2013 shows signs of moving into more widespread English slang. It's typically used in response to a moving story: *"That got me right in the feels, bro."*

glasshole n. A person who wears Google Glass, a head-mounted computer, and tends to ignore what is happening around them.

Harlem Shake n. A song by the musician Baauer which has been used in many parody videos. In each, a helmeted or masked person dances alone while being ignored by others. Then, after a musical drop, the scene changes and is filled with lots of outlandish dancing.

ITAP An acronym for *"I took a picture."*

krokodil n. A Russian morphine-derived drug, desomorphine, that is said to cause horrible disfigurement.

lean in v. A business philosophy intended to lead women to success in the workplace. From the title of a 2013 book by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*.

molly n. A supposedly pure form of the illegal drug MDMA, also known as ecstasy. The term is at least ten years old.

no filter A label for photograph that have not been adjusted by software. Often used as a hashtag: *#nofilter*.

Obamacare n. *The Affordable Care Act* signed into law in 2010. Since 2007, the word has been both wielded like a bludgeon and held up like a trophy, and has gone from a sneered pejorative to a matter-of-fact shorthand used by all but the stiffest of bureaucrats.

resting bitch face, bitchy resting face, bitch face n. A face that, when at rest, looks angry, irritated, or ag-

gressive. Dating back at least ten years as a described concept but popularized in 2013 by a video made by the group Broken People.

selfie n. A photo a person takes of oneself.

sequestration n. Automatic, mandated cuts to the Federal budget. Also v., *sequester*.

shark week n. Days when menstruation occurs. After the notion of *"blood in the water"* and Shark Week, a week-long showing of programs about sharks on the Discovery Channel.

Sharknado n. A B-movie featuring sharks being hurled about by a tornado.

sorry, not sorry adj. phr. A way of apologizing without apologizing, usually used as an interjection or an aside.

twerk v. A mode of dance that involves vigorous booty-shaking and booty-thrusting, usually with the feet planted. Although the term is about 20 years old, it received new attention when singer Miley Cyrus performed a twerk-like routine on-stage at MTV's Video Music Awards. The word's origin is uncertain, but may come from chanted repetitions of *"work it, work it."*

vape v. To smoke electronic cigarettes, which use moisture to deliver nicotine without tobacco. Vape lounges are places where e-cigarette supplies can be bought and used.

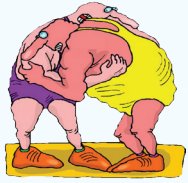
vax n. A *vaccine*. Also anti-vaxxer, a person who believes that vaccinations are harmful.

young invincibles n. People between ages 18 and 34 years old who are typically in good health and may not see the need to sign up for health insurance. This group is needed to be a part of the healthcare system, however, in order to spread the cost of providing affordable insurance.

Grant Barrett is a lexicographer specializing in slang and new words and co-host of the public radio program A Way with Words, <http://waywordradio.org>.

<http://www.waywordradio.org/2013-words-of-the-year/>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Adjective Clauses

(continued from Parrot 83)

Types of Adjective Clauses

1. "Subject Pattern" Clauses

In this type of adjective clause, the relative pronoun is the **subject** of the clause. Subject pattern clauses can, however, modify both subjects and objects of sentences:

EX: *The man **who / that** talked to us was very friendly.
Do you know the man **who / that** talked to us?*

2. "Object Pattern" Clauses

In this type of adjective clause, the relative pronoun is the **object** of the clause (but an object pattern clause can modify both subjects and objects of sentences):

EX: *The people **who(m) / that** we met seemed very friendly.*

*The people **to whom / that** we were speaking seemed very friendly. /*

*The people **who(m) / that** we were speaking to seemed very friendly.*

*I recently saw the people **to whom / that** we were talking. /*

*I recently saw the people **who(m) / that** we were talking to.*

3. Clauses Showing Possession

Here, the relative pronoun is **possessive** and is attached to another word in the adjective clause:

EX: *The people **whose names are called** will work the first shift.*

*Do you know the student **whose brother won a gold medal in the Olympics?***

<http://www.eslcafe.com>



Idiom--Attic

Idioms In the Arts

Drama and dance have idioms, too, like:

- "Break a leg" means good luck.
- If you are a "ham" you overact.
- If you say, "it takes two to tango" you mean that more than one person is at fault or involved.
- If you "tap dance" your way out of a sticky situation, then that implies that you get out of it in a clever way.
- Being "in the spotlight" means you are the center of attention.

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/idiom.html>

Beak Speak The Sounds of T



T = T The regular T sound is almost always used when "t" is the first letter of a word. **EX:** *table, tall, test.*

T = D Between Vowel Sounds. When T is between two vowel sounds (A,E,I,O,U) or between a vowel and L or R (these letters are called semi-vowels to linguists), it becomes a D sound. In phonetics, this sound is called a "flap," which means the tongue touches the roof of the mouth quickly. **EX:** *computer (compuder), water (wader), bottle (bodul), heater (header), better (beder), matter (mader), ability (abilidy), university (universidy), put it on (pudidon), great idea (great'idea).*

T = Silence When after N. When T comes after N, the T sound is dropped in many words. This rule is not as important, as it's informal, when people speak quickly. **EX:** *interview (inerview), interstate (inerstate), international (inernational), wanted (wanned), don't know (don'know), printer (priner), enter (ener), twenty (tweny).*

T = Hard N When before N. When T is before an N, the sound is stopped and turns into a hard N. The final N should be strong. **EX:** *mountain (mou-N), fountain (fou-N), curtain (cur-N), written (wri-N), important (impor-Nt), sentence (sen-Nce).*

T = Stopped Sound. When T is at the end of a word (and this is not followed by a vowel), the sound stops. To say this correctly, emphasize the preceding vowel, put your tongue into place and simply stop the sound. **EX:** *hot, hat, mat, fat, lot, rat, pat, foot, want, sit, sat, fit, bat, pot*

<http://www.speakmethod.com/eslpronunciation.html>

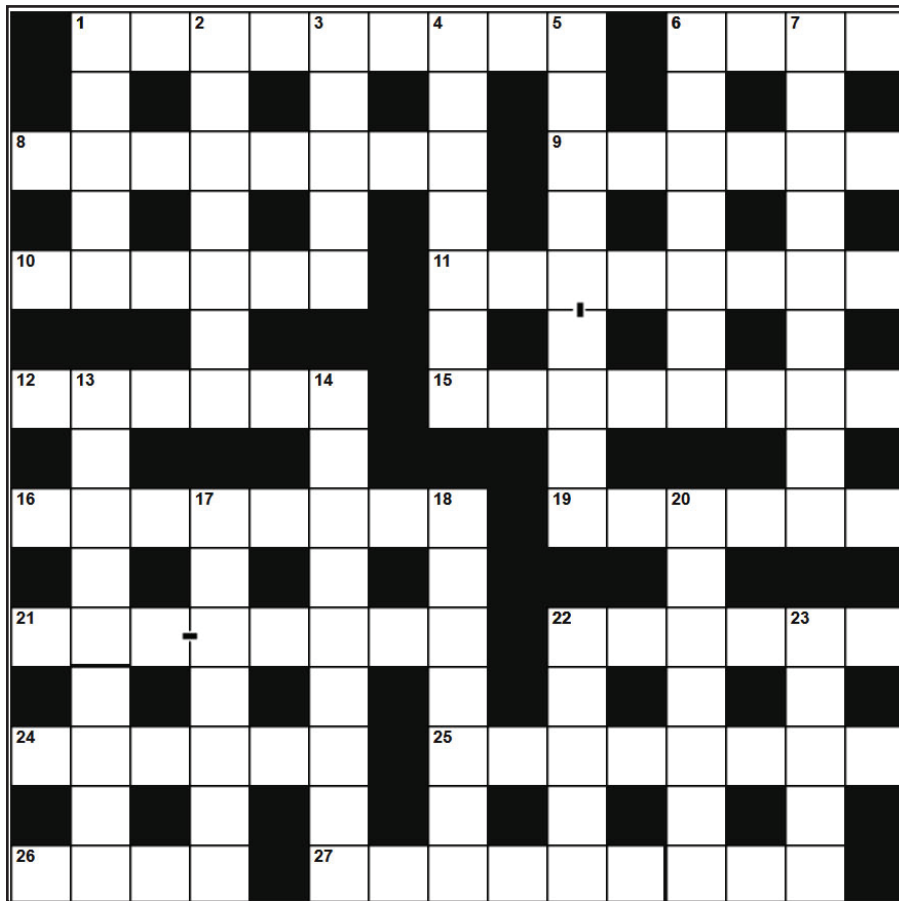
Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Flowers Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the flowers that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from Romeo and Juliet.



ALSTROEMERIA	CORNFLOWER	ROD	PEONY
AMARYLLIS	DAFFODIL	HEATHER	PETUNIA
ANTHURIUM	DAISY	HOLLYHOCKS	ROSE
ASTER	DELPHINIUM	HYACINTH	SNAPDRAGON
BABY'S BREATH	FORGET-ME-NOT	HYDRANGEA	STATICE
BELL FLOWER	FOXGLOVE	IRIS	STOCK
BIRD OF PARADISE	FREESIA	LAVENDER	SUNFLOWER
BOUARDIA	FUCHSIA	LILAC	TULIP
CALLA	GERANIUM	LILY	VIOLET
CARNATION	GERBERA	LISIANTHUS	YARROW
CHRYSANTHEMUM	GINGER	MARIGOLD	
CLEMATIS	GLADIOLUS GOLDEN	ORCHID	PANSY



Across

- 1 Circulatory system forces one to walk to work (9)
 6 Belt as part of a shirt (4)
 8 King whose wife went to Paris, causing strife (8)
 9 Works with potential spouse (6)
 10 Found note in packing case (6)
 11 Subdued, having arrived after it's finished (8)
 12 Capital for a ship holding company (6)
 15 A singular spectacle? (8)
 16 Revolutionary comrade at last becomes a politician (8)
 19 City investment is about to be productive (6)
 21 Cricket side and ground not in harmony (3-5)
 22 Possibly shoots ducks with graduate doctor (6)
 24 Inferior school to get equipment first (6)
 25 Study, entering further exam for junior hospital doctor (8)
 26 Saline drip? (4)
 27 Fast food outlet? (6,3)

Down

- 1 The one on the right of them (5)
 2 Leave scribbled note offering lift (7)
 3 A duck for this celebrated bowler? (5)
 4 Not far out in marine navigation (7)
 5 Extensively used sort of folder, found abandoned on table extension? (5-4)
 6 Local authority, giving sound advice (7)
 7 Forenames out of place for member of a secret order (9)
 13 Extent of usefulness on board (5,4)
 14 Slightly damaged, so withdrawn (9)
 17 One who is against work has a problem (7)
 18 Moves near the capital (7)
 20 Company doctor is amusing (7)
 22 Sailor came up to wrong dock (5)
 23 Man of property, three quarters in gold (5)

Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

My ESL teacher is always talking about joining a club so I can use my English. I heard of Sam's Club and the Hair Club for Men but I am a woman and don't know who Sam is and I have long, beautiful hair and I am a woman. Are there other clubs?

Lana Haralenko

Dear Lana,

I believe your instructor is referring to clubs on campus, clubs of students who have the same interests. When you join a club, you meet a lot of people and you have the opportunity to speak in English (without being graded!) so, yes, your instructor is right that you will have good practice in English. Those other "clubs" are businesses and not on



campus so let's forget them for now.

If you go to the following website, there is a link to a list of student clubs on campus you can join. It's also possible to form your own club. You need a faculty advisor and there are other requirements. I wish you luck with this. What a great idea your instructor has!

http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Support_Services/Center_for_Leadership_and_Development/Student_Clubs_and_Organizations.htm .

Sincerely,

Granny

What Drives Success?

Continued from page 1.

positions in many of America's most recognizable companies. These facts don't make some groups "better" than others, and material success cannot be equated with a well-lived life. But willful blindness to facts is never a good policy.

Jewish success is the most historically fraught and the most broad-based. Although Jews make up only about 2 percent of the United States' adult population, they account for a third of the current Supreme Court; over two-thirds of Tony Award-winning lyricists and composers; and about a third of American Nobel laureates.

The most comforting explanation of these facts is that they are mere artifacts of class — rich parents passing on advantages to their children — or of immigrants arriving in this country with high skill and education levels. Important as these factors are, they explain only a small part of the picture.

Today's wealthy Mormon businessmen often started

from humble origins. Although India and China send the most immigrants to the United States through employment-based channels, almost half of all Indian immigrants and over half of Chinese immigrants do not enter the country under those criteria. Many are poor and poorly educated. Comprehensive data published by the Russell Sage Foundation in 2013 showed that the children of Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese immigrants experienced exceptional upward mobility regardless of their parents' socioeconomic or educational background.

Take New York City's selective public high schools like Stuyvesant and Bronx Science, which are major Ivy League feeders. For the 2013 school year, Stuyvesant High School offered admission, based solely on a standardized entrance exam, to nine black students, 24 Hispanics, 177 whites and 620 Asians. Among the Asians of Chinese origin, many are the children of restaurant workers and other working-class immigrants.

Merely stating the fact that certain groups do better than others — as measured by income, test scores and so on — is enough to provoke a firestorm in America

today, and even charges of racism. The irony is that the facts actually debunk racial stereotypes.

There are some black and Hispanic groups in America that far outperform some white and Asian groups. Immigrants from many West Indian and African countries, such as Jamaica, Ghana, and Haiti, are climbing America's higher education ladder, but perhaps the most prominent are Nigerians. Nigerians make up less than 1 percent of the black population in the United States, yet in 2013 nearly one-quarter of the black students at Harvard Business School were of Nigerian ancestry; over a fourth of Nigerian-Americans have a graduate or professional degree, as compared with only about 11 percent of whites.

Cuban-Americans in Miami rose in one generation from widespread penury to relative affluence. By 1990, United States-born Cuban children — whose parents had arrived as exiles, many with practically nothing — were twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to earn over \$50,000 a year. All three Hispanic United States senators are Cuban-Americans.

Meanwhile, some Asian-American groups — Cambodian- and Hmong-Americans, for example — are among the poorest in the country, as are some predominantly white communities in central Appalachia.

MOST fundamentally, groups rise and fall over time. The fortunes of WASP elites have been declining for decades. In 1960, second-generation Greek-Americans reportedly had the second-highest income of any census-tracked group. Group success in America often tends to dissipate after two generations. Thus while Asian-American kids overall had SAT scores 143 points above average in 2012 — including a 63-point edge over whites — a 2005 study of over 20,000 adolescents found that third-generation Asian-American students performed no better academically than white students.

The fact that groups rise and fall this way punctures the

whole idea of “model minorities” or that groups succeed because of innate, biological differences. Rather, there are cultural forces at work.

It turns out that for all their diversity, the strikingly successful groups in America today share three traits that, together, propel success. The first is a superiority complex — a deep-seated belief in their exceptionality. The second appears to be the opposite — insecurity, a feeling

that you or what you've done is not good enough. The third is impulse control.

Any individual, from any background, can have what we call this Triple Package of traits. But research shows that some groups are instilling them more frequently than others, and that they are enjoying greater success.

It's odd to think of people feeling simultaneously superior and insecure. Yet it's

precisely this unstable combination that generates drive: a chip on the shoulder, a goading need to prove oneself. Add impulse control — the ability to resist temptation — and the result is people who systematically sacrifice present gratification in pursuit of future attainment.

Ironically, each element of the Triple Package violates a core tenet of contemporary American thinking.

We know that group superiority claims are specious and dangerous, yet every one of America's most successful groups tells itself that it's exceptional in a deep sense. Mormons believe they are “gods in embryo” placed on earth to lead the world to salvation; they see themselves, in the historian Claudia L. Bushman's words, as “an island of morality in a sea of moral decay.” Middle East experts and many Iranians explicitly refer to a Persian “superiority complex.” At their first Passover Seders, most Jewish children hear that Jews are the “chosen” people; later they may be taught that Jews are a moral people, a people of law and intellect, a people of survivors.



That insecurity should be a lever of success is another anathema in American culture. Feelings of inadequacy are cause for concern or even therapy; parents deliberately instilling insecurity in their children is almost unthinkable. Yet insecurity runs deep in every one of America's rising groups; and consciously or unconsciously, they tend to instill it in their children.

A central finding in a study of more than 5,000 immigrants' children led by the sociologist Rubén G. Rumbaut was how frequently the kids felt "motivated to achieve" because of an acute sense of obligation to redeem their parents' sacrifices. Numerous studies, including in-depth field work conducted by the Harvard sociologist Vivian S. Louie, reveal Chinese immigrant parents frequently imposing exorbitant academic expectations on their children ("Why only a 99?"), making them feel that "family honor" depends on their success.

By contrast, white American parents have been found to be more focused on building children's social skills and self-esteem. There's an ocean of difference between "You're amazing. Mommy and Daddy never want you to worry about a thing" and "If you don't do well at school, you'll let down the family and end up a bum on the streets." In a study of thousands of high school students, Asian-American students reported the lowest self-esteem of any racial group, even as they racked up the highest grades.

Moreover, being an outsider in a society — and America's most successful groups are all outsiders in one way or another — is a source of insecurity in itself. Immigrants worry about whether they can survive in a strange land, often communicating a sense of life's precariousness to their children. Hence the common credo: They can take away your home or business, but never your education, so study harder. Newcomers and religious minorities may face derision or hostility. Cubans fleeing to Miami after Fidel Castro's takeover reported seeing signs reading "No dogs, no Cubans" on apartment buildings. During the 2012 election cycle, Mormons had to hear Mitt Romney's clean-cut sons described as "creepy" in the media. In combination with a superiority complex, the feeling of being underestimated or scorned can be a powerful motivator.

Finally, impulse control runs against the grain of contemporary culture as well. Countless books and

feel-good movies extol the virtue of living in the here and now, and people who control their impulses don't live in the moment. The dominant culture is fearful of spoiling children's happiness with excessive restraints or demands. By contrast, every one of America's most successful groups takes a very different view of childhood, inculcating habits of discipline from a very early age — or at least they did so when they were on the rise.

In isolation, each of these three qualities would be insufficient. Alone, a superiority complex is a recipe for complacency; mere insecurity could be crippling; impulse control can produce asceticism. Only in combination do these qualities generate drive and what Tocqueville called the "longing to rise."

Needless to say, high-achieving groups don't instill these qualities in all their members. They don't have to. A culture producing, say, four high achievers out of 10 would attain wildly disproportionate success if the surrounding average was one out of 20.

But this success comes at a price. Each of the three traits has its own pathologies. Impulse control can undercut the ability to experience beauty, tranquility and spontaneous joy. Insecure people feel like they're never good enough. "I grew up thinking that I would never, ever please my parents," recalls the novelist Amy Tan. "It's a horrible feeling." Recent studies suggest that Asian-American youth have greater rates of stress (but, despite media reports to the contrary, lower rates of suicide).

A superiority complex can be even more invidious. Group supremacy claims have been a source of oppression, war and genocide throughout history. To be sure, a group superiority complex somehow feels less ugly when it's used by an outsider minority as an armor against majority prejudices and hostility, but ethnic pride or religious zeal can turn all too easily into intolerance of its own.

Even when it functions relatively benignly as an engine of success, the combination of these three traits can still be imprisoning — precisely because of the kind of success it tends to promote. Individuals striving for material success can easily become too focused on prestige and money, too concerned with

external measures of their own worth.

It's not easy for minority groups in America to maintain a superiority complex. For most of its history, America did pretty much everything a country could to impose a narrative of inferiority on its non-white minorities and especially its black population. Over and over, African-Americans have fought back against this narrative, but its legacy persists.

Black America is of course no one thing: "not one or ten or ten thousand things," as the poet and Yale professor Elizabeth Alexander has written. There are black families in the United States occupying every possible socioeconomic position. But Sean "Diddy" Combs — rapper, record producer and entrepreneur — undoubtedly spoke for many when he said: "If you study black history, it's just so negative, you know. It's just like, O.K., we were slaves, and then we were whipped and sprayed with water hoses, and the civil rights movement, and we're American gangsters. I get motivated for us to be seen in our brilliance."

Culture is never all-determining. Individuals can defy the most dominant culture and write their own scripts, as Mr. Combs himself did. They can create narratives of pride that reject the master narratives of their society, or turn those narratives around. In any given family, an unusually strong parent, grandparent or even teacher can instill in children every one of the three crucial traits. It's just much harder when you have to do it on your own, when you can't draw on the cultural resources of a broader community, when you don't have role models or peer pressure on your side, and instead are bombarded daily with negative images of your group in the media.

But it would be ridiculous to suggest that the lack of an effective group superiority complex was the cause of disproportionate African-American poverty. The true causes barely require repeating: They include slavery, systematic discrimination, schools that fail to teach, employers who won't promote, single motherhood and the fact that roughly a third of young black men in this country are in jail, awaiting trial or on probation or parole. Nor does the lack of a group superiority narrative prevent any given individual African-American from succeeding. It simply creates an additional psychological and cultural

hurdle that America's most successful groups don't have to overcome.

At the same time, if members of a group learn not to trust the system, if they don't think people like them can really make it, they will have little incentive to engage in impulse control. Researchers at the University of Rochester recently reran the famous marshmallow test with a new spin. Children initially subjected to a broken promise — adults promised them a new art set to play with, but never delivered — almost invariably "failed" the test (snatching the first marshmallow instead of waiting 15 minutes for a promised second). By contrast, when the adults followed through on their promise, most kids passed the test.

The same factors that cause poverty — discrimination, prejudice, shrinking opportunity — can sap from a group the cultural forces that propel success. Once that happens, poverty becomes more entrenched. In these circumstances, it takes much more grit, more drive and perhaps a more exceptional individual to break out.

Of course a person born with the proverbial silver spoon can grow up to be wealthy without hard work, insecurity or discipline (although to the extent a group passes on its wealth that way, it's likely to be headed for decline). In a society with increasing class rigidity, parental wealth obviously contributes to the success of the next generation.

But one reason groups with the cultural package we've described have such an advantage in the United States today lies in the very same factors that are shrinking opportunity for so many of America's poor. Disappearing blue-collar jobs and greater returns to increasingly competitive higher education give a tremendous edge to groups that disproportionately produce individuals driven, especially at a young age, to excel and to sacrifice present satisfactions for long-term gains.

THE good news is that it's not some magic gene generating these groups' disproportionate success. Nor is it some 5,000-year-old "education culture" that only they have access to. Instead their success is significantly propelled by three simple qualities open

to anyone.

The way to develop this package of qualities — not that it's easy, or that everyone would want to — is through grit. It requires turning the ability to work hard, to persevere and to overcome adversity into a source of personal superiority. This kind of superiority complex isn't ethnically or religiously exclusive. It's the pride a person takes in his own strength of will.

Consider the story of Sonia Sotomayor, who was born to struggling Puerto Rican parents. Her father was an alcoholic, she writes in her moving autobiography, *"My Beloved World,"* and her mother's "way of coping was to avoid being at home" with him. But Justice Sotomayor, who gave herself painful insulin shots for diabetes starting around age 8, was "blessed" with a "stubborn perseverance." Not originally a top student, she did "something very unusual" in fifth grade, approaching one of the smartest girls in the class to "ask her how to study." Soon she was getting top marks, and a few years later she applied to Princeton — though her guidance counselor recommended "Catholic colleges."

The point of this example is not, "See, it's easy to climb out of poverty in America." On the contrary, Justice Sotomayor's story illustrates just how extraordinary a person has to be to overcome the odds stacked against her.

But research shows that perseverance and motivation can be taught, especially to young children. This supports those who, like the Nobel Prize-winning economist James J. Heckman, argue that education

dollars for the underprivileged are best spent on early childhood intervention, beginning at preschool age, when kids are most formable.

The United States itself was born a Triple Package nation, with an outsize belief in its own exceptionalism, a goading desire to prove itself to aristocratic Europe (Thomas Jefferson sent a giant moose carcass to Paris to prove that America's animals were bigger than Europe's) and a Puritan inheritance of impulse control.

But prosperity and power had their predictable effect, eroding the insecurity and self-restraint that led to them. By 2000, all that remained was our superiority complex, which by itself is mere swagger, fueling a culture of entitlement and instant gratification. Thus the trials of recent years — the unwon wars, the financial collapse, the rise of China — have, perversely, had a beneficial effect: the return of insecurity.

Those who talk of America's "decline" miss this crucial point. America has always been at its best when it has had to overcome adversity and prove its mettle on the world stage. For better and worse, it has that opportunity again today.

Amy Chua and Jed Rubenfeld are professors at Yale Law School and the authors of the forthcoming book *"The Triple Package: How Three Unlikely Traits Explain the Rise and Fall of Cultural Groups in America."*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/26/opinion/sunday/what-drives-success.html?n=Top/Opinion/Editorials%20and%20Op-Ed/Op-Ed/Contributors?ref=contributors&r=0>

Interview with Prof. Rau

Continued from page 1.

nia.... it was a good idea because there was still a need for lots of ESL teachers. I started first at City College, like I said, which was kind of an accident, and then later I made it a full time career.

Parrot: Are you satisfied with your career at ARC?

Prof. Rau: Yeah, I think overall I'm satisfied. We al-

ways see room for improvement, but I don't think I have regret; I don't look back and say, "Oh, it was a mistake". I think that overall, I'm very satisfied.

Parrot: What was your choice of job other than teaching?

Prof. Rau: I wanted to be an astronaut or maybe a baseball player but nobody called me for those jobs so when I got a call to be an ESL teacher, I accepted it.

Parrot: What is the biggest challenge in your career?

Prof. Rau: My biggest challenge, I think, is time. We all can be good teachers, I think, if we have time to prepare, just as all students can be good students if they have the time to study. It's balancing the other things in life, though friends, family, other hobbies and things like that, that make it hard to be a perfect teacher. I always look back every semester and say, "I could've done this better. Probably I should've done this better, but I just didn't have time." So I think my biggest challenge is time.

Parrot: Most students say grammar classes are boring, but your class was lots of fun. How do you make your lecture interesting?

Prof. Rau: You know, I think that is a great question. I think with any job, if you have real love or passion for the subject, then I think that comes through in the courses. So it is not so much that the grammar is boring. It's only boring if the people who are teaching it don't really love it or they don't really care about it – it's just another teaching job for them. But I love languages; I love grammar. I remember studying other languages and how much I really enjoyed the grammar, and I try to bring that enthusiasm in the class.

Parrot: You have many students with different races and cultures. Are they challenging to deal with?

Prof. Rau: Not at all, really, no. Remember first of all, that classes are taught in English, so that's a common thing that they have already. And they are all students of English. Sure, some cultures have different expectations from teachers and from classes. But overall, I think people are people and students are students. Generally speaking, I don't have any trouble at all.

Parrot: What is your advice to improve ESL-G students' English skill?

Prof. Rau: Well, the obvious answer is to study, but there are some things that you can do to maybe study more wisely. We are all short of time, so you know that if you are just staring at a book, it is probably not a good way to study. Most people agree that you learn language the most when you actually

use it just like you learn piano more when you play it and you get better at sports if you do them regularly so, my advice is try using English more in regular life. The language will come naturally after that.

Parrot: Is English grammar changing by generation?

Prof. Rau: All languages, not just English, are changing by generation. If you look at your language and how people spoke 30-40 years ago compared to now, it's different and so, yes, it does change. There is always new vocabulary, new slang, new jargon, and even grammar changes.

Parrot: Which one would you prefer, paper text books or E-text books? Why?

Prof. Rau: Well, that's really an interesting question too, because I think there are advantage to both. Since I'm older, I'm sort of "old school". I prefer to have the Sunday newspaper on the table with my coffee and not the computer on the table with my coffee. I like the feel of my magazines and I like to feel my textbook. Textbooks are also nice because you can write on them. I know you can make notes on the computer, but everybody knows that is not the same thing. So I prefer text books. But I'm not 100% sure that E-books are bad. There are many advantages. For example, you don't have to carry your book to school, or when you're going on vacation, you can put everything on one tablet, so you don't have to carry so much. I think E- books are now becoming more popular. I wouldn't be surprised if in a few years, we start using more and more E-books. I think publishers prefer for you to use paper books, but there are advantages to both.

Parrot: If paper text books are extinct in the future, what would be the disadvantage for students?

Prof. Rau: It's a hard question to answer because probably in terms of education, there wouldn't be a big disadvantage, but I think again there's something to be said about having a favorite book that you have on the bookshelves: maybe a book of poetry, for example, and it becomes like a friend. Having the book on the computer or your tablet, I think you lose some of that sensibility of your feeling for the

book and it just becomes another little documentary. You lose a little bit of connection to the book but that's just me. I'm not sure that is true for everyone.

Parrot: This is off the subject, but I'd like to ask this. My hobbies are swimming, dancing, singing, watching soap operas and chatting with American friends. So what is your hobby?

Prof. Rau: A hobby for teachers is a little different than for a lot of other people because some people take days out of a week, or hours out of the day to pursue a hobby, but it's often different for teachers. So my hobbies are not every day but they are chunks of time through the year. Students are so busy, so they know that a hobby is something to do maybe in the summer. For me, it's the same. My summer hobbies, I guess, include gardening. I also like traveling when I'm not teaching. Everyday hobbies probably include music. I like to play music; I enjoy music.

Parrot: You know, we are of the same generation. I've been running my own business for more than 25 years. I wish to retire as soon as possible to enjoy my hobbies. My plan is retire within three to five years. I will get second language certification from ARC. Then I will go back to my country to be an English teacher, working as volunteer at a rural area's adult school. So when are you going to retire?

Prof. Rau: When am I going to retire? Not for a long time. I mean, first of all, I really do love my work and if I retire, I might get bored. I don't think I would really be happy.

Parrot: Thank you so much! Mr. Rau, I want to be like you when I retire!

Jin Hwang
ESLL320

Why Is English So Hard to Learn?

This makes no sense.

One of the reasons why English is known for being difficult is because it's full of contradictions. There are innumerable examples of conundrums such as:

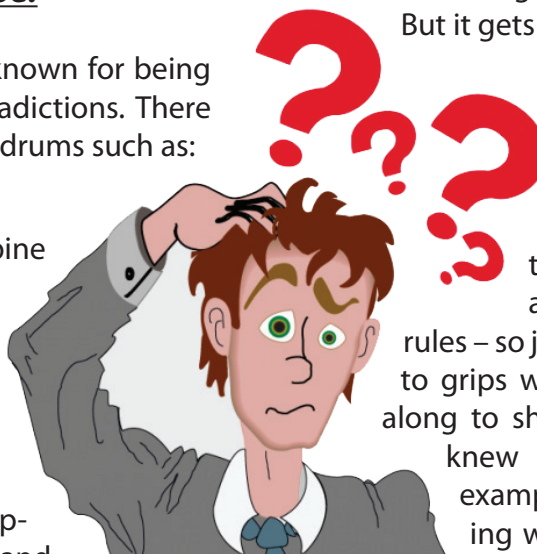
- There is no ham in hamburger.
- Neither is there any apple nor pine in pineapple.
- If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
- If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- "Overlook" and "oversee" have opposite meanings, while "look" and "see" mean the same thing.

As native speakers, we rarely stop to think how illogical many of the things we say really are – we're just used to them. Unless you've been brought up speaking English, how can you possibly begin to learn all these oddities? It's little wonder that people trying

to learn English end up feeling confused. But it gets worse.

Exceptions to rules

One of the hardest things about English is that although there are rules, there are lots of exceptions to those rules – so just when you think you've got to grips with a rule, something comes along to shatter what you thought you knew by contradicting it. A good example is the rule for remembering whether a word is spelt "ie" or "ei": "I before E except after C". Thus "believe" and "receipt". But this is English – it's not as simple as that. What about "science"? Or "weird"? Or "seize"? There are loads of irregular verbs, too, such as "fought", which is the past tense of "fight", while the past tense of "light" is "lit". So learning English isn't just a question of learning the rules – it's about learning the many exceptions to the rules.



The numerous exceptions make it difficult to apply existing knowledge and use the same principle with a new word, so it's harder to make quick progress.

Pronunciation

As if the spelling wasn't hard enough, English pronunciation is the cause of much confusion among those trying to learn English. Some words are very low on vowels, such as the word "strengths", which is hard to say when you're not accustomed to English pronunciation. What's more, words that end in the same combination of letters aren't necessarily pronounced in the same way. Why is "trough" pronounced "troff", "rough" pronounced "ruff", "bough" pronounced "bow" (to rhyme with cow) and "through" pronounced "throo"? There are silent letters at the start of words, too. Why are there so many words that begin with a silent "K", such as "knife"? Or even a silent "G", such as "gnome"? If it's not pronounced, what's the point of including that letter in the first place, if it only adds to the confusion of both native speakers and learners? And don't get us started on the number of hapless tourists who don't know where to begin with pronouncing a town name such as "Worcester". Sadly, many English learners have to learn the hard way when it comes to our confusing pronunciation; if you pronounce something incorrectly, most Brits will demonstrate the correct way to you – but not without a little chuckle at your expense.

Emphasis

To make matters even more complex, the way in which you emphasise certain words in a sentence can subtly change its meaning. For example, consider the different ways of emphasising the sentence below:

- I sent him a letter – a plain statement.
- I sent him a letter – used to imply that *you* sent him the letter – someone else didn't send it (or "you didn't send it, I did").
- I **sent** him a letter – this could imply "I sent him a letter, but I'm not sure he received it".
- I sent **him** a letter – used to imply that you sent *him* the letter – you didn't send it to someone else (perhaps even "you weren't meant to read it").
- I sent him a **letter** - you sent him a *letter*, not anything else.



When you're not used to speaking English, these may all sound the same to you. It's only by constantly being exposed to English that you start to pick up on these subtleties.

Ultimately, though, it's down to the individual whether or not a particular language is difficult to learn. Some people have a natural aptitude for languages and pick them up quickly; children, of course, absorb new languages much more easily than adults. The difficulty of a language also depends on its similarity to your own language. You'll probably find it easier to pick up French if you're Italian, because these languages use many of the same roots, and the same alphabet. If you're used to the Roman alphabet then you may struggle to learn oriental languages that rely on symbols, such as Japanese. English isn't so bad once you get used to it, and it's probably only commonly talked about as being hard because so many people are trying to learn it.

<http://www.oxford-royale.co.uk/articles/learning-english-hard.html>

NEXT ISSUE: ARC ESL STUDENTS RESPOND TO WHAT THEY THINK IS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT LEARNING ENGLISH

Out of the Cage

History and Science of Beer

Thursday, October 2, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Beer is one of the oldest beverages on the planet, recorded historically ever since cereal grain was first farmed about 11,000 years ago. The chemistry that goes into brewing beer is quite simple, and the ingredients include only grain, malted barley, water, and hops. That's it! Ben Franklin is noted for once saying, "Beer is proof God loves us," and Charles Bamforth (UC Davis) has written a book outlining how beer might have saved western civilization during the Black Plague. Beer brewing is a process many of us take for granted. More importantly, beer brewing is less about making a beverage to get drunk, and more about the art and science of making a quality drink to be shared with friends and family. Join Science Professor Rick Topinka and English Professor Michael Angelone in this exciting introduction to brewing beer. You thought Breaking Bad was cool? Well, think again. These profs want to introduce you to the much cooler method of cooking a wort as opposed to cooking...well, you know what we mean.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Gearing up for the General Election

Thursday, October 9, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Are you ready for the upcoming election? Join professors from the Political Science Department to discuss the national and state races and issues in the upcoming November General Election. There's a lot at stake, including partisan control of the United States Senate. And of course, there are a lot of important things on the California ballot, too, including statewide races for Governor and other offices.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Volleyball and Women's Soccer

Friday, October 3, 2014
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Women's Soccer - ARC vs. Cosumnes River College

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Volleyball - ARC vs. Sac City

Friday, October 10, 2014

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Women's Soccer - ARC vs. Diablo Valley College

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Volleyball - ARC vs. San Joaquin Delta College

Friday, October 24, 2014

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Women's Soccer - ARC vs. Modesto Junior College

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Volleyball - ARC vs. Cosumnes River College

The American Way of Poverty

Thursday, October 16, 2014
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

One in three Americans experience poverty at some point in their lifetimes, and right now, there are 50 million people in the U.S. who are living below the poverty level. Knock on any door in any neighborhood, and they know someone who is struggling with food insecurity, un- or under employment, the inability to afford necessary health care, or any other of the symptoms of deepening income inequality. Sasha Abramsky, a fellow at the Demos Institute and a research affiliate at the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research, will discuss his most recent book, *The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives*.

Location: Raef Hall 160



Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: Olga Cuzeac and Emma Jaques

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. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm