



The Parrot

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

Issue # 94 Fall 2015

Chemistry's Veronica Wheaton – She's Got the Formula

Parrot: Hi, Professor. May I ask you some questions about yourself and your job?

Mrs. Wheaton: Yes, sure.

Parrot: Could you please say a little bit about yourself?

Mrs. Wheaton: I'm Veronica Wheaton. I'm a chemistry professor at ARC.

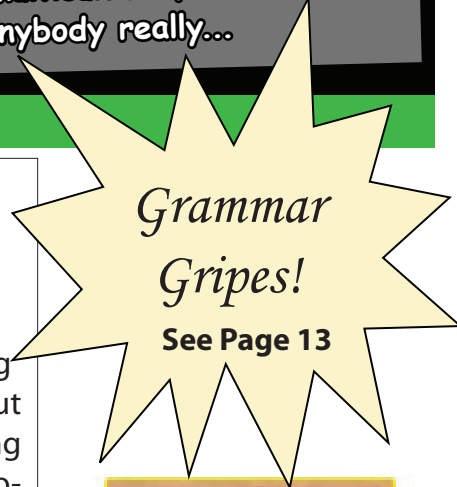


I've been teaching here for 7 years. But I've been teaching over 20 years all together.

Parrot: What inspired you to become a professor?

Mrs. Wheaton: I started as a chemist and I've always done teaching, so

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Grammar Gripes!

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"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."
Dr. Seuss

Raw Eggs and No Husband Since '38 Keep Her Young at 115

VERBANIA, Italy — Celebrity came late to Emma Morano. Her routine life, in fact, might have raised barely an eyebrow were it not for the fact that she's managed to



Emma Morano in her home in Verbania, Italy. She is the oldest person in Europe, and the fifth oldest in the world. Credit Alessandro Grassani for The New York Times

hold on to it for so long.

At 115 years and nearly three months, Ms. Morano is the oldest person in Europe, the fifth oldest in the world

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Student Chirpings

Solutions to the Problem of Not Being Able to Repeat a Class

It is a well known fact that after democracy comes ochlocracy followed by dictatorship. That means that if you let people do what they want to do, they will start abusing their rights immediately so there is no other way left but to take their rights away completely. No wonder that a couple of years ago students were able to repeat the same class again but not today. Probably, some of them started taking classes again to get credit. There are three solutions to the problem of not being able to repeat a class.

The first solution and the simplest way to avoid that problem completely is to study hard enough during the semester. It is not a secret for anybody that if you listen to the teacher, do the homework, and attend regularly, your chances of passing that class increase automatically. Besides that, there are plenty of other available resources, such as online courses and other helpful classes. So, if a student really desires to study the material of a class, there is no necessity to take it twice. Hard work during the semester will help a student to avoid the problem of not being able to repeat a class.

The second solution is to change the rules and let students repeat a class but without getting credit. If a couple of years ago students had an ability to repeat the class, today they can't anymore. It means then there was a reason to change that rule. At the beginning of the semester in the library I was watching how a young couple was choosing classes. The guy was skipping through a list of classes in alphabetic order and asking his girlfriend, "Do you want to take astronomy; it's about stars or do you want to take geography; it might be interesting?" The girl was very tired and didn't even want to answer. I got the feeling that they don't have

any educational goals and they don't care what class they take. Maybe financial aid is the most important reason to attend the school for some students. So, not being able to get money for the same class again is fair and it will show who really wants to learn and it will help to protect the system.

The third solution is to make repeated classes paid. Often people don't care about things that they get for free, but ask them to pay for the same things, they will quickly change their concern.



One friend of mine came from only a moderate-income family, but his parents could afford to give him education in one of the most prestigious universities in the country. So knowing how much money his parents spent on him, my friend was very hard on himself and on teachers. He studied hard, asked a lot of questions, and got furious when a teacher couldn't show up or let them leave earlier. He said that university was like an educational restaurant, because since you pay you have to get everything that they can give. So the best way to find out how much a student really wants to repeat the class is to ask him to pay for it.

There are three possible ways to solve the problem of not being able to repeat a class: to study harder during the semester, to change the rules and let students repeat a class for free without getting credit, or to make students pay for a class taken again. But the best solution is the one that exists right now. Students are able to drop the class if they don't feel confident enough and take it any time when they are ready.

Olena Kovalyova
ESLW50

Moving to a New Country

Many people like to move for various reasons. Some of them move from a small to a big city and others from one country to another. One of the most important reasons why people move is to look for a comfortable place that helps them to achieve their goals and ambitions. Moving a family is not an easy step because there are many effects on a family when it moves to a new country.

The first effect on a family moving to a new country is on their economic status. When a family moves to a new place, it has to start from the beginning. They need to find jobs to get money that will help in building their new lives and buy homes, furniture, and food. They have to learn the financial system of the new place, which may be different from the one in their countries. In some countries people ask for the credit history of people who want to rent a home or buy a car. One of my classmates at American River College told me that he was shocked when he found out that he couldn't rent a home without credit history even if he had the money. Ten years ago, my cousin and her family moved to Germany. She told me that they faced difficult times there at the beginning because only her husband got a job and his income couldn't cover all their expenses, so they lived in a small apartment with basic requirements till she got a job. For me, I faced the same problem when my family and I moved to the United States. It is so hard to get a job with a good income after moving to a new country. I worked for a company and my income covered only the rent and bills, so I found difficulties to meet any other needs.



The second effect on a family moving to a new country is the family recognizing the need for further education. Each country has its own level of education and it has special educational requirements to get a job. When the family moves to a new country, it has to learn and study to arrive at a certain level which allows them to get a job, so they need to learn new things besides what they learned in their previous countries. Their knowledge will increase. I had a friend who speaks three languages. She is from Kurdistan. She speaks Kurdish. Her family moved to the middle of central Iraq in 1980 and they lived there until 2000, so she learned to speak Arabic. In 2000, she moved with her family to Sweden. She took a course in Swedish there, and she speaks Swedish now. She told me that she got a lot of offers to work in different places which require three languages. My cousin's kids were born in Libya, and her kids completed their primary school there. She told me that when she moved with her family to Iraq six year ago, her kids suffered a lot in school because they were used to opening books during tests in Libya while in Iraq, they don't allow that. However, she told me that she is happy that her kids learned to remember things better than just depending on books. My friend's sister moved with her husband and two boys from Iraq to the United States two years ago. She told me that she suffered a lot for her two boys when she was in Iraq, because her boys wanted to drop out of school many times and find a job, but when her two boys came to the United States, she was surprised that the school sent her a letter informing her that her elder son won a prize as the student who wrote the best poem in English. Her second son got high grades. She was so happy

with the improvement of her two boys. Moving to a better place can help to raise the level of education.

The third effect on a family moving to a new country is on their traditions. After moving to a new country, it won't be easy to use your old traditions like wearing your traditional clothing to work or celebrating in the same way as in your country. Most families will try to learn the tradition of the new country in order to participate. I had Kurdish colleagues from the north of Iraq. They used to wear their special clothing even at their work in Kurdistan, but when they moved with their families to live in Jordan, they told me they couldn't wear their traditional grab as before because it would be funny, not like in their country, which was normal, so they kept it for private occasions. One of my relatives published pictures of her kids on Facebook wearing special clothes or costumes like a bee, Star Wars figures, and Batman. When I asked her about the occasion, she told me that they had spring celebration in Germany, and all kids would wear new costumes. Her kids look forward to this occasion to wear the new costumes every year. She told me

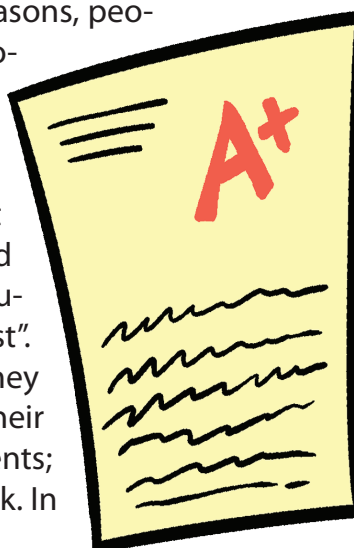
that her kids liked the traditions or celebrations of Germany more than the Iraqi ones, because using another country's tradition would look strange. In my previous work at Apple, my coworker from Iraq told me that his family doesn't like to celebrate Iraqi holidays in the United States because they came on a normal working day and his family didn't have time to prepare for them, so they liked to celebrate American occasions because they would have a holiday. Therefore, most families who move to new country like to learn the new country's traditions to participate.

In summary, many families move to new places or countries looking for a better future. Moving is not an easy decision and it will have some effects on the family life, on their economic status, on their educational needs, and on their traditions. Some families are happy with the decision to move, especially after achieving their goals, while some of them aren't and they want to return because they didn't plan ahead to be ready for this step. Moving a family is one of the bravest decisions that people can make.

Elaf Khafaja
ESLW50

How to Make Our Teachers Think We Are Good Students

In life, sometimes for some reasons, people become bad students in their professor's point of view. Those reasons can be job situations, family problems, or personal difficulties. The effect can be coming late to class, not doing homework, and having bad behavior in class. As a result, those students are on the professor's "black list". When people fall into this situation, they believe that it is very hard to make their teacher think they are good students; however, it is not as hard as they think. In

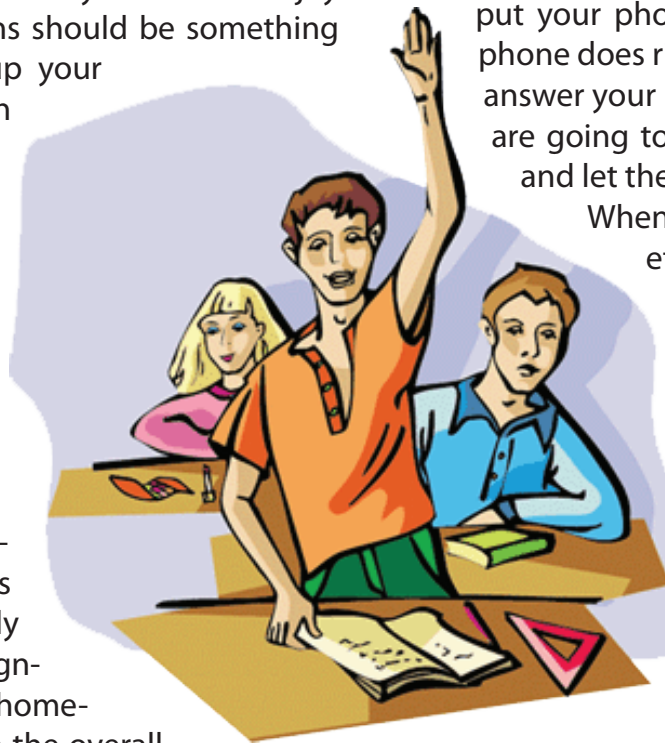


fact, making your teacher think you are a good student is easy if you follow these steps.

The first major step in the process is you have to talk to your professor to explain your problems. You don't have to tell him too many details about your personal life, but your explanation should contain enough information for him to understand. You have to make sure that you have good reason for missing class or not doing your homework. Some

reasons such as “I lost my money”, “I have to hang out with my girlfriend”, or “I can’t miss the football game, which is at the same time as class” won’t help you at all. I remember last semester, my friend, Josh, sent an email to his professor and said, “I am so sorry, professor. I can’t come to class on time every Thursday because my favorite team also plays on Thursday. I can’t miss any of their games.” The professor replied, “You can drop my class right now, so you can stay home and enjoy the games.” Good reasons should be something like you have to pick up your children, have a health problem, or have a doctor’s appointment. Communicating with your professor is the easiest way to make your teacher change his bad opinion of you. If that doesn’t work, you proceed to step two.

The second major step in the process is you have to diligently do homework and assignments. In many classes, homework has little impact on the overall grade, so many people think that it is not necessary to do all of the homework. However, no professor likes it, so you have to complete all of your homework and assignments on time. If you can’t come to class because of your problem, you have to send your homework to your professor by email or drop it off at his office before the due date. You don’t have to get 100% for every assignment, but you should at least do your best. One year ago, my cousin’s son had a health problem. So, my cousin often missed class because she had to go to the hospital to take care of her son. She tried to do all the homework and sent it to the professor by email before the due date. She got most of the answers wrong, but the professor was very happy about her attitude and commitment.



It is very important to do all of your homework and assignments because it is a good way to show your professor that you are a good student even if you miss many classes. If that doesn’t work, you proceed to step three.

The third major step is to show your professor that you respect class rules. If you know for sure that your phone might ring any time in class for an emergency reason, you should put your phone on vibrate mode. If the phone does ring, quietly step outside and answer your phone. If you know that you are going to be late for the class, email and let the professor know in advance.

When you come late to class, quietly sit at the back of the class so it won’t bother other students. Only bad students want to sit in the front of the class and step outside during class many times, even though they may have good reasons. My classmate did that one time, and my professor got so upset. He told my classmate that he didn’t have to come back to class.

So, the professor will think that you are a good student if you respect other people in the class.

Many students believe that they will meet some professors only once during their career, so it is not important to make professor think they are good students. It is not true because even though some of them teach us only one semester, some of their lectures might affect our lives. Besides, making them think that we are good students not only makes them happy, but it also makes us happy and proud of ourselves.

Uyen Pham
ESLW50

An Ethereal Life Style

"I come from a very distant planet in the universe to learn about humans." This was one of my favorite stories that I used to tell my classmates in kindergarten. Another day, I was an adult that came from the future with my time machine, and something went wrong, and I turned into a child. These and other stories helped me to try to fit into a world that I felt I couldn't fit into. My classmates didn't understand why I was reading, why I was taking notes, and why I was too into my own world all the time. I was always looking for answers and asking the strangest questions that many people couldn't answer. Until now, this hasn't changed. Growing up with a different view of life was not easy,

but it helped me to earn everything I have wanted, and it has never stopped. All of these are why I am here where I am, and doing what I do every day. For me, everything has a reason, and the main source of this has been influenced by my parents, by my artistic education, and by magic.

The most important people in my life are my parents. I'm completely thankful for the parents that life gave me. They are not perfect, but they are perfect for me. I grew up in an artistic family, truly not normal. Waking up in the mornings with folk music and going to sleep in the company of Beethoven was normal for me. My parents are very educated people, who have studied for years looking for the perfection of our souls. My father is an artist. Yes, I was that little girl learning to draw

a tree on paper while he was painting a huge picture. Thanks to him, I could learn from the almost imperceptible beauty of an insect or water to the majestic beauty of the sky, mountains, and the universe. We used to spend hours looking at the sky at night, or sitting in front of a flower just to draw it. He taught me how to breathe the energy of the world. On the other hand, my mother taught me

to look inside myself, to appreciate the importance of self-knowledge, to see the beauty in the soul of every human being, and to always analyze situations that happen around me. Both have taught me that making mistakes is how we learn, and sometimes these mistakes result in completely unexpected and

wonderful results. Of all the books I have studied in my life, TV shows, and conversations with very smart people, there are no human beings on this planet who have taught me more than my parents.

One of the best lessons that my parents gave me was the importance of education. Since I was two, I have had a very clear idea of what I wanted to be in my life, and I have loved learning everything I can to be able to realize that. At three years old, I knew how to read and write. At that time, thankfully, I found the love of my life: theater. I still remember my first time on stage and the feelings I had when I dressed up as a cowboy mouse, my water guns ready, the lights turned up, and the music began in my first musical show. I had never



felt this way with anything else in my life. Acting is my passion, my personality, my lifestyle. The capacity to be whoever I want to be and live the lives of others in my skin for those minutes helps me to appreciate more who I am. I'm an artist and I create lives. Every step I take in my life begins and ends with it. There is nothing I'm more proud of about myself than that I have chosen to be an artist.

I think that my family background, my parents, and art is very influenced by magic. Growing up with a family who knows how to cure with plants, read hands and cards, feel premonitions, and see things around us that

other people cannot has strongly influenced me. I respect that others don't believe in magic, in their concept of magic, but I have lived it with all my senses. Everything is magic. When a child is born, it is magic. The influence of the moon over the planet is magical. The instincts for survival that everything alive on the earth has is magic. Creativity is magic. Then, every time I write or act is very



much influenced by all those stories and realities that we can experience with a little more attention. The spiritual background of my family taught me to be more open-minded about things that I cannot explain, that there is something else outside, and that there are no limits. Therefore, I grew up without limits in my life, but I know that everything has a cause and effect on every atom on the earth, and it's a big responsibility.

For many people, what I believe and what I have learned are weird. I realized at a young age that our differences make us unique and special. My parents taught me to see the beauty of the world.

Acting taught me to live that beauty and magic... well, magic taught me to understand that there are many things that I cannot explain, and that that is fine. All of this is who I am and the person I have chosen to be, even if I feel that I cannot fit into the world of "normal" people.

*Itzin Alpizar
ESLW320*

What Makes Me

Everyone is special and unique in their own way. We know people better by knowing what they love the most. This is how my close friends and relatives recognize me. Some of them know me by my talents, which are playing piano and harp, and others know me by the things I love and enjoy. That's what makes me Me. The three important and valuable parts of my life are the Armenian Apostolic Church, reading detective books,

and my mother.

The most valuable place that I love to go is the Armenian Apostolic Church in Armenia. It has always been my favorite place to go to since I was little. The Armenian Apostolic Church is the most beautiful church, with its pointed conical domes, tall narrow windows, stone curved ceilings, and pictures of saints all over the walls. I remember how

my grandmother and mother took me to church on Sundays, and they taught me all the customs about the church and how to behave there. Even though I was a little kid, I had no problems following all the rules and traditions of the church. My favorite part was lighting the candles, which is one of the customs of the Apostolic Church. The lighting of the candle is the symbol of the sacrifice of the self and the radiance of the love of a Christian. We would enter the church, light some candles that were placed in front of pictures of saints, and then pray silently. Every time I did that I felt more relaxed and peaceful. Although I'm thousands of miles away from the main Apostolic Church right now, it is still the place I love.

The next activity that I love is reading detective books or watching those types of movies and shows. This is one of my favorite subjects to talk about. A detective career has always interested me, so one of my goals is to become an undercover detective. I love reading books that include mystery, crime, and investigation. This is why I picked majors related to something I love. My first major is called Administration of Justice. Since I'm also a technology person and love dealing with electronics, I have chosen Computer Information Science as my second major, which will be very useful for my investigative career. The courses of both majors require a lot of reading, and I'm not lazy about the reading, since reading is my favorite thing to do.

Finally, the most important part of my life

is my mom. She has done so much for me. I can't even imagine what I would do without her. My mom is always there for me, no matter what. She's the most influential person who inspires me. I'm so thankful to her for what she has done for me, and because she has taught me things that will be useful my entire life. She taught me how to behave, live, be happy and strong, how to get out of different kinds of situations, to get good education, and many other things. She started to teach me how to read and write when I was two, before I



even went to kindergarten. I also have to be grateful to my mother for raising me to become a good person, a believer, and for who I am now. She has been the greatest example for me in many circumstances, and I love having her in my life.

To sum up, the things, people, and places I love define me and make me unique. The most

important place for me is the Apostolic Church because I've been going there since I was very little, and it's the place that makes me feel good and relaxed. Secondly, reading detective books is the activity I love. I have found out that's the thing I enjoy doing best, and it has helped me figure out my future plans. The third and most important part of my life is my mother, who cares about me the most and who is always there for me. These three main influences not only define what kind of person I am, but also give me a good reason to live and make me feel special.

Suzi Voskanyan
ESLW320

One Week Break in the Fall

I wonder why ARC has one week break only in the spring semester but not in the fall. Every semester lasts for four months. It is too long for all college students to go through. It will make students very stressed because they study a lot, but they don't have a break. I don't like the fall semester because I never have a break in the semester. It causes me so much stress. In my opinion, ARC should give students a one-week break in the fall semester.

First, American River College should give students a one-week break to reduce the stress from studying. If students study for four months without a break, they must be very stressed and bored. Students aren't able to focus well. They need to change the climate in



the middle of fall semester. They can take vacation somewhere. For example, whenever I see my friend, she always complains that the fall semester is driving her crazy because she doesn't have any breaks. There is too much work in school. She is too tired. She says that she really needs a break. Like my other classmates, she always says that she wishes to go out to take a break. She can't focus well in school now. Whenever we are talking, we always say that we need a one-week break for fall semester. It could be wonderful for us.

Second, American River College should give students a one-week break to permit them to do personal things. College students are often busy. I know besides school, they sometimes need a break to do stuff for themselves. When the school starts, students usually don't have time. For example, I usually never have time for my family when I go back to school. My sister always complains that I'm getting so far from family, but I have no choice. I need time to study. Every fall semester, I wish I can have a little

break like a few days free to spend time with my family. Another example is my friend's mom, who lives in Los Angeles. She lives there alone because my friend and her two sisters had to come to Sacramento to study. Their mom feels lonely. Their mom always calls them, but they don't often have much time to talk with their mom. They are very busy studying. They say they feel bad for their mom. They wish they can have a one-week break to go back home and visit their mom.

Finally, American River College should give students a one-week break in order for students to relax. I think students will become more productive when they have a break in the se-

mester. I remember Professor Bracco said, "When we want to write a good essay, we don't have to focus the whole time on the essay. Take a break, go outside, breathe, and then continue to work on the essay. It will help our brains to be clearer." I believe it will be better if we have a break. In spring semester, I never feel stress when I study because I always have a one-week break. I go out with friends, go hiking and rest. After every spring break, I always go back to school full of energy.

I'm sure every student in ARC would hope to have a one-week break in the fall semester. A one-week break will help students a lot. They can reduce stress, can have time to do personal things, and can re-create themselves. They will get more motivation to learn quickly after a one-week break.

*Thanh Nguyen
ESLW50*

Children and Freedom

As an old Russian saying goes, children are flowers of life because they are our future. Today we, as parents, try to do the best for our children. We want our children to be more successful than we are; we want them to be good decision makers, well-adjusted, and just good, responsible people. And, of course, we don't want that someone or something hurts our children. Because of this fear, today parents try to supervise their "treasures" as much as possible, becoming "helicopter" parents who want to be aware of what is going on in all spheres of children's lives. And of course, they think they know better what their children really need. However, does it always bring only positive consequences? I agree with caution that parents today need to supervise their children less and let them face dangerous situations.

If parents are excessively powerful and thoughtful, children are completely dependent on them. They control their child, and eventually these kinds of children become sissies who are not taught to make their own decisions and take responsibility. The atmosphere of overcare and continuous monitoring slows down the development of a child as an individual, or it can cause revolt against their parents and complete insubordination to parents' authority. I remember one situation which happened with my friend Irina and her ten-year-old son Andrew. Andrew wanted to bake some cookies by himself from a recipe he had read in a cookbook and told his mother. During the whole process he was just looking how Irina was baking those cookies. One

day I asked her why she didn't allow him to cook by himself because Andrew had been looking a little bit upset that day. She answered that he could damage their new expensive kitchen, burn himself, or something else could happen. Irina really controls her child a lot, not allowing a lot of things at all or without her. After a few months she called me and started to complain about Andrew's behavior. She said that Andrew refused to eat and did everything out of spite; for example, when it was hot, he wore a winter coat, but when it was cold, he wore

only a t-shirt. Andrew knew that opinions of people and what they could say is very important to his mother. As a result, he started to rebel against those things which were valued by her. Of course, children can bring some damage, cut, or burn themselves

during a learning process but only in this way can they become really independent and strong individuals.

Learning is a process which a child should pass through even if it's scary, painful, or dangerous, but it shouldn't threaten a child's health and life. When my son was about one, I started to teach him what "hot" is. One day I held a cup with hot tea and let him touch it, but before I had said that it was hot. Now he is almost two, and he pulls his hand even from a glass with cold water when I say that it's hot. I am not afraid that he can burn himself when I cook, iron, or drink hot tea because my son already knows that it's dangerous. Moreover, parents should teach their children that they can overcome their fears only if children would feel these fears. According



to a professor of early childhood education, Ellen Sandseter, who observed and interviewed children on playgrounds, reports, "Children have a sensory need to taste danger and excitement; this doesn't mean that what they do has to actually be dangerous, only that they feel they are taking a great risk. That scares them, but then they overcome the fear" (rd.com).

A lot of parents can say that our world is dangerous and unfair, and they are afraid for their children's lives. I absolutely agree with this. Around fifty years ago people didn't even lock their houses and left their cars open, but now because of strong TV propaganda of amoral lifestyles, gay marriage, pornography, etc., people become more and more wicked. In my opinion, it's not safe to leave children on a street or somewhere outside unattended because of kidnappers, rapists, and murderers. Moreover, parents should teach their children not to talk with an unknown person alone, all the more go with him somewhere for any reason even if he promises to show a puppy or give candy, or asks for help. Re-

cently, I saw one interesting experiment in the USA. On the playground parents were standing apart and observing whether or not their child agreed to go with an unknown person. Ninety percent of children agreed to go; furthermore, this unknown person needed only 60 seconds to persuade the child to go with him. Unfortunately, every year our world becomes more and more dangerous, and twenty years later we will remember today's time as one of the safest; thus, parents are responsible for their children's lives.

Every good parent wants his child to be a strong, independent, and developed person in the future who can make his own good decisions and take responsibility; however, either too much protection or too much freedom gives bad results. Children really need parents' trust; that's why parents should treat their child as a full-fledged person, but balance is the best way in the education of their child.

Olga Strizheus
W320

Effects of New Communication Technology on Families

Communication technology has had a major impact on our lives. As technology becomes a bigger part of our lives, there are concerns that it is having some negative effects on our relationships. Older people seem to worry more about this than young people. There are three major areas of concern that affect family relationships: texting as a replacement for face-to-face conversations, viewing life through our smart phones rather than living life, and the pervasiveness of the social media in general.



Even though texting is very convenient and efficient for people to use in certain situations, it isn't always the best way to communicate.

"Things that need [to be] resolved in more than a couple of texts need to be said face-to-face," (Sandberg quoted in Collins, p2). For example, when couples need to resolve personal issues, it's better to have those conversations in person.

When people talk face-to-face, they can see each other's eyes and body language and can get a better sense about the emotional level of the conversation. Texts can't replace that. Texting is

also an easy way for people to say “Happy Birthday” or “Happy New Year”, but it’s more personal to send a card or make a phone call. Therefore, text messages can directly affect people’s interactions with family members if done appropriately.

Overusing smart phones to watch videos or read news can affect family relationships too. Some people have chosen to spend their time alone watching videos or news on their smart phones rather than joining the family to watch TV together or interacting with family members. The pervasive use of smart phones can also create shorter attention spans. For instance, my son is a typical teenage boy. He is the same as other teenagers who are addicted to their smart phones. Every day he eats his lunch or supper with his smart phone. He does not talk to us about anything. He just focuses on his phone. When I ask him something, he just answers me with short replies, but his eyes never leave the screen of the phone. At that moment, I feel just like Ms. deGuzman’s video where “it makes me sad that there are moments in our lives where we’re not present because we’re looking at a phone” (Ms. deGuzman quoted in Bilton, p1). Overuse of smart phones can result in distracted, isolated relationships among family members.

In contrast, the pervasiveness of social media in general can enhance family relationships. “Online communication – email, instant messaging, chat rooms, etc. – does not replace more traditional offline forms of contact – face-to-face and telephone. Instead, it adds to them, increasing the overall volume of contact” (Wellman, p1). People can use a lot of different networking tools to stay in

touch with family members no matter where they live. For example, I moved to Sacramento from China four years ago, and sometimes I get homesick. When I miss my parents and family members, I can use We-Chat to talk with them and also see them while we are talking. I also use Chinese QQ, which is one of the largest social networks in the world, with more than 300 million active accounts to share my life in America with them. Although we now live far away from each other, we can still know everything about each other. This keeps me connected to the people I love.



Consequently, I believe that new communication technology has a significant effect on family relationships. Even though it is becoming a part of everyday life and would be hard to live without, people need to balance living their lives with the technology used to share their lives. The biggest mistake is when people substitute this new technology for real life.

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ESLW320

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

The 'NPR Grammar Hall Of Shame' Opens With 'I' And 'Me'

We asked for nominations for **"most misused word or phrase,"** and they came pouring in. *Weekend Edition* listeners and NPR.org readers have many gripes about the grammar gaffes they see and hear every day.

From nearly 450 story comments, 500 emails and more than 900 Facebook posts we received in December, we identified 275 separate nominees. Here's a top 10 countdown of the most frequently mentioned:



10. Not answering **"thank you"** with **"you're welcome."** This one's probably more about etiquette than grammar. But responses such as **"no problem," "sure"** or **"thank you"** go against what many in the NPR audience say they were taught.

9. Saying someone **"graduated college"** instead of **"graduated from college."** A college graduates a student, not the other way around. The **"from"** makes a big difference.

8. The chronic misuse of **"lay"** and **"lie."** Remember: **You lie on a bed; you lay your book on a bedside table.** Also, sing **"Lie Down Sally!"**

7. Referring to anything as **"very unique."** Either

it's **unique** or it's **not.**

6. Claiming something **"begs the question."** You almost always mean it **"raises the question."** Aristotle would not know what you are talking about.

5. Ongoing confusion over **"who"** vs. **"whom."**

Grammar Girl's "quick and dirty trick" is this: "When you're trying to decide whether to use 'who' or 'whom,' ask yourself if the answer to the question would be 'he' or 'him.'" If it's

"he," use **"who."** If it's **"him,"** use **"whom."** Yes, that means the song's title should be **"Whom Do You Love?"**

4. **"Literally."** We are ... tired of hearing that word, especially since the thing we say is **"literally"** happening often isn't. Are you literally starving or just hungry?

3. Using the word **"impacted"** as a synonym for **"affected."** Some uses just shouldn't wander over from the business world into everyday life, the audience says.

2. **"So."** Please, please stop starting sentences with that word!

1. **“I” and “me”** — the most-complained-about misuse. In an “NPR Grammar Hall of Shame,” those little words would be the first entrants. We received more than 30 messages just about them. How many times a day do you hear someone say “she and me” instead of “she and I”? Or, even worse, “her and me”? It’s as if Peter Pan’s Lost Boys have taken over. (If you don’t get that reference, listen to “I Won’t Grow Up” and Wendy’s failed attempts to get the lads to say “not I” instead of “not me.”)

The Chicago Manual of Style offers a simple way to stop yourself from making a common “I vs. me” mistake: “Read the sentence with the personal pronoun alone.” For instance, as the Manual suggests, many people would mistakenly say that

the test we’ve created is “simple for you and I.” But think about it: Would you say the test is “simple for I”? No, you would say the test is “simple for me” — and you should say it would be simple for “you and me.”

Patricia T. O’Conner, author of *Woe Is I, The Grammarphobe’s Guide to Better English in Plain English*, notes in her book how important it can be to choose correctly. “‘Trixie loves spaghetti more than I’ means more than I do,” she writes. “‘Trixie loves spaghetti more than me’ means more than she loves me.” O’Conner and her husband, Stewart Kellerman, blog at *Grammarphobia*.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/12/30/372495062/the-npr-grammar-hall-of-shame-opens-with-i-and-me>

Interview with Veronica Wheaton

Continued from page 1

when most people work their way through college at a fast food place or restaurant, I was a substitute teacher. I also work a lot at my church helping people, so it’s been a part of who I am as a professor. And I love to watch people get it.

Parrot: You love helping people, so that why you want to be a teacher.

Mrs. Wheaton: Yes, exactly.

Parrot: Could you tell me how you got a job here?

Mrs. Wheaton: I started out living in the East Bay. I went between four different colleges as a part-timer. And then there was a job that opened up at Sac City for one year. I decided to take a chance. And the next year ARC was hiring and I got hired full time here, so I moved. Now, it’s my home.

Parrot: Where were you born?

Mrs. Wheaton: I was born in the East Bay, but I was raised in Livermore. I had my grandfather there most of my life.

Parrot: I wish I could get a job in Livermore.

Mrs. Wheaton: Yeah, we have to find some connections there. I think I can keep an eye on internships.

Parrot: What is the best part of your teaching?

Mrs. Wheaton: I love to watch students get it. The best part of teaching is getting them excited about their careers. I’m teaching a lot of introductory classes, keeping them encouraged because a science major is a tough major.

Parrot: I know.

Mrs. Wheaton: And I love when they come back and share their stories with me on how great they are doing and where they have gone next.

Parrot: What is the hardest part?

Mrs. Wheaton: The hardest part is when they are not getting it or if I have too many students drop or too many students fail. I feel like I fail in some kind of way.

Parrot: Like me, I'm a Beacon tutor right now. At first, I got nine persons in my first session. And the second session I got seven persons. I asked a question for myself what I did wrong, because two people left.

Mrs. Wheaton: Yeah, it's usually not us, but we usually take it too hard.

Parrot: Have you ever thought about a different career?

Mrs. Wheaton: I have. Sometimes, I think about going back in industry as a chemist because grading gets me down a lot, but I realized this is where I feel happiest. I do enjoy getting up and coming to work every day, but when I was a chemist, I didn't. Maybe, when I retire from teaching, I'll go to something else. The most important thing right now is serving in my church and doing some mission work, but that's down the road.

Parrot: Back then, did you work in a lab?

Mrs. Wheaton: Yes, I did work in a lab both in California and back east.

Parrot: What do you usually do in your leisure time?

Mrs. Wheaton: I love to read. I read books and I travel. I have a lot of extended family I'd like to visit.

Parrot: What is your dream vacation?

Mrs. Wheaton: A warm climate. Usually, just doing nothing. I don't dream of going somewhere fancy or formal. Usually, I'm just kind of visiting family or sitting at home doing nothing.

Parrot: You've been teaching here for about seven years.

Mrs. Wheaton: Yes.

Parrot: Do you have any interesting stories from your teaching here?

Mrs. Wheaton: It needs to be at a school that has a lot of foreigners and who are from different parts of the United States because I learn a lot of language, customs, and just how they learn, where they are coming from and what their issues are they bring to help them get over that.

Parrot: If you won ten million dollars in a lottery what would you do?

Mrs. Wheaton: Pay off my bills. Buy a bigger car. Buy a new car. I would probably give and help my family and friends who need it. And I give to my church and my charity.

Parrot: Where would you like to be in five years?

Mrs. Wheaton: Probably, still here, still teaching. Maybe traveling a little more. Maybe doing a little more work with my church or mission work. I don't want to retire too soon. Probably still teaching.

Parrot: What would you like to do in the spring break?

Mrs. Wheaton: Sleep and not grade papers. Grading is so hard and I have to prepare exams. I hope I get some sleep.

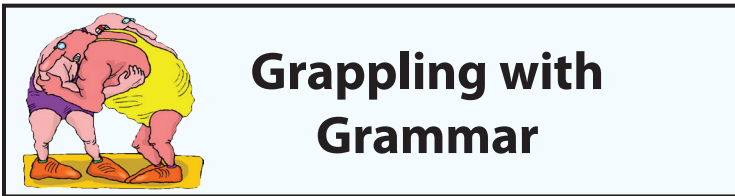
Parrot: What advice do you think is the most important for chemistry students?

Mrs. Wheaton: Never give up; just recognize that it is a tough discipline. Don't give up when they do fall or do fail. That's actually the side of the road. It's so hard to get students to understand positive things when they slip and fall and grades kind of go down. I'm really more a cheerleader in that sense and kind of encouraging.

Parrot: Thank you, Professor.

*Thach Nguyen
ESLL 320*

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Reporting Speech in English Direct and Indirect Speech

You can answer the question *What did he/she say?* in two ways:

- by repeating the words spoken (direct speech)
- by reporting the words spoken (indirect or reported speech).

Direct Speech

Direct speech repeats, or quotes, the exact words spoken. When we use direct speech in writing, we place the words spoken between quotation marks (" ") and there is ***no change in these words***. We may be reporting something that's being said NOW (for example a telephone conversation), or telling someone later about a previous conversation.

EXAMPLES:

- *She says, "What time will you be home?"*
- *She said, "What time will you be home?" and I said, "I don't know!"*
- *"There's a fly in my soup!" screamed Simone.*

Reported Speech

Reported speech is usually used to talk about ***the past***, so we normally change the tense of the words spoken. We use reporting verbs like '***say***', '***tell***', '***ask***', and we may use the word '***that***' to introduce the reported words. '***That***' may be omitted. Inverted commas are not used.

EX: *She said, "I saw him."* (direct speech) = *She said (that) she had seen him.* (indirect speech)

'SAY' AND 'TELL'

Use '***say***' when there is no indirect object:

EX: *He said that he was tired.*

Always use '***tell***' when you say who was being spoken to (i.e. with an indirect object):

EX: *He told me that he was tired.*

'TALK' AND 'SPEAK'

Use these verbs to describe the action of communicating:

EX: *He talked to us.*

She was speaking on the telephone.

Use these verbs with '***about***' to refer to what was said:

EX: *He talked (to us) about his parents.*

Idiom--Attic

All Thumbs

- Hey Bea. Can you help me out ? I don't seem to be able to button up the back of my dress.
- Sure. Let's see if I can do it for you.
- I guess I'm all thumbs because I'm so nervous. I'm already late for my date.
- Well, I suppose that being so nervous would make you clumsy and awkward. But don't worry. I'm sure your date will wait.



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



English Homophones

Homonyms (also called homophones) are words that ***sound like one another but have different meanings***. Some homonyms are spelled the same, like ***bark*** (the sound a dog makes) and ***bark*** (the outer layer of a tree trunk). Some homonyms are spelled differently, like ***one*** (the number) and ***won*** (having been victorious).

accessary, accessory	bait, bate	berth, birth
ad, add	baize, bays	bight, bite, byte
ail, ale	bald, bawled	billed, build
air, heir	ball, bawl	bitten, bittern
aisle, I'll, isle	band, banned	blew, blue
all, awl	bard, barred	bloc, block
allowed, aloud	bare, bear	boar, bore
alms, arms	bark, barque	board, bored
altar, alter	baron, barren	boarder, border
arc, ark	base, bass	bold, bowled
aren't, aunt	bay, bey	boos, booze
ate, eight	bazaar, bizarre	born, borne
auger, augur	be, bee	bough, bow
auk, orc	beach, beech	boy, buoy
aural, oral	bean, been	brae, bray
away, aweigh	beat, beet	braid, brayed
awe, oar, or, ore	beau, bow	braise, brays, braze
axel, axle	beer, bier	brake, break
aye, eye, I	bel, bell, belle	bread, bred
bail, bale	berry, bury	brews, bruise

The list of Homophones is continued in the next issue.

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Moods & Emotions Wordsearch

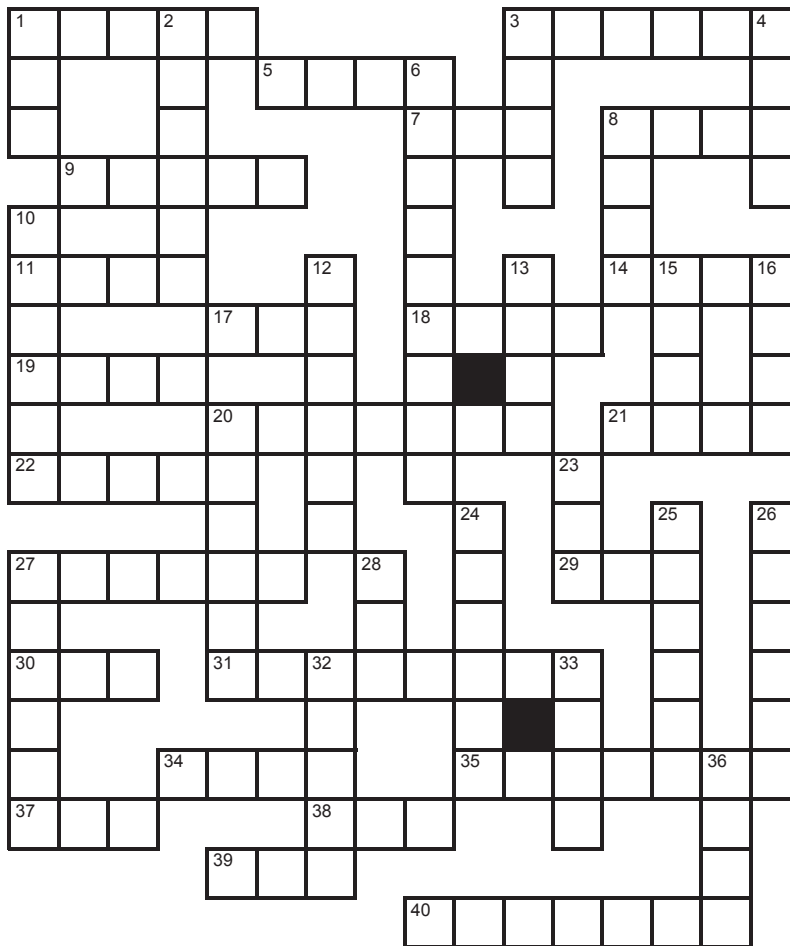
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 12 letters spell an additional word.

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

AFRAID	DREAD	HOPEFUL	MELLOW	REMORSE
AGITATED	EDGY	HUMILIATED	MERRY	SOMBER
ANGUISH	ELATION	HURT	MISERY	SUNNY
BLUE	FURIOUS	IRKED	OFFENDED	SYMPATHY
BORED	GENIAL	JADED	ORNERY	UNEASY
CHEERY	GLOOMY	JOVIAL	PANIC	UPBEAT
DARK	GROUCHY	LONELY	PEACEFUL	WEARY
DOWN	HELPLESS	LOVE	PLEASED	



Word Skills



Hodgepodge

Across

- 1 A kind of flower that begins with D.
- 3 The opposite of top.
- 5 An animal that rhymes with word.
- 7 Another word for sick.
- 8 A season that rhymes with ball.
- 9 A kind of fruit that begins with A.
- 11 A food that rhymes with dice.
- 14 The antonym of thick.
- 17 A farm animal that rhymes with wig.
- 18 The opposite of hot.
- 19 A fruit that rhymes with hair.
- 20 The opposite of deep.
- 21 A forest animal that rhymes with hair.
- 22 The antonym of long.
- 27 A place that rhymes with pool.
- 29 A drink that rhymes with sea.
- 30 The opposite of high.
- 31 A kind of fish that begins with G.
- 34 A place that rhymes with arm.
- 35 A synonym for trash.
- 37 Another word for pull.
- 38 The opposite of young.
- 39 A farm animal that rhymes with pen.
- 40 A synonym of gift.

Down

- 1 A pet that rhymes with log.
- 2 Another word for easy.
- 3 A toy that rhymes with tall.
- 4 A drink that rhymes with silk.
- 6 The antonym of easy.
- 8 Another word for quick.
- 10 A kind of fruit that begins with G.
- 12 A type of lizard that begins with I.
- 13 The antonym of fast.
- 15 Another way to say 'very big.'
- 16 The opposite of far.
- 20 The opposite of weak.
- 23 The opposite of in.
- 24 A season that rhymes with king.
- 25 A kind of fruit that begins with B.
- 26 A type of fruit that begins with O.
- 27 A synonym for quiet.
- 28 The antonym of good.
- 32 A kind of fruit that begins with L.
- 33 The opposite of soft.
- 36 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.

Dentist and the Crocodile

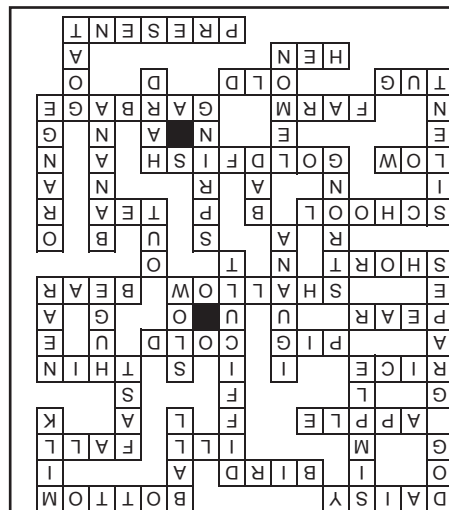
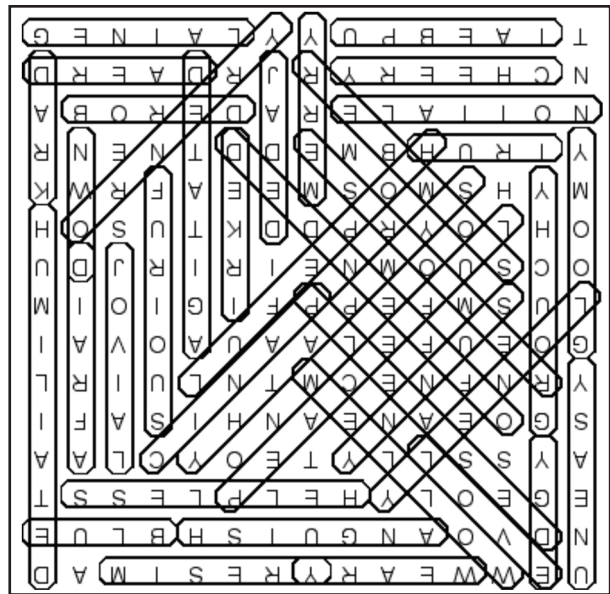
The crocodile, with cunning smile, sat in the dentist's chair.
 He said, "Right here and everywhere my teeth require repair."
 The dentist's face was turning white. He quivered, quaked and shook.
 He muttered, "I suppose I'm going to have to take a look."
 "I want you," Crocodile declared, "to do the back ones first.
 The molars at the very back are easily the worst."
 He opened wide his massive jaws. It was a fearsome sight--
 At least three hundred pointed teeth, all sharp and shining white.
 The dentist kept himself well clear. He stood two yards away.
 He chose the longest probe he had to search out the decay.
 "I said to do the back ones first!" the Crocodile called out.
 "You're much too far away, dear sir, to see what you're about.
 To do the back ones properly you've got to put your head
 Deep down inside my great big mouth," the grinning Crocky said.
 The poor old dentist wrung his hands and, weeping in despair,
 He cried, "No no! I see them all extremely well from here!"
 Just then, in burst a lady, in her hands a golden chain.
 She cried, "Oh Croc, you naughty boy, you're playing tricks again!"
 "Watch out!" the dentist shrieked and started climbing up the wall.
 "He's after me! He's after you! He's going to eat us all!"
 "Don't be a twit," the lady said, and flashed a gorgeous smile.
 "He's harmless. He's my little pet, my lovely crocodile."

Roald Dahl



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber Pet Shop

One day a man goes to a pet shop to buy a parrot. The assistant takes the man to the parrot section and asks the man to choose one. The man asks, "How much is the yellow one?" The assistant says, "2000." The man is shocked and asks the assistant why it's so expensive. The assistant explains, "This parrot is a very special one. He knows typewriting and can type really fast." "What about the green one?" the man asks. The assistant says, "He costs 5000 because he knows typewriting and can answer incoming telephone calls and takes notes." "What about the red one?" the man asks. The assistant says, "That one's 10,000." The man says, "What does HE do?" The assistant says, "I don't know, but the other two call him boss."



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny,

I was a student at ARC about five years ago. Now I'm back again but I think there have been a few changes. Where is everything? What's new on campus?

Alma Perdita

Dear Alma,

Welcome back! If you go on-line, you see a map of the campus. Most places are the same as five years ago, but some offices have moved about. Our Student Services Building is a good place to check out.



It houses so many offices. It's bigger than a barn and twice as good-looking as the barn I remember from my childhood in the 30's. It's air-conditioned, smells real nice, and is something we're proud of on campus. A number of offices have just moved there from our Portable Village. Our Assessment Center is in the Student Services Building in the west wing (excuse the parrot talk). The Financial Aid Office is in the same location. My advice is to take a stroll through campus. Don't be afraid to stop someone and ask questions. There's rumor that ARC President Greene likes to get out of his office and is often out on the grounds to answer questions.

Granny

Raw Eggs and No Husband Since '38 Keep Her Young at 115

Continued from page 1

and one of only a handful of people whose lives have straddled three centuries.

In her time, she has watched Italy evolve from a monarchy to a republic that spawned nearly 70 governments in seven decades, with a 20-year foray into Fascism in the middle. She survived two world wars, and the hardship of their aftermath; years of domestic terrorism, and years of economic prosperity that transformed Italy from an agrarian economy to one of the world's most industrialized nations.

On a recent chilly January morning, trussed up in hand-knit shawls, next to a warm radiator, she summed up her life simply: "115 years are a lot."

Ms. Morano has no doubts about how she made it this long: Her elixir for longevity consists of raw eggs, which she has been eating — three per day — since her teens when a doctor recommended them to counter anemia. Assuming she has been true to her word, Ms. Morano would have consumed around 100,000 eggs in her lifetime, give or take a thousand, cholesterol be damned.

She is also convinced that being single for most of her life, after an unhappy marriage that ended in 1938 following the death of an infant son, has kept her kicking. Separation was rare then, and divorce became legal in Italy only in 1970. She said she had plenty of suitors after that, but never chose another partner. "I didn't want to be dominated by anyone," she said.

Gerontologists agree that there is no one key to longevity. "You talk to 100 centenarians, you get 100 different stories," said Valter D. Longo, the director of the Longevity Institute at the University of

Southern California, whose studies suggest that diet is an important factor in living longer.

And there's genetics. *"We do know that the ability to make it to 110 is heritable, so you have a large increase in chance if you have several people in your family to live to a late age,"* Dr. Longo said.

One of Ms. Morano's sisters died just short of 100; another lived to 102.

Remarkably, Ms. Morano still lives alone, shuffling around a tiny two-room apartment surrounded by dusty memories and the vestiges of her more recent fame, including tributes and certificates from officials, among them the country's last president, commending her resilience. Next to her bed is a small plaque with the numbers "115" in bright blue letters, made by children at a local nursery school, who hand-delivered the present.

"They also brought their coughs and sniffles," fretted Rosemarie Santoni, her niece and principal caregiver who comes by every morning to prepare the day's meals, which consist of the aforementioned eggs, now down to two a day, ground meat, soupy pasta and a banana.

A neighbor checks in periodically, and is on call for emergencies, but there have not been many. The few times she has been ill, she has *"refused to set foot in a hospital,"* even having blood transfusions or stitches done at home, said Carlo Bava, the doctor who has cared for her since she turned 90. Her general health is good, he added.

Ms. Morano appears to enjoy her new fame, patiently reviving rote reminiscences for the many strangers who call on her to recount her life and the times she lived in. Her memory, however, evades entire decades.

Ask her about Mussolini, or the world wars or any number of current or past political figures, and she shrugs indifferently. Her recollections are mostly intimate. *"My sisters and I loved to dance and we'd run away to the dance hall and then our mother*

would come looking for us with a birch stick," she recalled recently.

One of eight children, Ms. Morano was born on Nov. 29, 1899, in Civiasco, a tiny town in Piedmont, in the same year that Guglielmo Marconi first transmitted a radio signal across the English Channel and a group of investors founded the Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino, or Fiat.

While still a girl she moved with her family to Villadossola, once an important iron and steel company town. The climate — humid and cold winters — was not congenial to her constitution, so a doctor suggested she move to the nearby environs of Lake Maggiore, which straddles Italy and Switzerland. She chose Verbania, a pretty lakeshore town with a milder climate where she found a job in a factory, making jute sacks.

"The doctor told me to change air," she said, *"and I'm still here."*

Ms. Morano began to gain fame only when she crossed the 110-year-old milestone and entered into the ever-dwindling ranks of supercentenarians, nearly all of whom are women. She is amused to be the object of interest among researchers from around the world, who travel to her bedside — because she no longer leaves her home — to study her lifestyle and genetics.

"She's aware of the privilege of living," said Dr. Bava, who said Ms. Morano had always graciously accepted the aging process and the aches and pains that come with it. He visits her once a month, just to check in.

"If all my patients were like this," he said, *"I could have spent my days reading newspapers."*

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/15/world/raw-eggs-and-no-husband-since-38-keep-her-young-at-115.html?_r=1

Three Amigos

There are a lot of interesting people in American River College, especially the ESL students because they have a lot of stories and some of them have good experience in life. So I interviewed the most interesting two guys for me, so we get to know them more.

Layth: Hi! How's it going, guys?

Sharef & Javad: It's going very well, thanks.

Layth: So, I will make with you guys an interview, and it's not long though, so we can get to know you better. First, let's start with your names. Where are you guys from, and how long have you guys been here?

Javad: My name is Javad Yaghoubi. Actually, this is a hard question because my parents are from Afghanistan, but I was born in Iran and lived there for 18 years and then I moved to Turkey and lived there for 3 years; then I came here to the U.S. two years ago, so I don't know exactly where I am from.

Layth: Why did your family move so much?

Javad: Because my family liked to move and we wanted to come to America, so we had to do that.

Layth: Okay. So, what about you, Sharef?

Sharef: Well, my name is Sharef Bostani, and I'm from Afghanistan, and I came here almost two years ago.

Layth: How and why did you come to Sacramento?

Sharef: I have come through the International Organization for Migration, and I'm here now to study and work and also to ensure a good future for myself.

Layth: What did you study when you guys were in Afghanistan?

Sharef: Actually, I graduated from high school in my home country, then I entered the university and studied there up to half of it but I couldn't finish it because I came

here to the U.S .

Javad: In fact I graduated from high school in Iran and then I came here.

Layth: What did you study and what would you like to study?

Javad: I just got my diploma from high school, and now I'm trying to finish my GE from ARC. Then I will major in business management.

Layth: Did you guys have a job when you were in your home country, and do you guys have jobs now?

Javad: Actually, I used to work with my family as a tailor, because my family had a tailor shop back there. To be honest, I don't have a job now but I had a job in Arden Fair Mall six months ago.

I quit to get enough time to study and to be more focused on my college education only.

Layth: What kind of job did you have at Arden Fair Mall?

Javad: I was working as a salesman there in a really small shop. I sold different stuff such as phone cases, accessories, and scarves.

Sharef: Yes , I had a job in my home country. Actually, I used to work with the U.S. Army and Air Force as an interpreter. Right now I'm working with Apple as a technician.

Layth: Do you guys speak only English at work or other languages?

Javad: In fact, I used to speak Persian with my boss because he is from Iran, but with customers I used to speak only English.

Sharef: Actually, we speak only English at work, but I have a lot of Afghan friends so whenever I am with them I just speak my own language with them .

Layth: What language is that?



Sharef: I talk to them in either Dari or Pashto.

Layth: What are you guys studying now and what do you want to become in the future?

Sharef: Right now I'm studying ESL in American River College, and I just want to complete my major, which is Computer Science.

Javad: Now I'm studying ESL too, and I want to graduate with a business management certificate, so I can work with a big company as a manager.

Layth: What do you guys like about American River College?

Javad: To be honest, the first thing is ARC is kind of close to my house; also it has really good ESL professors trying to improve their students' English. In addition, I have many friends that go to this college so I can see them there whenever I want.

Sharef: Actually, that's an interesting question. The first thing I can tell you is that ARC is close to my house, and the other thing that I like is the diversity. There are a lot of interesting people and students from different countries studying here.

Layth: Do you guys like America in general, and what do you like about it?

Sharef: Yes, of course I like America, in general and because of that I'm here now, and I like America because the people here are very friendly and also they are very open-minded people.

Javad: Yes, I've been dreaming to come to America. I like it because American is the country of freedom. In addition there are no wars here and a really safe country. Also here in America, I can study to ensure a good future to reach my goals and achieve my dreams.

Layth: What do you guys plan after graduating from college or university?

Javad: In fact, after graduation I want to start working in the career that studied so I hope I can find a job, and then I want to get married and make a good family.

Sharef: Actually, after I finish college, I want to transfer to the university and after graduation from the university, I hope that I can find a job in the same field that I'm studying and that's it.

Layth: Why did you guys come to the US?

Sharef: Wow! That's really an interesting question, in fact, that is the dream of all people to come to America because America is a country of opportunities; in addition, people can live here in peace and we can take the oppor-

tunity to have a good future for us and for our children, and I'm so happy that I'm here right now.

Javad: Actually, this is a hard question. I would like to say I came here to have a good future. In fact I've lived in three different countries and no one of them gave me citizenship or any kind of residence. So, I came here to get the citizenship and to complete my studies to have a better life.

Layth: Is the US what you thought it would be or is it different?

Javad: Yes, America is the same as what I imagined because I was watching a lot of American movies and I was excited to come here. But, I was not thinking that I will miss my country and now, I miss my country very much.

Sharef: Actually, it's a little different because I thought in the US is only American people who are living here, not people from different countries. For me personally, everything is different, because the people here are serious in everything because life is difficult here and the time here is very important for them. So, It's different from what I imagined.

Layth: Is there any custom or way people live here in the US that seems strange to you guys?

Sharef: Yes, of course, because each country has different customs and different traditions. The people of all countries have different customs from others. For example, in my home country people wear different clothes and here in the U.S. they people don't wear this type of clothing because there is a significant difference in customs and traditions.

Javad: Not really, because many American people are very friendly; also they don't hate us and they can give us help if we ask for it. However, there is also a difference between the customs and traditions of my country and the U.S. and certainly we will get used to this thing because we live here now with American society so we must adapt to them.

Layth: What customs and traditions, for example?

Javad: Hmm! I believe everything is different between my home country and here, such as how we deal with people, different language, even the friendship in my country is different from here.

Layth: Well, I would like to thank you guys for letting me do this interesting interview with you and it's my honor.

Javad & Sharef: You're more than welcome and it is not a problem at all. It was an honor for us too.

Out of the Cage

THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Fri, August 28, 8pm – 10pm
8pm – 10pm

A saucy trip to the trailer park full of music and bawdy humor Friday & Saturday Ticket Prices: General \$18 Students/Seniors/SARTA \$15 Not recommended for children. Retro Sunday (every Sunday!) Ticket Prices Adults \$12. Dress Up Nights & Beer/Wine Sales: Every Friday & Saturday

For Further Information: (916) 966-3683 · FairOaksTheatreFestival.com

Location: 7991 California Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Preplanning for a Wildland Fire Event

Thursday, September 3
12:15pm – 1:15pm

California has long been a hot spot for wildfires (a.k.a., wildland fires). However, as it endures its fourth year of drought, the state is facing a year-round fire season. Given Sacramento's close proximity to acres of tinder, most of us are well aware of the danger of wildland fires, but what about fighting them? How do you contain, much less put out, a fire spread out over hundreds of acres of rough, roadless terrain? In this College Hour, Fire Science Professor Al Iannone gives an overview of what it takes to preplan for a wildland fire. Learn the evolutionary, systematic process fire agencies employ in their approach to combating wildland fires and identifying target hazards. Additionally, learn what to do if you find yourself in the general vicinity of a wildfire.

What's in a Name? The Process of Changing Your Name in CA

Thu, September 10
12:15pm – 1:15pm

A person's name is deeply connected to his or her sense of self and is simultaneously important to friends, family, and the community. Have you ever thought of legally changing your name? Please join us for an informal walk-through of the legal process and one person's experience with the forms, the court, Social Security, and even the DMV. Professor Smith will also discuss the personal impact of a name change and offer advice for colleagues and students thinking about name changes.

Location: Raef Hall 160

THE BEST OF BROADWAY - "BROADWAY RE-VIEWED!"

Sat, September 19
7:30pm – 9:30pm

September 11 - 27, 2015. Saturdays and Sundays, September 11-27 at 7:30pm

Ticket Prices: (no FOTF discounts apply) General \$20 Seniors \$18 Students \$18 Children (under 12) \$15 Group Rates \$15-\$17

For Further Information: (916) 966-3683 · FairOaksTheatreFestival.com

Location: 7991 California Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628



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