



# The Parrot

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

Issue #104 Spring 2016

## Parrot Finds Temperance!

**Parrot:** Hi Temperance, we heard that you have an interesting background and we would like to interview you today, so do you have time for that?

**Temperance:** Sure

**Parrot:** Could you please introduce yourself?

**Temperance:** My name is Temperance Bonner. I'm the Tutorial Center clerk here in the Learning Resources

Center. I've been here for a little bit more than two years now.



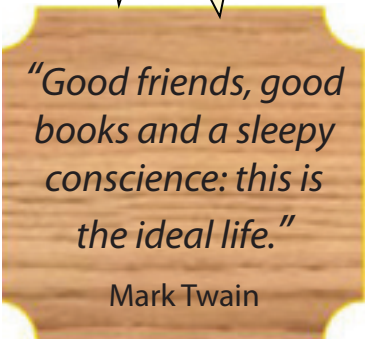
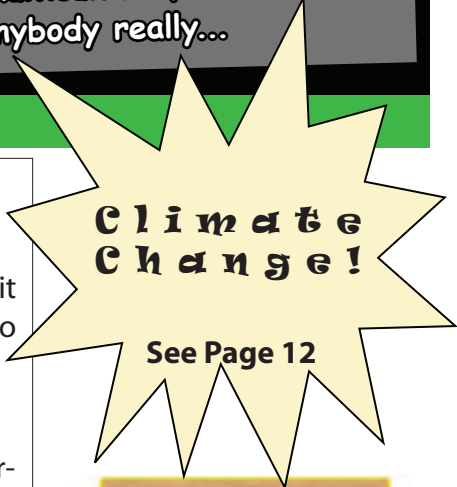
**Parrot:** Why did you choose tutoring?

**Temperance:**

I chose it because tutoring is every important to students. It is some-

times the only way for them to pass the class. I really like to be part of the team that can help students to meet

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## Meet the Woman Who Turns Roadkill into Fine Fur

What most of us call roadkill, Pamela Paquin calls "accidental fur." She takes the casualties of New England roadsides and turns them into accessories that sell for more than \$1,000 apiece.



A model in fur made from roadkill by Petite Mort Fur. (Sophia Jagger Moon/Courtesy of Pamela Paquin)

ey. She wants to make fur – fraught with controversy due to animal cruelty concerns – an ethical, sustainable fashion statement.

The task isn't for the faint of heart.

But her goal isn't just to make mon-

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# Student Chirpings

## Should There be Grades?

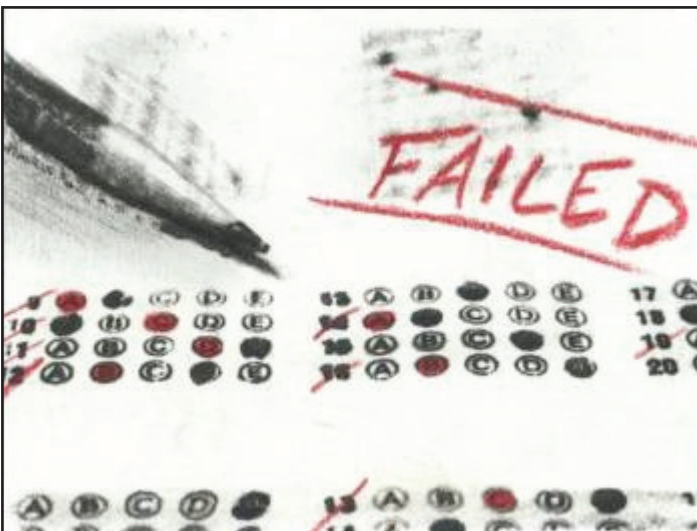
For many students, studying is very important, and passing a class let alone trying to get an A grade can be very challenging. It could make them so stressed and leads to many bad effects. However, if high schools or colleges use a no-grade system in which students receive either a pass or fail mark, instead of the traditional letter or number grade, it would be advantageous to both the students and faculty. Therefore, I strongly believe that there should be no grades in school, only pass and fail.

The first reason there should be no grades in school is because it will have a positive impact on the mood, stress, and test anxiety among students. Students can still get the education that they need without the stress and pressure of competing for higher grades such as A or B. On the other hand, some people think there are negative impacts because students can become lazy. I believe that having no grades in school has more pros than cons because it will lessen the bad impact of stress, testing anxiety, and pressure for students, especially working students. With just pass or fail grades to consider, teachers will have fewer options and a short time to choose from when evaluating a student's performance. In addition, students will be more motivated to come to class; thus, they will learn better. Students who receive a C or higher will pass and those

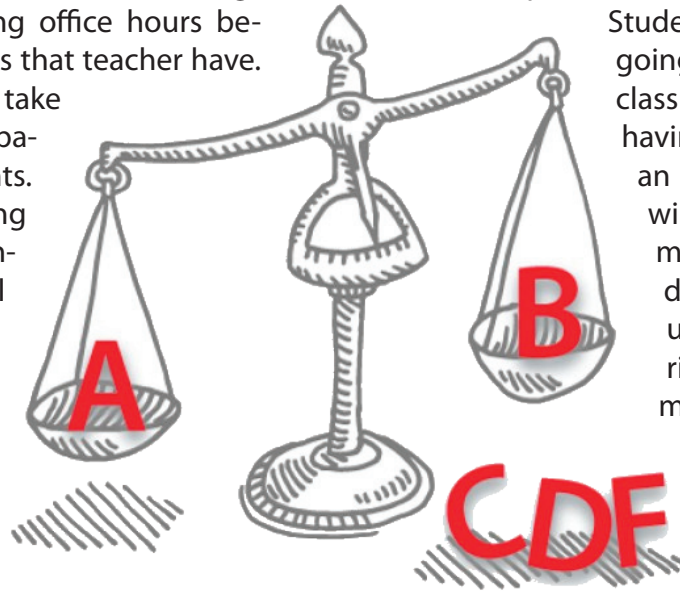
with D or F will fail. In some classes, only an F is considered failing. For example, some students have to work full-time while going to college, and getting an A grade for their classes can be very challenging because they don't have the time for extra studying. Some students are stressed and overwhelmed between work and study. If there are only pass/fail systems in school, it would take the pressure off for many working students who work to support their education. Therefore, I believe that with only a pass/fail system, it will definitely take the pressure and stress off students' workload.

Another reason there should be no grades in school is because it will motivate students to go to school every day with no fear and with enjoyment and understanding material better. All the students can enjoy learning classroom information rather than just focusing on specific details that help some students to receive a C or higher. Many students would more likely be encouraged to enroll in more difficult courses without being afraid of not getting good grades in them. Take, for example, some students who are busy with other obligations in their life. It would help them so much because there's no need to cram for tests at the last minute just to remember certain material. This will motivate students to go to school while working because they can just focus on the lectures in class and grasp the information better this way. In addition, some students have testing anxiety even though they study for the exam, so with a pass/fail system, students may perform even better on the test as a result. Thus, I strongly believe that having no grades in school will motivate students to attend school.

A final reason that there should be no grades in school is because it will save time for teachers. They will spend less time on grading students' papers. This will save teachers' time for more personal things, to prepare their lectures, or to spend more time with students who need additional help with



academic information. Not all students get to see the teacher during office hours because of the limited hours that teacher have. Some teachers have to take work home to grade papers or other assignments. With less time on grading students' papers, teachers will be free and will get to look forward to more free time on their weekends with family or friends. This grading system would be a big advantage for teachers. So, I believe that there should be no grades in school as it can save time for teachers and students.



duce the pressure, stress, and anxiety for students. Students who are working while going to college can still pass their class without worrying about not having enough time to study for an A or B. In addition, students will be more motivated to take more challenging classes. Students would feel better and understand the class material better, and as a result, they may end up excelling in school. Teacher will have more time for themselves or students. Therefore, I strongly believe that there should be no grades in school; there should be only a pass/fail system.

In conclusion, if there is no grade, but only a pass/fail system in school, it would be very advantageous to both students and teachers. It would re-

*Dao "Jenny" Nghiem*

*ESLW50*

## They Did Not Choose It!

I lost my mother when I was young. It was not easy to live with my father. I never got the same feelings, when we were all together. It is not a phase and I am waiting for it to pass. It is something I have to grow up with and accept. There are a lot of one-parent families these days and there are a lot of reasons that made it a one-parent family. Have you ever thought about the kids? What would it be like for them? There are three effects a one-parent family would have on a child.

The first effect a one-parent family would have on a child is one child would not get as much attention from one parent. In a one-parent family usually the one parent would be so busy trying to be the father and mother at the same time. Their work would take most of their time. In addition they work at the house. They have two jobs at home and one out some place to get money for their family. In this situation a parent would not pay much attention to

his child because she does not have time. For example, my friend always told me how her mother never sat and chatted with her; because of that she tried to make some friends and she did not choose her friends wisely. Her friends would take her to weird places. That was because her mother was busy trying to be both parents and forgot how much her daughter needed her. My cousin spent most of his time with my family. He used to say that his father did not care about him. His father did not know how to do anything and his kids were so lost. His father did not cook for them, did not clean the house, and did not teach them how to behave in public. They were so young and did not know what to do. It could affect his children for the rest of their lives. Kids take what they learn in their youth to the rest of their lives.

The second effect a one-parent family would have on a child is a child does not get close to his

family. For a one-parent family they are always busy. They do not spend time with each other because there are a lot of things to do because one member is missing from their family. They have to work hard to make it up. What happens when everybody is busy? It is easy for the family to split apart. Children get apart easily when they do not find their parents with them. For example, when I was young, I never spent time with my father or my brothers and since then, I never did. My family does not know a lot about me and I do not know much about my family. I never thought I wanted to go and chat with them. I have never been close to my family because they have always been busy. My friend did not meet her father. All she knew was that her father left before she was born. Her mother worked as a teacher. She said that her mother has always been busy and when she promised her to go shopping and talk, she never kept her promise. After a few promises, she never asked her to spend time with her again. It is a big problem when a one-parent family is not close because they are busy in life. A child grows up not caring about his family because they were not there for him.

The third major effect a one-parent family would have on a child is the child does poorly in his school. It happens with a lot of kids. They would be bad at school. That could impact them for the rest of their lives. They would not care. One parent would not have the same effect as if both parents were

there. If there is a problem in a family or misunderstanding with a child, it will first appear in his school and in his low grades. A lot of children's low grades are caused by their families. For example, my co-worker does not have any kind of degree. She is depressed

because she lived with her father and he did not care about her education. She used to skip school or leave school early. Now she cannot find a job that can pay her well. When I was young, I did not like school and my father would let me skip school for weeks, so I did not care about school and did not do my work. Parents can encourage and cheer their children to do well but one parent cannot control the child and would not have time for the child.



In conclusion, a one-parent family could affect a child badly in many ways. A child would not have a great relationship with his family, would not have as much attention and would do poorly in the school. It is a lot of work for one parent to do for his family. There are a lot of people who cannot do all the work and they would not feel responsible for it. Now how do you think it looks like for these children?

*Betul Yousif  
ESLW50*

## Moving to a New Country

All families in the world must face challenges throughout their lives. Some families face easier challenges than others, and other families have to face the challenge of moving to a new country. This situation could have many effects on the family. There are three effects on a family when it moves to a new country: children have to go to school and learn a new language and customs; both parents have to work to afford their household expenses and because of this parents don't pay enough attention to their children; and the family usually suffers stress.

The first effect on a family when it moves to a new country is that children have to face the challenge of going to school, and learning a new language and customs. This is a difficult situation because children have to learn new things that are unfamiliar to them, such as a new language and different customs. Due to the different languages, children cannot make friends easily. This situation causes children to become withdrawn and lonely. At the same time, the unfamiliar language causes children to have poor school performance and poor grades. My brother decided to leave Mexico and move to the United States with his family nine years ago. The first six months were the hardest for my niece, who at that time was a 4-year-old child. She used to put up a fight whenever she went to school. She had no friends and she became a lonely and quiet girl. Her grades were poor and this situation depressed her. The same situation happened to my uncle's children who also moved to the United States thirty years ago. Fortunately, my cousins and my niece were young children when they moved to the United States, and one year later, they both were speaking English in a perfect way.



The second effect on a family when it moves to a new country is that both parents have to work to afford household expenses and because of this parents don't pay enough attention to their children. Most parents who immigrate to the United States don't speak English. Language is the most important barrier to getting a good job. This means that parents can only get jobs with minimum wage. Life in the United States is a little more expensive compared with life in other countries, so to afford household expenses both parents have to work. As a result, both parents focus only on their work because they are worried about their expenses, so they don't pay enough attention to their children. Because of this, children grow up in the care of strangers. Children

lose the respect for and fear of their parents. Children become wayward teenagers. They get bad friends, and sometimes use drugs to escape from their loneliness. This is an unfortunate situation that occurs in most families. Most of my cousins who moved to the United States and grew up alone, took refuge

in the use of drugs because their parents were only concerned about their jobs and making money. My uncles gave their children all the material goods they asked for, but never gave them love, affection, attention, and care.

The third and most important effect on a family when it moves to a new country is that its members usually suffer stress. This is the most serious effect because it includes the two explained above. It's the most dangerous effect as it can cause illness. When my brother moved to the United States with his family, he suffered stress. My brother at that time was worried about his job, the payment of the

rent of his house, and the problem with his daughter at school. My brother endured so much pressure and stress. One day his blood pressure increased so much that he had to be hospitalized. He spent two days under medical supervision. Since then, he learned to worry less about his work and take more care of his daughter. My uncles weren't so lucky with their children. Unfortunately, the stress of my uncles only served to worsen the relationships with their children. My uncles lived such stressful lives that they were upset about everything that their children did. This situation affected their relationships, and even today, most of my cousins don't love their parents.

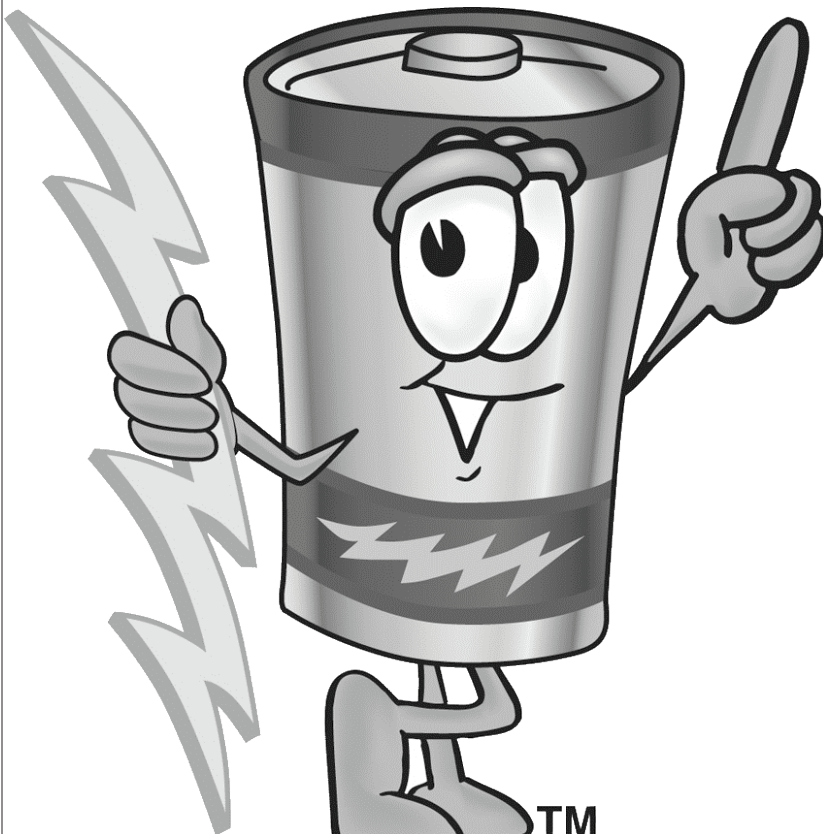
In conclusion, the situation of moving to a new country has several effects on a family. These can be that children have to face the challenge of going to school and learning a new language; both parents have to work to afford their household expenses, so they don't pay enough attention to their

children; and the family usually suffers stress. Many families manage to overcome these effects, but a few other families get trapped in the claws of these effects.

*Graciela Lopez*  
ESLW50



## Battery



Now I'm holding in my hands an alkaline battery. Do you ever think about how useful and needed batteries are in our lives? Do you have an idea how they taste or how they smell? Let's try to figure that out.

First of all, batteries give life to a variety of things that you can only imagine. A battery is the soul of your precious objects like your cellphone or your remote control. That's why people are so sad when they talk about a dead battery. Sometimes one dead battery in a cellphone can upset somebody more than three hundred dead people found after an airplane crash.

Batteries are so different and unique. They can be any size and any color. It really can be challenging for somebody to find "the right one" in the huge world of batteries. Right in front of me, I have Mommy Bat-

tery. I guess this is the biggest battery in my house. That's why I think this is the other batteries' mom. People call it "D", 1.5 volts. I think it's a very powerful battery. It looks very serious. No monkey business. There are only black and brown colors. It's longer than a wine cork and it's wide as a Polish kielbasa. It is a good present for somebody who already realizes how important batteries are nowadays. Also there is a possibility to use this battery for self-defense. Your fist is considerably heavier if you hold the battery in it.

For somebody who has never experienced the taste of a battery, it's a huge omission. It might mean that when you are age 1 to 3, somebody was

hiding batteries from you. So just to remind you, batteries can taste different. They can be spicy or salty; mostly it depends on with what spices to use with it. The same I can say about the smell. For example, mine smells like nail polish. Maybe because I just covered my nails. But anyway it's never too late to smell your battery. Maybe your battery smells like hand cream or like sausage.

Hopefully, you realize what an amazing thing a battery is. How inimitable it can be! And when you get home, you will finally pay attention to your batteries.

*Olena Kovalyova*  
ESLW50

## When I Felt Proud

I am a very sensitive person. Although I am not a strong person, I will always be ready to help everyone. There are many incidences of kindness which I did in my past and I continue doing because it makes me happy. It is very common in Pakistan to have servants for different services. I also had maids for dishwashing, clothes washing, cooking, and cleaning. My husband also had employees at his business and farms. Mostly people are very strict and do not behave kindly to their servants. But I am a humble person by nature and could not behave strictly with them. When they came to my house in the morning, I served them breakfast before they started their work. In fact, I really respected them and always listened to their problems patiently. I like to help family members, friends, neighbors, or anyone who needs help of any kind. I will always remember how my maid's life changed when I started helping her.

All my maids had different types of hardships and troubles in their lives. One of my maids was very helpless because her husband was addicted to drugs. She was weak and had

a pinched face, poor woman. Her name was Sughra. She was suffering from hepatitis C but she had to



work because she was the only breadwinner of her

family. She had six children and none of them were getting educated. She gave birth to four daughters while waiting for a son. Finally, Allah blessed her with two sons but she always worried about getting some milk for them. Every morning she came with a different problem. Mostly she used to tell me that her husband beat her every night when he did not get his drugs. She was in miserable condition and had marks on her body. When she told me her painful story with teary eyes, I also cried with her. On such days I never asked her to work; rather I used to sit with her and tried to relax her. Sometimes she was really upset because her family did not have anything to eat. I used to make more food than we needed so that I could give her some.

As time passed, her problems were increasing. My sympathies were also increasing for her. She had lots of hardships and problems but she was hardworking as well. Her honest attitude and my kindness built a strong relationship between us. Actually she became my oldest fellow. Now I also shared some of my family matters with her. She was older than me and knew more about life, which I couldn't learn from books. Her two elder daughters were helping her now. I always tried to convince her to enroll her children at school. She answered, "Baji,



(sister) a poor girl's life never changes even if she gets education." I made her register her two youngest sons at school. I used to buy books and pay school fees for her boys. Her husband was still taking drugs and beating them. A couple of times my husband called the police and they arrested him. Then he was willing to stop taking drugs. We also helped her husband stop taking drugs and he became sober. My husband asked him to work at his iron store and now they had a permanent source of income. Whenever I think back, I find great satisfaction and happiness from the depth of my heart for Sughra's family.

In my whole life, if someone asks me for help, I never refuse. All my troubles and difficulties were solved by The Grace of Allah. As an old Pakistani saying goes, "Happiness always increases by sharing, sorrows and grief decrease by sharing." I always feel proud when I bring happiness and give comfort to someone.

*Kishwar Saeeda*  
ESLW50

## A Dangerous Day in My Life

On January 21 Krasnodar had a freezing rain which paralyzed public transport and caused a lot of trouble. The night of January 20 in Krasnodar, one of the biggest cities of Russia, many accidents happened: many trees collapsed under the weight of ice, some homes were left without electricity, and several flights were canceled because of the bad weather. Later, the news reported that two students died because a big tree fell on them. It was one of the most dangerous days in my life.

My alarm clock woke me up. The room was cold. It was quiet and dark. Oh, how I wanted to close my eyes and watch another dream! How warm it was under the blanket! The day before I had worked on my test all night long. Today there would be another one. My two sisters slept next to me. Carefully I got up and went to the closet. I tried not to make much noise. A little later, I went down the stairs and saw my mom cooking breakfast. When she heard my footsteps, she said, "Dear, why are you not in bed?"



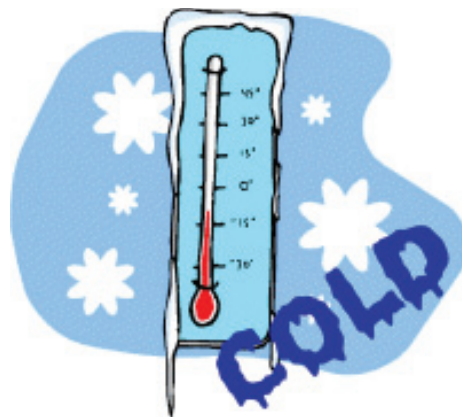
Today's news said that public transport is not working because the weather is too dangerous. You can stay home." It was absolutely surprising to me. I answered, " Mom, I can not! I must go to college! Today will be one of the hardest tests of the semester!" Honestly, the reason why I really wanted to go was my love of adventure. So, after breakfast I was looking forward to the possible danger and hard road to my college.

I went outside. When the cold air touched my face, I understood that the weather was really dangerous. It was still dark and very cold. All the trees were covered with ice. The sidewalks had turned into a skating rink. Icicles fell to the ground everywhere in different sizes. Thousands of drivers were not able to open their cars, which were covered in ice. In the morning rush hour, the city did not have heavy traffic due to severe weather conditions. There were crowds of people at the bus stops. However, neither



buses nor trams nor trolleybuses were running due to icy wires and other dangerous road conditions. People around me looked very busy. Nevertheless, I decided to go on foot. Every day my trip took exactly thirty minutes but today it took me about three hours. I thought solely about keeping balance with every step. Sometimes I saw someone fall down and

I stopped to help. A little later, I saw that the public transport started working but sparks showered around them. Sparks could fall on the people, so people were pulling back as far as possible.



When I saw my college it did not look very nice like it did on other days. It was a dark, cold, and fearful building. I went inside. There were several people: my biology teacher, math professor, and the curator. They did not notice me. I went up the stairs to the second floor where my lesson was. There I couldn't see anything because of the dark. Where were all the people? Why is it so dark and cold here? Fear crept into my mind. Slowly I moved toward the class. Suddenly, one of the doors opened and I saw the bright light from there. Fortunately, my classmates appeared from that room. My lessons were canceled on that day. So, it was time to go home.

In conclusion, Krasnodar has had such bad weather only once, that dangerous day. I hope that it will never happen again. How many accidents, problems, and sorrows it brought to families! Moreover, some people died on that day. Others had wrecked cars which was the only hope to make money. Others had very big health issues. For me, it was a day with some danger, some fear, but also with some beauty. I will never forget that dangerous walk.

*Avigeya Osiychuk*  
ESLW50

## Retesting Retesting Retesting

A seventy-year-old woman directed her walker toward a red Mustang. Then she slowly got into the car. The Mustang took off like a jet from the parking lot with a loud spinning sound! A young guy in a red baseball cap barely managed to jump out of her way and hit a light pole with his bald head and fell on a garbage can! That happened last summer in the Walmart parking lot on El Camino Ave.

I never expected that a dandelion-like old lady could drive

like Schumacher. I don't know why she pushed the gas pedal so hard. Maybe someone made her mad or she just was thinking about her dancing classes, or she reached that point where nothing matters. However, I believe that her age is one of the reasons. When people get older, they forget some rules and lose some skills. I believe that drivers sixty-five or older should be retested annually to see if their skills have diminished.

The first reason why drivers sixty-five or older should be retested annually is their eyesight gets worse. That is dangerous especially when it gets dark. Once I saw back in my country Kazakhstan one old man driving at night against traffic and shaking his fist at other drivers. He was wearing big glasses but he failed to see the border between two directions. I think he needed bigger glasses. In Kazakhstan they don't have an annual retest for elders; otherwise, he would have had to order new glasses and wouldn't get in such a foolish situation. One more example is my grandmother, who never could find me even when I was hiding behind a broom handle. I suggest she also had bad eyesight at her age, seventy-five.

The second reason why drivers sixty-five or older should be retested annually is slow re-

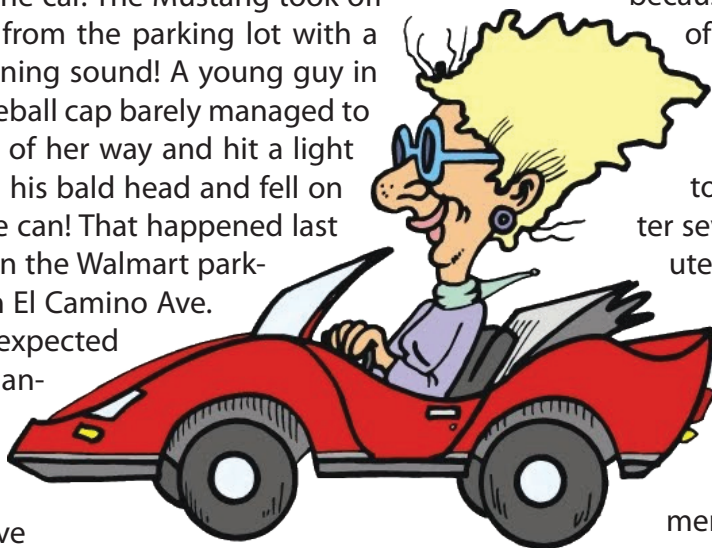
actions. A quick reaction is very important on freeways. Often you need to stop your car immediately because of traffic ahead or change a lane because of an emergency situation. That is difficult if you get older. For Instance, my neighbor Ivan was chasing a single fly for days. He was seventy two when we were living next to his door. Once he asked me to help him after seven days of failure. I caught it in three minutes. How? Because I was seven. I had good reactions. If you don't have good reactions on the road, it is dangerous for others and for yourself.

The third reason why drivers sixty-five or older should be retested annually is memory. It is not a secret that we lose our ability to remember things with age. It is not harmful if you forget where you put your glasses while they are on your forehead, like my grandmother did. However, if you forget to turn on your turn signals when you are changing a lane or forget to stop at a stop sign, that could be trouble. When once my neighbor, an eighty-two-year-old lady, gave me a ride, she suddenly stopped in the middle of the intersection and angrily asked me, "Why do they keep driving?" I opened my eyes and answered "Ma'am because we had a red light." After that when she offered me a ride. I politely explained to her that my doctor recommended walk every day as much as possible.

I

It is very important to make sure that every driver on the road has good eyesight, good reactions, and a good memory. I don't mind people driving at their old age if they get their annual retest. That will make us calm and we'll have fewer accidents.

Mars Munasyrov  
ESLW50



## ARC and My College in Vietnam

Do you think every college is run the same way? I have attended two colleges: one is in my country, and one is in the U.S. In Vietnam, I studied at the College of Economics. That is a big college there. ARC, the college I am studying at in the U.S, has some differences from the college I studied in Vietnam.

The first difference between ARC and my college in Vietnam is the size of classes. My classes always had a lot of students. Sometimes they were too noisy in class. A college in Vietnam had seventy to one hundred students. My professors couldn't know all our names or if we went to his/her class or not. On the other hand, ARC has small classes. ARC just has about fifteen to thirty students per class. Professors can control their classes easily. They always know their students' names, and if their students participated in class or not. Students study in a small room at ARC. I think it helps me concentrate when I'm in class.

Another difference between ARC and my college in Vietnam is here I can ask to meet my professor whenever I need to. It is really difficult to do that in Vietnam. I couldn't meet my professors after class because they were always busy to go to teach at another college or they didn't want to talk with students. They didn't even have their own offices. Students had to go to meet them at their houses or coffee shops. But at ARC, it is really easy to meet the professors and ask them about what I didn't understand. All I need to do is to go to their offices at the time they put on the schedule. The professors here always welcome students to go to discuss with them the lessons. In Vietnam, you just go to classes and do your homework; you don't ask your professors anything else.

The last difference between ARC and my school in Vietnam is the online classes. In Vietnam,

we have to go attend our classes. We don't have any online classes. Our professors couldn't use technology very well. They didn't know how to upload their lessons to a website. Maybe they worried that their students were too lazy to study online. The students could sleep or just check in, not really study. Another reason is not all students had computers to study online because our school would arrange our schedules. So, if they offered an online class when students didn't have computers, students couldn't study well. But at ARC, students can choose what classes they want to study. So, if they have a computer at home, they can study in an online class easily. ARC usually opens a lot of online classes for busy students. At ARC, you can take care of your babies at home or when you feel sick, you still can join in your classes online. That is what I couldn't do when I studied in Vietnam.

In conclusion, studying in my country is so different from studying at ARC in the US. It is different in the class size, the professors, and the online classes.

*Nhien Huynh  
ESLW50*

VS



## Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

### Understanding science of climate change and recognizing misinformation

*By Ginny Fitzpatrick*

A man walks into a room carrying a snowball. Although it sounds like the start to a joke, no one should be laughing when that man is Sen. James Inhofe and he is exhibiting the snowball on the floor of the U.S. Senate as “evidence” that global climate change is not occurring.

The Republican senator from Oklahoma is infamous for denying well-established climate change science, a frightening reality considering he is chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and charged with the responsibility of dealing with matters related to the environment. Gross stunts like the one he pulled in February inside the U.S. Capitol after a snowstorm in Washington, D.C., are aimed at misinforming the public using logical fallacies – the weather is cold; therefore, the climate is not warming.

Antics such as his go beyond irresponsible and become dangerous. In order for members of a society to make sound decisions, they must first be informed.

Climate change is a topic that, while complicated and ongoing, has received enormous research attention, which has provided an abundance of evidence. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a scientific body consisting of thousands of scientists from all over the world, exists solely to provide the world with the current scientific knowledge relevant to climate change. The takeaway from the panel’s most recent report released in 2014 is this: “Human influence on the climate system is clear.” The ocean and atmosphere are warming, and there is overwhelming evidence that human drivers, such as unprecedented emission of greenhouse gasses, are the cause.

So why do so many people reject scientific evidence? The answers to this question are complicated and numerous, but one answer is likely that they simply haven’t been taught how to recognize sound evidence.

For many people, evidence is something they read online or heard a “trusted” source claim. Those of us who have spent a lifetime training to be analytical can too easily forget that critical thinking, especially when applied to technical material, is a learned skill. As a scientist, it is sometimes tempting to throw my hands up in frustration and say, “I give up.” It can be overwhelming to be faced with deniers who think so differently that they may as well be speaking a different language.

How do we begin to inform the public when it would require rectifying a lifetime of education deficiencies or misinformation just to start the conversation? Scientists, especially the new generation, have seen the memo (essential reference to the movie “Office Space”). We get it; we need to improve communication with the public so that they have access to the scientific evidence and not a biased mediator’s manipulation of the evidence.

No amount of communication will be effective if the audience doesn’t speak the language. To be clear, I’m not pointing the finger at educators or policymakers, but there is so much more that we should all be doing:

#### **Promote critical thinking early and repeatedly.**

Education. Education. Education. I am not referring to the teaching of facts, although necessary and enlightening, but the teaching of skills to take in information and make logical sense of it. It is certainly much easier to teach facts: “Here is the fact. Memorize it because I will test you on it.”

It’s much more difficult to teach critical thinking: “Here are some facts. Now, what can you tell me about the related topic?” With this approach, teachers are forced to do much more than correct multiple-choice answers, but in so doing, they will help children to think for themselves and make informed decisions about the world in which they live. Many teachers do this and

they do it well. Keep up the good work. You are making a world of difference.

### **Teach the language of science.**

We can't avoid miscommunication or misinformation if we don't fully understand that words are often used with drastically different definitions. The most obvious example is the word "theory."

Scientists use this word ubiquitously and with deference because an idea is not considered a theory until there are converging lines of evidence supported by myriad sources. However, the word is otherwise commonly used to describe a system of ideas, such as a theory of education, or just a guess, as in the phrase, "It's just a theory."

As a disappointing side note, Google's definition of theory starts with "a supposition," which means "an uncertain belief." While multiple uses of the word "theory" are not likely to be discontinued, careful explanation and exploration of these differences will make children well informed and equipped to understand the different usages.

### **Teach statistics early and repeatedly.**

This suggestion is bound to make me unpopular with students of all ages, but we should consider making statistics a math requirement for K-12 students. It has been reported often that American students have fallen behind many children in other countries where quantitative skills are involved. This is a shame because people, even scientists, struggle when they are asked to accept facts that are contrary to their "naive beliefs" or intuition. This struggle can cause people to reject evidence, especially if the topic evokes an emotional response or imposes a change in behavior.

Statistics provides the tools to more accurately analyze, describe, interpret and communicate; it allows us to uncover the evidence and remove the guesswork.

Understanding statistics also increases vocabulary. Many people think, for example, that when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that it is "very likely" that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions have caused the atmosphere to warm, it

means that there is reasonable doubt. In reality, when the panel uses the term "very likely," it means that there is a greater than 95 percent probability, for example, that human activity has caused the recent climate change. If science is a language, statistics is the dictionary.

The human brain is an amazing and powerful organ. It's most striking to me when it gets something wrong, because it usually gets it right. For example, I go to take a step down and the surface is further away than I expected, so I stumble forward awkwardly. This makes me aware of the fact that most of the time my brain is quickly and instantly predicting how much speed and pressure I should be putting into my step to make a smooth transition. How amazing!

Or, you look at a dress and see it as obviously blue and black, but the person next to you swears it's white and gold. How can we be seeing different colors completely? If you saw #thedress as white and gold, your brain was playing a trick on you. The point being, our brains can sometimes get it wrong, and it's not surprising because our brains are working to take in huge amounts of information and process it instantly so that we can succeed in the world.

Instead of guessing, let's consider the evidence so that we can work together to make informed decisions about our world. Perhaps, if Inhofe had been properly trained to recognize scientific evidence, he would be less inclined to fuel deniers' views on climate change and be better equipped to handle the responsibility of dealing with matters related to the environment. After all, what could be more important than understanding how our actions are affecting the world so that we can make the best, most informed decisions moving forward? Admittedly, this is going to be a serious feat if we aren't even seeing the world colored with the same palette.

*Ginny Fitzpatrick is a researcher and freelance writer. She is an expert in biological and climate change science with a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology.*

<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/the-conversation/article13626452.html>

## Meet the Woman Who Turns Roadkill into Fine Fur

*Continued from page 1*

She harvested her first roadkill last year with the help of a hunter and a shot of whiskey. "I got this crazy knife that was completely wrong for the task, got my hazmat suit on, took a shot of whiskey and just started doing it," Paquin, 39, said in an interview with *The Washington Post*.

That first animal, a raccoon, was unfortunately harvested "too early in the season" for roadkill. The animal was rotten and its insides had totally liquefied. Gross.

Most people would have probably abandoned the whole idea after that. But Paquin persevered — and now raccoon is her most popular pelt.

A few years ago, Paquin found herself at a crossroads with little money and a daughter to raise on her own.

Last year, she found herself "sitting in the woods literally staring at the trees. Winter was coming. I was like: 'What am I doing to do with myself? There was that dead raccoon on the road the other day. My cousin's a hunter. Maybe I should just do this.'"

Paquin has never been shy about collecting animal carcasses. In 6th grade, she brought the dead animals she found by the roadside of her suburban Massachusetts home to school for dissection in the lab.

It didn't seem weird to a kid who grew up on a dairy



(Courtesy Pamela Paquin)

farm in a family that hunted and raised animals. As she put it: "We were all elbow deep in all of that."

When she decided to start her business, her first stops were the highway department and animal control in Jaffrey, N.H. "I just made up some business cards and went around to all the local guys who are responsible for picking up roadkill and was like 'Hi, my name is Pamela. Will you call me when you have roadkill?'"

And they did. "They were so lovely to me," Paquin said. "They would bag up the animal and take it to a place where I could pick it up. ... I was going out there oftentimes with my daughter in the back seat and skinning this animal on the side of the road."

Paquin often brings her daughter to work, she said, just as her father used to bring her when he slaughtered sheep on their farm so she would understand where the meat came from and wouldn't "consume complacently," as she put it.

Paquin collects animals from November until February. Once she has 10 to 20 furs in her freezer, she heads to a taxidermist who helps her "flesh" them. Then the pelts go to the tannery, a process that takes three months.



Pamela Paquin, center, with Kelly Price and taxidermist Tom White. (Courtesy of Pamela Paquin)

After the fur is removed from the animals, Paquin takes them into the woods. "I tend to curl them up in the fetal position because it makes me feel better," before sending them off with a prayer, she said.

When the furs return from the tannery, they are ready to be made into a garment. Paquin never considered herself an artist or creative type, but now designs her own pieces.

"These neck muffs that I make, I can literally take two raccoons and put them butt to butt and then they clasp neck to neck," she said.

Paquin does some of her own leatherwork by hand, but also works with a seamstress and a furrier in Boston.

Paquin developed her first prototype last year. She said she is already selling pieces, and claimed designers are "chomping at the bit" to purchase her pelts.

She said she was never really worried about people being reluctant to buy roadkill. When people "see something beautiful, their first movement towards that piece is going to be 'Oh my god, that's such a gorgeous fur.'" When she wore a pair of her raccoon fur leg warmers to an event in Boston, "people

wouldn't stop touching me," she said.

"I can't believe how luscious raccoon is," she said. "Bear is stunning. It's so long and fluffy and beautiful." But her favorite pelt is otter, the "most precious, incredible fur" she's ever seen, she said. She's saving that one for just the right project.

She hopes one day to have a private-appointment-only salon where people can see the furs, learn about the animals and be measured for a garment. "Part of what I love about what I do is the curated experience, making something special and one-of-a-kind for a particular person," she said.

Her collection, Petite Mort, means "little death" in French, but it's also a euphemism for the way a woman feels after orgasm. Paquin told Modern Farmer: "That state that requires full body participation is where my I want my customer to be."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/12/05/meet-the-woman-who-turns-road-kill-into-fine-fur/>

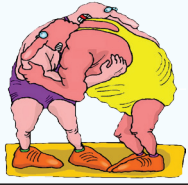
## 10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ROADKILL

1. At least one animal is hit and killed by a motor vehicle traveling at speed every second. That is over 86,000 animals every day!
2. The hours either side of dusk and dawn are when many animals become active after rest and likely to venture near a road. Many have been sleeping, and like us, are not fully awake until they have been up for a while.
3. Driving between dusk and dawn significantly increases your chances of hitting an animal.
4. The hours either side of dusk and dawn are when the light is low on the horizon and our headlights do not effectively illuminate the road, making it difficult for our eyes to detect an animal on the road.
5. Slowing your speed from 100 km/h to 80 km/h in a known hit area may reduce your chances of hitting an animal by up to 50%!
6. Slowing your speed in known hit areas to 80 km/h
7. Hitting even a small animal will probably damage your vehicle and potentially endanger those traveling in the car.
8. Many animals live in family groups and have responsibilities for their family members too. If you hit an animal you may directly impact on its family group and jeopardise the survival of other members in its group that rely on the animal you hit.
9. Many animals now have their habitat divided by roads and have greater opportunity to come into contact with a vehicle than ever before.
10. Many drivers are not aware of the risk of hitting an animal. 4.5% of accidents are a result of collisions with animals.

(National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Traffic Safety Facts 2005, 2007, P. 54)

<http://www.myroadkill.com.au/some-interesting-facts/.aspx>

# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### The 'zero' article

When we talk about **the zero article** we mean that we do not use any article in front of a noun. In other words, we do not use a/an or the. There are a lot of rules about when we **don't** use articles. Some of these rules are explained below.

#### We don't use an article:

1. To talk about **plural** and **uncountable nouns** or when talking about things in general:

- Do you like cheese?
- He adores dancing.

2. Before **proper nouns** or **names**:

- I saw Rhianna in the high street!

3. Before **countries, towns, streets, languages** and **single mountains**:

- I'm from China.
- I've climbed Mount Everest.
- She speaks French.

4. Before **some places** and with some forms of **transport**. Nouns in this group include: **bed, church, class, college, court, home, hospital, market, prison, school, sea, town, university, work**:

- I live at home with my parents.
- I came here by car.
- He goes to work by bus.

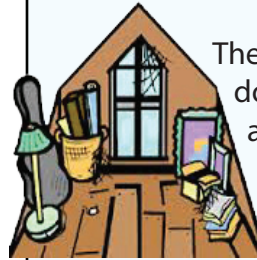
5. In exclamations with **what + uncountable noun**:

- What beautiful weather!
- What loud music!
- What disgusting food!

<http://www.icaltefl.com/zero-article-in-english-grammar>

## Idiom--Attic

### Let the chips fall where they may



The meaning of the phrase is to do something without worrying about the effects of your actions.

#### Example:

She promised to ask a series of questions in her interview and let the chips fall where they may.

<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com>

## Beak Speak Consonant Sound W

To correctly pronounce the W sound, form your lips into a small, tight circle. It is important to hold your lips correctly. Imagine whistling or blowing out a candle. Your jaw should be mostly closed to make the sound, but your teeth should not touch.

**W = /w/:** The most common way to spell the W sound is with a W. The W can be at the beginning (woman), middle (rewind), or end (row) of a word.

**Wh = /w/:** The W sound is also sometimes spelled with the letters WH (like in the words where, white).

**Note:** Not all WH words are pronounced as a W sound. When the WH is followed by the OO sound (who (WH + OO) ) or the Long O sound (whole (WH + Long O)), it is usually pronounced as an H only (like in the words her and him).

**Qu = /kw/:** The Qu spelling is a K sound followed by a W sound.  
quit queen

Here two more words that have the W sound that do not follow the spelling rules above. The W sound is in bold print.

**Example:** one, choir

The W sound is very similar to the OO sound in English. They sound almost the same! The only difference is that the lips are a little more closed when forming the W sound.

W sound	OO sound
won	moon
quick	noon

<http://http://www.really-learn-english.com>





# Some More Parrot Fun Stuff


**THINK!**

## Summer

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

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

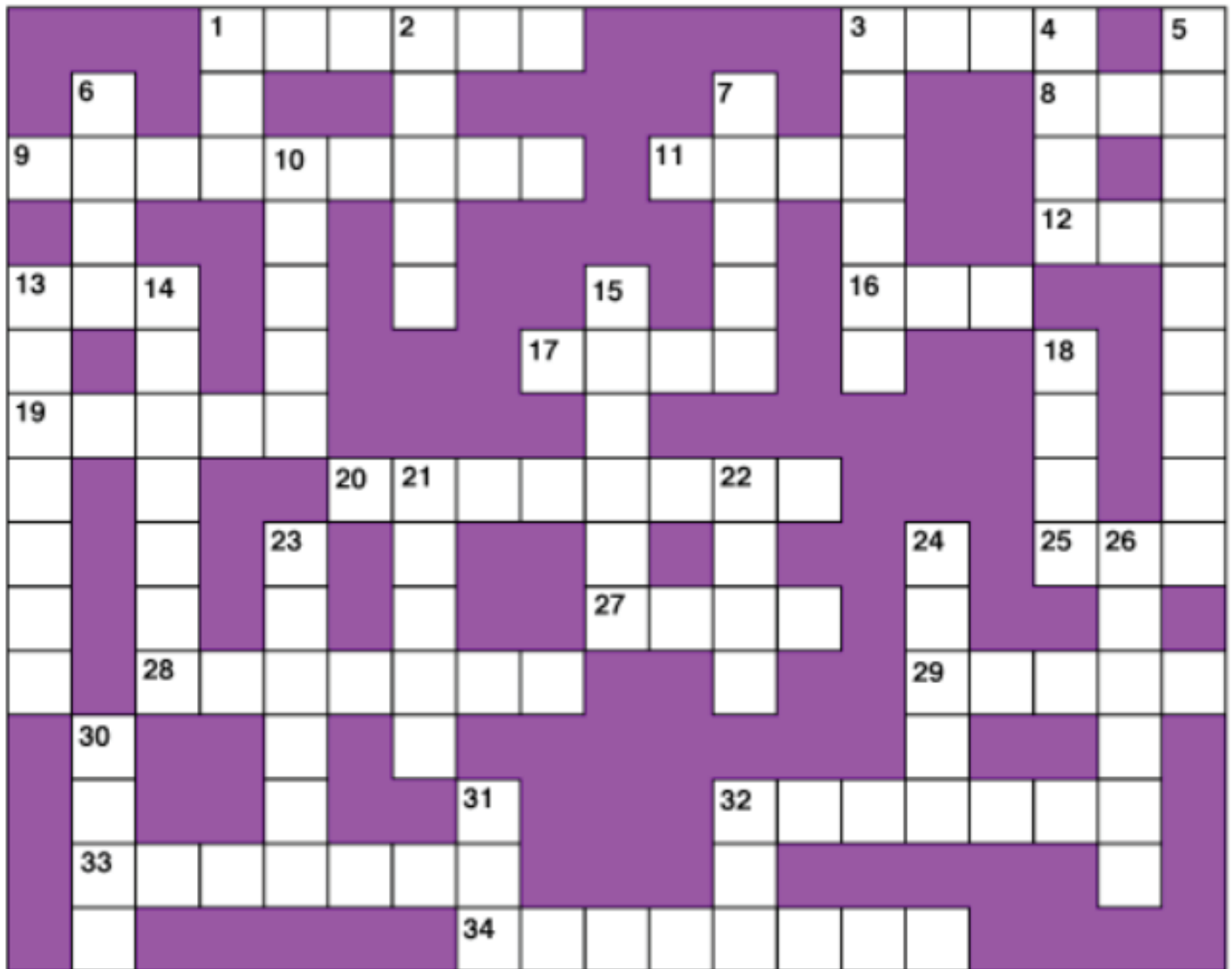
ANTS  
 AUGUST  
 BARBECUE  
 BASEBALL  
 BEACH  
 BEES  
 BICYCLE  
 BLUE SKY  
 BOATING  
 BREEZE  
 CAMPING

FISHING  
 FLIES  
 FLOWERS  
 GARDENING  
 GOLF  
 GREEN GRASS  
 HAT  
 HIKING  
 HOLIDAYS  
 HOT  
 ICE CREAM

JULY  
 JUNE  
 MOSQUITOES  
 NO SCHOOL  
 PICNIC  
 ROLLER BLADES  
 SANDALS  
 SKATEBOARD  
 SOCCER  
 SOLSTICE  
 SPRINKLERS

SUNBURN  
 SUNGLASSES  
 SUNSCREEN  
 SUNSHINE  
 SUNTAN  
 SWEAT  
 SWIMMING  
 U V RAYS  
 WASPS  
 WATER FIGHTS  
 WATERMELON

## Summer Crossword



### ACROSS

1. Light rain
3. String \_\_\_\_\_
8. Single
9. Jumping & hopping game
11. Summer month
12. Have lunch
13. Very warm
16. City home for wild animals
17. Summer month
19. Sandy spot

20. Water sport
25. Used to pave roads
27. Relax
28. Step back
29. Very humid weather
32. Warm weather foot wear
33. \_\_\_\_\_ storm
34. Thrilling

### DOWN

1. Short form of sister
2. Time piece
3. Cool wind
4. Musical symbol
5. Summer month
6. Go it alone
7. Weather word
10. Capture
13. Leisure activities
14. Follows a car
15. June 21

18. Always do your \_\_\_\_\_
21. Pools are full of this
22. Birds home
23. Suntan \_\_\_\_\_
24. Hot & \_\_\_\_\_
26. Summer month
30. Better \_\_\_\_\_ than never
31. \_\_\_\_\_ you sleeping?
32. Take a seat

Answers on page 19

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

## The Sail

A lone white sail for an instant  
Appears in haze of azure foam,  
What does it seek in lands so distant?  
What did it leave behind at home?

The wind is whistling, the mast  
Bends, screeching in resentment...  
It seeks no happiness, - alas -  
Nor is it fleeing from contentment!

An azure stream runs by the sail,  
A ray of light shines to appease...  
And yet, this rebel seeks the gale,  
As if in gales there is peace!



By Mikhail Lermontov

## Rigoberto's Riddles

What ends in a 'w' but has no end?

A rainbow!



## Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

A man was driving along the motorway when he saw two penguins standing in the hard shoulder. They looked lost, so he picked them up and put them in the back seat of his car. He then goes to the petrol station to fill up and whilst he is there the attendant notices the penguins in the back seat.



He says to the man, "What are those two penguins doing in the back of your car?" The man says, "I found them on the road and they looked lost, so I picked them up."

"You should take them to the zoo," replied the attendant.

"What a good idea," said the man, and then paid for his petrol and drove off.

The next day he went to the same petrol station and the same attendant serves him and notices the penguins are still in the car. He says to the man, "I thought I told you to take them to the zoo?"

The man replies, "I did... they loved it... and now I'm going to take them to the movies!"

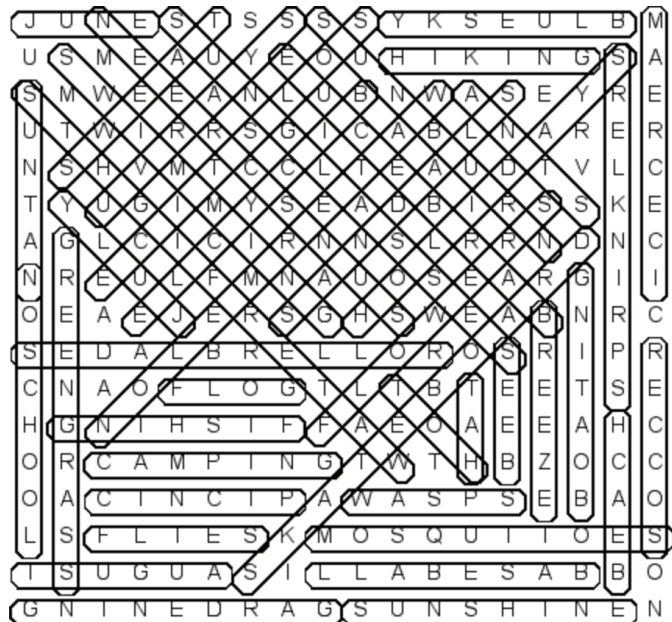
## Summer Crossword Solutions

### Across

1. Shower
3. Bean
8. One
9. Hopscotch
11. June
12. Eat
13. Hot
16. Zoo
17. July
19. Beach
20. Swimming
25. Tar
27. Rest
28. Retreat
29. Muggy
32. Sandals
33. Thunder
34. Exciting

### Down

1. Sis
2. Watch
3. Breeze
4. Note
5. September
6. Solo
7. Sunny
10. Catch
13. Hobbies
14. Trailer
15. Summer
18. Best
21. Water
22. Nest
23. Lotion
24. Humid
26. August
30. Late
31. Are
32. Sit



## Granny Noetal

**Dear Granny Noetal,**

One of my professors told me I'd better keep busy this summer on my English because if I don't do something, my skills will backslide after a few months. I'm worried because I just stay home in the summer and speak my language. What should I do?

**Munca Alfaro**

**Dear Munca,**

A very timely question! Your teacher is right. You should learn English like brushing your teeth – do it a couple of times a day. Keep at it and no cavities. Keep at English and no holes in your English. At ARC, we have our ESL summer program. This summer we have a Reading 40 class in the first part of the summer and then a Grammar 50 class



in the second part. We also have our ESL Center open in the month of June.

If this doesn't work for you, remember that on the third floor of our library we have an "Easy English" section. READ! My grandfather, "Pappy" Noetal, used to tell my siblings and me that we could see the world just by reading. He always had a book in his hand, always! (In his other hand he had a paddle...)

The Internet, of course, is a great source for improving your listening. Go to YouTube and you can get English lessons. There are so many sites! Try this one:

<http://www.sloweasyenglish.com/> Don't forget TV! I wish you lots of fun and a pleasant summer!

**Granny**

## Interview with Temperance

*Continued from page 1*

their goals.

**Parrot:** We heard that you worked in Korea before. Could you please tell us about your experience there?

**Temperance:** Ok! Actually I taught abroad twice before. I taught in Japan and in South Korea. I got a BA degree in Asian studies with an emphasis on Japanese culture. A year after college, I went to Japan to teach conversational English. My youngest student was three. I taught him and his mother English. My oldest student was 65. I did that for about a year, and then I came back and I worked at the financial aid office at Sac State for about 5 years. Then I went to Korea, and I taught English there for a year at an elementary school. I taught from third grade to sixth grade. I did some supplementary classes as well.

**Parrot:** Why you choose Korea specifically?

**Temperance:** I chose South Korea because I have a friend who was teaching in South Korea and who told me that I would enjoy it. The people and culture are every different from Japanese people and cul-

ture.

**Parrot:** So do you like to try different experiences in different cultures?

**Temperance:** Yes! I love that sense of diversity and learning about the world, and the best way to learn about the world is to go and see it.

**Parrot:** Did you face any difficulties or obstacles when you were in Japan and also in Korea?

**Temperance:** Oh, goodness, yes! In Japan, my biggest obstacle was the work system. It's really different there. The process like going to the post office, like trying to get things resolved is very different from here. And in South Korea, one of my biggest obstacles was that I don't speak Korean. So my Korean is very limited. In Japan, I spoke Japanese so that wasn't a big deal.

**Parrot:** How many languages do you speak?

**Temperance:** I would say really I speak English and Japanese, and I speak a little bit some pieces of Korean, and a little Spanish.

**Parrot:** Based on your experiences, what is the best way to motivate students?

**Temperance:** I think one of the best ways is positive reinforcement, encourage them. I always tell the students who often come to the Center and talk down about their abilities that they need to speak up their abilities by saying "I'm getting better", "I can do this" to stay motivated. Because if you go into the situation and say that you cannot do it, then you won't be able to do it. If you go and say "I can", and always make it your goal to focus on what you can do, you will be able to do it.

**Parrot:** Is there any advice that you want to give students?

**Temperance:** There is so much that I can give. I would say time management is one of the best things. Don't overburden yourself with a lot of classes, especially if you are taking difficult classes. Try to take a fun class along with the difficult ones to maintain the balance of your time. For every one hour of in-class time, you need to give three hours of studying. I practiced that when I transferred from Sac City, and I got all A's that semester.

**Parrot:** Could you tell us how you handle or deal with stressful situations?

**Temperance:** Don't take anything in personally. Just take a deep breath, breathe it out, and relax your body.

**Parrot:** What is your future goal?

**Temperance:** My future goal is to be a librarian. Working in the library and making knowledge become more accessible to people.

**Parrot:** Why did you choose ARC as your workplace?

**Temperance:** I like the resources here. ARC resources are actually really good. For example, the Tutorial Center is the largest one in the district.

**Parrot:** As you said, you work with students from different cultures every day, so how would you foster a welcoming environment in this diverse population?

**Temperance:** A smile helps a lot. Being open, smiling at people, greeting people, "Hi, how can I help you", "Do you need some help?", "Are you looking for something?" Because people are sometimes really shy about it and sometimes people really don't know what they really need, so instead of asking "what do you need?", I would ask "What do you want to do?", "what are you trying to do?", "what are you looking for?" A lot of times that helps.

**Parrot:** So a smile helps?

**Temperance:** Yes, really smiles help a lot. Because culturally, most places, a smile means everything is ok. It can mean "I'm nice, I'm not going to do anything bad to you". That has helped me a lot, smiling.

**Parrot:** What are your hobbies?

**Temperance:** I love reading, and also sewing.

**Parrot:** That is interesting. So what are you sewing?

**Temperance:** I sew lots of different things such as costumes; right now I only make stuff for myself and my family.

**Parrot:** Before we end our interview today, would you like to add anything?

**Temperance:** One thing I want to add which is really important to students is to explore who you are. Maybe that sounds really weird, but take classes that let you kind of explore your creative side, help you explore your technical side. I think all of those are really important. Being a well-rounded person, having a lot of different personal experiences and sometimes stepping out of your comfort zone will give you a skill or give you an insight that will help you to interact with the people around you so much easier. That is what teaching in Korea and Japan taught me.

**Parrot:** Thank you so much for your time and sharing your interesting stories with us.

**Temperance:** You're most welcome.

*Parroteer:s: Elaf Khafaja and Ngoc Truong*

## Do you think you have a different personality when you speak English?



**Adam Mahrizi,**

*"Absolutely, because when we speak with a different nationality, people, of course, will look and talk based on the information of these people. We always need to look at the background of the people's nationality. Because if we don't look at that, absolutely, they don't understand what we are talking about."*



**Shirin Samikova,**

*"No, I don't think so. I feel I'm the same person when I speak English."*



**Iman Salmanian,**

*"I think yes. I think, everyone has a different personality when they speaks English because English is the second language for us, and we have to say something different from our native language."*



**Ilse Powell (I.A.)**

*"No, I don't have a different personality when I speak English. I've been here for too long. I'm always a lovely person."*





**Mahmoud Garibavi,**

*“Yeah, sometimes when I speak English, I think, I’m the President of the United States, and sometimes when I speak English, I think I’m nothing, that nobody hears me or sees me!”*



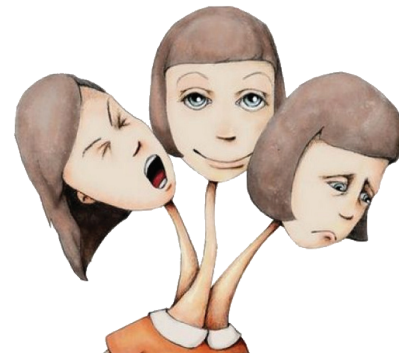
**Alireza Yaghobi,**

*“Of course! I felt different before like two years ago when I came to the U.S.A. So, I feel different now. I feel like a different person. I can speak English. I can solve my problems, and get help from others to solve my problems, but before, I had a lot of problems. Now, I’m happy I know English.”*



**Nasim Mashhadi**

*“No. Just, I’m feeling good. I am happy that I can speak with my neighbors and other people.”*



**Anas Anai,**

*“I don’t know! I didn’t think about that!”*



## Out of the Cage

### ARC Jazz Combos Showcase

Friday, May 6, 2016  
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The ARC Jazz Collective and several jazz combos, directed by Dr. Dyne Eifertsen and Dr. Joe Gilman, will perform a concert of original songs and jazz standards. Ticket prices are \$8 General, \$5 Students and Seniors.

**Location:** the ARC Music Department, room 547

### ARC Bands

Monday, May 9, 2016  
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The ARC Symphonic and Concert Bands, directed by Susan Hamre presents an instrumental concert. Special guest artists will be Prof. Catherine Fagiolo, soprano, "Aspen Jubilee," and The Joyous Brass (British Brass Band), Mike Welling, director. Admission to the concert will be \$9-General; and \$6-Students and Seniors.

**Location:** the ARC Music Department

### Songs of the Spirit

Tuesday, May 10, 2016  
7:30 am - 9:30 pm

The ARC Chamber Singers and Concert Choir present their spring choral concert, Songs of the Spirit. Both choirs will perform quite an eclectic mix of choral music with songs by Eric Whitacre, Gabriel Faure, and Z. Randall Stroope. We will also sing spirituals, The Promised Land from Final Fantasy 7, and songs of social justice. See you there! Tickets are \$10 General, \$6 Students & Seniors and are available at the box office 30 minutes prior to the performance.

**Location:** the ARC Music Department

### Vocal Jazz Ensembles in Concert

Wednesday, May 11, 2016  
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Both ARC vocal jazz ensembles will present an evening of great jazz harmony and arrangements. The concert will be held at in the American River College Theater. Tickets for this concert are \$10.00 and are available from students or at the door.

**Location:** the ARC Music Department



### Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: **Anastasiia Panfilova and Mohammad Louayme**

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](mailto: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](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm)