



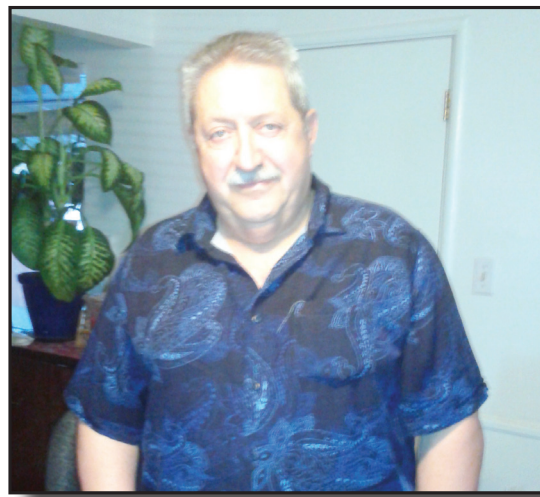
# The Parrot

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

Issue # 107      Fall 2016

## Iraqi Scholar Finds Peace

**Parrot:** Hi Bassim, we heard that you have an interesting back ground and we would like to interview you today. May I ask you some questions?



**Bassim:** Yes, it is okay.

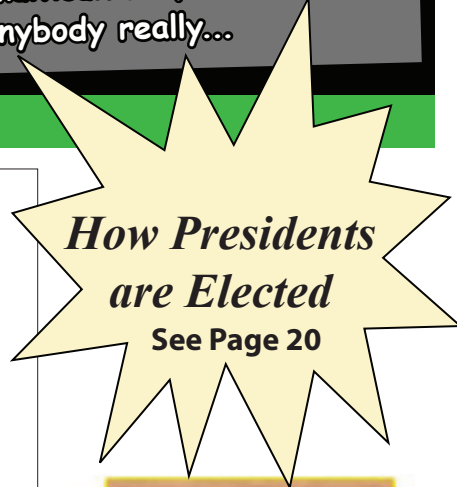
**Parrot:** You are from Iraq, aren't you?

**Bassim:** Yes, I am. I come from Iraq.

**Parrot:** What was life like there when you were a boy?

**Bassim:** Well, it was a nice

*(Continued on page 19)*



*How Presidents are Elected*  
See Page 20



*The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.*

Chinese proverb

## Five Ways the Hotel of the Future is Already Here

By Abha Bhattarai, *The Washington Post*

As you check into your hotel room this holiday weekend, you may be welcomed



by a robot.

Hotel companies around the world have been racing to incorporate new innovations into their properties.

The upcoming Rosemont Hotel and Residences Dubai, scheduled to open in 2018, has a 75,000-square-foot rainforest on its roof.

*(Continued on page 10)*



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## Student Chirpings

### Chinese Pizza Hut and American Pizza Hut

Pizza Hut used to be one of my favorite restaurants when I lived in China. However, I was actually disappointed when I tried Pizza Hut in California. It felt as if my husband had just broken his promise to go to a lobster buffet for dinner and we had to eat hot dogs instead. As a matter of fact, Pizza Hut in the U.S. is definitely not the same restaurant I knew in China. Although they are both known for pan pizzas, have the same names, and belong to the same company, there are many distinct differences between Chinese Pizza Hut and American Pizza Hut in terms of location, environment, and food.

One of the significant differences between Chinese Pizza Hut and American Pizza Hut is their locations. In China, Pizza Hut can only be seen in busy expensive areas of big cities and towns, such as commercial districts, shopping centers, airports, railway stations, office blocks, and so on.

Conversely, in the U.S., you can find Pizza Hut in any place, whether in urban areas or in the suburbs. For example, it may be located on a corner of your neighborhood, beside a gas station, inside a grocery store, or near a freeway entry and exit. Furthermore, it is very common to see more than one Pizza Hut on the same street, or in the same building or shopping center in China. And even at some intersections, Pizza Huts have been built in every direction just like four gas stations standing on four

corners here. In the U.S., in contrast, you can hardly find two Pizza Huts within 5 to 10 miles of each other. Due to the different population distributions, the locations that Pizza Hut targets in China and in the U.S. are very different.

Another meaningful factor that makes Chinese Pizza Hut different from American Pizza Hut is their environments. It is a fact that Pizza Hut in the U.S. is completely a fast food store. Many stores are small and simple, and some stores just provide a few tables. There you have to order your meal at the counter and pick it up yourself because there

are no waiters or waitresses. In addition, there are only cooks and cashiers in the store. Therefore, they are simply take-out stores. In contrast, Chinese Pizza Hut is usually a big and fancy restaurant complete with white-cloth tables and cutlery. When you go into the restaurant, a waiter or waitress in uniform will lead you to a table, and you will hear lovely music and probably



notice the delicate ornamentation immediately. Then you will start to order your meal after taking your comfortable seat. Everything looks gorgeous and tempting on the menu. Finally, you will enjoy your dinner with the soft music in the soft light. Based on the distinct environments, Chinese Pizza Hut and American Pizza Hut have their own styles.

Apart from location and environment, the most important distinction between Chinese Pizza

Hut and American Pizza Hut is their food. For a good restaurant, besides a good location and comfortable dining environment, high quality food is indispensable and crucial. In the highly competitive Chinese dining market, Pizza Hut makes itself localized and attempts to fulfill people's tastes and demands by offering more than twenty toppings for customers to choose from, and serving soups, salads, steak, beef, chicken, rice and pasta dishes, numerous desserts, and drinks. The taste is fantastic, and more importantly, the high quality food never disappoints you and is worth the price. There is no denying that Pizza Hut has succeeded in China. Compared with Chinese Pizza Hut, however, American Pizza Hut is a traditional fast food store to fill your stomach quickly and cheaply. There are just a few pizza toppings, pasta, fried chicken and soda on the menu. Despite the price, in my opinion, the taste is uncompetitive even for fast food in the U.S. As a result, Pizza Hut tends to be presented in two different ways in China and in the U.S.



In conclusion, Chinese Pizza Hut and American Pizza Hut are two entirely different styles of restaurants. Pizza Hut, an American restaurant chain and an international franchise, is becoming more and more popular all over the world. Nevertheless, the reason why Pizza Hut is so successful is not only because of its American style but also because of its ability to adapt to local cultures. As the saying goes, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

Because of its Chinese style, I personally prefer Chinese Pizza Hut to American Pizza Hut. I also recommend that you try Pizza Hut if you visit China some day. You won't be disappointed!

*Amy Bizhu Lin*  
W310

## A Gift from Home

"Do you usually bring something special with you to feel closer to the motherland when you're far away from home?" A lot of people do. To my regret, when I was moving to America, I didn't think about that, because I didn't know I was going to need it. However, as time goes by, I realize that I really miss my little homeland. I was sorry that I didn't take anything that would remind me of it. Fortunately, recently I was very lucky. I have found what I needed so much.

Several months ago my parents came to America. They brought me a lot of goodies and gifts from my relatives and friends who remained in Moldova. However, the best of them was the present from my lovely aunt. She is a very creative person, and gifts from her were always special and the best. During childhood, I usually couldn't wait until any holiday to see what surprise she had prepared for me. This time she also knew that I would appreciate and like her gift. She bought me a very special souvenir.

It is a little broom that was used as a canvas which depicts Moldavian folk motifs on it.

The first time I saw the souvenir, I felt a deep sadness because it reminded me that I'm so far from home. At that moment I had a strong desire to visit my native land. For a while I viewed the gift. It looked so unusual. It was an actual handmade millet broom. You could even see a few grains on the bottom. I had never thought it could be used this way. When I was a child, my family often used this kind of broom. We had at least two of them, one for cleaning up the home and one for sweeping the yard. Our grandpa usually made a new one for us when we needed it. My present looked very similar, just like a little copy of those that my grandpa made.

At the front part of the broom are attached two figurines in national costumes – male and female. They are sitting on a bed with pillows decorated with embroidery. Our grandmothers used the embroidery



as a way to decorate their house. They embroidered towels and rugs and were hung on the walls as decoration. In a prominent place you could see a jug with a delicious Moldavian wine and a national dish “mamaliga”. The dish usually is made from corn flour cooked in a hot liquid until thick. Sometimes it’s made thick enough to cut on a board, and it is usually cut with a thread or a special knife. The “mamaliga” can be eaten hot or cold, as a main or as a side-dish. It may be served with sour cream, scrambled eggs, or pork cracklings. Furthermore, leftovers can be fried, and they are really delicious, even on the second day.

The broom gives off a nice, tart scent which is associated with a blossoming field and gardens. It evokes pleasant memories of childhood and the homeland. The person who made these souvenirs used very bright and vivid colors to convey all the beauty of Moldavian nature. Now my present is hanging on the wall above my dining table. When I have breakfast, I usually think about my native country, and my day begins with pleasant memories. I’m so happy I have this little piece of my country here, so far away, but still so near.

*Arina Romanciuc*  
W50



## How My Life Changed

“When pain brings you down, do not close your eyes and cry, you just might be in the best position to see the shine” (Alanis Morissette). It was on a spring afternoon in 2008 in Iran. I just returned from my job and lay down on the couch listening to some music. My life was boring. I had lost my courage and my hope. I lost my money and my house because of wrong investing. In addition, my father had recently passed away. I was like a still river. I was not motivated to change my life, but surprisingly, somebody knocked on my door and my life started to change.

Because I was tired, I got up very slowly and opened the door. It was a mail carrier. He gave me a letter and I immediately went back and sat on the couch. I looked at the letter. It was from the U.S.A, from Washington, D.C. I was a little bit afraid because I did not know anyone in this city. I put it away and lay down on the couch. After a few minutes, I jumped from the couch and said to myself, “Wait! Maybe this letter is about my Green Card,” which I applied for a few months earlier. I grabbed the letter and opened it quickly.

It was a long English letter with some application forms. It was hard to read the letter, so I put it away again. "How can I understand it?" I sat on the floor and turned the letter over and over again deep in contemplation. Finally, I took my dictionary without confidence and looked up some of the words, such as "random", "applicant", "apply". Suddenly, I realized that I had won the Green Card Lottery to move to the U.S.A. I put away the letter disappointed because I thought it was a fake letter. For a week, I did not do anything or talk to anyone about the letter, but I kept thinking about the letter. I was ambivalent and wondered, "What should I do?"



spilled it out, and I talked to my family and my friends. Everybody was shocked and said congratulations. They told me, "You are a lucky person." Although I decided to fill out my application and prepare all of my documents that I needed to send to the U.S.A, I was scared because it was a risk, and I would have to leave everything in Iran and start a new life in a new world. So I moved to the U.S.A to find a better life because moving is better than being a still river.

Now I understand that the end of any darkness or pain might be sunshine, but it depends on you. Just trust God, take a risk, get up, do something, and then see what happens.

Finally, I could not stand it any longer. I

*Ehteram Hashemipour*  
W310

## Our College

American River College (ARC) is one of the best colleges in Sacramento. It is popular for adults and young people. Studying here is very prestigious. Everyone wants to enroll in some classes here. Everyone admires people who are studying here because these students are very smart. If you are a student at ARC, you are a very lucky and smart person. Do you agree? Unfortunately, I hear only negative comments about ARC from other students. There are several causes of student dissatisfaction at American River College.

The first of student complaints at American River College is that there is not enough space for students in public places. Every day, from ten o'clock in the morning to one o'clock in the afternoon, there are many people in the library. In those

hours, it is very hard to find a place to sit. One week ago, at eleven o'clock in the morning, I could not find any place to sit and work on my homework. I scoured everywhere in the library and could not find anywhere. Therefore, I had to wait for several minutes until someone finished his work. The same problem exists in the cafeteria. Once, when I was luckier, I found a place where nobody was. When I started to eat my lunch there, many guys sat next to me. Some of them who could not find a seat stood right over my head. It was very uncomfortable for me, so I finished eating my lunch as quickly as I could. However, it happened because the cafeteria does not have enough room for students. The third problem is there are not enough computers for the students. Sometimes, because of the



huge number of people, I wait for some minutes for a free workplace.

The second cause of student complaints at American River College is that there is too much homework. When I gather together with my friends, other students always work on their homework out loud during our meeting. It is very unpleasant, but they do not have another choice because they

have too much homework, and do not have time to do it. As for me, I am in college for eight hours every day, from Monday through Thursday. I always do my homework between my classes. How I want to read, compose songs, and draw when I have no classes, but I do not have

time for that! Moreover, sometimes I do not have enough time to finish my homework on time. However, the worst thing is the homework for the weekends. Last weekend I had to attend a concert at Sacramento State University, write a report of seven hundred words about that concert, be prepared for a World Music exam, finish my math homework online, do twenty-six pages for reading class, do homework for a writing class, and, of course, write this essay. In addition, I had to cook, clean my house, spend quality time with my husband, go to church, and call my mother and siblings. What do you think? How can I do all these things on time?

The third cause of student unhappiness at American River College is the behavior of some students. My friend shared a story about her exam. When she started to write her test, a man who was late sat next to her. He had a strong stinky smell of dirty socks and smoke. In addition, he had a lot of

perfume on himself. These mixed smells were very disgusting to my friend, so she could not concentrate on her test. The second example is mine. Do you meet people who offer you something on your way to class at ARC? Every day after writing class, a woman asks me to join her club, and I decline her offer. It repeats every single time with the same woman. As of right now, if I see her, I turn right and

go to the library by another route. In my other class there was a student who asked me to be his girlfriend. I explained to him that I am married. Another time, a few other students asked me the same thing. Moreover, sometimes when I just go to class, some guys who I do not know smile and wave at me. It is strange. My husband started being afraid for me. Here is my question: "Why are those people studying here? For a relationship or to learn?"



Despite the above, ARC is a great college. It has many positives. For example, ARC has highly-educated professors and many talented students. Student complaints at American River College should not make you think of ARC as a bad college. It still has many advantages and benefits. We should be able to notice them. However, the reputation of our college depends on us because people who meet us (ARC students) will think of us as representative of the college itself. We are a major part of our college. So, let's think what we can do to make our college better! I hope that one day our college will be the best community college in California.



Abby  
W50

## Uncontrolled Fear

Most people have a fear of going to the dentist, whether as an adult or child. In the same way, writing an essay can cause the same feelings and emotions. Both of these procedures make me feel anxiety, discomfort, and stress which I can't control. There are many similarities and differences between writing an essay and going to the dentist.

The first similarity between writing an essay and going to the dentist are your emotions, and these emotions are usually negative. Even though you know all the procedures that you will face during these processes, this knowledge doesn't help you to feel peace and comfort in your soul. Writing an essay is not as easy of a process as it looks at first sight. You need to concentrate, think, and use the power of your mind. Every time I need to write an essay, I want to postpone it because I feel the fear of not completing it, especially writing in class. I am afraid to see a topic and then not to have any ideas in my mind. Similarly, going to the dentist causes fear and negative emotions for many people. I know one guy who is really strong emotionally and physically, but I can't recognize him when he has an appointment at the dentist: shaking hands, pale face, dizziness, and a fast heartbeat.

The second similarity between writing an essay and going to the dentist is the feeling of relief that you feel after that. When I finish writing my essay, I feel peace and joy. Even though I real-

ize that I can get a bad grade, I am happy to leave negative feelings and fear. Likewise, most people feel relief after visiting the dentist. They are happy to leave this place that causes such terrible fear and forget all the unpleasant procedures.

On the other hand, writing an essay and going to the dentist have one important difference. It is the price. When you write an essay, you don't need to pay. It is free. It might affect only your grade. In contrast, going to the dentist is really expensive. The treatment of teeth can cost a huge amount of money.

In conclusion, writing an essay and going to the dentist are not the same, but they have the ability to cause the same feelings of fear, depression, and anxiety. Both of them are very important in people's lives, but if people would have the chance to avoid writing an essay and avoid getting treatment for their teeth, I think they would do it.

Luliia Denisenko  
W310





## Disadvantage of Being a Woman in India

As a girl grows older and more physically mature, she transforms from a girl into a woman. After marriage a girl leaves her parents' home for her husband's and sometimes her in-laws don't respect her. Especially in my country, India, women have a lot of difficulties in their lives. There are several disadvantages to being a woman in my country: she can't go outside without family permission, she can't do jobs outside, and she gets no respect from other people.

The first disadvantage of being a woman in my country is the woman can't go outside without family permission. In my country, in some cities where people are not educated, when a woman wants to go outside, first she has to get permission from her husband. After that she needs permission from her in-law. I remember that when my sister wanted to come to our parents' home, her mother-in-laws didn't give her permission. One day my friend told me about her family. She said, "Last Sunday my husband and I went to watch a movie. When we came back, our family didn't talk with me because I didn't get permission from the family." When a woman becomes older and her children grow up, she needs to get permission from her son. In some families the son doesn't give permission. Last year when I went to India, I saw my aunt wanted to go to the store but her son asked her why she wanted to go the store. "You can stay at home." I don't know why women need permission from their family in my country to go shopping. I think it's because women don't know how to drive a car.

The second disadvantage of being a woman in my country is there are no jobs for women. In some states of India, women don't have any jobs outside. They work only at home. A woman has many chores at home such as making food for the family, cleaning house, and doing laundry. Women also take care of their children. A man doesn't help a woman in household chores. When a husband comes back from his job, he always says that he is tired that day and his wife asks him, "Can I massage



your legs?" but when a wife say she is tired that day, her husband laughs at her and asks how she can be tired. "You stay at home the whole time." A man always forgets that a woman has many jobs to do at home. My grandmother had a harder life than today's woman. She told me that when my grandfather used to come from his job, she always massaged his legs and prepared food, but he never offered to massage her legs. When women become older, they stay at home and takes care of their grandchildren. My mother stays at home and take care of my brother's child. In my city women don't go outside to work. They stay at home and make food for the family, and do other household chores, but now it is changing.

The third and biggest disadvantage of being a woman in my country is not receiving respect from other people or society. In my country, people don't respect women. I can't believe that sometimes a husband doesn't respect his wife. My cousin's ex-husband beat her, abused her, and his family torched her for her dowry. Some women don't respect other women. In some families, a mother-in-law doesn't respect her daughter-in-law and the daughter-in-law doesn't respect her mother-in-law. When children grow up, they don't respect their mothers. The boys, especially, don't respect their mothers. My aunt told me that her son doesn't respect her. Sometimes her son and her daughter-in-law abuse her. They don't give her food on time. She is very upset and tells me that sometimes her son says that she should leave his house. How can a son say that to his mother?

In conclusion, we can say that a woman's life is very hard compared to a man's. Nobody respects women. In my country being a woman is very hard because they have to do whatever the oldest family member or husband tells her to do. It's hard for them to find jobs and they have to stay home to do chores and take care of kids.

Rajwinder Kaur  
W50



## Discovery

In 1492, a brave Italian sailor named Columbus discovered America, for himself and for all of humanity. As far as I remember from my history class in high school, he was very surprised and didn't take full advantage of his discovery. In 2004, I discovered America for myself and my story is about how I did that. Before I came to the United States of America, I used to live in Ukraine, a country in Eastern Europe and a former Soviet Republic. I was a very young person at that time and enjoyed every moment of my life. Basically, my life there was full of careless mistakes. By the way, I don't regret them and if there was a chance to redo things, I, most likely, would just repeat many of my mistakes. Unfortunately, the careless life has a limit. It is sad to say, but sooner or later we all have to grow up. Those days came. I had to think more about my future. At that time, the economy of my country was very bad, and I was struggling to find myself a decent job. It was a time of massive migration and I became a part of it. I tried to immigrate to Ireland, Spain, and Portugal, but all my attempts were unsuccessful. I was ready to give up, but fortune decided to show me her big smile; I got a job at Carnival Cruise Lines.

I was very lucky and happy. I was going to America! "America! America! From sea to shining sea." My port of entry was Miami, Florida. When I passed through customs, I took my first steps on American land. I was very disappointed. When I had stepped outside, my body was all sweaty because of the terrible humidity. I had a feeling that I was inside a huge laundry. My brain refused to work, and after I checked in at a hotel, I had to cool myself down! I mean a freezing cold beer, and I found one

in a convenience store nearby. I bought a pack of beer and asked the cashier, a Cuban man, to open a bottle for me. I have to mention that my English was not very good. Later, I liked to say that I was talking so much that my hands were badly hurt. He refused to open a bottle for me in the store and tried to put it in a paper bag. I understand this now, but twelve years ago I was sure he was playing a joke on me. Thus, I left the store and was on my way back to the hotel. I enjoyed a view of the street landscape (very unusual for my country) and sipped my cold beer (of course, uncovered). Suddenly, a police car stopped right beside me, like in a movie. A police officer, a Cuban man, again, was moving towards me and talking to me. I liked his uniform but barely understood what he was talking about. After checking my passport, the policeman put my bottle of beer in a bag and showed, "OK to drink". I was surprised as Columbus and very lucky that the police officer didn't take full advantage of a silly immigrant's behavior.

Since that time, I have been discovering America for myself almost every day. There is so much to discover. The more I discover, the more I understand how little I know about my new homeland. God Bless America!

*Nazar Datsenko*  
W310





## Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

### Hotel continued from Page 1

Here, a look at some futuristic technology that may greet you during your next hotel stay.

#### 1. Voice-activated rooms

You'll never have to get out of bed again, promises Aloft Hotels. Thanks to its Project: Jetson, guests at two of the company's properties can control their thermostats, lights, even music preferences, with the sound of their voice, Starwood Hotels & Resorts said in a statement:

Wake up hot at 2 a.m.? Simply ask Siri to adjust the temperature on the thermostat by saying "Hey Siri, cool the room" to your desired setting.

The voice-activated rooms in Boston and Santa Clara, California, will come equipped with iPads that guests can use to browse the Internet and check the weather forecast.

"Forget the phrase 'at the touch of your fingertips,'" Brian McGuinness, global brand leader for Aloft Hotels, said in a statement. "Today's traveler wants a level of personalization unlike ever before, and that means being able to control their hotel experience with the sound of their voice."

#### 2. Robots to greet you at the door and bring you champagne

This spring, Hilton Worldwide added a new staffer to its roster: Connie, a concierge robot that can dole out restaurant recommendations and guide you to the hotel gym.

The robot, powered by IBM's Jeopardy-winning Watson computing system, uses a number of applications to greet guests and answer basic questions about hotel amenities, services and hours of operation. "The more guests interact with Connie, the more it learns, adapts and improves its recommendations," according to Hilton.

Connie's friend, Ava — powered by iRobot — often

greet guests at the Hilton Tysons Corner. She has served as a translator for foreign travelers and helped guests remotely sign in to meetings. Last year, two service members dialed in from Kuwait and used the robot to "walk" around the American Red Cross's Salute to Service Gala in the hotel's ballroom.

"With Ava, we learned things we never expected to learn," Jonathan Wilson, vice president of product innovation and brand services for Hilton, told The Washington Post in January. "That is an example of something we can use to make our customers' lives easier and more convenient."

At Aloft Silicon Valley, Botlr, billed as the world's first robotic butler, serves a similar role. The robot, who



Connie will work side-by-side with Hilton's humans to assist with visitor requests.

wears a painted-on shirt collar, is likely to bring "razors, toothbrushes, smartphone chargers, snacks and even the morning paper to any of the hotel's 150 rooms in two to three minutes," according to The New York Times.

#### 3. Virtual reality

If your real-life vacation isn't as exciting as you'd hoped, virtual reality headsets at Marriott International promise to transport you to somewhere a bit more glamorous — to Beijing, say, or Chile.

"VRoom Service," which the hotel giant rolled out last fall, allows guests at a handful of properties to borrow Samsung Gear VR headsets for 24 hours at a time. The devices are pre-loaded with three videos that follow travelers to destinations around the world.

"Virtual travel is another way to [meet the next generation of travelers]," Michael Dail, vice president of global brand marketing at Marriott, told Skift. "We wanted to add a storytelling element because so many millennials are content creators themselves."

A number of other hotel companies have taken similar measures. Holiday Inn Express, Hilton and Best Western have all turned to virtual reality videos to market their properties to younger customers.

#### 4. A rainforest on the roof and a beach in the sky

The upcoming Rosemont Hotel in Dubai promises a number of over-the-top amenities: luggage-handling robots, digital waterfalls and a man-made beach atop the 53-story building. But perhaps the loftiest part of the \$550 million project is an attempt to create a rooftop rainforest that spans 75,000 square feet and includes streams, a splash pool and

a "prehistoric Jurassic-inspired marsh."

The 448-room hotel, to be operated by Hilton's Curio Collection, is slated to open in 2018.

#### 5. Your idea here

At Marriott, executives are looking to guests for their innovative ideas.

Some of the hundreds of ideas the company has gathered over the years: Neck pillows with built-in music, an app for selecting toiletries, free beer during check-in and vending machines filled with olives, dried fruit and other healthy snacks. An initiative called 'Don't worry, your first bag is on us,' would cover the cost of customers' luggage fees, while a room-service app would allow guests to order food using their smartphones.

Author Information: Abha Bhattarai is a business reporter for The Washington Post.

<http://www.denverpost.com/2016/09/04/hotels-of-the-future/>

## Which Is the Fastest-Talking State in the Union?



*A new study analyzes consumer calls to determine the chattiest people in America.*

"Life is short. Talk fast," Gilmore Girls advises. It may well be a good tip: There are some distinct advantages to being a motormouth, among them conversational efficiency and—some research suggests—a general perception that fast-talkers are smarter than their slower-speeched peers. So, sure, if you count yourself among the world's fast-talkers, that could be a sign of your intelligence. Or of your impatience. Or of nothing at all. Or! It could be a sign that you're from Oregon.

Yes. Oregon. The Beaver State, according to a new analysis of consumer phone calls—placed to businesses across the country, and recorded anonymously—is home to the Lorelai Gilmore-iest, Jackie



Chiles-iest speakers in the nation. The second-fastest talkers? They're in Minnesota. The third? In Massachusetts.

The slowest talkers, for their part, can be found in the South: in South Carolina, Louisiana, and—the most laconically languaged state of them all—Mississippi.

To arrive at those state-by-state breakdowns, the analytics firm Marchex used what it calls Call DNA technology—software that analyzes call recordings to determine things like rate of speech, density of speech, hold times, and silences—on a set of calls recorded between 2013 and 2015. (These are the recordings that result when a pleasant robo-voice informs you that “this call may be recorded.” Marchex’s analysis includes more than 4 million such calls.)

***The fastest talkers are in Oregon. The second-fastest are in Minnesota. And the slowest? In Mississippi.***

***The full ranking of states, from the fastest-talking to the slowest:***

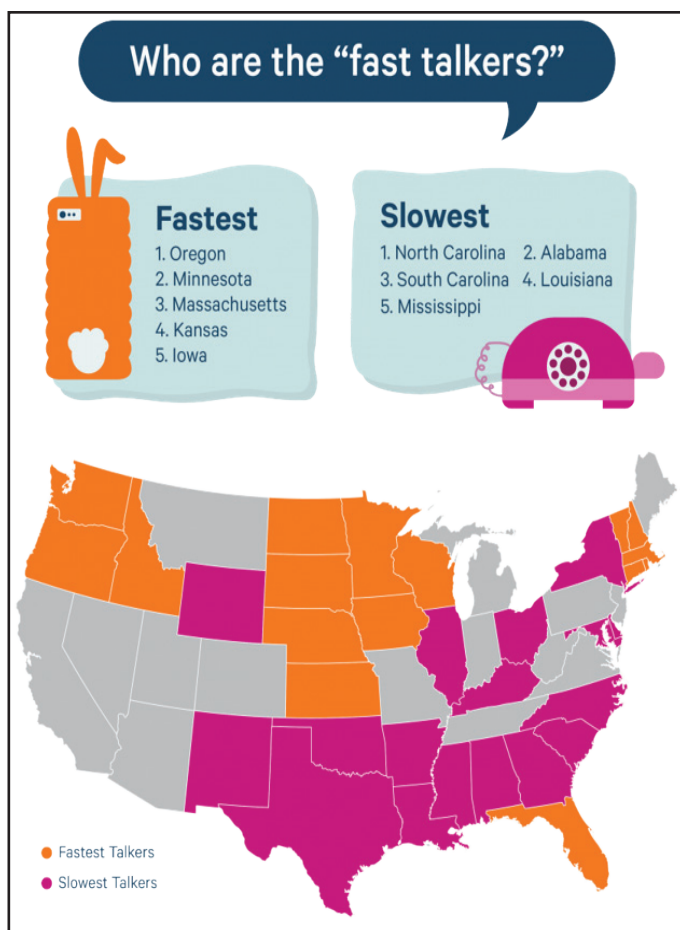
1. Oregon 2. Minnesota 3. Massachusetts
4. Kansas 5. Iowa 6. Vermont 7. Alaska
8. South Dakota 9. New Hampshire 10. Nebraska
11. Connecticut 12. North Dakota 13. Washington
14. Wisconsin 15. Rhode Island 16. Idaho
17. Florida 18. Pennsylvania 19. New Jersey
20. West Virginia 21. Maine 22. Colorado
23. California 24. Missouri 25. Montana
26. Indiana 27. Hawaii 28. Virginia 29. Nevada
30. Arizona 31. Utah 32. Michigan 33. Tennessee
34. Maryland 35. Oklahoma 36. Wyoming
37. Delaware 38. New York 39. Kentucky
40. Illinois 41. Ohio 42. Arkansas 43. Georgia
44. Texas 45. New Mexico 46. North Carolina
47. Alabama 48. South Carolina 49. Louisiana
50. Mississippi

In some sense, Marchex’s findings hew to cultural

stereotypes. The fast-talkers are concentrated in the North; the slow-talkers are concentrated in the South. (Speed-speech-y Florida is an outlier whose fast-talking ways can likely be explained by both the state’s high concentration of Spanish speakers and the fact that many of its residents are transplants from faster-talking states.) Here, in other words, is a state’s culture directly affecting that most intimate of things: the way people speak. It’s all very Geography of Time.

But speedy speech doesn’t necessarily equate to dense speech. Marchex also used its dataset to analyze the wordiest speakers, state by state—the callers who, regardless of their tempo, used the most words during their interactions with customer service agents.

The variation here is significant. What the word-density differences amount to, Marchex notes, is that, for example, “a New Yorker will use 62 percent more words than someone from Iowa to have the

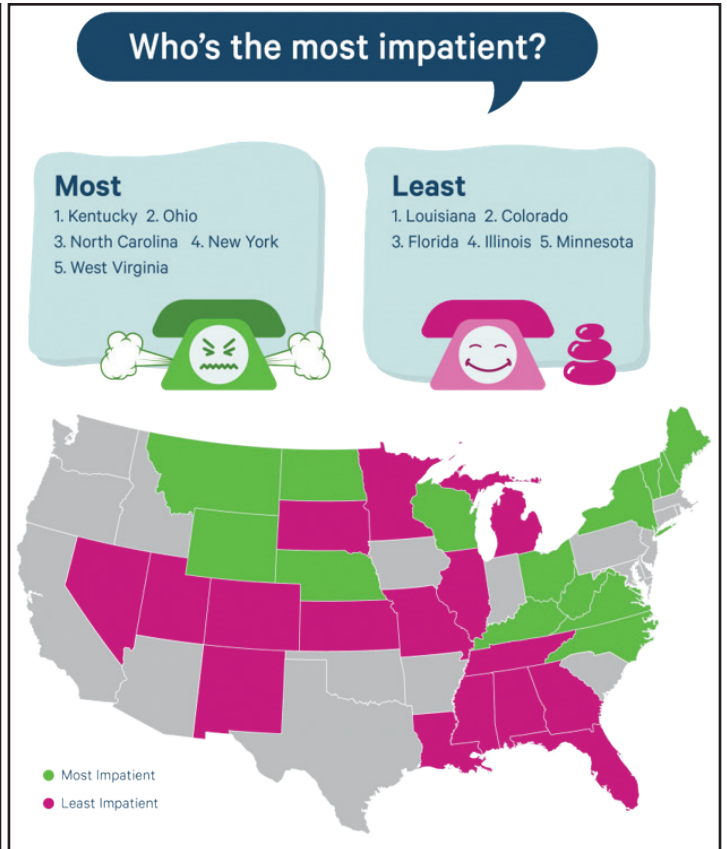
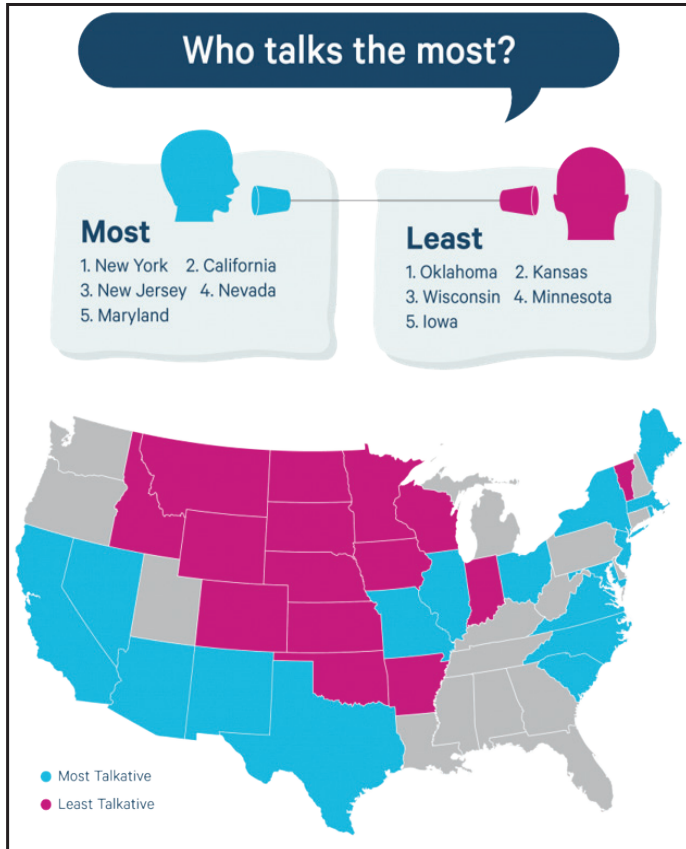


same conversation with a business, according to

our data.” And, again, the linguistic variations hint at cultural ones. Some of the slower-talking states (Texas, New Mexico, Virginia, etc.) are also some of the wordier, suggesting a premium on connection

stuck around until their calls resumed.

It’s not so much a North-South divide as it is, very roughly, a regional one: The most impatient people



over efficiency. Some of the fastest-talking states (Idaho, Wyoming, New Hampshire) are also some of the least talkative, suggesting the get-down-to-business mentality commonly associated with those states.

**Here is a state’s culture directly affecting that most intimate of things: the way people speak.**

And what of that most communicative form of language—silence? Marchex also considered the holding patterns of the calls it analyzed, noting whether callers who were put on hold during their interactions with businesses hung up or hung on.

The states in green, below, are the ones whose residents were most likely to hang up after being put on hold. The states in pink are the ones whose residents

here are congregated within the Northeast, the mid-Atlantic, and the upper Midwest. And the most patient can be found in the Midwest and the South. Perhaps, as well, it’s not surprising that Ohio would distinguish itself, in this analysis, for its impatience; a previous Marchex study found that the Buckeye State carries the dubious distinction of being the most profanity-prone of these United States.



<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/02/speaking-fast-and-slow/459393/>



## “Why should students take a foreign language?”

Learning a foreign language is one of the first crucial steps to tolerance and understanding of other cultures, something we could certainly use more of in today’s tense world. It also allows us to examine ourselves, namely our own language and culture, with different, more introspective and positively critical eyes.

**Susannah Martin**  
German



*“Because it’s an enriching experience, in that speaking to a foreigner in his own language allows you to get to know him better and understand his humor, who he really is.”*

**Ester Martinelli**  
Italian



*“It will open the door to jobs around the world and new relationships.”*

**Ana Hoffman**  
Spanish



*Each language reflects history, culture and worldview of that nation. To better understand how and why people think and have a certain life style, learn their language.*

**Evgeniya Platter**  
Russian

*“Students need to know that learning a foreign language is learning to think differently. It will open a window into a fascinating world made of new sounds, flavors, scents and colors. To speak another language is to become a more complete human being. Besides, employers will love it. Just another way to beat the competition!”*

**Alba Boyer**  
Italian

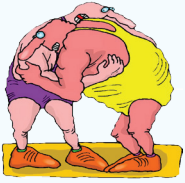


*“Because you will become more open-minded about other cultures. It will also improve your career opportunities!”*

**Inés M. García**  
Spanish



# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### Grammar Dashes

Dashes, like commas, semicolons, colons, ellipses, and parentheses, indicate added emphasis, an interruption, or an abrupt change of thought.

#### Examples:

\*You are the friend, the only friend, who offered to help me.

\* You are the friend—the only friend—who offered to help me.

\* I pay the bills; she has all the fun.

\* I pay the bills—she has all the fun.

**Rule 1.** Words and phrases between dashes are not generally part of the subject.

\*Joe—and his trusty mutt—was always welcome.

**Rule 2.** Dashes replace otherwise mandatory punctuation, such as the commas after Iowa and 2013 in the following examples:

\*The man from Ames, Iowa, arrived.

\*The man—he was from Ames, Iowa—arrived.

\*The May 1, 2013, edition of the Ames Sentinel arrived in June.

\*The Ames Sentinel—dated May 1, 2013—arrived in June.

**Rule 3.** Some writers and publishers prefer spaces around dashes.

\* Joe — and his trusty mutt — was always welcome.

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/dashes.asp>

### Idiom--Attic

## (To) Find your feet

Ex: “Lee, how’s your son doing in America?”



“He’s doing okay. He’s learned where the college is but is still finding his feet with everything

else. I guess it’ll take time for him to get used to it all.”

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

### Beak Speak

## Linking

One of the reasons non-native speakers have problems understanding and pronouncing English is because of linking.

Linking occurs when a word ends in a consonant and the following word starts with a vowel. The consonant sound is linked with the vowel when it is pronounced.

**Ex:** ‘that’s enough’- the ‘s’ in that’s is linked to the ‘e’ in enough. and sounds like thats senough.



#### More Examples:

- Bring an apple and a book.

(Bring gan napple and da book.)

- Sit on an orange crate.

(Sit ton nan norange crate.)

- A car is only as good as its’ engine.

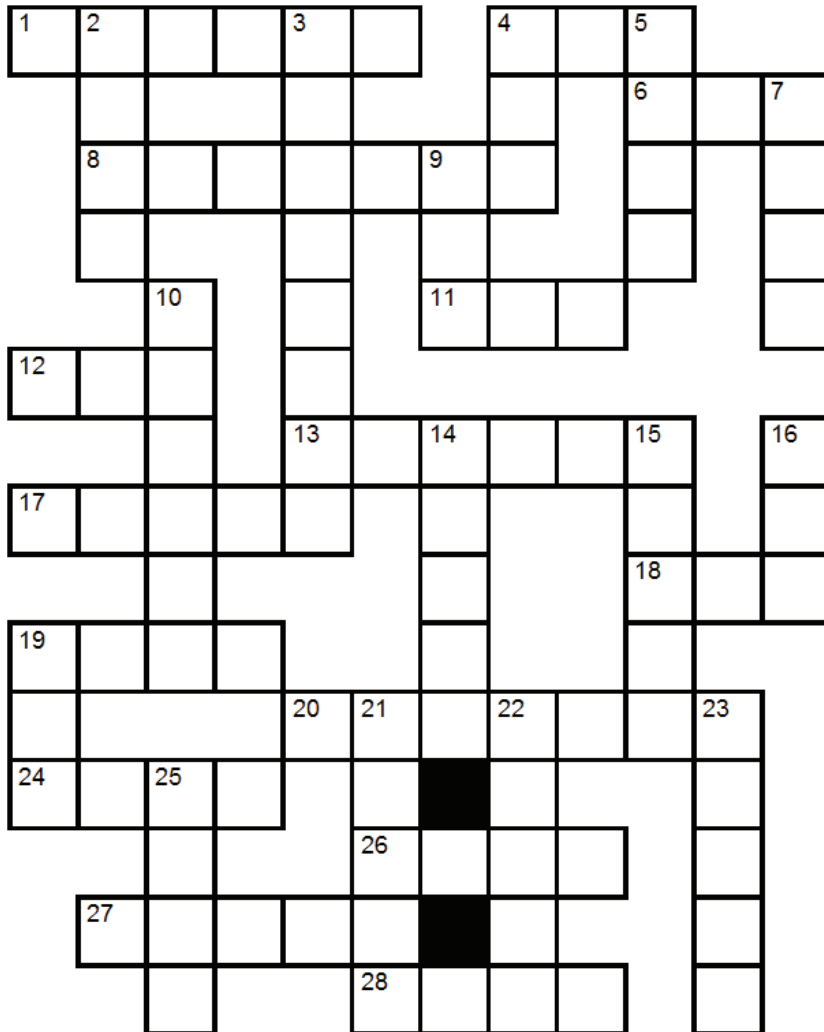
(A car ris sonly yas good das sits’ sengine)

<http://pronunciationtips.com/linking/>



# Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

## Word Skills



### Across

- 1 A type of fruit that begins with O.
- 4 A pet that rhymes with hat.
- 6 A farm animal that rhymes with pen.
- 8 The opposite of deep.
- 11 A pet that rhymes with log.
- 12 A drink that rhymes with sea.
- 13 A place that rhymes with pool.
- 17 A place that rhymes with teach.
- 18 Another word for angry.
- 19 Another word for jump.
- 20 A synonym of gift.
- 24 The opposite of east.
- 26 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.
- 27 The opposite of north.
- 28 Another word for speak.

### Down

- 2 A type of flower that begins with R.
- 3 A kind of fish that begins with G.
- 4 A farm animal that rhymes with wow.
- 5 The antonym of thick.
- 7 The opposite of far.
- 9 The opposite of young.
- 10 A kind of fruit that begins with B.
- 14 Another word for home.
- 15 A kind of fruit that begins with L.
- 16 The antonym of good.
- 19 The opposite of high.
- 21 The opposite of wrong.
- 22 The antonym of big.
- 23 A synonym of sleepy.
- 25 The antonym of fast.







# US Presidents



Find all of the US President names. The names can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.



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



- |            |           |          |            |
|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| ADAMS      | FORD      | KENNEDY  | ROOSEVELT  |
| ARTHUR     | GARFIELD  | LINCOLN  | TAFT       |
| BUCHANAN   | GRANT     | MADISON  | TAYLOR     |
| BUSH       | HARDING   | MCKINLEY | TRUMAN     |
| CARTER     | HARRISON  | MONROE   | TYLER      |
| CLEVELAND  | HAYES     | NIXON    | VAN BUREN  |
| CLINTON    | HOOVER    | OBAMA    | WASHINGTON |
| COOLIDGE   | JACKSON   | PIERCE   | WILSON     |
| EISENHOWER | JEFFERSON | POLK     |            |
| FILLMORE   | JOHNSON   | REAGAN   |            |



*Parrot Poetry*



November for  
Beginners

Snow would be the easy way out—that softening sky like a sigh of relief at finally being allowed to yield. No dice. We stack twigs for burning in glistening patches but the rain won't give.

So we wait, breeding mood, making music of decline. We sit down in the smell of the past and rise in a light that is already leaving. We ache in secret, memorizing

a gloomy line or two of German. When spring comes we promise to act the fool. Pour, rain! Sail, wind, with your cargo of zithers!

By Rita Dove

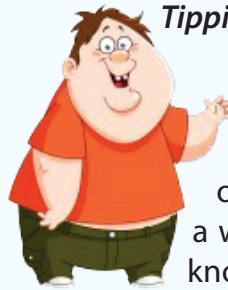
**Rigoberto's Riddles**

Q: This word I know? Six letters it contains. Take away the last ... and only twelve remains. at is the word?

*Dozens* •



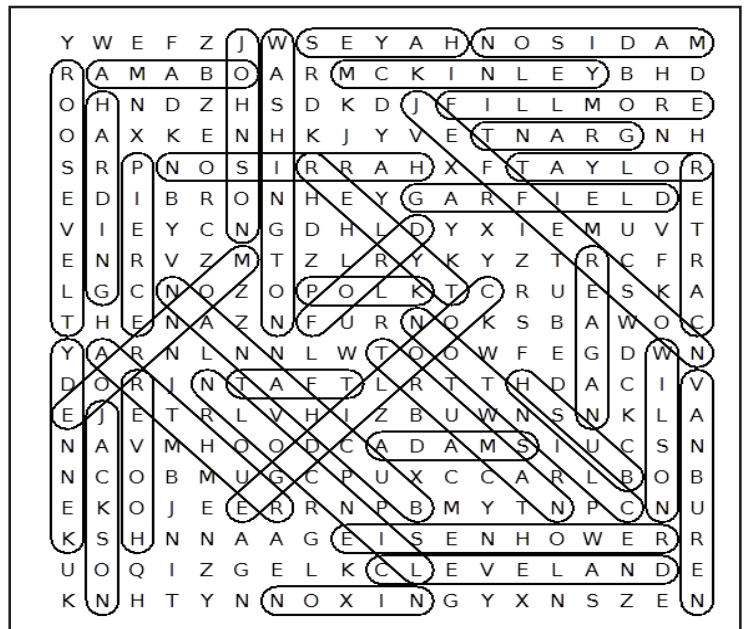
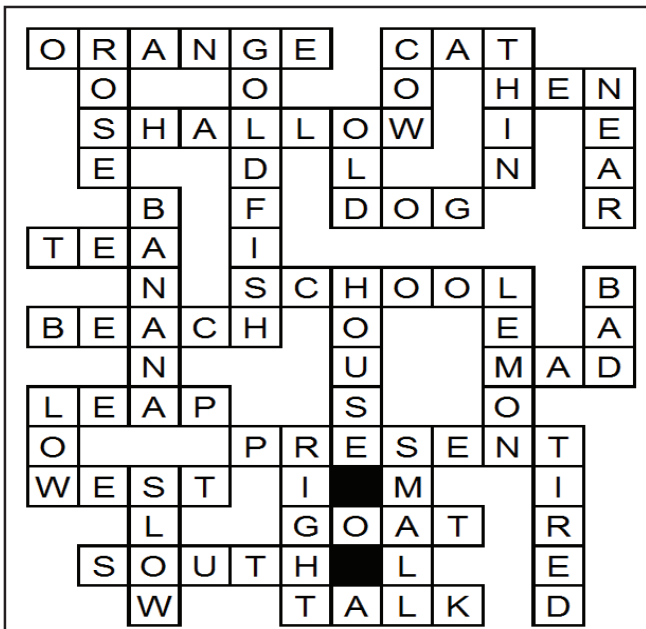
**Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber**



*Tipping for Votes*

Two politicians on the campaign trail encounter each other near a roadside diner, and decide to have a cup of coffee. They shoot the breeze for a while, and then get up to leave. "You know why I'm going to be elected?" guy asks, pulling a wad of bills out of his pocket. "It's because of my generous personality. I always give the waitresses a big tip and ask them for their vote."

"That a fact," says the other, "I always ask them to vote for you too ... but then I tip them a nickel."



## Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

A few weeks ago, I didn't go to my ESL class because I celebrated a holiday from my country called "Eid". It's an important Muslim holiday. I went back to class the next time and my instructor said it was not an excused absence. In my country people get the day off and even a few days off. I don't think it's fair that he gave me an unexcused absence. What do you think?

Fatima

Dear Fatima,

At a public institution like American River College, we generally avoid celebrating holidays of a religious nature. Scheduled days off on the education-



al calendar are for secular (non-religious holidays) such as Independence Day and Veterans' Day. Government institutions (federal offices, state offices, etc.) are also closed while private firms and businesses may remain open. It's important that all religious beliefs are respected in this country, where freedom of religion is guaranteed. If instructors give some people off for their particular religious holidays, then they have to give other people off who have a different religion for their religious holidays. It's a tricky situation for instructors because, naturally, teachers want all students to be in class all the time. The best thing is to always check beforehand with your instructor about what her or his attendance policies are.

Granny

### Interview with Bassim

*Continued from page 1*

and simple. I was living in Bagdad, the capital of Iraq. And all of my family members are merchants so it was a nice living there when I was younger.

**Parrot:** So when did you come to the United States? Was it difficult to get here?

**Bassim:** I came to the United States at the end of 2012. When I came here, I was a refugee from the war.

**Parrot:** You have a degree from your country, right? In what subject?

**Bassim:** I have a Master's degree (M.A) in modern history.

**Parrot:** What was your life experience there – work, family, etc.

**Bassim:** When I was living in Iraq, I had a land transport company. It was my own business. That company I had managed from 1978 to

2006. I closed the company because of the civil war.

**Parrot:** What is your favorite thing about America so far?

**Bassim:** First of all, I found peace and this is the most important for me. Also, I do not worry about my family like my sons and grandsons for their future. I think that there will not be any problems for them living in the future.

**Parrot:** Are there things here in the USA that you didn't expect, anything surprising?

**Bassim:** Not at all. I had a good idea about the United States. I knew everything about it, so when I came to the United States, it was not surprising to me because I went to western Europe more than 30 to 40 times for business trip. Many of my friends live in the United States and I had business with them before I came here. That is why it was not surprising to me at all.

**Parrot:** How long do you plan on studying at



ARC? Is there anything else you would you like to plan for the future?

**Bassim:** Well, I do not know, in that I had heart surgery and I got cancer. So when I have good health, I can continue to study. If my health is not good, then I will stop it.

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

**Bassim:** Well, I can say to as people who are coming from our country the refugees, they will have a new future and I think they must start a new life. This is what I would like to say.

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

**Bassim:** You are welcome.

**Parroteer:** Woo Chul Jang

## How the President Is Elected

### Part 1: How It Starts

**Most** people who run for president are already famous. After all, if you want to be chosen by a majority of the people in America, it helps if many of them know who you are.

**Most** people who run for president are already serving in government, as members of the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives or as state governors. Former military officers have also run for president.

**A** presidential candidate first makes an official announcement that he or she is running for president. Then, he or she or someone else on his or her behalf must file papers with the federal elections commission, which regulates the election process. Candidates usually make these announcements at least a year before the presidential election, in order to give themselves enough time to get their messages out and also to give voters enough time to get to know the candidates.



**Once** the announcement is made, the candidate begins to work very hard to make sure that he keeps his or her name in the public eye. He or she makes speeches, meets with officials from other countries, goes on high-profile trips, etc. The can-

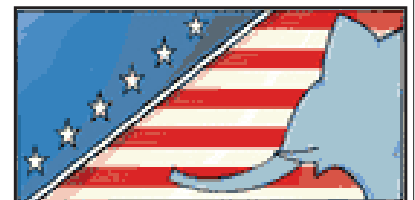
didate also tends to cut back on time he or she spends in government (if he or she is serving there) to run for president.

**When** January of an election year rolls around, the candidates begin their heavy lifting for the campaign ahead. As more months go by, people in the American states gather to show their support for the various candidates. (It is very rare for just one candidate from a major political party to run for president, so many names means many people running for the same job.) These gatherings are called primary elections or caucuses. A primary election looks very much like a general election: Voters get ballots that list the names of the people running for president and then go to a polling place and vote for one of those people. A caucus is a gathering of people who discuss the issues and the candidates at a central location and then cast their votes for candidates.



**It** should be noted here that the majority of people who vote in an American presidential election belong to some kind of political party. The two major political parties are Democratic and Re-

publican. Other political parties include Reform, Green, Natural Law, and Libertarian. If you belong to the Democratic Party, you



will get a primary election ballot that contains only the names of the people running for president who are also Democrats. The same is true for Republican voters and for members of other political parties. In the general election, anyone can vote for anyone.

**Leading** up to and during the caucus-primary election period, the various presidential candidates make trips across the country, visiting people everywhere and giving speeches, trying to drum up support. Candidates will often appear alongside other famous people, like sports stars or movie stars, hoping to gain some support by association with these people in the spotlight. The candidates will often get together and have debates, which are usually televised. This is another way for voters to make up their minds on which candidate should get their votes.

**The** various states have their caucuses or primary elections throughout the late winter and spring and then have a major national gathering called a convention in the summer. Each political party picks a group of people from each state to represent the state at this convention. At the convention, the delegates cast their votes for the candidate who was the top vote-getter in that state in the caucus or primary election. (This is a warm-up for the Electoral College, which comes later.)

## Part 2: How It All Ends Up



**Once** the conventions are finished, the home stretch for the presidential election begins. Speeches, fundraisers, and debates follow, with all candidates trying to keep themselves in the public eye as much as possible. The popularity of the Internet has

added a dimension to candidates' ability to get their message across.

**The** presidential election takes place every four years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. (If November 1 is a Tuesday, then the election takes place on November 8.) People across the country cast their votes for whichever candidate

they believe will do the best job. Votes are counted, and this is called the popular vote, but it is more than a popularity contest. This is where the Electoral College comes in.

**The** Electoral College is a group of people who gather to cast their votes for the various presidential candidates (much like the delegates at the political party conventions). When we as Americans are casting our votes for the presidential candidates, we are actually casting our votes for electors, who will cast their votes for the candidates.

**The** presidential candidate who receives the most votes in each state gets all of the electoral votes for that state. In other words, if the state of Vermont has three electoral votes, it casts all of its electoral votes for the winning candidate. So if Diana Valdez has 4,100,103 votes and Fred Smith has 4,100,100 votes, Diana Valdez still gets all three of Vermont's electoral votes and Fred Smith gets 0. (Click here for a more detailed explanation of the Electoral College.)

**When** all the electoral votes are counted, the president with the most votes wins. In most cases, the candidate who wins the popular vote also wins in the Electoral College. (A few times before, this has not been the case. See the Electoral College article for more.)

**The** presidential election takes place in November, but the new president doesn't take office until January 20 of the following year. (If a president gets re-elected, he goes right on serving.) The Constitution limits presidents to two terms. Once a president has served two terms, he retires from public office, making way for the next group of political hopefuls. Every four years, the process starts all over again.

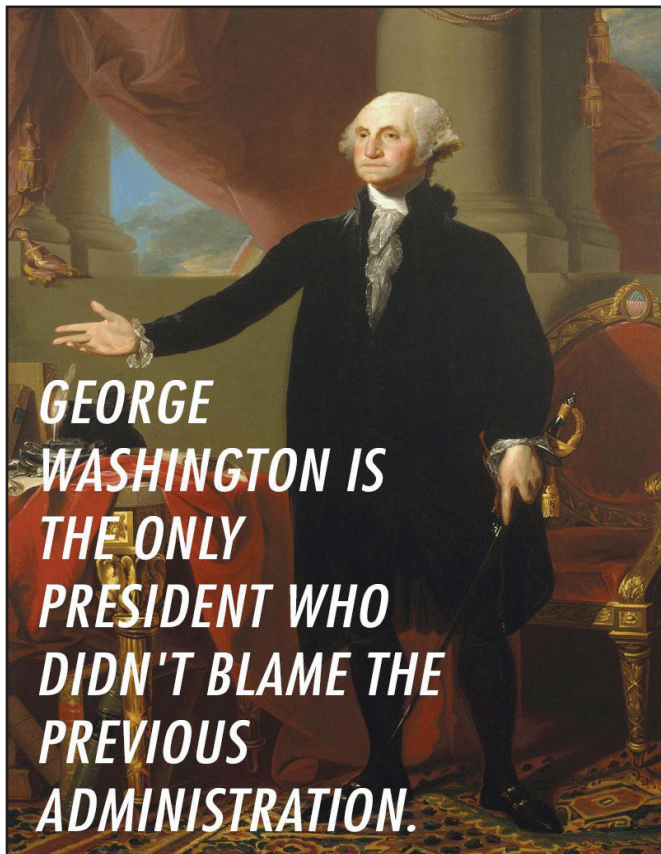


<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/government/how-the-president-is-elected.htm>

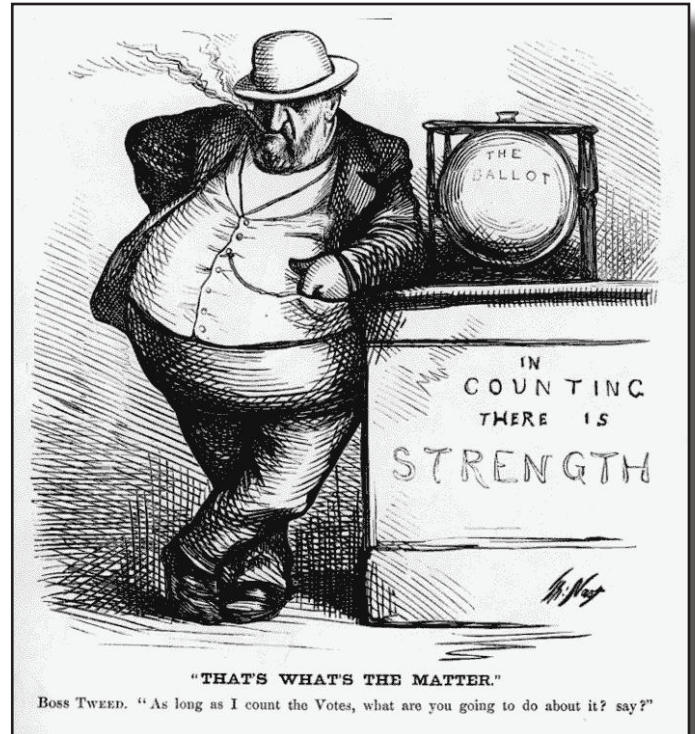


## 22 Witty Quotes About Elections

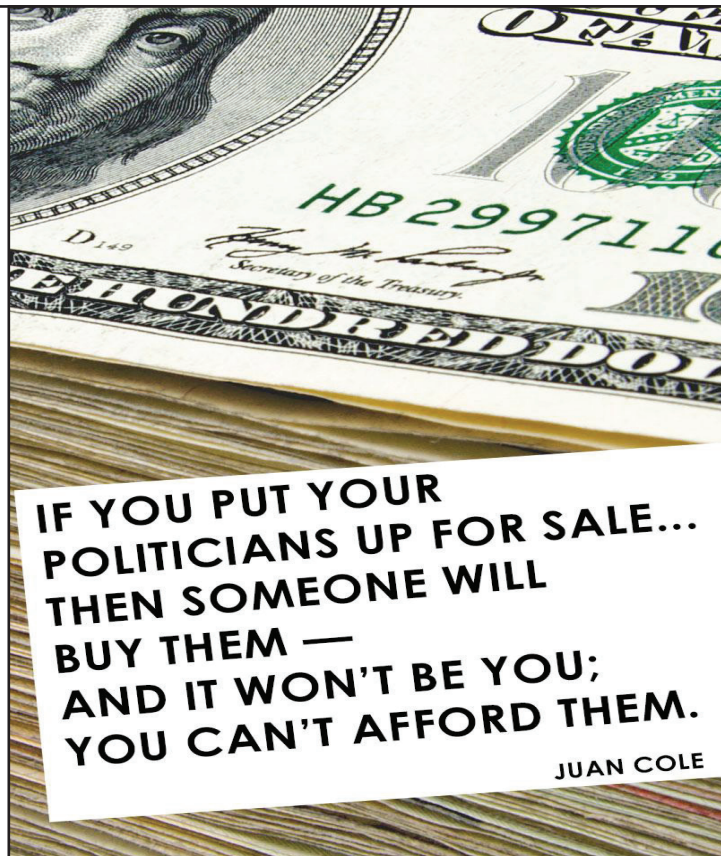
1. The problem with political jokes is they get elected. —Henry Cate, VII
2. I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. —Adlai Stevenson
3. Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. —Author Unknown



4. George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles. —Author Unknown
5. If voting made any difference they wouldn't let us do it. —Mark Twain
6. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything.



- Joseph Stalin
7. Bipartisan usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out. —George Carlin
8. The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them. —Karl Marx
9. There are always too many Democratic congressmen, too many Republican congressmen, and never enough US congressmen. —Author Unknown
10. We stand today at a crossroads: One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other leads to total extinction. Let us hope we have the wisdom to make the right choice. —Woody Allen
11. If you put your politicians up for sale, as the US does ... then someone will buy them — and it won't be you; you can't afford them. —Juan Cole
12. Don't buy a single vote more than necessary.



I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide.  
—Joseph P. Kennedy

13. By the time a man gets to be presidential material, he's been bought ten times over. —Gore Vidal

14. When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators. —J. O'Rourke

15. In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy. —Matt Taibbi

16. In America, anyone can become president. That's the problem. —George Carlin

17. The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter. —Winston Churchill

18. Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy

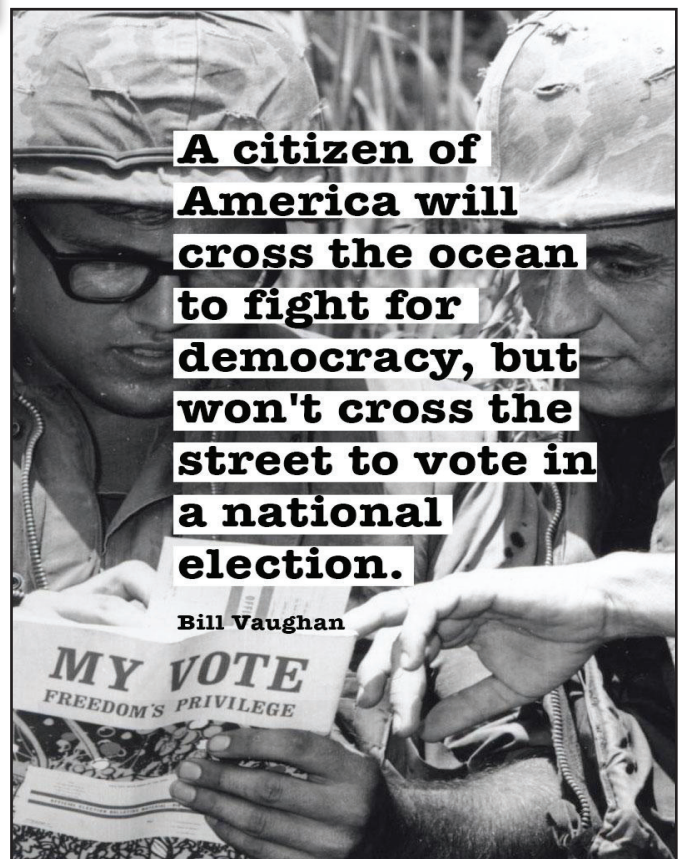
means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge. —Isaac Asimov

19. Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half. —Gore Vidal

20. A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election. —Bill Vaughan

21. If pigs could vote, the man with the slop bucket would be elected swineherd every time, no matter how much slaughtering he did on the side. —Orson Scott Card

22. A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman thinks of the next generation. —James Freeman Clarke



<http://whowhatwhy.org/2015/08/15/22-witty-quotes-about-elections/>



## Out of the Cage

### Important Dates

- \* **First Eight Week Classes End** on Wednesday, Oct 12, 2016
- \* **Second Eight Week Classes Begin** on Thursday, Oct 13, 2016
- \* **Last Day to Drop Class Without Notation on Record for Second Eight Week Classes** on Friday, Oct 14, 2016
- \* **Last Day to Drop Classes to Qualify for a Refund for Second Eight Week Classes** on Friday, Oct 14, 2016
- \* **Last Day to Drop Class with a "W" Grade Second Five Weeks** on Saturday, Oct 22, 2016
- \* **Last Day to Enroll in Second Eight Week Classes** on Friday, Oct 28, 2016
- \* **Last Day to Petition for Pass/No Pass for Second Eight Week Classes** on Friday, Oct 28, 2016



### Beyond Columbus: the Real Stories of the Americas

Tuesday, October 11, 2016  
From 12:15pm – 1:15pm

What are the truths in the history books about the Americas at the time of European Contact? What is the difference between Native and Indigenous?

We know that Columbus never found the Americas. Not all Mexicans speak Spanish. Many people in the United States who do speak Spanish are from other parts of the Americas. There are hundreds of Indigenous cultures in the Americas. Learn more about the real stories of the Americas from a panel of scholars and peoples from a variety of cultures from the Americas.

**Location:** Raef Hall 160

### ARC Speaks: In the Mix

Thursday, November 3, 2016  
From 12:15pm – 1:15pm

Come join us with another installment of ARC Speaks, an opportunity for members of ARC's diverse communities to share their experiences.

In this installment of ARC Speaks, a panel of biracial and multiracial ARC students answer the question: "How has your identity as a biracial or multiracial individual been shaped or influenced by living in the Sacramento area?" Join us in hearing these stories of ARC students in a respectful and thoughtful setting.

**Location:** Raef Hall 160

### Questions/Comments?



Student Editor : **Elaf Khafaja**

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)