



The Parrot

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

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Thoughts of English Prof. Karen Devaney

Parrot: My name is Vivi. I'm from the Parrot. I want to thank you for having this interview with us today.

Karen: Absolutely.

Parrot: Thank you so much. Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Karen: OK. I'm originally from the east coast and I grew up outside of Washington DC, so I



was exposed to tons of culture and my friends were from all around the world, you know, from China, Japan, Peru, Africa, so I've always been drawn to other cultures, and languages always fascinated me. And my grandfather was born in Italy so... But he wouldn't speak his language; he always wanted

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Christmas Cartoons!

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For my new year's resolution, I promise to stop correcting your terrible spelling and focus more on your horrific grammar.



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Aw, Shucks: There's an Oyster Vending Machine in France

American vending machines have often failed to live up to the distribution kiosk's full potential. While North America is usually content to stuff machines full of chips, candy, and soda, in-



ternational displays dispense everything from gold (in Dubai) to raw milk (in London). Our national embarrassment continues, as the

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Student Chirpings

The Holidays - I Love Them!



My favorite holiday is Christmas. My family and my friends are celebrating with me. I always celebrate at my house. My husband cooks. My daughter and I make other food such as a green salad, beans, and soup. We have chicken, hamburgers, and steak. I eat a hamburger, a green salad and beans. For dessert, I always have grapes and ice cream. I drink cold drinks such as soda and water. My favorite food for Christmas is chicken and pasta because it is delicious. Everyone sits in the backyard, and we have a great time. Christmas is my favorite holiday because the families gather together. At the end of Christmas Eve I say goodbye to everyone and go to sleep.

Nuha Mohmood
ESL R20

My favorite holiday is Christmas. Christmas is a holiday for the whole family. It is very popular with children because they get a lot of gifts. We usually celebrate Christmas with parents. We celebrate at home. We decorate the Christmas tree and prepare gifts for the whole family. I always prepare a festive dinner and my parents help me. I make salad and potatoes, and my dad makes grilled meat. The main dish is grilled beef. I also do different snacks. I make sandwiches with salmon and salsa. For dessert I make a cake. For children, I cook jello and cookies. We drink lemonade and hot tea. We clean up as a whole family. Children bring dirty dishes and put them in the dishwasher. My husband vacuums the floor. After dinner, we go to the living room and talk. Later, we pray for the whole family and give each other gifts. The whole family is happy, and the holiday is wonderful.

Liliia Voromina
ESL R20





The Holidays - I Love Them!

New Year's Day is my favorite special holiday because I spend more time with my family. My husband and I have a party at home. We invite our sisters and friends. I usually cook on this day. I like to make our traditional food called "biryani." It's a mix of rice, meat, beans, and vegetables. My sister likes to make dessert. She always makes cheese-cake on this day. We drink soda and juice.

My favorite foods are chocolate and ice cream because I enjoy eating them and they are delicious. We buy a tree. My children like to decorate it. I usually help them. We buy gifts for each other and especially for the children. I buy a watch for my husband and toys for my kids. I get perfume. We also dance to our traditional music. At the end of the day, we clean the home and put dishes in the dishwasher and say goodnight.

Sara Jabar
ESL R20



My favorite holiday is New Year's Day. It is a special holiday because it is celebrated on December 31 at midnight. On this holiday, my family gathers together at home around the dinner table. My mother cooks lots of delicious meals. The main dish is the baked chicken with apples and potatoes, but sometimes we have patties with mushroom sauce as the main dish, too. My sister and I make different salads. For dessert, we always have a cake, ice cream, and pineapple. We drink tea, soda, and juice. We raise a glass of champagne at 12 pm and make wishes for the next year. My parents open a bottle of the best wine they have in the bar. My favorite food is the salad known as "Herring Under a Fur Coat". It is a layered salad of pickled herring, onion, boiled vegetables, and eggs. It takes time to cook it well. After dinner, we go out and use a lot of fireworks in front of our house. We call our friends and wish them all the best.

Viliem Burakovskyy
ESL R20





The Holidays - I Love Them!



My favorite holiday is Christmas day. My family and my friends are always together on that day. We always meet in the garage of our house. We have a lot of food for that day. We have steak, chicken, pork, ribs, and rice. My mom cooks the meat. My cousin makes some vegetable salad with beans. My aunts and my friends make another food. We drink cold drinks such as soda, water, or juice. For dessert, we always have cheesecake and hot fruit punch. I like to eat everything. My favorite food on that day is pork with beans and rice because I like the pork meat. For the children, we make hot dogs and pizza. This day is also very special for children because there are many gifts for everyone. Everyone sits in the garage. We eat at 8:00 pm. We have a great time because all my family and friends are together.

Josselyn Perdomo
ESL R20



Holidays make our life brighter and interesting. During our holiday we can have some fun and just relax. My favorite holiday is New Year's Day. New Year's Day is the best time for me to spend with my family in the magical and festive atmosphere, with delicious food. My children have a winter vacation. They decorate the house and help me prepare a meal.

Our friends and relatives celebrate with us, and usually we celebrate in our home or in the house of friends or relatives. My husband and his friends cook the meal. We have steak, chicken, and fish. My son makes green salad. My second son makes French fries. I make other food such as meat salad, salmon sandwich, and rice. My mother makes meat dumplings. My friends bake fruit tarts. Everyone likes the Russian herring salad "Under a Fur Coat".

For dessert, we have a cake, cookies, and ice cream. We also have different fruits such as



oranges, mandarins, strawberries, mangoes, and apples. Children drink juice, soda and lemonade. Adults drink champagne, wine, juice and soda.

At midnight, we wish each other a Happy New Year and make a wish and then exchange gifts. We don't go to bed till morning, so we watch TV, dance and make jokes.

Elena Nikiforova
ESL R20



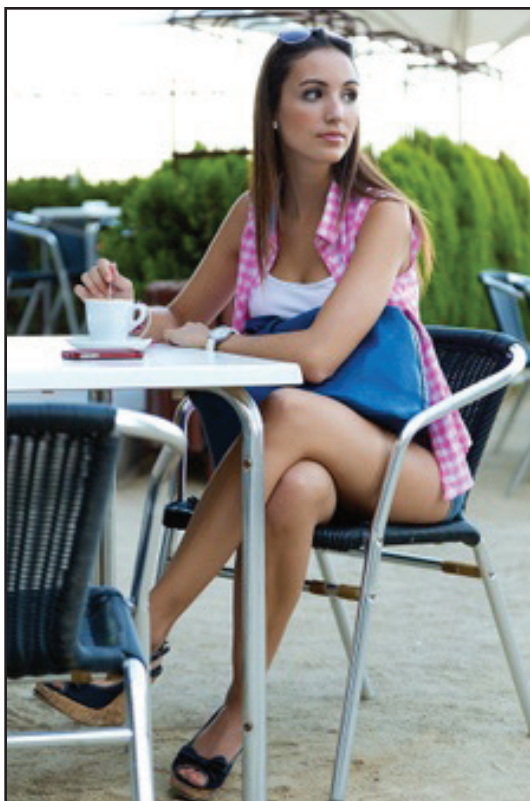
The Handsome Stranger

It is a beautiful Sunday morning. I can afford to sleep more because I don't have great things to do. Of course I have to do my homework, but it can wait for later. While I am relaxing, my phone is ringing. Oh, it is Jane, my best friend. I have to answer. "Hey, enough sleeping so much! Let's go have breakfast somewhere. For example, let's go to Denny's!" I can't refuse. "Let's go," I say, dissatisfied. While I am waiting for her in the restaurant, a young man is sitting at the next table.

Because Jane is late, I am looking at what is new on Facebook, but my eyes are turning again to that handsome man. "He is around 30 years old", I am saying to myself. He has light skin, brown and short hair, black or brown eyes; I am not sure. He also has well-shaped lips and the sweet smile of a gentleman. Look at his hands; they are wellcared for, and he doesn't have a ring, which means he isn't married.

Probably he works somewhere in an office, for sure not in construction or in a car service shop."

Finally, Jane comes; she is very happy and she is starting to talk a lot, and about everything in this world, in fact, nothing new or interesting. My thoughts are heading to that man again. He is dressed in good taste; he is wearing dark blue jeans that are matched with a white shirt. Infact, his clothes look expensive, probably from a famous brand, such as Calvin Klein. Maybe he likes to be stylish, or maybe this is the dress code at his work. He also has an expensive mobile phone, and a leather suitcase beside him. Maybe he is a manager, accountant, social service worker, or an attorney.



"He must have a lot of money!"

"Are you listening to me?" Jane is asking. I wince. "Of course, I am listening to you, carefully!" She continues on, but I am looking at and thinking about the stranger. He orders baked salmon with vegetables; for sure he has a healthy lifestyle. "Maybe he doesn't want to eat pizza or fast food, or even soda, because now he is drinking just water. He is thin and looks healthy and strong. It is interesting! Does he go to the gym? Why not? He doesn't have family; he must have a lot of free time." His phone is ringing. "I will be in the office in 30 minutes, and I will send you all the papers that you need", he says politely. He is leaving some money on the table. He is taking his briefcase and he is heading to the exit.

Jane and I continue our discussion, but at the same time my thoughts can't forget the handsome man that I saw a few minutes earlier. "He might be the man of my dreams..." However, I have to forget him because I won't ever see him again. He has his busy life with his problems, and I have my life with my problems. "It's time to go, Jane! I have to do my homework!" For a very long time I can't forget the handsome man from Denny's.



Lenuta Musorivski
ESL W50
(Descriptive-Essay)



Workplace Blues

Work is a place where most people spend much of their time. Sometimes people even spend more time there than at home with their families. At work such people acquire among co-workers good friends, and even their future spouses. However, it is not always easy to have and maintain good relationships with our co-workers, so the problems can not be avoided. There are three causes of friction among co-workers.

The first cause of friction between co-workers is jealousy. At work we are constantly surrounded by different people, different characters, and different ages. Jealousy is peculiar

to all people, regardless of education, age, and position in society. However, it is one thing if we sincerely and kindly rejoice over the success of our employees, but quite another if we are angry about their success. One example of embittered envy is envying the ability or talent of another person. Sometimes someone puts in a lot of work and effort to achieve something and another person, without any special effort, reaches the same goal or more just because he or she has the talent or ability for this work. This situation seems unfair and can cause envy. I remember when I lived in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, and worked as a hairstylist. Some of my co-workers didn't like another co-worker, Amina. She had graduated and started to work just a month earlier, but a lot of clients wanted Amina to cut their hair. My co-workers couldn't understand why people preferred her. She didn't have experience, and



they did. More jealous: a woman can spend a lot of time and money on her appearance, but doesn't have good friends and loved ones. Someone else, however, with little effort, is very attractive and has a lot of friends. One of my bosses, who was a woman, fired one of my co-workers, Susan, because she was very attractive. My boss feared that her husband would fall in love with Susan and leave her. In

addition, people may be envious of a higher salary or position of another employee. For example, when my co-worker figured out that my boss paid me more than she paid her, she didn't talk with me for about three months. She thought that I shouldn't get a higher salary be-

cause she was older than me and more professional. Many people find it difficult to see and enjoy the success and happiness of others so these people begin to develop feelings of envy, which leads to disputes between co-workers.

The second cause of disputes between co-workers is miscommunication. Unfortunately, we live in times when people are always in a hurry and do not want to "waste" time listening or talking. For example, sometimes it happens that one of our co-workers will hear only part of our conversation, and then form their opinion about us. Such people do not want to waste their time to check with us when something isn't clear to them. I remember that almost all conflicts at my work were for those reasons. Something similar happened to me. One day my co-worker complained to me because I left



my workplace dirty. The next day my boss told me that he would deduct some money from my paycheck because I didn't follow the rules. I explained to him that I left my workplace clean all the time, and that I had done so the previous night, too. Then my boss checked our camera's recorders and realized that after me another stylist cut some clients' hair and didn't clean the workplace. I was sad that people didn't talk to each other and just trusted

what they heard and not saw. The reason for miscommunication could also be the language barrier. Some workers who do not know a language well can use words or phrases that are not pleasant to native speakers. Native speakers may feel offended by a co-worker, and the co-

worker who does not know a language well cannot even guess the cause of the quarrel. For example, my friend called another co-worker who was Ukrainian "hoholka". Not one of our workers knew that it could offend her because to us it sounded like a nice word for a Ukrainian person. It was a good lesson for me to learn, to always be sure about a word before I say it. Therefore, miscommunication can be another reason for disputes between coworkers.

The third cause of friction between co-workers is prejudice. Prejudices and stereotypes greatly affect employees. One of these prejudices can be age. People tend to think that if you are young, it means you are not serious or responsible. More people think that young people have little experience and they have little to offer a company. For this reason, many young people have difficulty finding a job after college. I have a lot of friends in the USA and Russia who couldn't find a job after graduating. One of them told me that an



employer did not even want to interview him just because the employee thought he was too young for that job. Another cause of prejudice or stereotypes can be the person's sex. In many countries, it is felt that women should only deal with household chores. Even if a woman works, they work in a very stressful atmosphere. These women may be ridiculed or stared at. For example, my sister's friend, who lived in Azerbaijan, told her that there

most women didn't work with men. If a woman works there, it means she is slutty. In addition, prejudice can be national or racial. People often live by the stereotype that if a person is of another race, it means that they are less-educated, less intelligent, or less law-abiding. Therefore, some co-workers may be afraid or

shy away from such people. I remember that when I lived in Russia, one employer didn't want to employ my older sister because she was Armenian, not Russian. This often happens in Russia with migrants. If people do not control their feelings of prejudice, a poor relationship between employees will occur.

In conclusion, work is a place where most people spend much of their time and everyone wants to feel comfortable there. For that reason, everyone should do their best to create a good work atmosphere. To achieve this goal, we must avoid the three causes of friction: jealousy, miscommunication, and prejudice.



Anaida Aleksanyan
ESL W50
(Cause/Effect-Essay)



Grades: Simple Statistic or a Motivation?

Good education is the basis for a successful career and a successful life. I think parents should think about their children's education starting at the pre-school-level. People should learn how to study in their childhood. In my opinion, the main goal of education is to think and analyze. That is why grades are very important in the educational process. They help us to know our level, help us to compete, and help us to be motivated. I strongly disagree with the idea that there should be no grades in high schools or college and that all classes should be pass/fail.

The first reason to have grades in high schools or college is the chance to identify students' levels. This reason is important both for students and for teachers. Grades help you know what progress or regression you have. It helps to find the best approach to your learning plan. It also helps teachers to find the best learning materials, which can help students to increase their knowledge. For example, I had a lot of grammar tests in my Writing 40 class. I had a perfect score on most of them, but I had a lower score for the count-and-non-count-nouns test. I passed the test, but the grade was "B -". That is why I decided to go to the ESL Center and ask them to explain this topic to me once again. It helped me a lot, and I did that because of my lower grade. I wouldn't do that if it was just pass/fail. Now, I know a secret: the busy student's brain works by the rule "learn-pass-forget". We have so many things to do that passing without grades can calm us. That is why we need to be kicked sometimes. In that case, the rule in our brain changes to "learn something – have a bad grade – learn better – will remember forever".

The second reason to have grades in high schools or college is a chance to compete. People are very competitive. It is a fact. Some primitive instinct

pushes us to be better than other people. I think our ancestors in the Stone Age sat in their caves and compared who killed the biggest mammoth. Nowadays, nothing changes. We sit in our skyscraper caves and compare our mammoths on Facebook and Twitter. The same thing with grades. We need to know if we do something better

than others. If we do it worse, we need to change something or learn more. This competition is impossible without grades. For example, in my high school in Ukraine, one of my teachers liked to give us small competitions. The winner had a chance to not answer one question on the next test. All of us want to have this opportunity, but we didn't think that the sly teacher gave us a tricky competition to have us study everything to win. In fact, if someone won this competition, this person didn't need the prize anymore because he or she already knew all the answers on the next text. However, we had a lot more fun competing.



The third reason to have grades in high schools or college is the grades are good motivation. It doesn't matter whether it's good or bad grades you get. In any situation, grades will motivate you. When I failed my first spelling test in W50, it motivated me a lot. I studied like crazy for the next test, and I got a perfect score. For me, bad grades motivate more than good. What can be better than the knowledge that you won't repeat your own mistakes? However, good grades motivate us, too, because we don't want to lower our level.

In conclusion, I am sure we need to have grades in order to have better education. Clearly, we don't study to get good grades. We study to learn, but grades make our learning process more interesting and understandable. Whenever we see our grade, we can see progress, and we can tell ourselves "I did my best" or "I need to be better next time!"

Viktoria Gunenko
ESL W50
(Persuasive-Essay)



The Wrong Classes

Why do people study? How can a person get ready to take on responsibilities? First of all, people have to study. In order to study and reach their goals, students should choose the right classes. Choosing the wrong classes has negative effects on students. Getting bored, wasting time, and losing financial aid are the negative effects of choosing the wrong classes.

The first negative effect of choosing the wrong class is getting bored. Students sometimes choose the wrong classes when they come to a new school. It mostly happens to new immigrant students. These new students mostly get bored their first semester. Students get bored when

they choose the wrong classes. A class is boring for students when it is a level higher or lower than their knowledge. By choosing the wrong classes, students can get bored of school too. Choosing a lower class also affects students' educational plans. The wrong class puts students behind their education plans. In a higher or lower class, students easily fall asleep. My first class at American River College was boring for me. I did not have enough information to choose the right classes. I chose the wrong class; it was really boring for me. I was enrolled in an R-20 class; however, I learned a lot in that class.

The second negative effect of choosing the wrong class is the wasting of time. Choosing the wrong class, students can waste their time. These students fall behind in their major and goal. Choosing the wrong classes can waste students' time and make them fall behind those students who come to school in the same semester. There are many reasons why students choose the wrong classes. Sometimes students are constrained. They do not find the right classes; they choose the wrong classes which are not in accordance with their education plan. They look for a class on the same day as their other classes. It happens to married immigrant stu-

dents. They try to choose the right classes for their spouses and themselves. It happened to me in my first semester at American River College. I couldn't find the right class on Mondays and Wednesdays and there was a two-hour gap between my other classes. I had to take the wrong class. I chose R-20, which was lower than my assessment test level.



The third negative effect of choosing the wrong class is losing financial aid. It also has negative effects on those students who are not getting financial aid. By choosing the wrong classes, students lose their financial aid or money. There is a limit in the use of financial aid. Students need to be very careful in choosing classes. Students must choose class-

es based on their educational plan; otherwise, a wrong decision can put students in a bad financial situation. Students need to see a college counselor before choosing their classes. I lost and misused a part of my financial aid when I was a new student at American River College. I made a wrong decision and I was enrolled in the wrong class. There is a limit in the use of financial aid. I will need to pay for some classes to reach my goal. I have a friend who came to the United States in 2008. He made a mistake in choosing his classes. He used up all his financial aid. He had to pay for his last two classes but got his degree.

In conclusion, getting bored, wasting time, and losing financial aid are the negative effects of choosing the wrong classes. Students should be careful in choosing classes. I recommend my friends see a college counselor before choosing a class. In this case they will protect themselves from the negative effects of choosing the wrong classes.

Ahmad Fahim Haidari
ESL W50
(Cause/Effect-Essay)

US. College vs Iraqi College

When I moved to the United States, I was shocked at my first time going to school in the United States. It is different from what I was used to in Iraq. At ARC I had a new experience of being at school. I had always thought colleges are the same in different countries until I attended ARC. There are some differences between ARC and the college I used to go to in Iraq.

The first difference between ARC and the college I used to attend is classes. ARC has online classes for most of the subjects and more than one online class for some subjects. At ARC, students choose their classes and the time they want them. Student can take as many classes as they want. ARC students have the ability to control their school schedule. ARC offers off-campus classes too. The school I used to attend in Iraq didn't offer many choices. There were no online classes or off-campus classes. We did not choose the classes that we wanted to take. In the college I used to go to, there was already a schedule for each major and semester. For example, in the first semester, nursing students had to take the same classes

at the same time. In class a student met other students with the same major and they had been at college for the same period of time. Students do not choose the class time or the professor. My first semester at ARC I took an online class because I was not able to match it with my other classes, and it helped because I had more time to study and I could send my work in earlier. On the other hand, when I attended college in Iraq, I had my schedule ready for me. I did not have to worry about matching all my classes at a specific period of time.

The second difference between ARC and my college back home is size. ARC has a lot of classes and big gyms. Even the cafeteria is much bigger. There is a lot of space for students to walk around the campus. You can see how big ARC is from the parking lot. There are many parking lots and they can hold a lot of cars. For example, when I come to ARC with my brother, we always packed our car at the end of the parking lot because the lot was filled with cars. Sometimes we struggled to find a place to park in if we came late in the afternoon. The college I used to attend was not big. It had small classrooms and a small cafeteria. The parking lot was big, but it was never filled up. It was a nice college, but it was small. You would never worry about not finding



a place to park your car. For example, in the college in Iraq, the classes were small. Each class could take up to fifty students, but at ARC there are classes that have only twenty students while others can take up to sixty, like my math class. I always like to sit in the cafeteria at ARC. It is so big and beautiful, not like the cafeteria in the college in Iraq. It was small and crowded. I did not like it and it was the worst place to study at. Size is a big difference between the two colleges.

The third difference between ARC and the college I used to attend is the library. ARC has a big library and the library has three floors. Students can go there to study, to print, to use computers, to find a book, and to sit in a room and study in groups. The ARC library is so big and there are always students studying there. It is so

beautiful and quiet. It helps the student to focus. If a student looks for a book for research, she can find it in the library. I always go to the library to print paper that I forget to print at home or to write my essays. There are people who work there who help students. On the other hand is the library in the college I used to go to.

There were no computers for students to work forever on. It had printers for students to make copies on or print. The library I used to go to had one floor. It was not as big as ARC's library. Not a lot of students went to study at the library. It did not have all the books that the students needed, and not all of the students borrowed books from the library. I remember I always used to go there to study because there were not many students there and it was so quiet. I used to print my work there too. It was for free. A lot of students used the printers. There were a lot of printers and they were black and white and color ones. Students had to pay if they wanted to use a color one.

In conclusion, I figured out there are a lot of differences between colleges, especially if they are in different countries. ARC and the college I used to attend are totally different. I like ARC more, but I liked the college I used to attend in some ways. Between ARC and the college I used to attend, there are huge differences in the look of the campuses, schedules, the size, and the library. There are a few similarities, but the differences are much more, as you can see!

Betul Yousif
ESL W50

(Comparison/contrast-Essay)



My Peaceful Place

Do you have any peaceful places? If someone asks me, my answer is, "Yes, I do." I lived in a high-rise apartment house when living in Korea, my native country. My house was surrounded by plenty of skyscrapers. The streets were choked with traffic and noise. The city was covered in concrete. Whenever I saw these houses, I felt I lived in a chicken coop. One day, I looked at the high-rise apartment buildings, where I lived on the 18th floor. I felt as if I were floating and drifting upward because the gray skyscraper was dizzying. Sometimes I felt something pressing on my chest because many residents were living very close to me. I needed a place of my own. I once thought about moving out of the city, but it was impossible for me. The problem was that it was hard to go to work because the suburb was very far away from the city. Therefore, I always dreamed about having green grass in a backyard and a little puppy. Surprisingly enough, I found my dream house with a gorgeous backyard in Sacramento.



The yard has beautiful green grass, flowers, and a variety of big trees.

I have been living in this house since I came to the United States. I looked for a house upon arriving in Sacramento. American houses are quite impressive, with wooden walls and cedar, shake, or slate tile roofs. Their designs are so different from my county's houses. Most Korean homes are high-rise apartments and made of cinder block, but American houses are one or two stories and made of wood. They also have one or two garages and include a backyard. Unfortunately, in my country, I could only see the "backyard" or "gardens" in the park. In America, I looked at a couple of houses and then I chose this house because I preferred to have a cozy backyard. When I saw this house, I was blissful and joyful. This house has a beautiful back-

yard. I walked to the backyard and many of the roses had dropped their petals, leaving the stem and the rosehip, the green, grapelike fruit of the rose. In the backyard, the green grass spread far and was surrounded by trees. The trees provided a deep shade over the house. The birds chirped in the trees and the squirrels were running with nuts in their mouths and jumping on the trees.

Upon moving into this house, I adopted a three-month-old female puppy. I had a dream about playing with my puppy in the backyard.

When she and I were ready to go to the backyard, she was extremely excited and began to wag her tail. I loved playing with her in the backyard. When I threw a ball, she ran after it and brought it back, holding it in her mouth. Alley cats, squirrels, and lots of birds often visited my backyard. My puppy loved to chase cats and squirrels. My beautiful backyard provided us great happiness and joy.

On sunny days, I am fond of relaxing in the backyard and enjoying the sun. One day, I made the decision to build my own farm in the backyard. I constructed a small farm on the side of the backyard. I dug the ground in the corner and I turned over the soil and spread fertilizer on the field with a rake. I purchased some vegetable seeds at The Home Depot and I planted them in my "garden". I grew some vegetables and plants in my backyard: green onions, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, and aloes. I watered the plants every day and pulled weeds. When I spent time in the backyard, I felt very much at ease. A few months later, my vegetables were growing so fast. Therefore, I decided to have a barbecue with my friends in the backyard. The day of the party, I harvested my sweet vegetables, and washed them. After preparing the ingredients, I went to the market near my house and bought two pounds of beef, three packs of sausage, and a



case of beer. When I got back home, several of my friends were waiting for me in front of my house. We then went into my backyard through the inside of the house. When I placed some food on the grill, the smell of roasting meat was scattered everywhere. The smell of roasting meat made my puppy crazy with hunger. While we were waiting for the meat to be done, I introduced my friends to my fantastic backyard. We had a lovely time together in my beautiful backyard.

One of my friends asked me, "Do you miss your previous home? I prefer to live in a high-rise apartment building." I answered him, "Yes, but not

very much. If I had to choose between my Korean apartment and this house, I would choose this house." This house does not provide a glamorous appearance but it gives peace of mind to me. That is why I really love my backyard. It always represents a charming place and happiness.



Woochul Jang
ESL W50
(Descriptive-Essay)

My Important Gift

In these few paragraphs, I'll describe what I got about five years ago. It is a mysterious Menorah. I received this symbol of Israel as a gift after my uncle's visit to Jerusalem. The Light of Israel is very important for me.

I had heard about a Menorah, but I had never seen one. I wanted to have one. It is composed of brass. It has a pedestal. The Menorah seems like a tree with seven branches in the form of a parabola. This lamp of Israel has three rows, two lights per row. One light is in the center of the tree. In total, there are seven lamps.

The Menorah has a mysterious meaning too. The seven branches are the seven spirits of God. At the same time, it means the whole congregation of Israel. The lights show a symbol of the secret knowledge because it is the lamp of my heart. The light means getting knowledge. I like to realize the mysteries of God, and I want to remember that it belongs to me. In this case, I wanted to have a Menorah.

I associate this great gift with the time when my

Uncle Alexander visited me. He wanted to go to the land of Israel to see the Temple of Magdalena. He was at the

"Wailing Wall" and other important places. He bought this Menorah for me because he wanted to leave something very meaningful for me in remembrance of him. He was right.

I like it. When I see my Menorah, I see my uncle. I respect him. I want to meet with him and to talk again. I always remember Israel because I have a Menorah. The Menorah is like a symbol of secret knowledge that teaches me how to find something new to learn and understand all the time. As I see in my life, it is most important to get the benefits of education.



Andrey Kozlov
ESL W50
(Descriptive-essay)





Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Continued from page 1



small French island of Île de Ré has recently installed a machine that dispenses oysters, according to Condé Nast Traveler.

The inspiration came when island oyster farmers Brigitte and Tony Berthelot had trouble staying open long enough to accommodate all of the customers who wanted mounds of their delicious mollusks. To offer 24/7 service, they decided to install a machine that's filled with fresh inventory daily.

"People always arrive when the shop door is closed, which is frustrating for customers and for us," Tony Berthelot told Ruptly TV. "So we looked at the systems, we looked at what was being done in agriculture, because there are many distributors in the countryside. We contacted a manufacturer who responded and who fitted a machine for oysters since it is a particular product that is not very restrictive but requires some adjustments."

Patrons walk up to the machine—which is indoors—and pay, then select a crate from one of several compartments built into the unit. The oysters are sold closed, so it's not quite fast food, but the price is the same as if you bought them during normal operating hours: a batch of 12 goes for around \$8. If you order ahead while the store is still open, they can customize your request with additional items like sea asparagus.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/503236/aw-shucks-theres-oyster-vending-machine-france>

10 Interesting Facts About Japanese Vending Machines

Some of the most unique and innovative – but also the strangest – vending machines are made in Japan. But how much do you really know about them? Here are 10 of the most interesting facts about Japanese vending machines.

High Volume Vending

According to Coca Cola, there are nearly four million vending machines in Japan, while the Japan National Tourism Board puts that number at 5.52 million. But the country with the most vending machines is actually the United States, where close to 7 million are installed – about one for every 50 people. When land area is taken into account, however, Japan takes the crown with the highest density of vending machines on the planet.



Thirst-quencher

Vending machines selling pre-packaged snacks like chips, chocolate bars and cookies are rare. More than half of all vending machines in Japan sell drinks. Often, both hot and cold drinks can be purchased from the same machine thanks to an energy-saving thermal recycling technology.

Smoking Section

Out on the street, some vending machines sell cigarettes just like you would find at a convenience store. Not just anyone can walk up and buy them, how-



ever! A special age-verified ID card called Taspo is required, otherwise the machine won't operate. The very first Japanese vending machine, created in 1888 sold cigarettes.



Vending Market

Some local farmers are turning to technology to get their produce to the consumer. Vending machines selling farm fresh eggs, fruits and vegetables are popping up, but they're more common outside of the big cities. In places like Tokyo, large grocery corporations like Dole sell their ready-to-eat fruits instead.

Liquor Shop

Some vending machines sell alcohol, from cans of beer to bottles of sake. Like the cigarette machines, an ID is now required to operate most machines, but it wasn't always that way. These machines are now mostly found in hotels, entertainment districts and sometimes residential neighborhoods where convenience stores are not that common.

Vending Etiquette

The appropriate trash receptacle accompanies virtually all vending machines. This is not just because companies want to be environmentally responsible. It's probably considered old-fashioned, but many people still like to finish their drinks at the machine rather than walk down the street with it. This is especially true on subway platforms, since drinking isn't permitted on the trains.

Table of Contents

The contents of vending machines can run from the very practical and mundane – batteries, books and umbrellas – to the downright strange – clothes for pets, cooking sauces and bread in a can. Novelty vending machines are not nearly as common as drink machines, so be sure to shop while you can if you come across one.



Unmentionables

For the sake of consumer convenience, many vending machines sell items that could either be embarrassing to buy from a store or embarrassing to run out of. This includes things like condoms, lingerie, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper and even diapers.

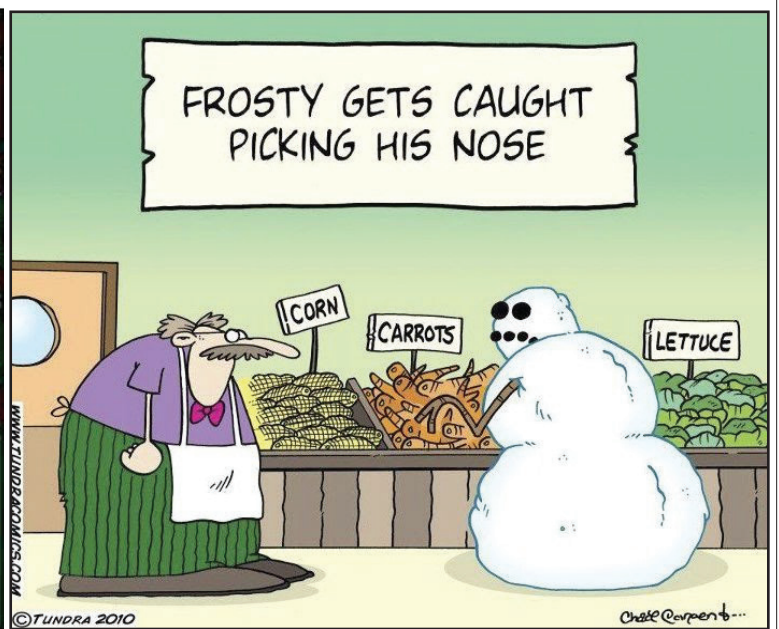
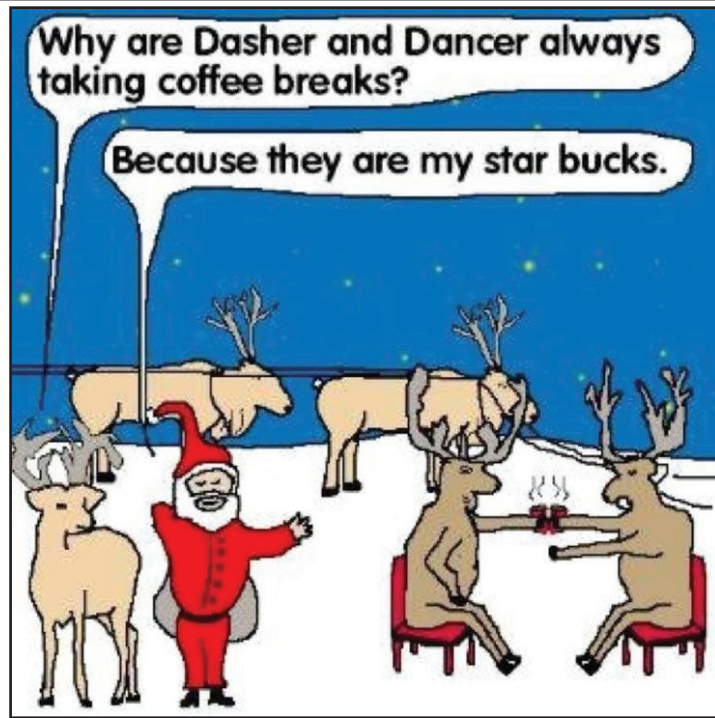
Disaster Relief

Thousands of Japanese vending machines are programmed to provide free refreshment during times of emergency, such as a major earthquake or tsunami. They contain backup batteries or generators so that they can continue to operate even during a power outage.

Tech Talk

Those coin and button vending machines could soon be a thing of the past. JR East Water Business's "Acure" vending machines are so high-tech, they're equipped with facial recognition software and a touchscreen display. It can recommend drinks based on your age and gender, and when the screen isn't in use, it advertises its wares based on the time of day and the season.

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/japan/articles/10-interesting-facts-about-japanese-vending-machines/>





Eat the World!

The Parrot represents students of many hues and sounds --- no news there. Indeed, birds of a feather flock together, right? They also eat together. The Parrot is proud to present Parrot fodder from around the world in this and subsequent issues. Squawk!

Easy-to-Follow Recipe for Grinch Kabobs

These little skewers are simple to make and a great addition to your appetizers at any Christmas party.



Ingredients

- 24 green grapes
- large banana, cut into 24 slices, or as needed
Bananas Organic Yellow
- 24 hulled strawberries, tips removed
Strawberries Fresh
- 24 miniature marshmallows
Marshmallows Jet-Puffed
- 24 toothpicks



Directions

Prep: 30 m

Ready In: 30 m

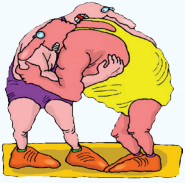
Thread 1 grape, 1 banana slice, 1 strawberry (narrow end facing up), and 1 marshmallow onto 1 toothpick to resemble the Grinch's head in his red hat. Repeat with remaining grapes, banana slices, strawberries, and marshmallows.



<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/240180/grinch-kabobs/?internalSource=recipe%20hub&referringId=932&referrerContentType=recipe%20hub&clickId=cardslot%2056>



Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Grammar Who, That, Which

Rule 1. *Who* and sometimes *that* refer to people. *That* and *which* refer to groups or things.

Examples:

Anya is the one who rescued the bird.

“The Man That Got Away” is a great song with a grammatical title.

Rule 2a. *That* introduces what is called an essential clause (also known as a restrictive or defining clause). Essential clauses add information that is vital to the point of the sentence.

Example: I do not trust products *that* claim “all natural ingredients” because this phrase can mean almost anything.

Rule 2b. *Which* introduces a nonessential clause (also known as a nonrestrictive or nondefining clause), which adds supplementary information.

Example: The product claiming “all natural ingredients,” which appeared in the Sunday newspaper, is on sale.

Rule 3. If *that* has already appeared in a sentence, writers sometimes use *which* to introduce the next clause, whether it is essential or nonessential. This is done to avoid awkward formations.

Example: That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

<http://www.grammarbook.com/grammar/whoVwhVt.asp>



Idiom--Attic

BE TICKLED PINK

Meaning: to be excited and happy

Ex: She was tickled pink by all the compliments she'd received.



<https://www.myenglishteacher.eu/blog/50-popular-english-idioms-and-slang-words/>

Beak Speak Silent Letters (Continued)

These are those letters in words which are not pronounced when we say the word.

7- Silent **K**, whenever ‘K’ is followed by an ‘N’ at the beginning of a word, ‘K’ is not pronounced

- Knot
- Knight
- Knock
- Knowledge

8- Silent **L**, the ‘L’ stays silent in most words when it comes before ‘D’, ‘F’, ‘M’, ‘K’.

- Yolk
- Half
- Calm
- Talk
- Should

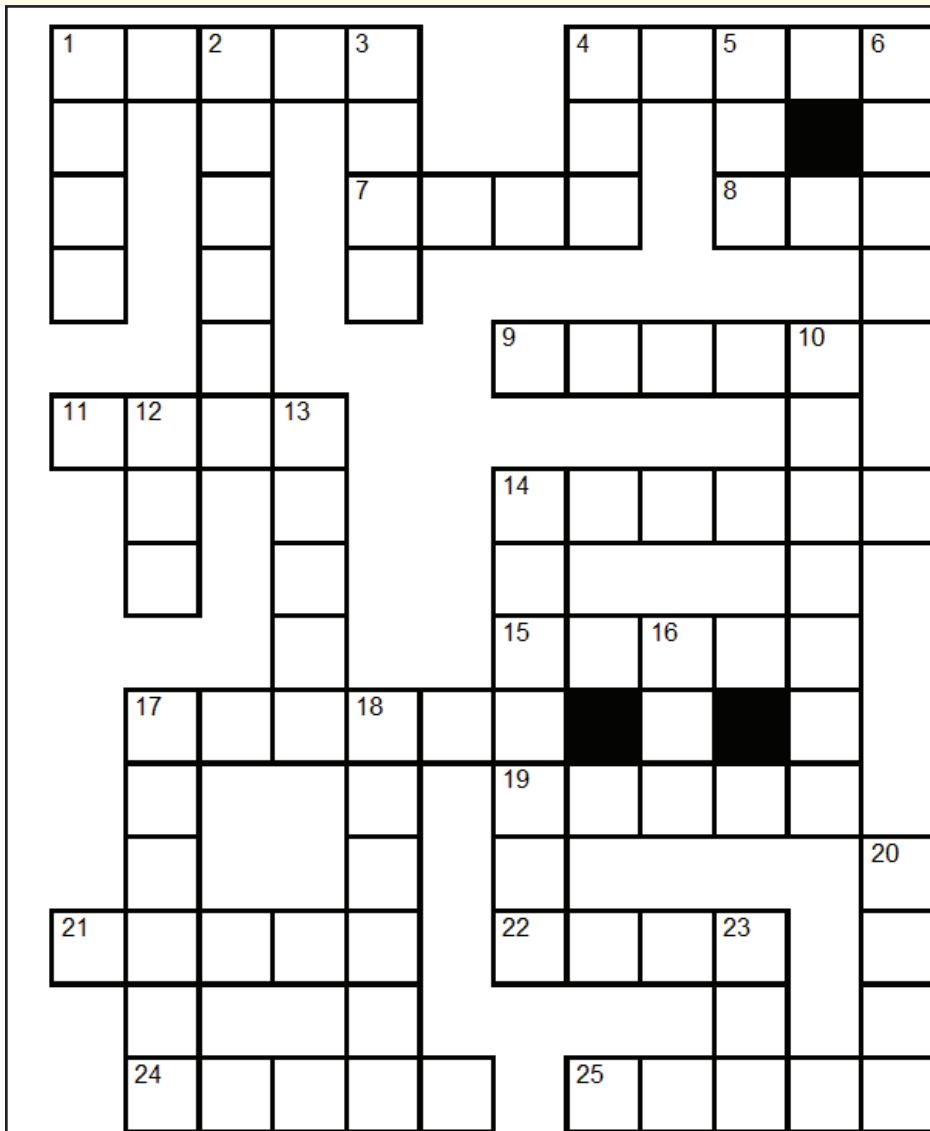
9- Silent **N**, the ‘N’ is not pronounced when it follows ‘M’ in a word

- Autumn
- Column

<http://www.englishleap.com/other-resources/silent-letters>



Some More Parrot Fun Stuff



Across

- 1 The opposite of wrong. (5)
 4 Another word for kid. (5)
 7 The opposite of first. (4)
 8 The opposite of high. (3)
 9 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep. (5)
 11 Another word for throw. (4)
 14 A synonym of afraid. (6)
 15 A kind of fruit that begins with A. (5)
 17 A place that rhymes with pool. (6)
 19 The opposite of heavy. (5)
 21 A kind of fruit that begins with L. (5)
 22 The opposite of east. (4)
 24 A synonym of sleepy. (5)
 25 The antonym of big. (5)

Down

- 1 A food that rhymes with dice. (4)
 2 A kind of fruit that begins with G. (6)
 3 Another word for speak. (4)
 4 A pet that rhymes with hat. (3)
 5 Another word for sick. (3)
 6 The opposite of up. (4)
 10 A synonym of gift. (7)
 12 The opposite of young. (3)
 13 The opposite of north. (5)
 14 The opposite of deep. (7)
 16 A farm animal that rhymes with wig. (3)
 17 A synonym for quiet. (6)
 18 A type of fruit that begins with O. (6)
 20 A toy that rhymes with tall. (4)
 23 A drink that rhymes with sea. (3)





Christmas Gift Ideas

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 13 letters spell an additional Christmas gift idea.



BAKING
BELT
BOOK
BRACELET
CANDLES
CANDY
CHOCOLATES
CLOTHES
COFFEE MAKER
COFFEE MUG
COLOGNE
COOKIES
DOLL
EARRINGS
ELECTRONICS

FLOWERS
GAME
GIFT BASKET
GIFT CARD
HERBAL TEAS
JEWELRY
MONEY
MOVIE
MUSIC
NECKLACE
NECKTIE
PANTS
PENDANT
PERFUME
PLANT

SCARF
SHIRT
SLIPPERS
SNEAKERS
SOCKS
STUFFED ANIMAL
SWEATER
TELEVISION
TOOL SET
TOY
TREE ORNAMENT
WATCH
WINE





Parrot Poetry



New Year's Resolution

I will not throw the cat out the window
 Or put a frog in my sister's bed
 I will not tie my brother's shoelaces together
 Nor jump from the roof of Dad's shed
 I shall remember my aunt's next birthday
 And tidy my room once a week
 I'll not moan at Mum's cooking
 (Ugh! Fish fingers again!)
 Nor give her any more of my cheek.
 I will not pick my nose if I can help it
 I shall fold up my clothes, comb my hair,
 I will say please and thank you
 (even when I don't mean it)
 And never spit or shout or even swear.
 I shall write each day in my diary
 Try my hardest to be helpful at school
 I shall help old ladies cross roads
 (even if they don't want to)
 And when others are rude I'll stay cool.
 I'll go to bed with the owls and be up with the larks
 And close every door behind me
 I shall squeeze from the bottom of every toothpaste tube
 And stay where trouble can't find me.
 I shall start again, turn over a new leaf,
 leave my bad old ways forever.
 Shall I start them this year, or next year
 shall I sometime, or?

by Robert Fisher

Rigoberto's Riddles

You go at red, but stop at green. What am I?

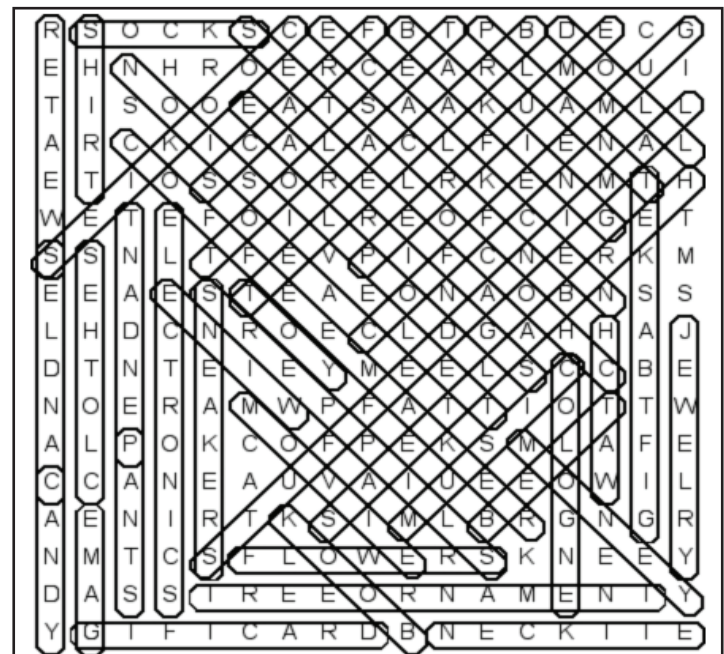
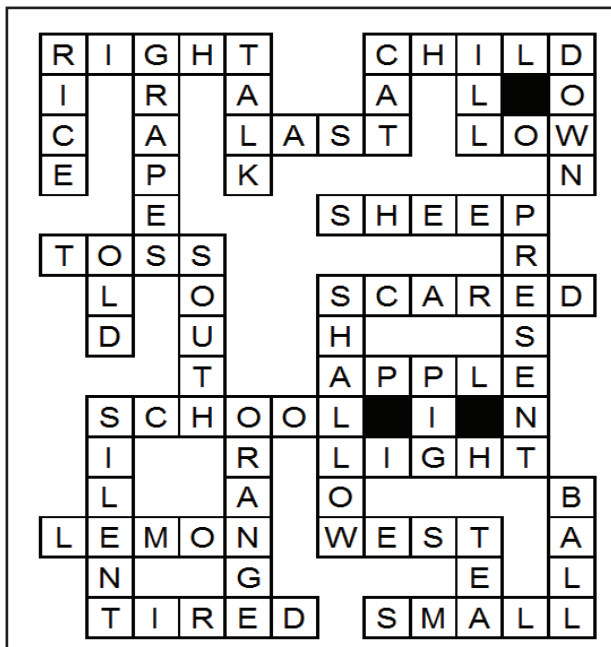
Watermelon! You eat the red part, and you stop eating at the green part.



Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



This guy gets a parrot but it's got a bad attitude and foul vocabulary. He tries everything to change the bird's attitude and clean up its talk but nothing works. Finally, in a moment of desperation, he puts the parrot in the freezer. For a few moments he hears the bird squawking, kicking and screaming and then, suddenly, all is quiet. He opens the freezer door. The parrot steps out and says, "I'm sorry that I offended you with my language and actions. I ask for your forgiveness." The guy's astounded at the bird's change in attitude and was about to ask what changed him when the parrot continued, "By the way, may I ask - what did the chicken do?"





Granny Noetal



Dear Granny Noetal,

I seem to have a lot of test anxiety. My friend said I should write you. You know it all, she said. What can I do about feeling a big nervousness before a test? I don't do well on my tests although I really do know the material.

Oleg Vishnikoff

Dear Oleg,

It's a great question because you are certainly not the only one to suffer from this. It happens in elementary and high schools as well as colleges and is a big topic these days. First of all, for all readers to know, test anxiety can vary among individuals. There can be physical symptoms of dizziness, excessive sweating, and nausea. Emotional symptoms might include being angry and feeling helpless. What causes test anxiety? I found some material from the following website, but you should look at a variety of websites:

<https://adaa.org/living-with-anxiety/children/test-anxiety>

Cause of Test Anxiety

Fear of failure. While the pressure to perform can act as a motivator, it can also be devastating to individuals who tie their self-worth to the outcome of a test.

Lack of preparation. Waiting until the last minute or not studying at all can leave individuals feeling anxious and overwhelmed.

Poor test history.

From the same website are these recommendations for combating test anxiety:

Solutions to Test Anxiety

Be prepared. Develop good study habits. Study at least a week or two before the exam, in smaller

increments of time and over a few days (instead of pulling an "all-nighter"). Try to simulate exam conditions by working through a practice test, following the same time constraints.

- **Develop good test-taking skills.**

Read the directions carefully, answer questions you know first, and then return to the more difficult ones. Outline essays before you begin to write.

- **Maintain a positive attitude.**

Remember that your self-worth should not be dependent on or defined by a test grade. Creating a system of rewards and reasonable expectations for studying can help to produce effective studying habits. There is no benefit to negative thinking.

- **Stay focused.** Concentrate on the test, not other students during your exams. Try not to talk to other students about the subject material before taking an exam.

- **Practice relaxation techniques.** If you feel stressed during the exam, take deep, slow breaths and consciously relax your muscles, one at a time. This can invigorate your body and will allow you to better focus on the exam.

- **Stay healthy.** Get enough sleep, eat healthfully, exercise and allow for personal time. If you are exhausted—physically or emotionally—it will be more difficult for you to handle stress and anxiety.

- **Visit the counseling center.** Schools are aware of the toll exams can take on students. They have offices or programs specifically dedicated to helping you and providing additional educational support so that you can be successful.

I do hope this helps a bit, Oleg!

Granny





Interview with Prof. Karen

Continued from page 1

to speak, you know, just English, but I later found out that when he was a young man and WWII was going on, they literally had signs posted that said "Don't speak the enemies' languages," which were German, Japanese, and Italian. Yeah, so I never realized that. He never talked about it to me. I learned all that later on, you know, so that always made me sad because Italian is such a beautiful language and now I'm learning it as an adult. It's hard.

Parrot: I know.

Karen: It's easier when you are a kid.

Parrot: Language is always a hard thing.

Karen: Yeah, it is, I mean, I have ESL training from a school in San Francisco. So, I was a nurse and then went and got my bachelor's, my BFA in theater arts, and then I got my MFA in creative writing because I've always enjoyed writing and stories, immigration stories. I'm just fascinated by them, you know...

Parrot: Awesome!

Karen: Yeah.

Parrot: So, you like writing. Is there anything else that you like to do?

Karen: Oh yeah, I love dance, I love performance, I love all kinds of stuff.

Parrot: That's really great. I think performance is one of the things that builds your confidence and it makes it really easy, you know, in social activities.

Karen: Yeah, absolutely. And it's just a great way to interact with other people.

Parrot: All right, so how did you get to the teaching field and this major specifically?

Karen: I got to the teaching field through my experience in nursing and then kind of changed where my emphasis was. I've always loved teaching, so when I got my BFA in theater arts, I was, you know, doing small classes, and then I decided I want to go get my MFA in creative writing because I can go all kinds of different ways with that and I could teach at the college level. It's kind of like that old adage, ..." you can give a person a fish or you

can teach them how to fish and they can go on with that." So the emphasis on nursing is a little bit more of just giving the fish whereas teaching is more like empowering you, so that you can discover your own gifts and go forward with that, because that's what teachers did for me. I went to Sonoma State, and I had several teachers who, well, I walked out of their office and I just started crying happily because they validated my writing. I started with kids' stories, and I still write children's stories. I had one teacher who said, "Why aren't these published? These are wonderful!" I walked out and said, "Wow, that's the first time someone actually validated my writing." You know, because parents are usually like no, no, no, you got to do something practical here. You know what I mean.



Parrot: Like being a doctor.

Karen: Right, exactly.

Parrot: That is very interesting. Instead of giving people the food, you want to give them the tools so they can produce by themselves.

Karen: Yeah, they can discover their power; they can discover what they love and what their passions are, and I always encourage students to go in the direction that they're passionate about.

Parrot: That is very interesting. So how long have you been in ARC?

Karen: This is only my second semester.

Parrot: Wow!

Karen: Yeah, it's my second semester. I'm new, and I love it. I love the students, and I love being on campus. Last semester I was at the McClellan Center. The students were wonderful there, too. It's fun being on campus and around all the students. I see more faculty now, so I love that.

Parrot: Absolutely, life on the main campus is always more active, and we have more events and more departments.

Karen: Yes, and it's funny because I can feel like



part of the campus. Last semester I participated in Black History Day where I taught African dance over at the student union, so I was always keeping a finger on the main campus even when I wasn't here.

Parrot: So how did life lead you to this college?

Karen: Well, we moved to Sacramento. I was in the Bay Area, I was in Sonoma, so when we moved out here I was teaching at some private colleges and applying to the community colleges here, and an opening came up and I interviewed. I moved forward, and I was super excited. Before that, I was in Philadelphia and I was teaching at Devry University in Philadelphia and in New York City, actually, once a week. Yeah, it was fantastic because I had students from Kenya, Israel, the Dominican Republic, I mean, you name it, you know, it was just so fascinating to be exposed to all these student perspectives.

Parrot: Yes, absolutely, I love it. I am an international student myself; my major is communication. So that's why I'm doing this, interviewing you.

Karen: Fantastic!

Parrot: I absolutely love the cross culture and diversity, especially on this campus. ARC is a big diversity environment.

Karen: I agree with you. I think it's got a nice cross-cultural mix.

Parrot: Any other thoughts about the campus? What do you like about this or the students you see here? How is it different from your old school?

Karen: I would say the cross-cultural factor, which is what I absolutely adore about this campus. It is representative of a lot of multicultural students, which feeds my passion for culture. And in that way you get a lot of different perspectives. For instance, I have two students in my first English class, and they are from Russia and they are used to... We got to talking about seating arrangement and my student said, "You know, it's so weird for me. In Russia the teacher assigns seats. You can't just sit wherever you want; you have to sit in a specific seat" and I was like, "Oh that's interesting." Here you

have a lot more freedom, you've got more choice, which, I guess, for someone who is new is not comfortable, but now she loves it.

Parrot: As a teacher, what kind of teaching do you prefer? Like what you just shared, here they have much more freedom, but do you feel that the way that international students were taught in their countries is much more respectful of the teacher?

Karen: You are right about that; they respect teachers a lot more. That's a really positive thing. My philosophy on teaching is that the more positive you are with students, the more positive feedback... Yeah, they need constructive criticism, but giving them a lot of "OK this was really good, but here is what you can improve" gives them a lot of opportunity to not feel scared to make a mistake. I always tell them that you learn from your mistakes; you don't remember the things you got right on your test, right? You always remember the things you got wrong. I always approach teaching how I approach being a parent. I speak in a real positive way, and I always give them second chances. For instance, we just finished compare and contrast essays and some students didn't have their thesis, some didn't have their conclusions, and this and that. So I said, here is the deal. If you're not satisfied with your grade, you can rewrite it. I met with my students, and they asked, "What can I do to make this better?" Let's work on your thesis statement, how about your conclusion, you used the same words too many times. How about you switch that up, you know, that kind of stuff. So giving them constructive feedback and giving them an opportunity to change it, and most of them are excited and say OK, I'm going to rewrite it, I'm going to do it, then it's good, you know."

Parrot: I really appreciate your effort. This is one of the things I like about this college, that the classes are smaller, so teachers and students have more interaction. I feel like professors here are very helpful. They try to get the students to succeed and not just go there and teach you, and grade your papers.

Karen: It's the interaction that I love, and I think it is really important. This also stimulates critical



thinking more than just me going up there and regurgitating a bunch of information. I never do that. I get the students involved. We break up into groups, we have debates, we have what I call “Thesis throw downs” where there are like four groups and I give them a prompt and they have to write a thesis as a group, and then they get up there. I play some music, and we have to vote which one was better.

Parrot: That is very exciting!

Karen: Yeah, it is. I play the music loud and everyone is like, come on, you got to cheer for your classmate, cheer for your team. Yeah, it’s fun, and at the same time they are learning how to write a thesis statement, you know, with a fun group activity. So I don’t get up there and do a boring lecture. Some classes, like history classes, you have to lecture a little bit. It just depends on the class you’re teaching, but I want to stimulate creativity.

Parrot: So what English classes are you teaching?

Karen: This semester I am teaching English 101, a 4-unit class before you get into the transferable composition. I run it a lot like the composition class, so they’re going to be really ready when they pass my class, when they get out of my class. And I’d like everybody to pass unless you blatantly, you know, just don’t show up. I had a student like that last semester. He would promise me, “I’m going to catch up with everything; I’m going to do this, do that...” And then, he turned in maybe one, maybe two assignments out of six or ten, so I really didn’t have a choice but to fail him.

Parrot: OK, so what advice would you give to a student in general, a student interested in your major specifically?

Karen: Well, if there is a student interested in either theater, because I teach theater as well, and I hope to move into that at some point here... I would encourage them to write, say what to do writing, let’s stick to writing. I would encourage them to write, to write, to write as much as possible. What I try to do to encourage my students is have them write a lot without initially worrying about the grammar and the spelling and all of that, to not censor

themselves, to have more of a stream of consciousness and allow that to happen to their imaginations and then you can go back and revise. And it’s in that process of revision that all the magic happens, that you can create this, you know, because sometimes when you are so worried about grammar then you don’t get anything down on the paper, you know... And to just give it their all, and if they’re struggling, if there’s a situation, always try to communicate with me. Life happens, things happen in life. If there is a reason why they’re falling behind, like going through a divorce or whatever it is, let’s talk, let’s communicate, let’s figure a plan out before it is too late, you know...

Parrot: That’s very true, communication is always important.

Karen: Yeah, your major (Laughter).

Parrot: See, my major is important (Laughter)

Karen: Oh yeah, communication is absolutely important.

Parrot: You already answered this question, I guess, but I still want to ask you. Do you want to describe your teaching philosophy? You’ve been saying that your teaching philosophy is like parenting.

Karen: Yeah, for me it is about creating a safe, positive environment in the classroom where all students are not afraid to fall on their face. Don’t be afraid to ask, “Oh, I don’t know this; I don’t know that, what is that, what a thesis statement is, I don’t know that...” Even if you talked about it and you forgot, you know, I want to create a climate that is collaborative and not exclusive or... For instance, there was a student at the beginning of the class and for some reason, whatever reason, she came to me after one of the classes and she was like, “I feel that you hate me and you don’t like any of my writing.”

Parrot: Oh...

Karen: I know, I felt so terrible, I was like “Oh, my gosh...” Now she is like “Oh, I’m your favorite.” Absolutely, now you’re my favorite. So, I think it is important to teach with heart, to teach with empa-



thy, but also make sure they have all the information, the material, and the skills they need to move forward.

Parrot: All right, that sounds very good. Do you remember the first class you taught? How was that?

Karen: Yes I do, the first class I taught? Oh my gosh, I felt like I was going on stage. When you first go on stage, you're petrified. I was like, I'm going to forget my lines, I'm not going to remember everything, I'm going to be brain dead, it's going to be like mmmmm.... And that's how I felt for my first class, absolutely. But, when I just relaxed and settled into my own sense of self, it was fine and it was great. Philadelphia really gave me a lot of opportunity to be exposed to students that came from really challenging backgrounds.

Parrot: If your students were given a chance to describe you with three words, what words would they use?

Karen: That's an interesting question. Outgoing. I think they would say funny. I make them laugh. I feel like humor is important to break the ice, you know what I mean, and hopefully, empathetic. That's what one of my students just told me. He was kind of struggling, and he said, "You are really nice, like in a cruel way," because I make them do stuff. Here's what we can do, let's talk about this.

Parrot: And you have to work for it. I'm not going to give you free stuff!

Karen: Right, that's not going to do anything for the student. That's not going to make them grow at all. That would be doing them a disservice.

Parrot: That's true. So, throughout your life, when you look back, are there any educational choices that you would like to change?

Karen: Probably the biggest thing is I would have preferred to study abroad for just even a semester or a year, but what I'm hoping to do is eventually teach abroad. I was a student abroad, but I would like to be a teacher abroad, I would like to teach in Italy.

Parrot: How many languages do you speak?

Karen: I speak French, I speak a little Italian. Do you speak French? Because you're Vietnamese...

Parrot: No

Karen: OK. I was actually learning, when I was in San Francisco working as a nurse, I was learning Chinese, which was really hard for me.

Parrot: Yes, it's hard.

Karen: It was really hard for me, but yeah, just Italian, French, and English so far.

Parrot: So far, but you are moving forward.

Karen: I'm moving forward, yes, absolutely. You know, it's funny. When I went to France, just to visit, it came back to me, because I was reviewing before I went over. I think that when you have to submerge in the language and you're forced to speak it, that's when you get really good. I mean, don't you feel like that with English?

Parrot: Yeah, it absolutely helped me moving here. Living in the environment is always easier for you to grow as a whole, not like...

Karen: In a classroom environment is what you mean.

Parrot: Yes, you might be really good at grammar, but you can't speak a word or you speak really well, but your grammar sucks.

Karen: Absolutely (laughter)

Parrot: Absolutely, the environment really helps. Did you ever think that you would move to another country to live?

Karen: Yeah, absolutely.

Parrot: Do you think your family would support that?

Karen: I think my family would love it. I think they would welcome it, depending. I think my family would be very open to me teaching abroad or whatever.

Parrot: Depending on where you are going maybe?

Karen: I think I would go to Italy. I want to see where my





grandfather was born and all that. He was born in a little village south of Naples. I think they would be fine with it. I think they would be excited, actually.

Parrot: I just have some fun questions left.

Karen: Yeah, it's good.

Parrot: If you had ten thousand dollars, what would you do with it?

Karen: Travel.

Parrot: Where?

Karen: If I had ten thousand, probably I'd go to Thailand because I'd get more bang for my bucks.

Parrot: Thailand, it's Asia, we didn't talk about Asia...

Karen: I know, I didn't talk about that at all. I heard people go there and they say the people are really nice and sweet. If I can't go there, I'd go to Italy, but with ten thousand dollars... Oh this is what I would do, I would go to Italy and then I'd try to buy something. Wouldn't get me very far, you never know, maybe a little tiny thing in a little village.

Parrot: OK, another question. Would you prefer a luxury two-week vacation in Hawaii or a two-week trek in the Himalayas?

Karen: Oh, that's interesting, oh gosh.... Being that I'm an ocean person, probably Hawaii, but I would want to be out away from the tourist track. I would rather be where it's more remote and where more of the culture is still there because we ruined so much of that island. And just to be out there in the water every day, and catch fresh fish. That would be amazing, and there is great hiking and mountain biking there too.

Parrot: You like hiking?

Karen: I love hiking, and I'm also a yoga person. I teach yoga.

Parrot: Wow, you teach yoga, where do you teach yoga?

Karen: I'm teaching in Oak Park. You should come.

Parrot: I should. If you had twenty minutes, would you read The Parrot or People magazine?

Karen: Oh, it would be the Parrot!

Parrot: Why?

Karen: Because I want to know what's going on about the school and the students' perspectives, and I don't like People magazine. I don't really care what the stars are doing. I never read that magazine. I don't like it. That was an easy one.

Parrot: Yeah, I have to give you an easy one! All these are hard questions. OK, last one, what is the biggest challenge that you ever had to face?

Karen: Going blind when I was pregnant with my first daughter. I am diabetic, type one, and I got pregnant. I don't know what happened but I started to go blind, and that was really scary. Obviously they treated it and everything turned out OK, but for a while I couldn't see, and it was very scary.

Parrot: For how long did you have to go through that?

Karen: For about a year, but then I got my beautiful baby and my eyes back, so I was pretty lucky.

Parrot: She was blessed.

Karen: Yes, absolutely. I have two daughters that are amazing.

Parrot: That's beautiful.

Karen: Yeah, they are my best friends.

Parrot: I think that's pretty much it. I got a lot. I think your life is pretty interesting. You have done almost everything in life, yoga and traveling and ...

Karen: I still have more to go. I have a long way to go.

Parrot: Yeah, you have interesting hobbies. Thank you so much

Karen: My pleasure.





What are your goals for the New Year?



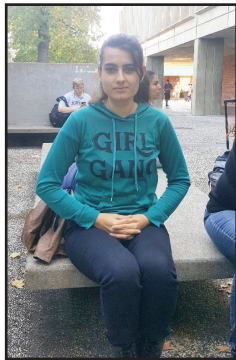
“ I have a lot of things to change for next year. One of them hopefully transfer to Sac State University, find a better job than the one I have now because I am not comfortable with it, and get A’s in my classes “

Noora Raphael



“First of all, learn how to drive, find a job to help my family, achieve at least one of my dreams and open my heart to the world. And maybe change things in my life to make it more comfortable”

Reyam Kadhum



I will not be overwhelmed with too much classes again. I want to take less classes because I want to focus on them, study them, take more time for each subject, and get a good grade.

Tahmina Jurat



I will take higher classes. I will take my major classes because my major is clinical laboratory. I plan to take chemistry and biology next year although it hard for me but I am very excited for it.

Iman Aljuboori



I think right now I just want to focus on education. For example, taking more ESL classes to improve my English is my goal.

Nhi Tran





Out of the Cage

Annual Tree Lighting December 1, 2017 5 p.m.

Carmichael Park will be packed with live music, crafts, vendors and food trucks to celebrate this holiday season. After the trees are lit at 6:15 p.m., keep an eye out for Santa and meet him for a photo! Visits with Santa and event admission are free with a donation of one canned food item. All food will be donated to Sacramento Food Bank.

Location: Carmichael Recreation and Park, Carmichael

Noon Year's Eve December 31, 2017 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Welcome the new year early at Crocker Art Museum's Noon Year's Eve. This high-energy family event is the perfect way to let the whole family celebrate without staying up all night. There will be live music, dance performances, and festive art activities happening throughout the Museum. This is one New Year's celebration everyone can stay awake for — and it's free! Just show up on New Year's Eve with your party hats on.

Location: Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento



Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: **Elaf Khafaja, Betul Nabeel & Habiba Salehzada**

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/ARC_Majors/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm

