

THE PARROT



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

Artistic Photography with Professor Ciel

The Parrot: Hi professor, my name is Aziz. I am a student at ARC in ESL listening 310. Can I ask you some questions?

Professor Ciel: Yes.

The Parrot: Okay, thank you. First, you have been at ARC for a while, right? Please tell me how you got here.

Professor Ciel: Okay, I started teaching at ARC last year. I was invited to apply by Jody because I had taken a photography



class with her, actually more than one of her photography classes, before I went to grad school. After I graduated from grad school and moved back to Sacramento, she saw some of the things I was doing and invited me to apply to teach.

The Parrot: Thank you. Second, how did you get interested?

Professor Ciel: I have

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Caramelized
Pork and
Eggs
(Vietnam)

p.16

“I gave up caring about everthing, and all the problems disappeared.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky

The Last Kids on Earth: a Year in China with Three Children

In 1994 I went to China to teach at the Nanjing Forestry University. I was single, and as the saying goes, I was “foot loose and fancy free.” It was my first full-time position teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL), and it was a great year of learning and exploring. It gave me a chance to “test drive” TESOL (Teaching



English to Speakers of Other Languages) as a profession. This past year, I went back to China to teach again, but this time I was at Haushang College, part of the Guangdong University of Finance and Economics. This time, I had nearly 20 years of ESL teaching experience to

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Student Chirpings

A Country of Opportunities

Living in developed countries offers more opportunities than developing ones. The United States is a developed country, and dreams come true there. People in the United States have a lot of chances to get what they want. If people have a certain goal and work hard, they will get everything they want. There are three good things about living in the United States.

First of all, government support is a very important and good thing for immigrants. For example, if immigrants come from poor countries or don't have enough money to live, then the United States government supports these people in many ways. An immigrant can get free medical insurance. This insurance covers all medical needs. Families which have babies can get free babysitters, and this way, parents can work. If a family doesn't earn enough money to live, it is possible they will get a tax return. To sum up, support from the United States government is a good thing and a big help for immigrants.

Second, establishing a profession which everyone desires is a good thing for a happy life. That is, people can get a favorite profession in the United States which they couldn't get in their country because they didn't have enough money to fund it. It is not necessary to have certain knowledge to get into a college. If people don't have enough knowledge in some subject, they will just start to study a subject from the level they know. If people don't have enough money to get an education, it is going to be free. In addition, a student can get financial aid. If someone is a good student,

it is a good motivation to get knowledge as well. To summarize, getting the profession someone wants is one of the most important things in the United States.

Third, traveling in many beautiful places is a good thing and a good opportunity which the United States gives to anyone who lives there. The United States is a very big country. It has a lot of beautiful places, from sunny Hawaii or California to snowy states, such as Alaska, New York, and others.

There are beautiful mountains, lakes, rivers, and oceans. People have a variety of choices in finding a place where they want to live. Also, if someone goes on vacation, it is not necessary to leave the country because there are many choices for a beautiful vacation. In summary, the United States gives people many choices in finding the climate they desire. It is a very good thing.

The United States gives people a lot of opportunities to create a happy life. The quality of our life, of course, depends on us in many cases, but without government support, it is impossible for people to be happy without a profession they would like to get. A desirable climate is very important for a happy life as well. In conclusion, government support, getting a favorite profession, and many choices in climatic conditions are good things which the United States gives people for a happy life.



Ekaterina Andnosova
ESL W40
Expository essay

My New Star

People suffer accidents every day. You never know what will happen in your life. Sometimes accidents change our lives in a moment. I had such an accident five years ago. That accident changed my life and the way I think.

It was the hardest time in my whole life. Four years ago, I was buying some groceries at a WinCo store. When I picked up some vegetables, I fell on my right side because I was in a hurry and did not see the water on the floor. Some workers were there. I did not know if they saw how I fell, but they saw me on the floor. They walked to me and asked if I was OK, but they did not help me to get up. I had to do it myself. The manager came a few minutes later. She took some pictures of me that showed injuries and asked me for my information. After that, I had to go to see a doctor because my body started to hurt and I could not move well.

I visited many types of doctors to help me with my pain because I could not move my wrist, my ankle, or my shoulder well. My movements made my life difficult. Every task I had to do produced pain. Indeed, I could not walk very fast, my movements were too slow, and I started to gain weight. I could not use my arm to pick things up or put my dishes in the cabinets, and I could not write for a long time because my wrist swelled and hurt me every time that I tried to twist it. All these things made me fall into depression.

After many days of pain that made me feel very unfortunate, one day my life and my thoughts changed. I was driving home, and I saw a young man riding in his wheelchair. He was alone and that made me turn my head. It was raining, but he

was carrying an umbrella. I thought, "Poor guy!" That was not all. Another day, I went to the store feeling miserable about my situation and thinking my life could not be worse. However, I saw that same man buying some groceries; it made me feel more miserable than I had before. I did not know what happened in my mind or my thoughts right away, but somehow I felt proud of him. In that moment, I knew that I could not continue feeling sorry for myself.

That day my life changed and every day now I am thankful for the lesson that he gave me. Sometimes we think that our situations or problems are more difficult to deal with than those of others, but it is not true. Many people suffer accidents every day, and they have to live without a body part or they have to live in their bed, so they have to do and believe double what I do. I will never forget that man who made my life take a new direction. Now I think I have some limits, but I can walk, put my clothes on myself, and even write an essay, and I am progressing little by little. Since that day I have never felt sad for myself again, and nothing will stop me from finishing my goals.



*Edna Villegas
ESL W50
Narrative essay*

My Room

My favorite place, that's the place where I can be myself without being judged, a place where I don't have to care what I am wearing or how I look, a place where I can cry in hard times or just sit in silence and ruminate about my life and priorities. Everyone has their own place where they like to relax and spend some time. For me, it's my own room.

I moved to this room around five months ago from another room. When we were refreshing our house I decided to exchange my room with parents' room. Because my dad really likes that room, I had to leave it for them. In fact, I was happy to move and change the room. I am that person that likes to move furniture and things around. Now I have my parents' room. It isn't a very big and spacious room but it's enough for me. My room

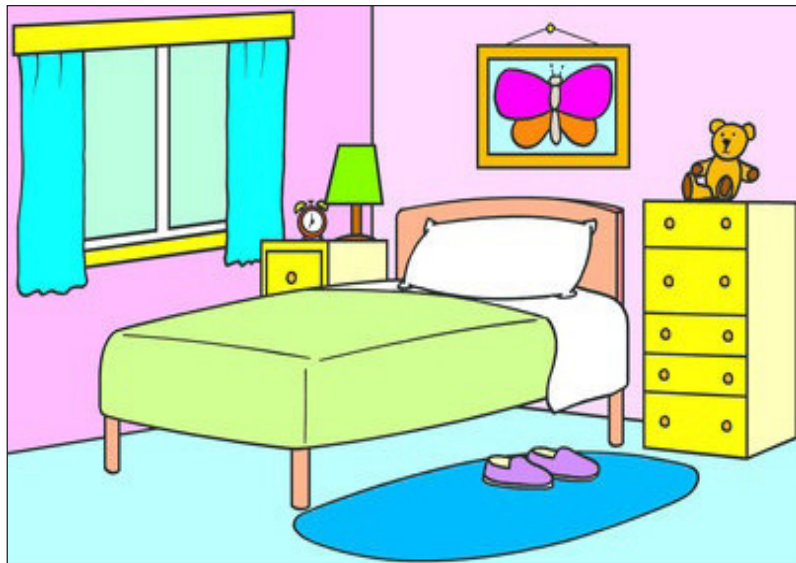
is painted in a mix of gray and beige colors. My furniture is white which gives a nice touch to the walls. There is also quite a big window for which I am really glad. I can open it anytime and get some fresh air. Moreover, sunlight comes through and gives a feeling of spring. I like to open my window in spring or even late winter when it's still cool outside. I enjoy studying when my coffee is beside me and the window is open. Whenever I open my window, I smell fresh air, and nature, and it creates the impression that I am outside at the park or even in a forest. I can hear the birds' tweets and the light cool wind that passes my window.

My room has a closet. It isn't very big. I would say it's normal sized. In my closet, you can find a lot of different things. I have a lot of clothes

although there's nothing to wear. I like when everything is organized. I try to keep it in order and everything in its own place. However, it's not always like that. Whenever I have to clean my room very quickly, I put all the things that are all over my room in my closet. So, from time-to-time my closet is messy with clothes, bags, papers, and many other things. In addition, the closet in my room has sliding mirror doors, which is very important for every woman, in my opinion. Most women want to look beautiful so they pick the right clothes that sit perfectly on them. They spend many hours in the mirror making themselves beautiful. Although I'm not spending hours looking in the mirror, it's also important for me. Moreover, the sliding mirror doors make my room visually bigger than it is in reality, which is a good thing, because my room is tiny.

Overall, my room is ordinary like everyone else's with furniture, a window, and a

closet. However, my own touches make it special and comfortable for me. Pictures of my family and friends which hang on the wall remind me of people whom I love and share my joys and griefs with. The one thing that must be in my room is a small basket. As I already mentioned before, I love to keep things organized. That basket is very helpful in that way. I put some small things in it like a lock, or keys, a book that I often read, a recent letter, wallet, and things that I often use. My room is mine, so I can cry in it whenever I feel like. I am not a person who would show tears to others. As you might know, sometimes we all need that quiet place where we can cry and think about our life, priorities, and other important things. My room is simply full of things that I love, gifts and other



personal belongings and a place where I can show my tears.

Even though my room is small, I like it. My room is part of me because I own it. Everything is organized the way I like. There is a place for everything: books, makeup and a cup of tea. I like it very much. I love to spend my free time in my cozy

room. My room is my rest place from the rest of the world.

Kateryna Melnyk
ESL W50
Descriptive essay

Helping Friends

Most people need help from their friends. Many of them can give help because it is an important part of life. Our lives are full of surprises and events, and everyone needs or gives help. What do people do and how? There are three things that people do to help their friends.

First, in certain situations, people help with money. For example, if my friend wants to buy a house or furniture and he needs money, I can lend some to him. In addition, if my friend forgets his credit cards at home, I pay for him in a store. Also, if friends lose their jobs, I just give them a certain amount of money for support. In brief, people help their friends with money in different situation.

Second, most of us have kids, and people often help other people with their kids. For instance, if my neighbor is sick, I can bring his children to school and pick them up. Besides that, when friends want to travel for a few days, I can take care of their kids. Also, if my friend's teenager has quarreled with his or her parents, I help fix their relationship. In short, helping friends with children is one of the things that people do to help their friends.



Third, sometimes people move to another country, and they really need help during the first few months. To illustrate, if a friend arrives in the United States, I help him with housing, finding the DMV, going to the store, etc. I help him with this.

To sum up, helping friends to integrate into a new society is a thing that people do for their friends.

In conclusion, during life, people have different problems and difficult situations. People often need help. Other people or friends help them with a few things so that their lives are easier. Money, taking care of children, and integrating friends into a new society are three things that people need help with from other people.



Liuolmyla Burda
ESL W40
Expository essay

Small and Difficult but Essential

Have you ever thought about how to use all the features of your devices? At the beginning of the 21st century, there weren't very difficult cell phones or personal computers, and they had simple programs. Therefore, almost everybody could understand how to use those devices. However, in recent years they have become more difficult, and it took much more time for people to understand how to use the full capabilities of their phones and computers. At that time, more people said that it is big step in the future, some said this won't exist a

very long time and some people said that it is evil. When I was looking at these I thought, "I want to know more about gadgets: how are they made, what opportunities do they have, and where can I learn about all of it?"

When I was a teenager, it wasn't an easy time

for me. I couldn't buy a newer gadget and start to learn how to use it. However, when I was seventeen years old, I got a part-time job and earned extra money. Finally, after several months, I was able to spend some saved money to buy a new phone. In addition, it wasn't just a cellphone, but it was a smartphone, so now I could install programs on it, connect to my computer, and could many interesting features on it. It wasn't easy to learn without mistakes. One time I was doing something with the files on the phone and accidentally deleted all videos and photos from our family's trip.

Now I really know how to use smartphones in most ways, but I want to be a professional in the cellphone industry. Now it's easy for me to install programs and simply find needed features and applications. I do almost everything on my smartphone in my everyday life. However, I know almost

nothing about what is happening inside the phone, what software it uses in different situations, and much more. The smartphones have huge hidden world inside. This lack of knowledge pushes me to learn about devices more and more. In addition, I very often see people who don't know how to use simple features in their phones, and I want to help them learn how to do this.

Do you have plan for your future life? Like many people I would like to make my life better, more successful, and happier. I have a dream to

own a very good business in the cellphone sector, which will give me an opportunity to have a flexible schedule and a remote job. However, first I need to graduate from college and university and improve my English. It's very important, especially for those for whom English is a second language to have knowledge in their profession, in addition to



having good knowledge in English. All of the technical and programming sectors use this language. Anyway, I'll try to help people understand how to use their devices.

I hope I made the right decision choosing computer science as my major. Why am I studying this? Because it can give me new opportunities, such as technical knowledge, a stable and growing income, and an unlimited sphere for self-development. However, that is all in the future and now I need to work hard every day and study something new every day to do my best. Never give up, even when I have bad experience, and always go forward! Only when I'm a hard worker can I reach my goals.

Andrii Pidsadnyi
ESL W50
Expository essay

Look Out

"A dog will look down when they have done wrong, but a snake will look you right in the eyes." My grandmother used to say that about one of my aunts, Nora. Yes, she is a snake, and believe me, she knows that about herself! She got this nickname because of her way with people, especially, with her family. Unlike snakes, my aunt has legs, of course she does, she is a human being! While there are some differences, there are far more similarities between snakes and my aunt.

The first similarity between snakes and my aunt is that they can both change in a second. Snakes change their skin often; it can look like a whole new snake when it sheds its skin. Nora does that too. She can change her personality and the way she is talking in a second! She can act like a new person in front of other people, especially in front of my grandmother. My aunt turns to in this cute person no one saw before! For example, she was once

yelling at my little brother Mohanad for nothing, but when she saw my grandma she hugged him and kept asking Mohanad why he is crying!!!!

The second similarity between snakes and my aunt is that they can both bite you! The thing that reminds me of my aunt the most is when I hear that snakes bite! Some people like to keep snakes in their house and play with them; they think snakes are cute and safe! Unexpectedly, snakes bite you without warning such as my aunt. She tries to be your friend or a real family member, but she would bite you when you are not expecting it. She will say

a bad thing about anyone for no reason! I remember that one summer, my mom took my aunt with her to a birthday party for one of my mom's friends. It was the first time my aunt Nora sees that women. She never ever saw her before in her life! The next day, my aunt starts to say lies about that woman!! Why? Because she is a snake and you have you look out for her!!!

The third similarity between snakes and my aunt is the way they both move. Snakes moves slyly toward you exactly like my aunt. You don't know

she is there with you until you see her face! She comes behind you without letting you notice her. I can't forget that day when she tried to come in my room and listen to my phone call with grandma!

People are so different, so be careful who you let into your circle; you might a let snake in! Each one of us has that animal side, but keep in mind that not all animals are cute and cuddly!



Hibo Djama
ESL W50

Comparison/contrast essay

My Childhood Punishment

Punishment is used to correct some actions of people who go against the rules. Punishment can be negative or positive. It is good to punish people but in a positive way, especially when the punished person is a child or student. I had a bad experience of punishment in my childhood although I was a hardworking and polite student in class.

It was Monday morning; I was an eleven year old student in 6th grade. It was our math class. My friend came to me and told me she was sick last

night, and she didn't finish her homework. She asked me to help her. I was nervous because it was against the rules; on the other

hand, my best friend asked me to help her. After a few minutes, I decided to help my friend although I liked to respect everyone and follow the rules. When the teacher came to class, she collected all the homework and checked all of them quickly. She noticed that it was my handwriting in my friend's notebook. She called me and without saying anything slapped my face very hard. I said nothing and came back to my chair. My classmates were scared and silent. I started crying slowly and my best friend was very ashamed. She also started crying and told me, "I'm so sorry." When I went home, I tried to say nothing to my family, but they recognized that I was very sad. They asked me to eat something, but I couldn't. My father was my best friend, and he told me to share every problem with them. He said, "We love you so much, and we will help you." I told him the story. My mother was a teacher; she had a lot of experience, and she knew how to treat children at school.

The next day, my parents went to school and fixed a meeting with our principle and my math

teacher. My mother told them, "I am sorry that my daughter broke the class rule, and she will never repeat it again." After that, she said, "Also, your punishment was not a good way to fix her mistake. You can use another kind of punishment like an absence or loss of points. It is not a good way to act, especially with children." I don't remember what happened to my teacher or the decision of the principle. However, I felt bad because I thought my teacher would never forgive me and that she

thought I am not a good student.

In conclusion, I learned my lesson and recognize to never break the rules if you are a student or in other fields of life. That was a good thing I learned, and my parents helped me

a lot. The bad effect of that action of my teacher was my fear; I was no longer active in class activities. Fortunately, it was not for a long time because it was my last days of elementary school. What do you think? Is it ok to punish children like this?



Susan Roberts
ESL W315
Narrative essay

Secrets of Good Health

Good health is the most important thing in our lives. People want to know how to keep their bodies in good condition and have a long time for an active life. Everyone tries to find the right ways to reach this goal. Three important things to have really good health are all about your personal lifestyle.

First of all, it is important to remember nourishment. Think about how you eat during the day.

What do you prefer to have for breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Of course, all of us like something tasty and delicious, but if your choices lead you to extra weight gain, you won't be happy. For example, daily fast food can change your health completely, including weight gain, in just one month. You need to eat more nutritious food, like vegetables and fruit.

These foods are very good for your body.

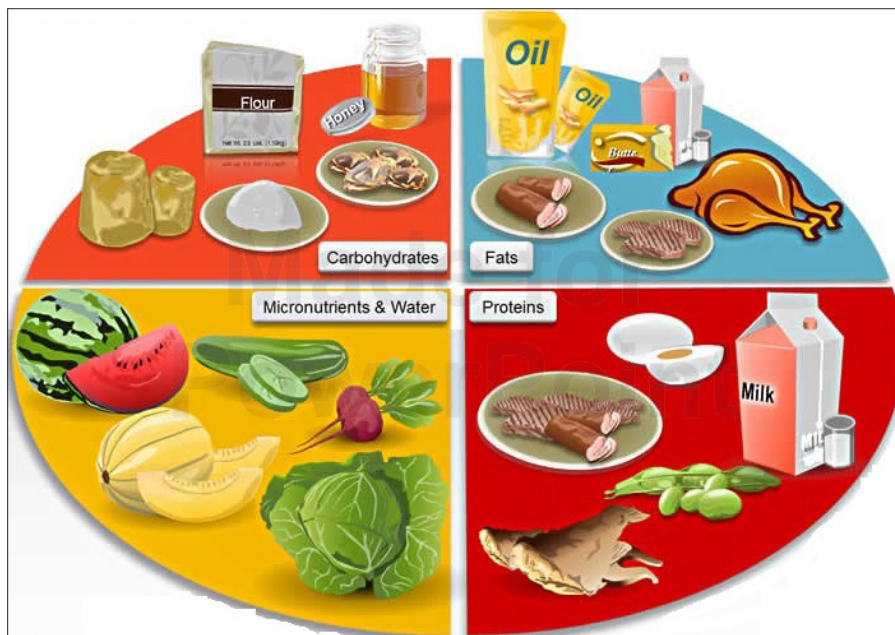
Second, in order to support your health, you need to exercise. Overcome yourself and start to run or swim! You know that motion is life! Your body will be stronger and healthier if you exercise even just fifteen minutes a day. It is a good idea to work out in a group of people. It can be a yoga or fitness class. Physical activity can help you stay healthy for a long time. Thus, exercise is a key to well-being.

In addition, you need to avoid all bad habits. Even if you eat good food and exercise, you can't be healthy if you have some bad habits. Smoking or using drugs can destroy your whole body. You need to break your bad habits and start a new life without them. Of course, it's difficult to do, but you can ask someone for help. Over time, you will be a new

person, and your health will change a lot.

In conclusion, as you can see, in order to have good health, you need to have the right nourishment, exercise, and break your bad habits. You should remember all of these important tips and follow these rules. As a result, you will see a big difference in your life. You can also help other people to change their lifestyle and be a good example for them. It is not easy to keep your health in good

condition, but if you make the right decision and follow it, you will be happy!



Elena Kostritsa
ESL W40
Descriptive essay

About Professor Parrot's Class

Out of four classes I took this semester the ESL Writing 50 of Professor Parrot was hands down the hardest. Even though I don't want to scare you, the hardest part for me was the lack of time, so be prepared. You see in my case I have a full time job and I'm a full time student and sometimes I felt overwhelmed. I have come up with three helpful tips to stay on top at Professor Parrot's class that helped me with time management, communications skills, and overcoming the challenges.

The first step to success in Professor Parrot's class is be prepared for a challenge. Thus, if you pick this class just to get financial aid, drop it!

This is not a class where you take it easy. While you will be laughing in this class because Professor Parrot is the goofiest teacher I have ever met, there will be a lot of hard work, too. Now if you have a full time job and you are enrolled as a full time student, it will be difficult. Honestly looking back I don't know how I did it. Therefore, tell your boss now that you might want less hours. In addition, if you are a single parent with kids like mine, you may want to think ahead who you'll ask to help you out. Trust me you'll need it. If I could compare this class to

my other classes I would say that this was more like a boot camp compared to a regular P.E. class. The positive aspect is the outcome, though. You will learn a lot and your writing will improve. Therefore, if you're not afraid of work and you want to learn a lot, you are in the right class.

The second component of succeeding in Professor Parrot's class is to make sure you are really listening. In my opinion to become a writer you need to possess plenty of knowledge. However you can't have it unless you are listening and studying a lot. I truly believe that this part is crucial because there is a lot to learn. Consequently, you might think about a tutor or ESL lab class. Believe me or not, you will have questions. The information we are receiving in class is condensed. You will be learning

about six different methods or writing in addition to grammar, and spelling. It is a lot to cover and you really need to pay attention in class and study as much as you can on your own. This is all for you, the more you get the better off you are. There is a lot of useful information and if you are hungry for knowledge, you are in the right class

The third and the most important part to excel in Professor Parrot's class is to do your homework. There are three books for this semester besides the twenty-three essays you will be writing and rewriting. In addition, you will be learning spelling and taking quizzes on it. The spelling words you will be writing on your quiz will be

from your memory. Beside all this you will get two packets and a few other handouts. Therefore, do not neglect your homework and do not procrastinate. There will be no time since more assignments are coming every class. Nonetheless, all of it will make your English better, your writing more interesting, and you will be proud of yourself because of all this knowledge. Note, if you get overwhelmed or the feeling like you are drowning in homework, remember two mice who got into the dish of cream. One gave up and drowned. The other keep

pushing until the cream turned to butter and he climbed out of it. Thus, even if it seems hard, it's very beneficial. The knowledge you are getting is for you to keep. It's not like money, it cannot be taken away from you.

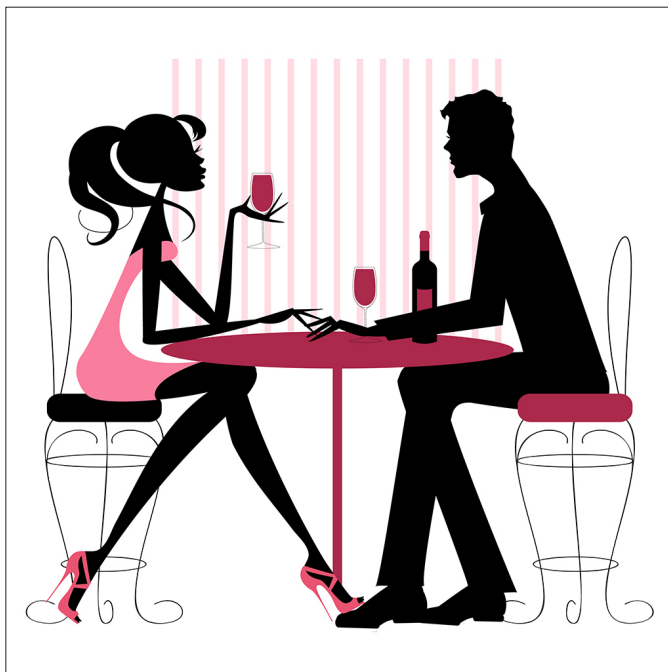
In conclusion, I would suggest to pay attention to the three important components if you want to do well in Professor Parrot's class. You need to be prepared, pay attention in class, and do your homework, those are the most important things to keep in mind. This class was not easy for me but I kept pushing and I did it. Now, it's your turn. Do you think you have the guts?

Lyudmila Shpak
ESL W50
Expository essay



A November Night

It was a cold night. I remember the cold wind hitting in my face, the tree's leaves moving with the rhythm of the music coming from the coffee shop. I could tell the smell of fresh pines. Even though it was cold, I felt warm on the inside. There he was, taking my hand. I felt very safe by his side holding hands, as if nothing else matters. There was nothing that scared me in the dark. With him I could always have shiny days looking into his blue eyes. In that moment I knew I could never see those eyes in someone else; I'd never seen such beautiful eyes like his. I will never forget the most important day of my life since I moved to the United States because of the way he looked at me and treated me.



One Friday morning, I woke up with a different feeling in my heart. I remember the day I met someone via the internet. I knew it was weird to have a date with someone I didn't even meet in person. I was curious and excited at the same time. I wanted to live that experience. My first impression of him was that I thought he was really cute. I was scared because my English wasn't really good at that moment, and he is an American boy. We texted, and he was willing to help me improve my English. Peter made me feel really comfortable until the point I agreed to meet him in person. It was Friday morning. I woke up early, like every day, to go to work. I was very anxious and nervous for what would happen that day. I got off from work, went home and stated to get ready. I didn't have a driver's license, so he was going to pick me up. I was nervous thinking of him and wishing I was good looking enough for him. That moment finally came; he made me know when he finally arrived at

my place. He was there, standing outside. He was as I expected; even more, it wasn't his good looks that mattered. He was such a gentleman. I saw him there standing by his truck, opening the door for me. He saw me and smiled. He hugged me and said, "You smell really good." I could tell he was nervous too. We went downtown. He let me borrow his favorite sweatshirt that night. We walked, we talked, and we enjoyed our time together. That night will always be in my mind. We got coffee and after that, went to a bar and had a glass of wine. I appreciated all the things he did for me. After a great night, we went back to my house. We said goodbye and we hugged. Peter said to me, "You can keep my sweatshirt, that way I can get to see you again to take it back."

I will never regret having taken the risk in meeting someone on the internet. If I hadn't done that, I would have never met him. That night was the most beautiful night I've had since I left my country and moved to the United States. That was one of the most important days I will never forget.



Laura Lopez
ESL W315
Narrative essay

Interview with Professor.

Continued from page 1

get interested?

Professor Ciel: I have always loved photography and camera work and I started out in film. When I was shooting film, I had a really good experience about that; you need a whole team and you need a lot of people. You learn how to work with people so I started photography practice because I wanted to be able to do something with a smaller team on a show level.

The Parrot: How did you get into teaching?

Professor Ciel: Well, this opportunity was presented to me, and I'm always interested in giving back and showing people what is possible, especially in the Arts. People doubt if they can make a living from the Arts and they can. I always wanted to teach people the possibilities and that they have what it takes.

The Parrot: Okay, how do you think you help your students?

Professor Ciel: I think I understand my student and see that they always do better work when they know. I'm patient, I listen to them, and I try to understand where they're coming from.

The Parrot: Do you think you've grown as a teacher? If yes, how so?

Professor Ciel: Yes, I have definitely grown as a teacher, and I hope to grow much more. I think I understand my students at the level where they are, and I can teach them where they are. Because I have a lot more information than they do. I have to go back and think about starting out and how to break down the process when I'm teaching somebody who's just starting out. I think I'm getting better at that.

The Parrot: How has technology impacted teaching in your field?

Professor Ciel: Well, we use technology all the time. We use cameras that use computers to edit the photos, and people post photos online now. So technology is a major part of photography.

The Parrot: Are there any changes you would have made in your educational choices?

Professor Ciel: Interesting, I don't think. Are you talking about my education?

The Parrot: Yes

Professor Ciel: I don't think so. I took the approach of gathering as much information as possible before making the decision to go to college. I feel like I make choices in terms of where I went, and I also study a lot of things. I always knew I wanted to be in the Arts, but I also think it's important to know more than just the Art so I took classes on a lot of subjects.

The Parrot: What is one word that describes you best?

Professor Ciel: Interesting, I would say eclectic.

The Parrot: If your interview gets in the Parrot, how do you think it will affect your life?

Professor Ciel: Ohh, I love the Parrot. I'll be delighted.

The Parrot: Thank you so much professor.

Professor Ciel: You are welcome.

The Parrot: Have a good night.

Professor Ciel: You too.



Interviewer: Azizullah Haidari

Continuing Professor Hoggan's China Trip

Continued from page 1 draw on. This time I was not



alone either. I was accompanied by my wife and three kids, and to spin the saying around, in 2018 you might say that I was "hobbled and worry-laden." That word play is meant to be funny, but as the Swiss playwright and novelist Max Frisch (1911-

1991) once said, "There is nothing more serious than comedy," and so I have to admit that taking my kids to China to have a fun year of adventure was seriously scary. Having kids along was more stressful, and of course, more expensive, than working abroad alone, but it was my kids who introduced me to sides of China that I hadn't even glimpsed the first time I was there.

First of all, before we even actually left the United States, we spent several HOURS—not minutes—discussing all of the inoculations that we should get before going. Fortunately, our kids were up-to-date on all of their basic childhood immunizations: DPT, measles, so they "only" needed to get about a half dozen more shots before leaving: Japanese encephalitis and rabies. They were each a series, but after just three visits over a month, we were ready to fly. "Lucky" for us, typhoid is not an injection, so our kids were given the chance to learn to swallow pills. Some tears may have been shed.

The first time that I went to China, people were very kind and generous to me, but with my children, I experienced a whole new dimension of generosity. On campus, more than once, a student (or more likely a pair of friends), gave our kids a

balloon, pencil, or small toy. About once a week, I would go to "English Corner" (not a formal class but rather English practice sponsored by a campus English Club), and whenever my kids came, they were inevitably given stickers, a key chain, book-mark, or some other trinket, and lots of attention. The students loved them. One particularly memorable evening at English Corner, two young women wound up in a game of tag with my son. It was just the three of them running in and out of the crowds, giggling their hearts out. One of the first Chinese words our whole family learned was PIAOLIANG, which means pretty, beautiful, handsome or cute.

Back in 1994, as a blue-eyed, six-foot-three, white man with a "high nose" (the most often used description I heard of me), I was the first foreigner many of the people in Nanjing had seen in person. I was "the show." In 2019, whenever I went out with my three kids, people barely noticed me. The kids always "stole the show." Foreigners are more common now than 25 years ago, but foreign children are less common. At first, the kids sort of enjoyed their "rock star status." People stopped us on the street or in stores to take their picture, but they (especially our 7 and 5-year old girls) grew very tired of this. Frankly, it started to make them angry, and it got to the point where the girls would scowl and hide behind

their mom or me if someone even looked at them happily because they "knew" that after "hello," a strange hand was likely to reach out to try to touch their long blond hair. We tried to explain the cultural differ-



ences and encouraged the girls to be patient and friendly, but for them, the unwanted attention did not translate well.

However, we had many happy first encounters, too. One smart dad knew how to get past the translation barrier. He was playing with his toddler son next to where my kids and I were shooting a few baskets. He let his little boy lead the way. In my experience, happy toddlers are universally irresistible and seldom seem threatening. The little boy approached us a few steps at a time. His dad prompted him to say, "Hello" and try to wave. My kids didn't need much prompting. They didn't hide. When I approached the dad and initiated a conversation (my poor Chinese + his poor English + our combined translation apps = new friendship), the kids relaxed enough to include the little boy in their play. It turned out the dad was our college tennis coach, and before long, my kids were getting private tennis tutoring. He introduced his wife to me when she arrived after work, we all went to lunch together, exchanged contact info, and saw each other regularly around campus. My kids could spot "Kang Laoshi" (Teacher Kang) quicker than I could.

One of the sweetest displays of generosity was on Christmas Day. We were celebrating as a family in our apartment when we heard a knock on our door. We were surprised to have anyone knock, but even more surprised to see Mao Mao and Bing, two boys in our apartment building. They came bearing gifts (not wrapped, by the way, because it seems that even birthday presents are generally



given unwrapped): 5 boxes of sweet yoghurt drinks, enough for our whole family.

Around Christmas, my son got invited by Mao Mao, another boy, and the boy's dad to go play ping pong. They took us to a ping pong room that we didn't know existed. While the boys batted the ball around (more chasing loose balls and reaching under tables than pinging or ponging), four college students played next to us. They started to notice how frustrated my son was getting with this



fairly new sport. He was not hitting the ball where he wanted it to go. The students were moved to help, but their generous desires added to my son's embarrassment. To their credit, they were also patient and understanding when I asked them NOT to help. But the real generosity was yet to come. After my son became a little better with the paddle and much happier with the situation, and once he decided that he had to just ignore all of the de facto spectators, one of the students brought out a container with winter solstice dumplings. We didn't know it was time to celebrate the winter solstice. They shared the warm glutinous rice balls filled with peanut jam (yes, peanut JAM not peanut BUTTER) in a sweet, thin broth. They made the evening extra sweet. (It was Richard Lederer, author of *Get Thee to a Punnery*, who advised that the difference between a good pun and a bad pun is that a bad pun is one you think of before I do. I'm not much of a punster, so I'll take this one whether or not you think it was bad). I didn't ask the students, but I was quite certain that they were mainly motivated to



share the dumplings with us and our friends because of my son.

Another side of China that I wouldn't have experienced as thoroughly without my kids was fast food. In 1994, I saw one McDonald's and one Pizza Hut in Beijing, the capital of China. I saw a KFC in Nanjing, which was then a "little city" of just 2 million. This past year, we ran into all three of these everywhere we went. In my "small town" of 800,000 (Zengcheng, about 15 minutes from where I worked), there were two Pizza Huts, 2 KFCs, a McDonald's and a Dairy Queen. Because of my kids, I visited all of them. Without them, I would maybe have gone once. Because my kids are fairly typical in their tastes, we learned just how hard it can be to order a cheese pizza. It wasn't on the menu. With the help of a Chinese friend, we had a long discussion with the manager about whether or not we wanted sauce with that, and whether or not we really didn't want anything else. It turns out that trying to translate "tomato sauce" was tricky because the same term could be used for ketchup. Another Chinese friend said that when he worked in a Pizza Hut, they actually used ketchup as sauce.

I understood why my kids wanted to go to McDonald's to get something familiar, but I resisted. Thanks to them, several times I found next to McDonald's another restaurant that sold pot stickers, dumplings, soup or something other than McDonald's. "I'm in China, for crying out loud!" I would scream inside my mind, "I can't go to McDonald's!" The time that I got food at KFC with them instead of going next door, I vowed to try to find the most

"Chinese-ish" food on the menu: black ice cream. I still don't understand how so many black foods look or seem appealing in the Chinese culture, but there seem to be a lot. To my surprise, the "frightening" black ice cream in a black cone was "cheese flavored," basically vanilla.

One of the great ironies of our time in China was that our kids really didn't have any regular playmates. We got together about once a month with a fellow English teacher and her 5-year old daughter, "Lucy." But Lucy didn't speak any English and my kids didn't speak any Chinese, so they played next to each other but not so much with each other. I think that would have changed had they seen each other every day. There were a few boys in our building, as I mentioned, who my son played with. They got over the language barrier thanks to basketball, badminton, soccer, and wrestling. Unfortunately, the Chinese children started school at 8 and didn't come home until 5:30. That left very little time for playmates. Our kids felt like the last kids on earth. This was especially poignant during the National Holiday week (1st week of October) and during the Spring Festival break (January-February) because the campus became deserted, almost a ghost town. To go from 40,000 people to a few dozen made it feel like we had the campus to ourselves, so we explored buildings and otherwise unseen corners and the kids rode their scooters around with noisy glee.

It was a poignant moment about midnight on the night before we left China this past July. We were walking as a family across campus, sweating due to the heavy humidity, exhausted because we had just finished a marathon two days of sorting, giving away, cleaning, and packing. My girls were so excited to get back to America. They were looking forward to "real" Chinese food at Panda Express (which I never saw in China). In contrast, my son was quite sad and I saw him holding back some tears. I was saying a silent prayer of thanks because we had gone a whole year without needing to go to an emergency room—there were some things I didn't want to experience with my children in China. But everything else, I'm glad I did.

By Patrick Hoggan

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!

Caramelized Pork and Eggs (Vietnam)



Directions:

Slice pork belly into 1-inch pieces layered with skin, fat, and meat. Heat sugar in a large wok or pot over medium heat until it melts and caramelizes into a light brown syrup, about 5 minutes.



Add pork and increase heat to high. Cook and stir to render some of the pork fat, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir shallots and garlic into the wok. Add fish sauce and black pepper; stir to evenly coat pork.

Pour in coconut water and bring to a boil. Add eggs, reduce heat to low, and simmer, covered, until pork is tender, about 1 hour. Remove wok from the heat and let stand, about 10 minutes. Skim the fat from the surface of the dish.

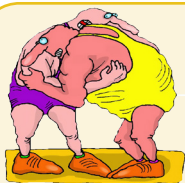
*** Check occasionally while the pork is simmering that the liquid doesn't evaporate too much. Add water a little at a time if sauce seems to be drying out.

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds pork belly, trimmed
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 5 shallots, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 tablespoons fish sauce
- 13 fluid ounces coconut water
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
- Ground black pepper to taste



Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Punctuation

The Colon and the Semicolon

The Colon

1. The colon expands on the sentence that precedes it, often introducing a list that demonstrates or elaborates whatever was previously stated.

Examples:

- There are many reasons for poor written communication: lack of planning, poor grammar, misuse of punctuation marks, and insufficient vocabulary.
- He collected a strange assortment of items: bird's eggs, stamps, bottle tops, string, and buttons.
- Peter had an eclectic taste in music: latin, jazz, country and western, pop, blues, and classical.
- He had just one fault: an enormous ego.

2. The colon is also used to divide the hour from the minutes in writing a time in English.

Examples:

- 4:15 = "four fifteen"
- 6:45 = "six forty-five"

The Semicolon

The semicolon is somewhere between a full stop and a comma. Semicolons can be used in English to join phrases and sentences that are thematically linked without having to use a conjunction (example 1 below). Semicolons can also be used instead of commas to separate the items in a list when the items themselves already contain commas (example 2 below).

Examples:

- I like your brother; he's a good friend.
- Many great leaders, Churchill, leader of Britain during the Second World War; Alexander, the great Roman Emperor and general; and Napoleon, the brilliant French general, had strong characters, which were useful when their countries were at war but which did not serve them well in times of peace.

<https://www.ef.com/wwen/english-resources/>

Idiom--Attic Be a Piece of Cake

*If something **is a piece of cake**, it is very easy to do.

Ex: If it's quiet, the job's a piece of cake. Her family has 11 children, so looking after 4 will be a piece of cake for her.



<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/piece-of+cake>

Pronunciation of 'F' & 'V'

In English, the F and V sounds are often studied together because they are produced in the same part of the mouth. They are both consonant fricatives.

1. The voiceless F sound (IPA symbol: f) is produced by stopping and releasing air between the bottom lip and the front side of the top teeth.

Ex: friend, for, laugh, after, life, phone, and stuff.



2. The voiced V sound (IPA symbol: v) is produced in almost the same way as the F sound. Hold your lips and teeth in the same position.

Ex: love, knives, wolves, Valentine, and wave.

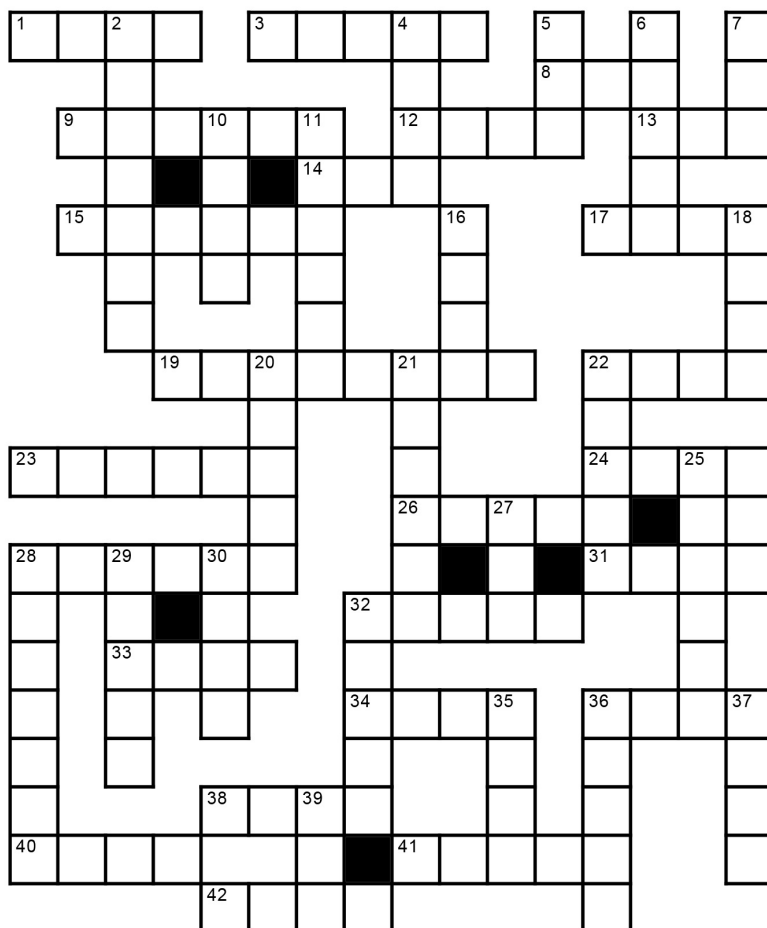
The only difference between these two sounds is that the F sound is a voiceless sound and the V sound is a voiced sound.

<https://www.really-learn-english.com/english-pronunciation-lesson-20-f-v-sounds.html>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff



Word Skills



Hodgepodge

Across

- 1 Another way to say 'very big.'
- 3 Another word for kid.
- 8 The opposite of in.
- 9 A kind of fruit that begins with G.
- 12 The antonym of fast.
- 13 The opposite of young.
- 14 A pet that rhymes with hat.
- 15 A kind of fruit that begins with B.
- 17 Another word for jump.
- 19 A kind of fish that begins with G.
- 22 Another word for speak.
- 23 A season that rhymes with king.
- 24 A food that rhymes with dice.
- 26 A kind of fruit that begins with A.
- 28 Another way to say 'run fast.'
- 31 A forest animal that rhymes with here.
- 32 Another word for big.
- 33 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.
- 34 A drink that rhymes with silk.
- 36 The opposite of soft.
- 38 The antonym of thick.
- 40 The opposite of east.
- 41 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep.
- 42 The opposite of push.

Down

- 2 A synonym for trash.
- 4 The opposite of first.
- 5 A farm animal that rhymes with wow.
- 6 Another word for rock.
- 7 The antonym of good.
- 10 A fruit that rhymes with hair.
- 11 A synonym of afraid.
- 16 Another word for throw.
- 18 A place that rhymes with dark.
- 20 The opposite of heavy.
- 21 A type of lizard that begins with I.
- 22 A synonym of sleepy.
- 25 Another word for smart.
- 27 A farm animal that rhymes with wig.
- 28 The opposite of deep.
- 29 The opposite of wrong.
- 30 The opposite of far.
- 32 A kind of fruit that begins with L.
- 35 A toy that rhymes with bite.
- 36 Another word for glad.
- 37 The opposite of up.
- 39 Another word for sick.

Pet Dog

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 26 letters spell a secret message.

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



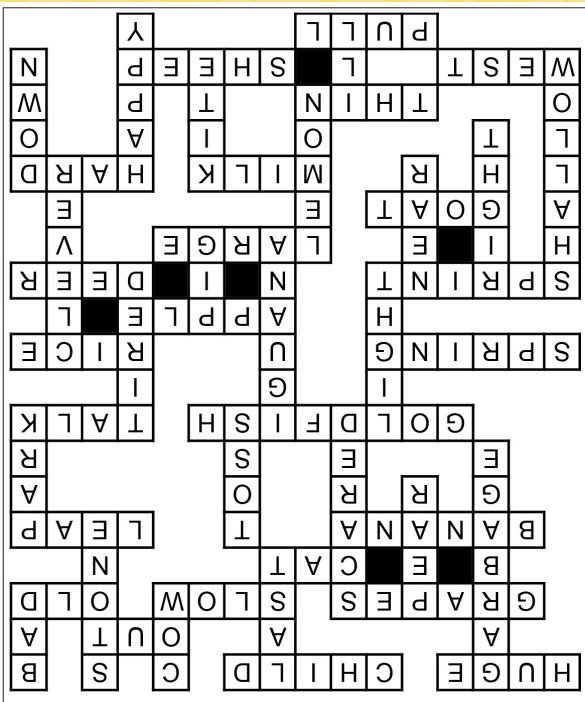
BARK	FEED	ID TAG	PUPPY
BATH	FETCH	JUMP	ROLL OVER
BONE	FOOD	KENNEL	SHAMPOO
BOWLS	FRIEND	LEASH	SLEEP
CANINE	GROOM	LICK	TRAIN
CHASE	GROWL	LOYAL	TREATS
CHEW TOY	GUARD	OWNER	TRIM NAILS
COLLAR	HAIR	PANT	WAG TAIL
COMPANION	HARNESS	PAWS	WALK
FAITHFUL	HOUSE	PLAY	WATER

The Moon

*My only friend, my only light
I feel love when I look at the sky,
seeing you
Like a mirror in the sky
The perfect ball of light, lighting
lover's way at night
Up so high, in the sky
I cannot fly, but if I don't make it
I will simply just die
We get you almost every night
When you're big and bright, you're
like a miraculous delight
You make everyone happy and never
fight!*



By Anonymous
ESL 350 /Spring 2019



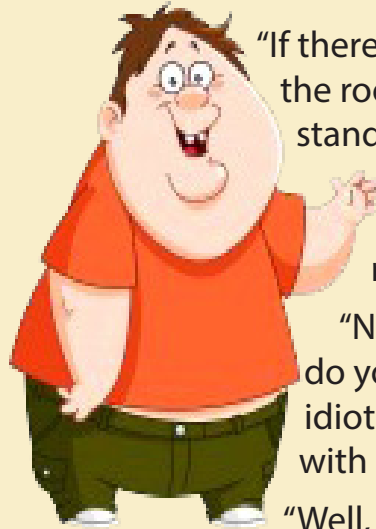
Rigoberto's Riddles

The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?



Footsteps

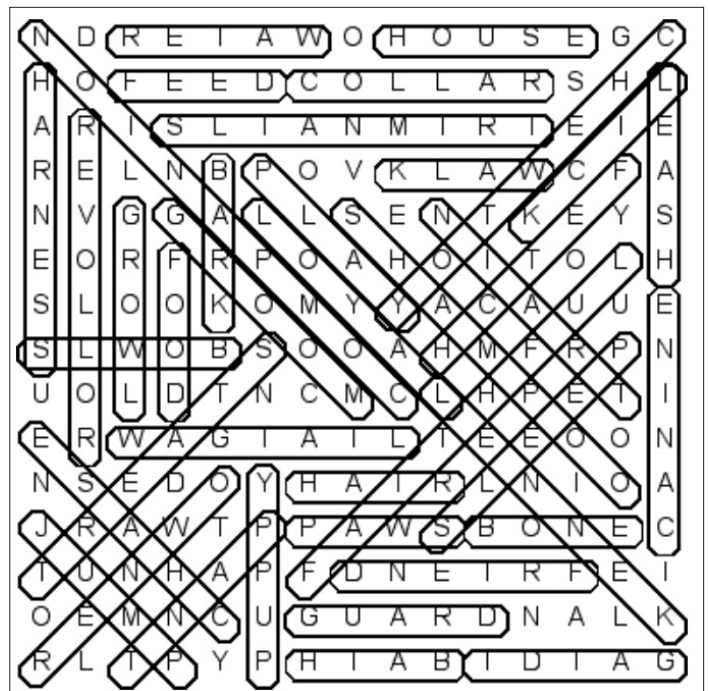
Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up" said the sarcastic teacher. After a long silence, one freshman rose to his feet.

"Now then mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?" enquired the teacher with a sneer.

"Well, actually I don't," said the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."



ESL Lab Information

Are you happy with your midterm results? 😊

The ESL Center still has open classes. You can speak to your teacher about the areas you can work on. Then go to the ESL center. The staff can help you register and begin your work right now.

How can the ESL center help?



- * Practice and review grammar or punctuation.
- * Work on vocabulary to improve your writing.
- * Join speaking groups to discuss many of the same topics used for writing exam questions.
- * Learn grammar for the final exam - the ESL Center has information for every level.



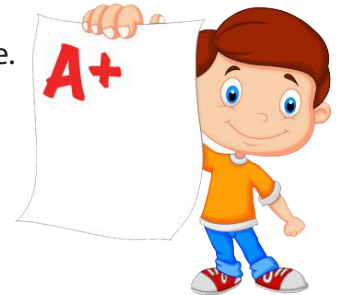
*** We are about half way through the semester, and you can still earn **up to 1 unit**.***

We have flexible hours: You can come to the lab according to your own schedule.

We are open: Mon-Thurs: 8am-7pm; Fri: 8am-12:30pm.

ESL Lab credit is attendance-based: 0.5 unit = 18 hours; 1 unit = 36 hours.

Location: Inside the Learning Resource Center at American River College.



Reading for Beginners

My Day

First, I wake up. Then, I get dressed. I walk to school. I do not ride a bike. I do not ride the bus. I like to go to school. It rains. I do not like rain. I eat lunch. I eat a sandwich and an apple.

I play outside. I like to play. I read a book. I like to read books. I walk home. I do not like walking home. My mother cooks soup for dinner. The soup is hot. Then, I go to bed. I do not like to go to bed.

Did you understand the text?

1. What happens first?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| a. Get dressed | b. Wake up |
| c. Walk to school | d. Eat lunch |

2. What do I like?

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| a. Going to bed | b. Books |
| c. Walking home | d. Rain |

3. My mother cooks soup for

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| a. Breakfast | b. Lunch |
| c. Dinner | d. Me |

4. Do I like to go to school?

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| a. Yes | b. No |
|--------|-------|

5. How is the weather today?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a. It rains | b. It's hot |
|-------------|-------------|

Mount Williamson 14,379 feet (4,383 m)

In the old days of The Parrot, there was Trail Mick. Mick has now given way to Alpine Alex.

Hello, ARC family! The mountains have definitely been calling. Today I decided to answer



the call from Mount Williamson. There is nothing easy about climbing California's second tallest peak. The approach is long (over 26 miles round trip) and involves climbing nearly 10,000 ft. Some superhumans have day hiked this peak. I took two days to



do it and it was still quite a challenge. I stopped at the White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop to pick up an overnight permit on Friday morning.

Shortly after, I hit the road and drove to the Shepherd Pass trailhead. The forecast for the valley was around a hundred degrees. The trail starts climbing up very long switchbacks. It took me 6 hours to reach Anvil Camp where I spent the first night. Anvil Camp is at the top of the huge waterfall in front of you, to the left of the trail's route. The next day I hit the trail at 6:30 am which was not easy because I still felt pain in my legs. I climbed slowly reaching the top of Shepherd Pass sometime around 7:45 am. From the top of the pass, the hike to the Williamson Bowl is easy. I reached the foot of the mount around 11:00 am and established my

tent. I finally began climbing the mountain – mostly up loose scree.

This is where the hike truly turns tedious. After a couple of hours of slow climbing, I finally reached the chimney!

The chimney is considered a Class 3 scramble. After 20 or 30 minutes more I was finally on top! It was now past 4:30 pm.

I thought about how dozens of people were likely simultaneously summitting Whitney, just a short distance to the south. I spent maybe

30 minutes on the summit, then began the long hike back to camp. I had some trouble climbing

down through the chimney, but after a couple of twists and turns, I found my footing and made it to the bottom.

It took a couple more hours to reach my camp. Fortunately, I arrived at my tent about 5 minutes after sunset.

I awoke to another beautiful day in

the mountains. I hit the trail around 10:00 am and was back at the car by afternoon. See you on the trail! Have fun and be safe!



Do you prefer online, face to face, or hybrid class?



"I like to study on campus because it's good for us."

Zeynab Ghafori – ESL



"I like to study on campus because I can ask questions and receive the answers at once. I love the interaction between classmates."

Usamah Hammour – ESL



"I took a hybrid class for Math before and I liked it. However, I love face to face classes. If you study online, the only things you need to do are reading the book and doing quizzes. I can learn more when I study on campus."

Mylina Isquierdo – ENG



"It depends on the class. If you take grammar online, it will be really hard. Other classes are ok."

Xitalali LealBarreto – ESL



"I think I like both online and face to face. They have their own advantages. When you study online, you have flexible time to study. However, reading books can't give you a clear context. If you study on campus, professors will always be there to help you, but you have to come to class at the specific time and find a parking space."

Tuyet Le – ESL

Out of the Cage

Beaver Food Pantry Distribution

Wed, Oct 23 & Nov 6, 2019

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

This service is open to all ARC students, faculty, and staff. The Beaver Food Pantry was started in late Fall 2017 in collaboration with the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services.

Distribution is on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

First time users must fill out a one-time Intake Form before accessing services.



Location: In front of the Gym Ticket Window

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Thurs, Nov 14, 2019

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Come out to this free workshop and learn more about opportunities with apprenticeship programs. Guest presenter is Staci Teegarden with the Department of Industrial Relations.

Location: Student Center
Community Room 2.



Fall 2019 Career Expo

Wed, Nov 6 to Thurs, Nov 7, 2019

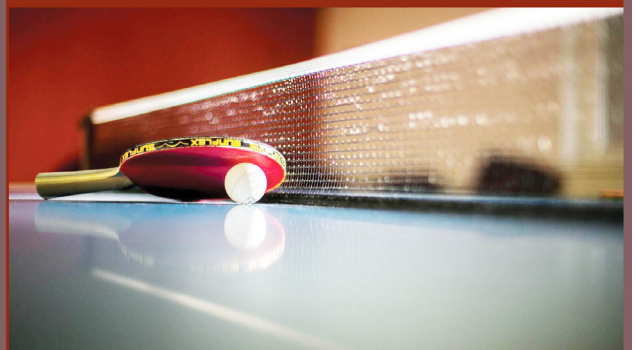
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Come to the Fall 2019 Career Expo to meet with employers and learn about career opportunities.

Location: Student Center



AMERICAN
RIVER
COLLEGE



PING-PONG CLUB

- Have fun and relax
- Meet new people
- Stay active
- Improve mental acuity and reflexes
- Sharpen eye-hand coordination



WELCOME

EVERY MONDAY

3:00 - 5:00 PM

STUDENT CENTER, CLUB MEETING ROOM

SQUAWK!!

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Student Editors: **Alex Grynishyn, Alaa Shatat, and Tuyet Le**

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Contact us by e-mail, call, or drop by. Professor Travis:

Davies 370, (916) 484-4524, or Travism@arc.losrios.edu; Professor Bracco: Davies 337, (916)

484-8988, or Braccop@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to [https://www.arc.](https://www.arc.losrios.edu/academics/the-parrot-newsletter)

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