



The Parrot

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

Issue # 132

Spring 2019

The Art of Linda Gelfman

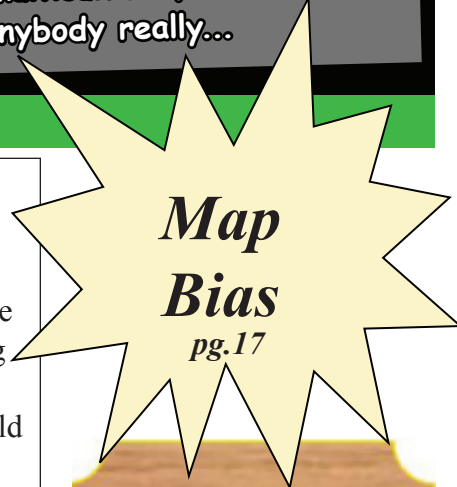
The Parrot: Professor, we know that you are a ceramics teacher and artist. What was your path to where you are now? Was it something you always wanted or something you discovered along the way?

Linda: I always made art as a kid. When I was young, I did not know I was going to be an artist. However, I always made things. Looking back, I always worked in art.



Things like summer school classes, always playing in the mud. I did art during high school, but I never knew you could major in art in college. So, I went in as a psychology major. I am from Chicago. I went to the University of Illinois, Champaign. I lived with friends in a dorm, which had a ceramics lab in the basement. I applied and I got into that dorm. Then, I took a

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Anyone who doesn't think there are two sides to an argument is probably in one.
unknown



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THE WATER SOMMELIER

It's not hard to make fun of Martin Riese—and he knows it.

"A German guy with that accent, talking about water in Los Angeles? It's a perfect comedy thing, obviously," Riese says.



Martin Riese

In a city where so many ventures appear to be the result of someone with lots of disposable income filling out a Mad Libs story and deciding "Hey, that could be a business,"

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Student Chirpings

The Main Things that Help Students Do Well in ESL Classes

Learning a new language is learning how to experience two lives at the same time. Studying in ESL classes is not the main goal for an immigrant; the main goal is using it in their daily life in the USA and improving their skills for a better life. They have come to the USA, which is known as the land of opportunities, to make a better life for themselves and a bright future for their children. ESL classes are like a complicated path that leads them to their main goal. I call it main goal because during this journey among the ESL

classes other goals appear, such as passing the exams, moving up to a higher class, and maybe selecting a major and transferring to university. These small goals are like stop signs and traffic lights which lead students toward their main goal safe and prepared. The most important things that help students to be organized and enjoy the way are time management, communication, and maintenance.

As a consequence of time management, ESL students will be able to put their daily lives on a schedule to have enough time for every activity with prioritizing tasks. It avoids wasting time thinking about each task several times or breaking it down for doing upcoming tasks. It reduces stress and pressure on them for doing work on time. They need to include all routine activities and entertainment in their plan. Time management also helps students have enough time for emergencies.

Because of communication, students can be led to find and select the best methods for improving their speaking, gaining information, and sharing their ideas. They will learn about different cultures of countries all around the world. They will be able to use their information in their behavior with other students and people in their neighborhood and society. So, it helps them not to be afraid of being a member of these communities. They will know about how to participate in activities and



conversations. These points are very important for achieving success in ESL classes. For example, in our first days in America, everything was so weird- looking for me because I had little information about American culture. Here I was seeing some different behaviors while going out and talking to people. The same when I enrolled in col-

lege. I was nervous because I did not know how to react to other people's speech. Then I found that speaking standard English is not a sign of being an American and everyone's behavior is according to their culture. After communicating with my classmates, I gained some information about Mexican, Russian, Arab, and Burmese cultures. It helped me to know I should have standard behavior with people because maybe something which means respect or joking in my culture is known as bad behavior in other countries. One of my experiences on this issue was when I asked my new friend to drink tea with me and I prepared tea for her the same as we do in our culture for a guest who is very impor-

tant for us. But she did not drink it when she tasted it and I saw sadness in her eyes. I asked her to let me know about it, and she said that in their culture preparing tea without sugar is not acceptable for good hosting in their culture. Now I know that before preparing anything for friends from different countries and cultures, I should ask about it.

The last and most important thing for being a successful student in ESL classes is maintenance of using the grammatical and speaking rules and also new vocabulary in daily communication. Using them in our own sentences helps as well. As an example, let me include my personal experience. I learned English in my country. I tried for months to learn English with the best scores in classes. I was successful enough but after finishing I did not use it anymore. So I forgot the points. I came here to the US full of hope that I would remember all things again but no way. I lost all the results of my hard work. I could use it but I did not. According to one of my instructors in college, "knowledge is responsibility", so when we learn English we should do our responsibility by helping other people; being a problem solver. This is one of the important parts

of being human too. We should help other people to enjoy life. When we live only for ourselves, it will be hard to have a joyful life and useful living time. It is not possible to live without communicating with other people. When we live with community for sure there will be some problems facing us or other people around us and for solving them we have to know a common language to make help possible. Learning a language does not end in class; with communication and maintenance we achieve success in learning language. Helping others and being helped is a part of understanding each other and this happens only when you can have somebody who speaks the same language, even if they are from different countries.

In conclusion, we achieve our goal when we know the important things which lead us toward it. Time management, communication, and maintenance are factors of success for ESL students. If students use these factors, they will be ready to be called successful ESL students.

Masooma Mohammadi
ESL W310

Sweet Box

Do you have something in your family that seems to have always been there? It doesn't have to be expensive or exclusive, just something that brings you good memories and means something to you. Maybe it can be connected with some situations in life or, for example, it passed down from your relatives through the years. I have a lot of objects that are important for me. All of them have some story of how they appeared in my life and why they are important to my relatives or me. I still have one of these things. I'll always keep this unusual small box.

My mother told me that she remembers the day when her grandmother bought this box. My great-grandmother always liked unusual and bright things, so when she saw it, she decided to buy it

from a small shop on the corner of the street. This box was made in Moscow. However, it seems as if it was always in my family, and we still have it. Earlier it looked like a little shining box. Now it looks older but still looks lovely. It's made of metal, so the box is quite heavy, even if there is nothing inside. It is silver, but on it there is a pattern of red flowers and small birds that sit in trees. The box is square. When you touch this box, it's cold, with a little rough surface, and in some places the paint has started to disappear. However, every dent on this surface reminds me of some mishaps with this box. For example, a small dent in its corner reminds me of how I dropped the box when I tried to remove it from the top shelf. I was upset because I liked this box, but my mother told me that now it's like a "box with



a story.”

The box usually rested on the upper shelf of the sideboard. In it had constantly been some delicious chocolate candies, so on the days when it was on the table it meant that on that day we would have guests or it was some special day. So, whenever I opened this box, it smelled like different sweets, and it was a sugary, pleasant smell. Even now, this smell reminds me of my childhood, when every weekend my parents filled the box with a lot of sweets: chocolate candies, small cookies, or marmalade. Of course, it was always interesting what kind of sweets they bought this time.



My place of residence changed and I changed, but this box with the candies still stands in a prominent place and reminds me of good

times. I really cherish this beautiful box. If someone asks me what was the “taste” of my childhood, I will answer that my childhood tasted like candies in the box. Probably, part of my childhood will always be with me because whenever my family gathers together, this box of sweets is on the table.

In conclusion, it’s so wonderful when you have something special only for you, or for a small group of people (your friends, family). Only you know what is in this special and important box. I wish I had more memorable things from my past here, in the U.S., but exactly this situation showed me how good it is when you have at least one unforgettable and important thing that can remind you of good times. Isn’t it great?

Olesia Masiuk
ESL W50

Do Not Hurry to be Rich

Somebody once said, “Money doesn’t bring happiness.” However, since an early age, everyone dreams to be rich. Who doesn’t want to live in a big and beautiful house? Who doesn’t want to have an expensive luxury car? Who doesn’t want to go on a dream vacation? Isn’t it amazing to wake up in the morning and to know that you can buy everything? Everything! It sounds sensational! But in real life to be wealthy isn’t so easy. It seems that wealthy people don’t have problems, but they cry too. Besides the dream life that they live, another side exists, the negative one. There are several disadvantages to being wealthy.

The first disadvantage to being rich is living with fear. First of all, fear of losing some important contracts and at the same time a lot of money. For example, I have a friend who has his own business with bees. Because of the abundance of rain this year, bees were not in good condition. He was at risk of losing the contract with the orchards’ owners. That means that he could lose a good part of his income. Rich people also are afraid of their rivals. Business owners must be very careful with their opponents, because who is stronger is the winner. For example, on Watt and James Street there is a Romanian store. In this store you can find European products and organic fruits and vegetables. The owner

had a flourishing business until nearby a Korean store opened, where you can find the same products but a few cents cheaper. The Romanian store lost a good number of customers because of his rival. Now, the owner said, "We will close the store because we have no income." Another fear is to be blackmailed or kidnapped for money. The world is full of bad and malicious people and for this reason rich persons have bodyguards. They are afraid for their family and their lives. A few years ago, in my country, some gangsters kidnapped a politician, and instead of his release they demanded a large sum of money. The first disadvantage to being rich is living all your life in fear.

The second important drawback is falling into dangerous habits. Take, for example, alcohol addiction. Very often rich people hide their failures in alcoholic beverages. Little by little, and bottle by bottle, it turns into addiction. For instance, my friend told me about a famous singer from Russia. After a failure in a love relationship, he started to drink a lot, and his career would have been ruined if his mother hadn't helped him. Drug abuse is another dangerous habit into which rich people can fall, especially young people from wealthy families. Because they want to be appreciated by their friends, they use drugs. Another bad habit is addiction to gambling. Rich people are always looking how to spend their time and to earn a lot of money. Usually a casino is the right place for them. For instance, I have an acquaintance here in Sacramento. He has a trucking company. Because the country's economy decreased, his income was reduced considerably. To drown his sorrows, he started to go to the casino just to relax. Now, he is dependent on the games plus he started to use drugs, too. A few months ago he put the company in his wife's name because he could lose everything. The second important draw-



back for rich people is falling into dangerous habits.

The third and the most serious disadvantage of being rich is having the feeling of loneliness. Wealthy people might believe that their friends are interested in their money but not in their personality. This is very painful when you know that somebody wants to be your friend just for your status, or to use you. I remember one business lady from my country gave an interview. She said that a number of her friends invite her to their birthdays just for the purpose of receiving expensive gifts. However,

during the whole year they don't care about her. A rich person doesn't know whom to trust because she doesn't know who is a close friend and who isn't. This business woman said in her interview that she couldn't open her heart because she couldn't trust anybody. For this reason she felt that she was alone in this whole world, even

if she smiled all the time. Actually wealthy people often don't have success in their personal life. Yes, they have a partner but they don't feel real love or happiness. They just show that they live a full life but their heart is empty. You can look at all famous singers; they have a lot of money but they are alone. They change partners very often because of their lifestyle. For example, Leonardo DiCaprio had many girlfriends but each relationship lasted only a few months. He doesn't have a strong family. He is single. The third disadvantage of being rich is having the feeling of loneliness and isolation.

In conclusion, to be rich doesn't mean to be happy. You can buy everything with money, but you can't buy happiness. There are several disadvantages to being wealthy: living with fears, falling into dangerous habits, and having the feeling of loneliness.

Lenuta Musorivshi
ESL W50



Effects of Not Getting Enough Sleep

Sleeping is like gasoline for our body. If we do not have enough, we could not finish our daily and tiring race! People around the world are rushing every day, from the job to the house and the house to the job. Nowadays, we have less time to sleep and this has been increasing over the years. More activities per day reduce our sleep hours, and if we are not aware of the consequences, we will face a bad situation in our lives. The negative effects of not getting enough sleep are having a lack of concentration, having accidents, and having problems in our health.

The first effect of not getting enough sleep is to have a lack of concentration. This probably sounds not important for some people, but the reality is that this affects important areas of our lives. Our job is important for us; we have family and responsibilities. If we do not take care of our body, it will not be possible to take care of our family and their needs. For example, a man who had four hours of sleep working in a large company may generate losses by being an unproductive worker due to his lack of concentration. Also, students are not out of this situation; college and universities demand too much time from them, which steals their sleep hours. Being a student with lack of concentration can lead to low grades. For example, a student needs to prepare a presentation or study for her exam; she takes many hours to do it and just gets two hours to sleep. The next day her mind does not rest enough to give one hundred percent and she probably will get a lower grade than she expects. That is why sleeping properly helps us to focus on our day-to-day tasks.



Another negative effect of not getting enough sleep is that people can have an accident. All of us have had accidents, but it is much more dangerous when we do not have our five senses alert to help us act quickly. In addition, people can have accidents in their own houses. Take, for example, a mother who slept three hours because her baby was crying all night cooked lunch and left the stove on while she was taking a nap in the afternoon; her house could catch fire! For people who finish their jobs and are driving home, really tired, one blink is enough to produce an accident that, tragically, sometimes ends in death, just for not getting enough sleep. For this reason, we need to sleep sufficiently to avoid dangerous situations in our lives.

The third and most important negative effect is that people can have problems with their health. This is something that all of us probably know, but not everyone thinks it can really affect them. If we have a good sleep, we could have good health and with good health, we can live better. Having fewer hours to sleep can lead us to getting sick. Sickness stops our lives in a certain way and some of them are more urgent than others. For example, a person who is working in an office may get a headache not only because of work, but also because the body did not receive enough sleep to work properly and to manage situations effectively. In other people, dizziness is a common symptom that something does not work well in our body, and it is not a surprise that sickness also can lead to death in some cases. Our mental and emotional health are also exposed by this chain of negative effects. This could become permanent or not. For example, people sometimes

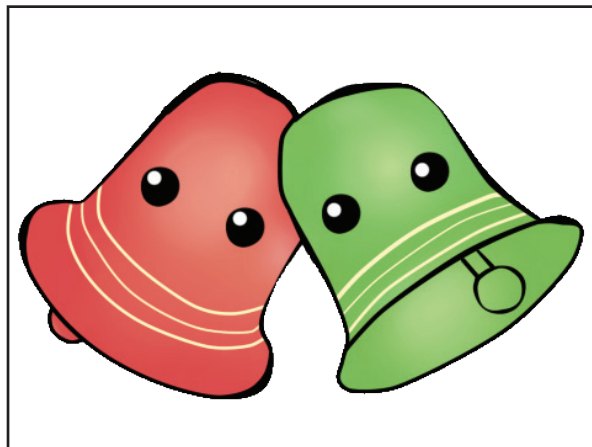
cannot remember things easily, such as memories, information, names, etc... and that can cause stress and worry in their lives. In other cases, people who have not slept enough can become irritable, and that can affect their relationships with others and with their family. As a result of not getting enough sleep, our physical, mental, and emotional health may become vulnerable.

In conclusion, sleeping is a very important thing to our body and if we do not take care of it, we could have less concentration, more accidents, and even sickness. Making a schedule can help us to manage our hours and to have enough time to sleep properly and consistently for our well-being.

Graciela Pereda
ESL W310

I Hear Bells

Whenever I visit my hometown Yaroslavl in Russia, I bring out my favorite souvenirs – bells of the Majolika. I like them very much. “Majolika” is a special kind of decorative ceramic pottery, made by hand. These items are covered with a shiny glaze. They look very attractive. Bells of the Majolika are examples of the ancient art of Yaroslavl craftsmen. The miniature copies of ceramic bells are a great talisman. The sound of bells attracts to our home as much as possible goods and wealth. When we want something, we ring the bell and attract it into our lives.



I have one of these bells in my new home in the US. What is it? My bell is a graceful small bell. It fits in the palm of the hand. When I touch my bell, I feel a very pleasant feeling. It is smooth and warm to the touch. It has a delicate color – ivory! On the surface of the bell is the view of my town from one side and the emblem of Yaroslavl (a brown bear with an axe) on the other.

Each bell has a clapper. Thanks to the clapper, the bell sounds. It usually has a clear and crisp sound. My bell has a small size clapper too. This is a tiny ceramic ball on a string. I love the sound of my bell. The music of my bell is very twangy and clean. It is a charming sound. My bell is kept on a shelf in my

room. I like to show it my friends. Sometimes I take it and listen to its magical sound. In my country the sound of the bell has a powerful force against evil, the evil eye, or natural disasters. The music bells are used to drive away “evil” and to attract “good”. For me, the sound of a bell is associated with the Festival of the Bell. This festival is held in my hometown on the Day of Transfiguration, in August every year. Usually the festival lasts a week. On these days in the Belfry of the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Monastery, the bell ringing sounds. Ringers from many cities come to Yaroslavl. This is an amazing, colorful art event!

What smell may be associated with my bell? For me it is the smell of apples. The Festival of the Bell ringing takes place at the same time as Apple Day. At this time the harvested apples ripen. On these days the smell of apples is everywhere. This is an unforgettable event!

In that way, I like to buy souvenir bells as gifts for my friends and relatives. In my country there is a tradition of presenting a ceramic bell with the wishes of wealth and success. So the bell is not only a talisman. It is also a symbol of goodness, wealth, and prosperity. This bell deserves to live in any home and any collection. I love my bell very much.

Natalia Sivoronova
ESL W50



The Problem of Cheating

Have you ever cheated during your school years? Many academic institutions are dealing with this issue nowadays. The situation has gotten worse since the development of technologies which students use for cheating. Eric M. Anderman, a professor of educational psychology at the Ohio State University, in his article, "The Demand for High Grades Motivates Students to Cheat," writes about the reasons for student' cheating and the motivation that leads to it. He also shares his suggestions to fight cheating to the core. I absolutely agree with Anderman's point of view, which maintains cheating is a serious problem, emphasizes the importance of knowledge, and finds the best ways to combat cheating practically.

The first and the main idea of the author that I think is good is that cheating is a big problem that needs to be solved. The author considers cheating to be a negative experience for both students and educators. Statistics show that about seventy-five to ninety-eight percent of students from different colleges admit to the fact of cheating in high school in the yearly surveys (Anderman). As for me, the number of those who cheat is extremely large! It's hard to imagine that almost everyone used to cheat at least a couple of times. The good news is that understanding and admitting to such a widespread problem is the first step to resolving it. Discussing this issue and publishing the informative articles about cheating are very important to the ways of fighting the problem. Anderman reminds us about the problem of cheating and makes every reader think about it more deeply.



Secondly, the author emphasizes that knowledge itself is much more important than good grades or other benefits, which is true. There is no point in passing a test if the student doesn't take anything to his mind. Moreover, if cheating is the only way to pass an exam for some students, they involve themselves into serious problems in the future. It's all about priorities – what students really want to get from their education. Anderman

states, "When students are learning in classrooms where the teacher truly values mastery of the academic content (as opposed to getting a good grade on an assignment), then 'cheating' really doesn't offer any benefits to the students." In other words, there is no sense in cheating. It only seems to be helpful, but that's not true. The main goals for students should be gaining knowledge. Good grades are good, but they are not useful, in contrast to knowledge. Nothing can take knowledge away

from you but cheating.

Finally, Anderman says that there is always an answer to any question, and I agree with this. Anderman gives us a list of great tips on how to prevent cheating and fight it. Having the opportunity to show mastery of content, redoing the assignments, and keeping the privacy of scores is very useful and a helpful suggestion to modern educators (Anderman). For example, if the student gets a chance to rewrite his work, he will not worry about the grades because he knows they can be improved. As soon as students' grades are kept private, the students won't be able to compare their grades and compete with each other in scores.

Following the tips listed above may help to raise the quality of education and reduce cheating in schools. This is a good start for moving forward!

In conclusion, cheating is a problem of all ages and all times. We understand and admit the problem, as Anderman does in his writing. Knowledge is the only thing that is valued in education. Unfortunately, there is a huge number of students

with the wrong priorities who keep cheating. Notwithstanding this fact, all the students should get rid of the idea of cheating. Just keep in mind that in the future, you will not be able to use the information that you cheated.

Nataliia Pidsadna
ESL W340

One Day in Paris

From my school years, I always dreamed about France. I have always been passionate about French culture, language, and traditions. I had a dream of visiting France, and especially visiting my favorite city in the world, Paris. My dream was realized in 2005 because of the opportunity to have an internship in France. I packed my suitcases, and after two long days traveling on a bus, I finally arrived in the capital of France. I was extremely happy being in the city of my dreams, but at that moment, I did not yet know that I would always remember that day as my most stressful day as a newcomer.

Two friends and I arrived at the bus station of Gare du Nord in Paris. We expected that somebody from the school program would meet us to help us get to the railway station because Paris was not our final destination. We were surprised when nobody met us or even called to notify us. Imagine three girls all alone in the big city. We were so disappointed and we did not know what we should do next.

I speak French well, so I decided to make a decision and help my friends. I looked at the map to find the way to the Gare de Lyon, which was our place of departure. We descended into the subway

to get to the railway station. Three girls with big suitcases in the subway looked so funny, but not for us as newcomers. One of us even cried because she was afraid. I appreciate some of the passersby that kindly helped us with our baggage, and politely answered all our questions.



Finally, we got to the Gare de Lyon. I helped the girls buy tickets because each of us had different destinations. We said goodbye to each other, and I departed from Paris to the city of Moulin, which is in the Allier region. After three hours on the train, I got to the Moulin Railway Station. Déjà vu, nobody met me again, and I was a bit shocked. This time everything ended better, and after five minutes of waiting for my head of internship, he came to pick me up.

Over ten years have passed since that day, but I feel like it happened to me just one week ago. Memories come to life when I look at the map of Paris, or simply when I listen to French music. This situation in my life taught me how to not give up and react fast in extreme situations. Of all the days that I spent in my lovely Paris, that day I will always remember as the most stressful day as a newcomer.

Kateryna Maksymenko
ESL W50



A Better City to Live in

Cars are useful, but when there are too many, the place we live in might not be safe. Everyone likes to have a comfortable life, and having a personal car in this era is standard. Having a personal car in such a large city as Sacramento that is situated near to the coast is one thing, but having a personal car in an ancient, small town, like Chernivtsy, Ukraine, my hometown, is a crime. Because of too many cars in such a small place, life in this city is critical. The ecological and psychological situations are catastrophic. However, there are several solutions to reduce the increased volume of traffic in Chernivtsy.

The first solution to reduce the increased volume of traffic in Chernivtsy is changing almost all the public transportation we have. There are 270,000 people who live in 59 square miles in Chernivtsy now. I remember the time when people there were not in a hurry like now.

They waited quietly for the public transportation we had. Those were beautiful, large, orange-colored tram cars and trolleybuses. They were very spacious, and people were not crowded on them. At some moment, the tram cars disappeared, and in place of them sprang up minibuses and a type of "macro taxis", a very strange public transportation. Neither one of them you will see in a developed country. They are so small, and the seats are so close that it seems that there are not people in them, but canned fish. Moreover, this kind of public transportation can't accommodate the number of passengers we have, so people now there take taxis. Thus, we have a lot of cars on streets, a lot of pollution, a lot of noise, and a lot of stress. It will be better to turn back

in our city history, and bring to the present our tram cars that we loved, or to have a new version of them that would reduce the increased volume of traffic in Chernivtsy.

The second solution to reduce the increased volume of traffic in Chernivtsy is changing the two-way traffic to only one way. Chernivtsy is an old city that started its history more than 600 years ago. Almost all of the streets there are not enough large for the traffic we have nowadays. In addition to that, people park cars on both sides of the streets, so streets there are extra-crowded. Therefore, cars

get stuck, accidents happen, people are injured, and everybody goes crazy. I think that the only solution to this problem is to take an example from ancient cities where the traffic on streets is not two ways, but is in only one direction. So, we will have one street in which cars will run in one direction, and a parallel street where cars will run in the opposite direction. It's so simple.



The third and the most important solution to reduce the increased volume of traffic in Chernivtsy is having bicycle lanes. I remember the time when I was a teenager. I used to take the first bus in the morning to visit my sister in the center of the city. Those were moments of "magicians". I saw the completely empty streets in the early mornings except for the special street-cleaning machines. They cleaned the streets like we brush our teeth. Other types of cars had water tanks, and they watered plants and flowers beds. There were no cars parked on streets like now. Around seven o'clock in the morning the "magicians" of Chernivtsy disappeared, leaving the beautiful and clean city place for its happy inhabitants: children, women, and men living there. At that time people used to use bicycles,

too, to get to workplaces, schools, and stores. Nowadays, I can see some bicyclists on roads, too, but this has become a very dangerous undertaking. Because of too many cars on streets and because of no bicycle lanes, the bicycle trips are impossible in Chernivtsy now. I think that if people in Chernivtsy have bicycle lanes, some people will get rid of their cars. This would be a solution to reduce the increased volume of traffic we have.

In conclusion, life is too short to spend in a bad way or in a bad place to live, and if we have some

problems, it's better to fix them quickly. To solve the problem of an increased volume of traffic in Chernivtsy and to have a better place to live in, we should change the public transportation we have, change the two-way traffic to only one way, and have bicycle lanes and paths.

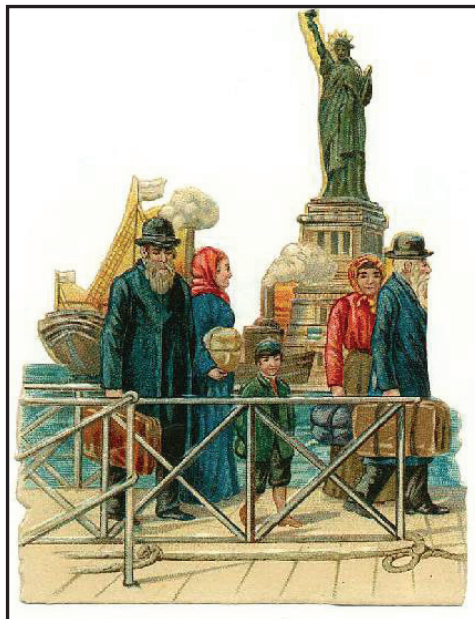
Ala Floca
ESL W50

Important Support

An immigrant is a new person in some country. Every immigrant leaves his place of origin, culture, relatives, and friends. All new immigrants need to get support in a new country. There are three kinds of support for immigrants in the United States.

First of all, the main important thing for every immigrant is community. People who come from other countries need to find a group of people who have the same interests, religion, race, or similar issues. In the community, most immigrants can get support and help. The Slavic community is one of the biggest in the USA. It helps Slavic people to get legal consultations about required documents and to find a job. To sum up, a group of people who can support an immigrant is a very good thing.

Second, for a good job, every immigrant in the United States has to speak English. The government of the US has adult schools to help people learn English. At ARC, many immigrants can take ESL classes. A lot of immigrants who pass ESL classes very well have good jobs. Indeed, every immigrant who lives in America should get support to learn English.



Third, money is an important thing for immigrants. Most immigrants had businesses or good jobs and have a lot of skills and experience. However, in the beginning, it is very hard to make money in a new place. There are immigrant support programs in America. For example, the Department of Human Assistance gives money to immigrants. Also, Financial Aid and CalWorks help students to pay for their education at ARC. In brief, the government of the USA has financial support for immigrants from different countries.

In summary, three good things can support an immigrant in a new country. They are financial programs for immigrants, learning English, and a community of immigrants. The life of an immigrant is not very easy. Everyone needs to have friends, speak English fluently, and make money. America is a country that helps an immigrant to be a full member of society.

Aleksei Kostritca
ESL W40



Durian Delight

Editor's Note: ESL professor, Patrick Hoggan, accompanied by his family, is teaching in China this year. Periodically, The Parrot will publish accounts of Patrick's experiences.

Last year, I read an article about "durian." If you're like me, then you didn't even know what durian was. The article described a rich durian culture in Asia that highly prizes the fruit and discerns between different kinds of durian in a way reminiscent of wine connoisseurs discriminate between different varieties of wine. Like me, you didn't know that durian has a very strong flavor, and you didn't know that it has an even stronger "fragrance." The exceptional quality of durian is that it stinks to high heaven! The article reported that a building was actually evacuated because of the overpowering smell. It scared people. And now I know why.

In September 2018, my family moved to southern China, and the Chinese like durian. In fact, they like it a lot. As a result, we have recently had a few personal encounters with durian. The first was at a small quasi-Italian eatery on the college campus where we live. I was excited to see a picture of pizza on the menu because my kids were not too interested in Chinese food, and I had hoped to get some plain and simple cheese pizza. My dismay at their not having pizza at all that night was overshadowed by the shock that they had a durian pizza for sale! I'm generally up to trying new foods, but I thought of the durian evacuation, and the description of an odor reminiscent of "smelly socks," and I was scared. Durian pizza? "East meets West," I thought,

"but not tonight." I knew I would have to get up my gumption to try it.

I started to notice durian flavored drinks, snack cakes, candy, crackers and more, just like Americans use strawberry but even more. With my radar up, I found a green pastry in a bakery. Green

pastry is a natural warning that you should expect something not normal—at least if you are expecting "American" normal. I figured it would be either green tea flavored (not surprisingly even more ubiquitous as a flavor than durian) or durian. I suspected durian because this pastry also had a few spikes on it as decoration, a nod to the spikes on the durian husk.

A quick sniff and my suspicions were confirmed, and soon a brave bite confirmed beyond doubt that this pastry was indeed durian. Sweet yet horseradish-ish. For a moment, I thought I almost liked it, but the powerful pungency went beyond my tastebuds and mauled my nose and started to mess with my head. It didn't settle well, and soon I was wondering if I was going to, shall we say, taste the durian again. I waited uneasily and queasily until I fell asleep and was pleased that I had been bold and more pleased that I had not gotten as sick as I expected I might.

This essentially satisfied my desire to try duri-



Anthony, Gabe, and Prof. Hoggan

an, and I felt no need to try the actual fruit especially since I had read another article about the offensive fruit. Please know that I say “offensive” not out of my narrow cultural perspective or just from having been humbled by the durian-laced cream puff. There was a plane full of very angry people who thought the same way. This time a cargo of durian in the hull of a passenger plane caused passengers to complain. It was nearly a riot as people demanded to get off. The durian was removed from the plane, but it had found its way into my conversation with friends.

So it was that my friend Anthony and I wound up with a durian pizza in front of us. The durian mystique had also worked its magic on my 9-year-old son, Gabe, and he decided to join our show down. First, we were tricked: those weren’t chunks of durian on top—they were pineapple! But wait, ah, yes that WAS most definitely durian somewhere mixed in with the cheese and white sauce. Oh, my! That was unquestionably durian. Gabe and I got off easy with a couple of wimpy slaps from the durian, but Anthony’s cringing face told us he had gotten a solid punch to the mouth. He didn’t cry, and he didn’t swear, but his mouth had been quite offended. But it was worth the beating. Now he had bragging rights. We all had bragging rights. We had had durian pizza. And that felt like enough for me. I thought that I was done with durian.

But I’m in China, and so I should have known that durian was not done with me. At an “English Corner” one humid Thursday evening (most evenings are rather humid near Guangzhou, China), one of the

Chinese students explained that she had hated durian as a child, but her grandmother contended that durian was very healthy, and so every time the girl visited her grandmother, Grandma would serve her durian. This happened for years, and the girl continued to try durian every time Grandma served it because she could simply not say no to her grandmother. This deference to one’s elders is a matter of what the Chinese call, “filial duty.” (In the U.S., Child Protective Services might call it abuse). The couplet from

Alexander Pope came to mind, “First we endure, then pity, then embrace.” I was hearing testimony from a durian convert. (I had to wonder though if she had “seen the light,” or if she had crossed over to “the dark side.”) I could hardly believe it. She loved durian.

Nevertheless, I still felt that I was done. I no longer felt a need to try fresh durian—after all, how would I evacuate my mouth? Milk diminishes the burn of most spicy food, but as far as I know, nothing dilutes durian taste/stench! I wasn’t interested in a glossectomy (evidently “tongue-ectomy” is not a real word). However, one day, I naively made my

wife wish she could get a rhinectomy (evidently “nose-ectomy” isn’t a real word either). I had a piece of my kids rejected Halloween candy. Just because they had rejected it wasn’t necessarily a bad sign, but the candy had no label, no pictures. Eating “anonymous” candy is risky in the U.S., but in China, where one of my kids actually received a bite-sized “spicy tofu” as a “treat,” eating anonymous candy goes beyond adventure to absolute foolhardiness. It wasn’t the first time I had played candy roulette in China. Most of the time I played, I won, and generally the losers weren’t really all that bad either. In fact, I hadn’t thought that this distinctly durian-fla-





so I hoped to salvage it. Would one of my neighbors like it? To my delight, Andy from Bristol, England lives next door, and he said he likes durian. I wanted to ask him about his grandma, but he has been in Asia for 8 years, so that may explain how he has made his way to the the full “embrace” mode.

Will that be me in eight years? I don’t think so. That cheesecake seemed downright mean, yet I have started noticing durian products again, and I have become much more curious about what a fresh durian looks like and have thought that maybe I’ll ask to see one next time I’m at a fruit store. Who “nose” what will happen?

vored candy was all that bad either (was this Pope’s “pity” already?). However, it actually was THAT bad because my wife, Kristin, who was standing a good three feet away from me winced and nearly gagged as she caught a whiff of the durian candy reeking from my mouth. My respect for durian multiplied, and I dislodged the offending lozenge.

But what was wrong with me? Had I actually liked it. Why hadn’t I been the one to gag? Was something changing in my mouth’s chemistry as if my Chinese grandma had been tutoring my tastebuds through repeated exposure? No, it wasn’t.

Just to put me back in my place, durian snuck up on me once again. Last week, Kristin and I wanted one of the small Chinese cheesecakes from Deer Mill bakery around the corner from our apartment. We had been looking forward to it for several hours, so imagine our surprise when we realized—in one bite—that this particular cheesecake was laced with durian! This was akin to tasting one of Bertie Botts Every-Flavored Beans: one of the sardine or ear wax or vomit beans. I barely managed to stomach a second bite but no more. I hated to throw it out, but I wasn’t going to dare leave it in our fridge to permeate all the other food. But this was a cheesecake,



Nestscape -- Articles from the Web

Continued from pg. 1

Riese, who is a professional water sommelier, fits in. On my drive home from our water tasting, I first passed a Detroit-based luxury-watch store that also sells pressed juice and frequently updates its rooftop billboard with progressively more awful jokes. Then, a few blocks from my apartment, there was the American-vegan restaurant owned by an electronic-dance-music icon. Hell, I live across the street from a “Spiritual Healer and Advisor.”

Yet Riese maintains that he’s more than just another Angeleno curiosity. “Some people in the media say, ‘Oh sure, a water sommelier in the biggest drought in America—only in L.A.’”

“We’re living in the desert and nobody cares about water,” he says. “That is, for me, ‘Only in L.A.’”

Riese’s parents tell him that he was always thirsty. Sometime around the age of four, he began looking forward to family vacations away from their tiny hometown of Aventoft in north Germany—not for the local history or architecture, but because each trip meant another opportunity to sample the tap water in a new city.

“In 2005, I began drinking water professionally,” says Riese, who speaks with a thick, impossible-to-parody accent, from behind the bar at Patina, a shiny French-American restaurant where he’s the manager and water sommelier.

Seven years ago, while a manager at First Floor, a Berlin restaurant, Riese was approached by a customer who wondered why First Floor offered such a wide-ranging wine menu but only had one kind of water. “Water has taste,” Riese says. “Why not create a water menu?”

So he did, and he hasn’t stopped since. In 2008, he

wrote a book, *Die Welt des Wassers* (“The World of Waters”). In 2010, the German Mineral Water Association gave him an official certification as a “water sommelier.” (Around 103 people have received this certificate.) In 2011, he came to L.A. on an O-1 visa—reserved for “individuals with extraordinary ability.”

Riese first created a water menu for Ray’s & Stark Bar at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which resulted in a significant increase in water sales at the restaurant. Now, four restaurants in the city offer Riese’s extensive menu of high-end mineral and spring waters. He teaches water-tasting classes. He lives in Hollywood, drives a Porsche, and has even become something of a (very minor) celebrity, appearing on Conan with Conan O’Brien. As part of GQ’s “Most Expensivest Shit” series, he opened a \$100,000 bottle of water with the rapper 2 Chainz and Diplo, a world-famous D.J. The YouTube video has over four million views.

Now 39, though, Riese’s palate has evolved: “I don’t like the taste of tap water. Therefore, I’m not drinking it.”

While he didn’t offer me any water from the tap, Riese says he’ll pour it for customers with a smile on his face. Instead, he had me try four bottled waters—all poured into long-stemmed wine glasses.

First, Fiji, which goes for \$8 per bottle and is essentially the platonic ideal of what you or I think water should taste like. Then, Iskilde (\$12), a Danish spring water that looks bubbly in the glass but is actually still. It’s available only in restaurants because, as Riese puts it, “You don’t want a Louis Vuitton bag in Ralph’s.” And after Fiji, it did taste slightly ... heavier. Next up was Vichy Catalan (also \$12), a naturally sparkling Spanish water that Riese calls the “Arrowhead of Spain.” To me, it tasted like a more-refreshing, less-medicinal Alka Seltzer. Despite its ubiquity



in major cities like Barcelona, Riese says, “Bottled water with a taste like this would offend people [in America].” (When Riese offered Vichy to O’Brien, the late-night host spit it onto the floor.)

Then came Roi—or, as Riese says, “the big boy.” It’s not on the water menu, and it can’t be purchased in the United States. While I take my first sip, he looks at me as if I’m about to walk into my own surprise party and says, “Jesus, huh?” It’s a sparkling, Slovenian water, which, according to Riese, has the highest magnesium content of any water on the planet. He also refers to it as the “Red Bull of nature,” claiming that he drank a full bottle after an alcohol-filled “berserker” night in Hollywood and woke up without a headache. The minerals immediately left residue on the wine glass, and it’s a wonder that the inoffensive Fiji and Roi, which I can’t ever imagine having more than a few sips of, are both water.

All of the waters on Riese’s 45-page menu occur naturally and contain minerals—some even have more electrolytes than a bottle of Gatorade. This is where the waters get their different flavor profiles from, and Riese feels that any water worth drinking should retain its source minerals.

He calls purified waters, like Smartwater, which is filtered of its original minerals and then pumped with electrolytes, “the biggest scam on the planet.” And he compares purified water to processed food: “I’m not drinking that, I’m not buying it, I’m not promoting it, I don’t wanna see it, and I would never have that on the water menu because I believe in quality—from nature.”

Of course, taste isn’t a concern for the 600-million-plus people on the planet without access to clean water. And nor is it for many of the residents in Riese’s home state of California, where the current drought stretches into its fifth year. Some academics have warned that we’re not too far away from water becoming a more valuable commodity than oil. And as the final shot of *The Big Short* laid out, Michael Burry, the man who foresaw the housing crisis before anyone else, now invests in only one

thing: water.

“The countries who have access to water, they are the richest countries,” Riese says. “And the countries who are battling for water, they have real economic problems.”

In this environment, the optics of promoting and providing pricey bottled water to people who already have access to clean, cheap water might seem a bit off. Riese, though, sees himself as a partial agent in changing our relationship to water: “I’m giving value to something where people think there isn’t a value,” he says.

“Obviously, I don’t want water to become a super-luxury product,” Riese says. “On the other hand, I’m saying that you should value water more than gas. When there’s no more water, try to drink your gas.”

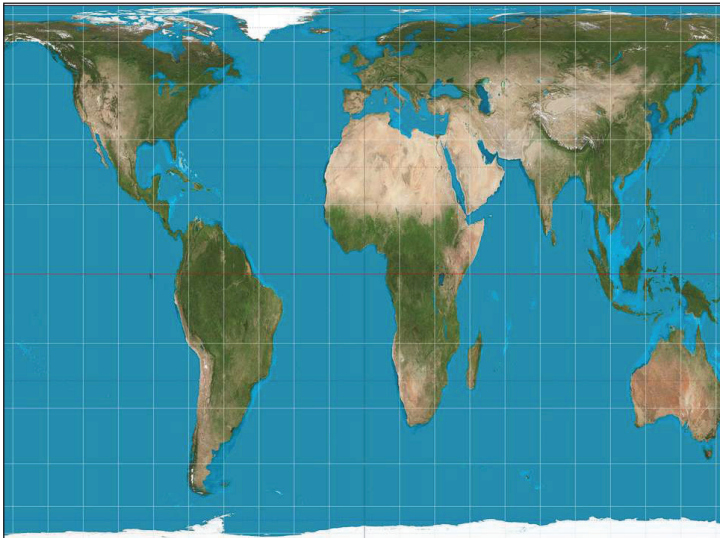
Besides, compared to most other things we eat and drink, producing water has a minimal impact on, well, water. It takes about 1.4 liters of water to make one liter of bottled water; one glass of wine can use more than 100 liters of water; a pound of apples needs about 315 liters of water; and everyone’s favorite drought scourge, the almond, requires over 500 gallons to produce a pound of nuts.

“If you want to fight the drought,” Riese says, “eat less steak.”

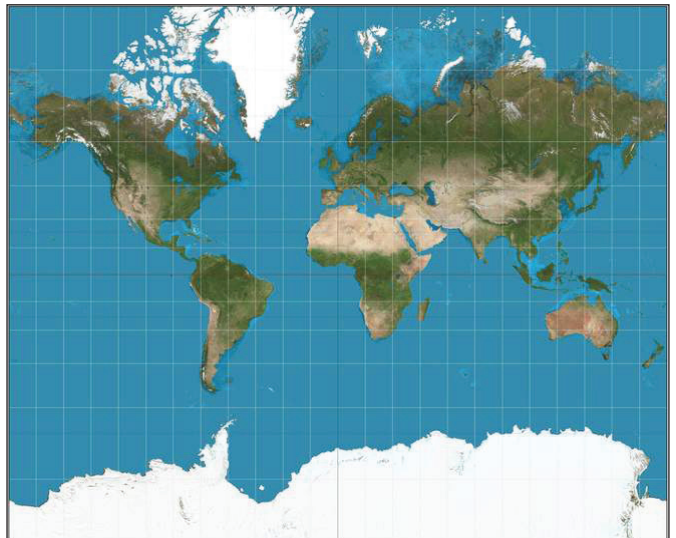


<https://psmag.com/news/the-water-sommelier#bk6xyzz0k>

US schools to get new world map after 500 years of 'colonial' distortion



A Gall-Peters projection map of the world, which gives a much better picture of what the world as a whole actually looks like (Strebe)



A traditional Mercator projection map of the world, showing distortions the further away from the equator (Strebe)

Creating a map of the world presents a fundamental problem – how to turn the three-dimensional sphere of the Earth into a flat, two-dimensional image.

In 1569, the Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator devised an elegant solution that became the standard world map for the next five centuries.

But his method resulted in massive distortions of the relative sizes of the continents, dramatically shrinking Africa and making Europe, North America and particularly Greenland look much bigger than they actually are. Antarctica appears to be the largest continent.

Now, for the first time, thousands of children in schools in the United States will use a very different map, the Gall-Peters projection.

About 600 school classrooms in Boston, Massachusetts, will receive a large laminated map that has come to symbolise efforts to correct the Western world's distorted view of its own size.

Colin Rose, assistant superintendent in charge of the Boston Public Schools' Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, told *The Boston Globe* the move was part of an attempt to “decolonise the curriculum”.

“So this is about maps, but it isn't about maps,” Mr Rose said.

“It's about a paradigm shift ... we've had a very fixed view that is very Eurocentric. How do we talk about other viewpoints? This is a great jump-off point.”

Mark Greaves, lead consultant for geodesy – the maths of map-making – at the Ordnance Survey (OS) said any flat map of a globe was “always involves some compromise”.

“With the Mercator projection, it gained popularity because it was fairly simple to calculate and yes, you could navigate with it because the angles remain fairly true,” he told *The Independent*.

“If you're on a ship ... it's fairly straight-forward



to translate from the map to real-life and vice-versa.”

But this accuracy was achieved at the expense of distortion that increases the further away from the equator.

The simplest way to explain how a Mercator map is created is to imagine a glass globe with a light inside. A sheet of paper is wrapped around the globe, touching at the equator, and then the lines of the continents are drawn onto the paper.

There is no distortion at the equator, but sizes gradually increase the further you get towards the poles. But when navigating over the kind of distances people tend to travel, this does not cause much of a problem.

The Gall-Peters projection concentrates on getting the sizes of the continents correct, so for example Africa appears to be about as large as it does on a globe.

Alaska also shrinks so that it no longer appears, wrongly, to be about the same size as the 48 mainland US states as shown on the Mercator map.

“Gall-Peters focuses on getting the area correct at the expense perhaps of scale or distance and certainly direction,” Mr Greaves said.

“You could navigate by Gall-Peters, but I wouldn’t.”

The OS maps the UK using a modified form of Mercator’s system. The cylinder of paper is wrapped around the Earth from east to west, rather than north to south.

And, instead of the equator, the cylinder is centred on the Earth at two degrees west. And it is sunk into the surface a little bit, in an attempt to minimise the distortion.

This means the map does not stretch the UK to make the northern and southern parts look bigger,

but the eastern and western extremities – a good idea when trying to portray a long and relatively thin island, orientated north-south.

But there is still a small amount of unavoidable distortion.

“Cornwall is ever so slightly longer and wider on the map than it is in reality,” Mr Greaves said.

“But if you are a surveyor ... you can take that into account when you measure the distance on the ground.”

He said the same thing could be done with a Gall-Peters projection but added this would probably involve more complicated calculations.

However, maps are about more than navigation.

Casey Cullen, a history teacher at Westborough High School in Boston, said when talking to pupils he would often cite the scholar Ali Mazrui, who once said: “Geography is the mother of history”.

“The story starts from where we start,” Mr Cullen told the Globe. “If we’re going to try to tell the tale of people from other nations and where they come from, we need to be as accurate as possible.”



<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/world-map-mercator-peters-gall-projection-boston-globe-us-schools-european-colonial-distortion-bias-a7639101.html>

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!

APPLE CAKE (Germany)



2 cup flour

1 cup sugar

1/4 tsp. salt

1 large egg

1 stick sweet butter

Mix flour, sugar, and salt in bowl. Add egg. Mix well. Cut in butter with 2 knives until consistency of coarse meal. Form into a ball. Roll to 1 1/8-inch thickness. Line a 10-inch greased spring-form with dough. Prick bottom and sides. Set in refrigerator until apples are ready. Preheat oven to 375 F. Prepare apples.

FILLING

2 lbs. Apples

juice of 1 lemon

1 tbs. cinnamon

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup grated walnuts

1/2 cup raisins



Peel, core and cut apples into eights. Put into bowl. Add lemon juice, cinnamon, and sugar. Stir in nuts and raisins. Group apple sections on pastry in a circular fashion until bottom is covered. bake 20 minutes at 375 F. Prepare topping while cake is baking.

TOPPING

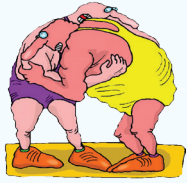
3 tbs. sour cream

3 tbs. sugar

Beat sour cream and sugar together in the same bowl used for apples. (Dripping in bowl help season topping.) When cake has baked 20 minutes, pour on topping. Bake an additional 15 to 20 minutes. Cool. Remove spring-form. Refrigerate cake. At serving time, dust with powdered sugar.



Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Other VS. the Other VS. Another

1- We can use **other with singular uncountable nouns** and with plural nouns:

Ex: - Some music calms people; **other** music has the opposite effect. (different types of music)
- What **other** books by Charles Dickens have you read, apart from 'Oliver Twist'? (additional or extra books)

2- If we use **other before a singular countable noun**, we must use another determiner before it:

Ex: I don't like the red one. I prefer **the other** colour

3- **The other with a singular noun** means the second of two things or people, or the opposite of a two:

Ex: This computer here is new. **The other** computer is about five years old.

4- **The other with a plural noun** means the remaining people or things in a group or set:

Ex: Joel and Karen are here, but where are **the other** kids?

5- We can use **the other as a pronoun**, especially to refer back to something which has been mentioned already in the sentence:

Ex: She has two kittens, one is black and **the other** is all white

6- We use **another with singular nouns**:

Ex: Would you like **another** cup of coffee?

7- We can use **another as a pronoun**:

Ex: The applications are examined by one committee, then passed on to **another**.



Idiom--Attic

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Meaning: you should not make plans that depend on something good happening before you know that it has actually happened.

Ex: She wanted to buy a dress in case someone asked her to the dance, but I told her not to count her chickens before they hatch.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/don-t-count-your-chickens-before-they-hatch>

The Silent Letters

K:

Rule: is not pronounced when it comes before N at the beginning of a word.

Ex: **knife, knee, know, knock, knowledge, knead**

H:

Rule 1: H is not pronounced when it comes after W (n.b. some speakers whisper the H before the W).

Ex: **what, when, where, whether, why**

Rule 2: H is not pronounced at the beginning of many words (remember to use the article "an" with unvoiced H).

Ex: **hour, honest, honour, heir**

Exceptions: hill, history, height, happy, hereditary (Plus most other words beginning with H that are NOT of French origin – and remember to use the article "a" with voiced H)

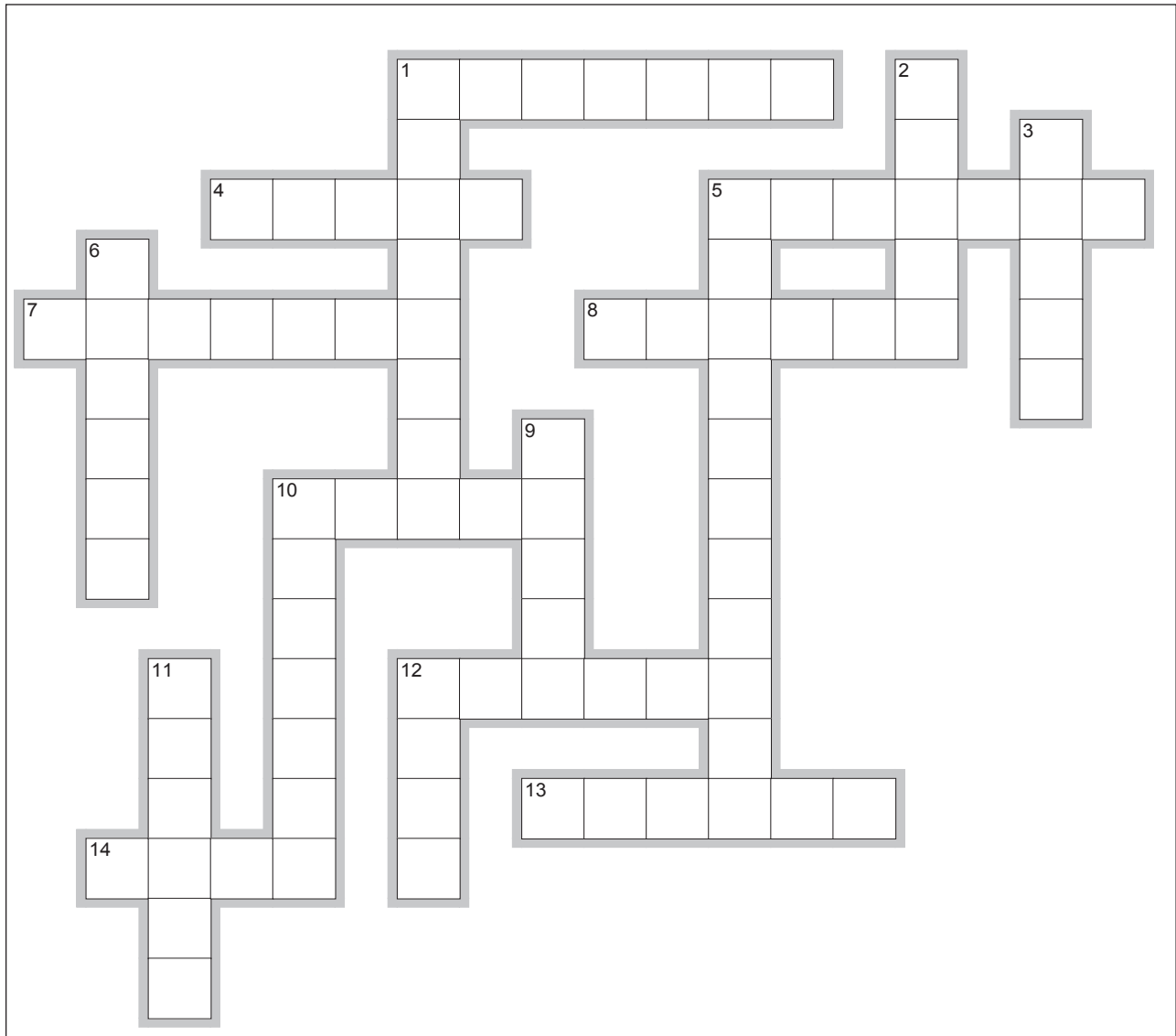
Rule 3: H is often not pronounced when it comes after **C, G or R**.

Ex: **choir, chorus, ghastly, ghoul, aghast, echo, rhinoceros, rhythm**



Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

No joking! Every word in this crossword begins with the letter J.



Across:

1. Rings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.
4. Popular denim garment
5. Custodian
7. The first month of the year
8. A thick growth of tropical vegetation
10. Person who presides over court cases
12. Filled with happiness; elated
13. A kind of puzzle
14. Group of people sworn to look into a matter and give their verdict

Down:

1. A dumping ground for garbage or other waste
2. Liquid squeezed from vegetables and fruits
3. Your knee or elbow, for example
5. A popular Christmas song (2 wd.)
6. A lightweight coat
9. A fruit spread
10. A trip
11. A large spotted cat
12. A tool used to raise a car before changing a tire

If we meet and I say, 'Hi,'
 That's a salutation.
 If you ask me how I feel,
 That's a consideration.
 If we stop and talk a while,
 That's a conversation.
 If we understand each other,
 That's a communication.
 If we argue, scream and fight,
 That's an altercation.
 If later we apologize,
 That's reconciliation.
 If we help each other home,
 That's a cooperation.
 And all these actions added up
 Make Civilization.
 (And if I say this is a wonderful
 poem,
 Is that exaggeration?)

Shel Silverstein

Rigoberto's Riddles

What is the worst vegetable to have on a ship?



A leek(leak).

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you

have?"

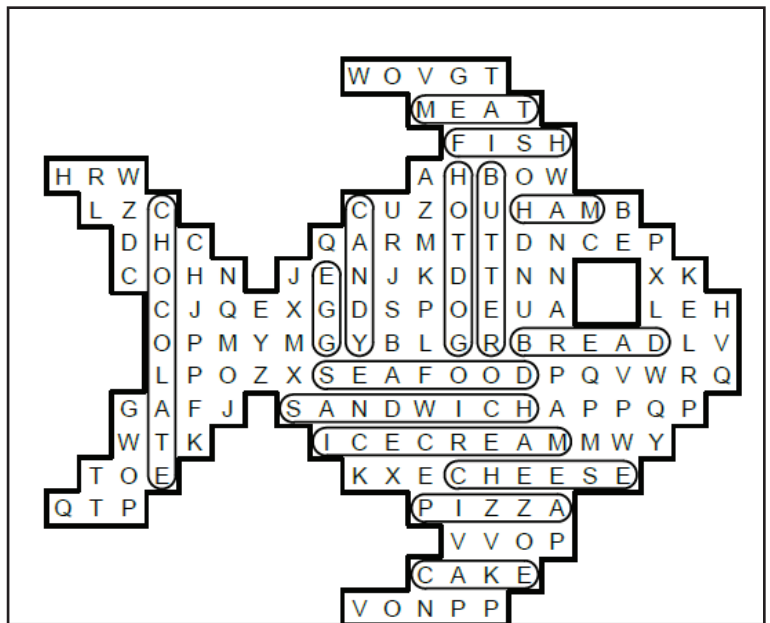
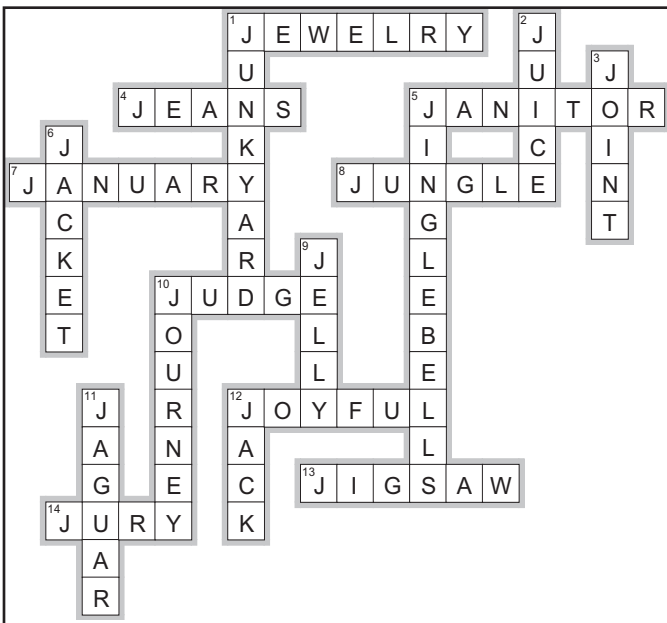
Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"





Nanny Noetal

Editor's Note: *Granny Noetal is on hiatus at the moment: hiking in Hungary, biking in Burundi, sailing in Singapore, kayaking in Kenya, gliding in Guyana, racing in Romania, fly-fishing in Finland, parachuting in Paraguay, swimming in Switzerland, diving in Denmark, and flying by the seat of her pants wherever she goes. In her place, her great grand-niece Nanny Noetal will be running her column with the same insightful advice and tips for ESL students. Don't forget to give your questions to your instructor and she will see that Nanny Noetal will receive them!*

Hi, Nanny Noetal,

My name is Katerina. I am from Russia. I am a new student at ARC and I am not that good at speaking. In fact, I speak like a robot. One example of what I mean is when someone says, "How are you?" My answer is always, "I am good! How about you?" My words are not flexible like a native speaker's. I have also heard many embarrassing stories from my friends about their awkward pronunciation, especially that some words should be pronounced cautiously because we could say bad words unintentionally. Frankly, how can I find a native speaker who will hear, understand, and help me to speak correctly and fix my mistakes?



in a British way. In my opinion, a good way to find a native speaker is through social media. To illustrate, when I was eighteen years old, I was shy, and I didn't speak to anyone. I signed up for Facebook and started chatting with people. Then, we started meeting outside at cinemas or restaurants. Additionally, I had a friend from chemistry class. We talked about homework. Then, she became my best friend. She is good in writing and she helped me in it. In

addition to social media, try to join a club at ARC, speak to your classmates, or do some volunteering work. Actually, speaking to people and making mistakes is not bad because you are going to learn from your mistakes; the bad thing is when you don't learn from mistakes. Eventually, finding a native speaker is not hard. Just try to make friends with the people who have the same interests as you.

My dear Katerina,

Many people in the USA are immigrants and no one can speak perfectly because we have different accents. Moreover, some immigrants pronounce words

Good Luck,

Nanny Noetal

Interview with Prof. Gelfman

Continued from page 1

ceramics class and I started finding out you could be an art major. I was like, "Really! You can major in art?" I switched my major. I have not looked back since then. As an undergraduate, you have to do your General Education. I did enough GEs, so that the last year I was able to work on my art and art history classes. It was a great place to go to. I had a really good time. I did not major in ceramics. I was in the sculpture program there. I had a sculpture instructor who said, "Ten years from now only 10% of you will still be making art". When he said that, I was like I will be one of those 10%. There was a whole core of us that went on to teaching from that

one class. He was a really inspirational teacher. I knew I wanted to teach and make art. I had teachers along the way who were inspiring. Once I started undergraduate, I realized that's what I wanted to do. I wanted to make art, and I wanted to teach. I remember my mom saying, "Oh, Linda, how are you going to support yourself?" and I remember saying, "You know, you start at the bottom somewhere in whatever you do and you work your way up." It kind of does not matter what you choose. I tell my students that you should follow your passion. It is something you are going to be doing your whole life or not, because you can always change paths too. Following your passion is not about making money; it is about finding what feeds you. After I finished

my undergraduate studies, I hooked up with a ceramics studio in Chicago. I worked there and that's when I went back to clay. Then, I met someone who lived in Sacramento. He was a ceramics artist and talked about clay and California. I ended up going to graduate school at Sac State.

The Parrot: Why do you think it is important for students to take your class?

Linda: It is a GE class, so it is a good place to be creative. Everyone is creative, but a lot of times in a grade school they do not have funds for art classes so they cut the arts. Clay is working with the earth. It is very forgiving. I teach not to be perfect. Sometimes if you feel like, "Oh, my God, I have to make this perfect," you are going to miss out on so many more experiences. I think perfection stifles people. It is a good place to get in touch with the earth, to get in touch with yourself, to learn how to express yourself, to be successful at it. With clay, the worst thing that could happen is it could break or does not work. So you just keep making new things. Anybody can do it. Everybody starts at whatever level they are at and gets better from there.

The Parrot: You mentioned that grade school does not support art because they do not have the funds for it. I agree with you. By the time I finished high school, I had taken one art class and nobody took it seriously and it was more of a free class than an art class. It really was not taken seriously.

Linda: We live in a culture that does not support art very much. You go to Japan, and they have master potters they treat with reverence and respect. They are national treasures and here they do not care about potters. Do not give up trying to make art.

The Parrot: I have not given up art, but I am taking baby steps. One of your students said your class helped her be patient. What else do you think students get out of your class?

Linda: Patience is one because it does not happen like that. You have to be patient with art; you have to be patient with yourself. It teaches you to be in the moment. You cannot be anywhere else if you have a piece of clay in front of you and you are manipul-

ing the clay. You can have a lot of chatter in your head. When you are there, you are there, and you cannot do anything about it. With clay you cannot rush it. If you make it too quickly, it might collapse. It has to start drying. Patience because you are really excited about a piece and you put it up on fire and you have to wait for a week before it comes out. You also learn how to trust yourself, trust your voice, and trust your creativity. You get empowered making things.

The Parrot: What do you think is the hardest part of making art?

Linda: A lot of people have an inner critic, someone inside you that comes and says, "Oh, you are not doing it right", "It is not good enough", and "What are you doing?" I know my mother loves me and she brought me up the best way she could, but I think she is the one who my inner critic is. If you recognize that, when you are making things, then you can say, "Okay, I do not want to listen to you right now!" Sometimes I have students make their inner critic. Then that helps you to change "Oh I am not good," because if you say that, then you will believe it. But if you let yourself be bad, then sometimes being bad allows you to make better things that way.

The Parrot: Are there any other forms of art you are working on or you are interested in?

Linda: For so many years, from 1987 until about six years ago, all I worked on was clay. I ate, drank, and slept clay. I teach clay here; also I have a studio and I worked on clay there. I was here for four days a week and sometimes five days a week and I was there for maybe four or five days a week too. I always crocheted and made lots of hats. My friends were tired of all the crazy hats I made, so I have started morphing into sculptures. Then, I started making fiber art. For the last five years, I've started working on fiber arts in my studio. I did installation at the art gallery last semester. I love working on fiber sculpture. I am doing that now. It is nice, because clay requires a lot of patience. It is heavy, you drop it, it breaks. Glazing it is kind of hard; to add lots of colors, sometimes not. This is so easy because I use all upcycle clothing. All the colors are there and I put things together.



I just have a great time doing that.

The Parrot: Are there any projects you are working on inside or outside ARC?

Linda: A project I just finished is a mural. Every couple of years, I teach Art 398. We did a mural fall of 2016 and it was for the art department. There were four sections: one for visual arts, one for theater and music, one was for culinary, and one for interior design and fashion. It was a chaotic time; we were kind of behind. They were beautiful panels. When it came time to fire it, I turned it too quickly. I had never done that before. It blurred probably a third of the mural of all the sections. We glazed up the shards as best as we could. I could not deal with it for a while. Then finally, I had to take care of it because it was sitting on my shoulders. A few students and an instructional aide and I got together and we put it together. All the broken shards were put together in the hands of Fatima, the hand of god, hand of hope; it is protection. We mosaicked it together. To me it was really cool; it is like okay you have this and you have to make the best of it and how it can be reassembled. The hand to me is the protection against all. I think art is sacred; it can convey so much whether to the viewer or to the person who is making art. That is why it is so good for people to be creative. Because there is a way to express feeling in love, or frustration, or whatever out to the world to heal. There are about 12 other murals on campus, which I put up over the years: one in DSPPS, one in science, one by the LRC. There are some smaller ones in the business office, and the bookstore.

The Parrot: Do you have an art website?

Linda: I do not. I am trying. My biggest saboteur is I have a student who does websites. She kind of worked one up for me. I have never followed through; it is really hard! It is hard to promote myself in my art. It takes time. It is like a third job: teaching and making my art. I can promote myself, but I choose not to because it is too uncomfortable for me to do it. I do Facebook and I post pictures sometimes, but no website. That's not me.

The Parrot: We heard you are cat friendly and you help cats around campus. Can you tell us more about

it?

Linda: I do! I am part of the kitty committee. It all started with a theater professor who does sad kitten rescue. In the spring time, she is always taking care of kittens. I started to know about the cats on campus from her. They hang around the ceramics lab. I had sick cats in my lab; they somehow got in. She would always take them and get them healthy, get them fixed. At the end of each semester, I have leftovers from previous semesters or students donate pieces. I take them and sell them to raise money for the ceramics department. I have started throwing bowls to sell for the cats, to raise money to get cat food. I do cat bowls and I put cats on the inside of them. Twice a year, I make a whole bunch of bowls and sell them to raise money to feed the cats. There is another woman who goes around and feeds all the cats.

The Parrot: That is so sweet. Have you taken any as a pet?

Linda: I got my last two cats. One of them had run into my office. At that time, I had just lost a cat. The theater professor gave me the one which ran into my office and another one that she saved.

The Parrot: Is there more you would like to add to inspire our Parrot audience?

Linda: I get a lot of ESL students in my classes because you do not need to speak one language to create art. You do not need to understand so much of what the professor is saying just as long as you can see how to technically make things. I always make students practice their English because it is a safe place. I think it is important that my classroom is a safe space for all kinds of students. Because our campus is so diverse. So it is a safe place for students to come and take class; it is fun. You are making things. It is a fun class. I cannot believe I get paid to teach. I mean, I work hard but it is a joyful class.

The Parrot: Yes, I understand you. It is great that you get paid for doing what you love. Thank you so much for your time!

Linda: You are welcome.

Paroteer: Betul Yousif

Expectations of Student Behavior and Conduct

Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means including, but not limited to the following:

- Copying from someone else's test.
- Submitting work that is not your own.
- Submitting work presented previously in another course, if contrary to the rules of either course.
- Altering or interfering with grading.
- Using material during an exam that is not allowed.
- Consulting with someone other than the instructor during an exam.
- Committing other acts that defraud or misrepresent.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own and submitting it for any purpose. Plagiarism includes the following:

- Incorporating the ideas, works, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of another person's writings, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as your own work.
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly work as your own.
- Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service.

Other Acts of Dishonesty

- Purposely allowing another student to copy from you during a test.
- Giving your homework, term paper, or other academic work to another person to plagiarize.
- Having another student submit work in your name.
- Lying to an instructor to improve your grade.

- Altering a graded work after it has been returned and then re-submitting the work for regrading.
- Removing a test from the classroom.
- Stealing tests.

Disciplinary Consequences

Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, students may incur the following consequences:

- Receive a failing grade on the test or paper.
- Have a course grade lowered.
- Be placed on disciplinary probation or suspension.
- Be expelled.

Cell Phone and Electronic Devices

- It is the student's responsibility to carefully read each class syllabus, follow all class rules and understand the consequences per the professor. While in class, it is essential that students pay close attention to lecture, presentations, discussions, and other in-class activities, and to be respectful of your fellow classmates.
- Observe all Quiet Zones



file:///C:/Users/lily/Downloads/Student%20Standards%20of%20Conduct%20Guide%20-%20Combined%20File%204-26-2018.pdf

Out of the Cage

Getting a Job with the CITY of SACRAMENTO

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

12:00 – 1:30pm

Who wouldn't want to work with the former "City of Trees", now known as the "Farm to Fork"

city? Come talk to our number 1 HR representative from the City of Sacramento to learn now you can land your next career, and become the next wave of city workers.

Location: Community Room 4

Beaver Food Pantry-Food Distribution

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

12:00 – 3:00pm

Every 2 weeks on Wednesday, until May 9, 2019

Participants must complete the online intake form in order to receive services. Free bread and produce until supplies last. Participants are encouraged to bring their reusable bags.



Location: ARC Gym

Resume 101 Workshop Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:30 – 1:30pm

Your résumé reflects your uniqueness. This workshop focuses on the physical appearance of a résumé, including different types of formats and the kinds of information that should be included. Tips on writing an effective cover letter to send with your résumé will be discussed.

Location: CAPPs Office in Student Services BLDG



Starting The New Year Right ...



Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: **Elaf Khafaja, Alex Grynishyn, Alaa Shatat, & Alik Sayfullin**

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