



The Parrot

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

Issue # 137 Spring 2019

Keeping up with Professor Morgan

The Parrot: Professor Morgan, I really enjoyed your talk on Walking in Japan.

Professor Roxanne: Yes, The Kumano Kodo.

The Parrot: It seems that you are really interested in traveling, in hiking, yes?

Professor Roxanne: Yes, you are right. We should close the door. Sorry, it's going to be noisy out there.

The Parrot: OK, let me start. You

have been at ARC for a while, right?

Professor Roxanne: Yes.

The Parrot: How did you start working here?

Professor Roxanne: Well, I was teaching in San Diego, but I always wanted to come to American River College. It was my favorite college.

The Parrot: You were interested in coming here.

Professor Roxanne: Yes, yes, very

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Got A Great Idea For Dealing With Poop In A Spacesuit? Let NASA Know

NASA is looking for some help making the solar system's most portable port-a-potty. So if you think you know the best way to poop in a spacesuit, the agency is ready to hear it ... and you might make \$30,000 for your trouble.



The "Space Poop Challenge" — that's what it's called, we're not making this up — is the latest project of the NASA Tournament Lab, a program to invite members of the public to help come up with "novel ideas

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Student Chirpings

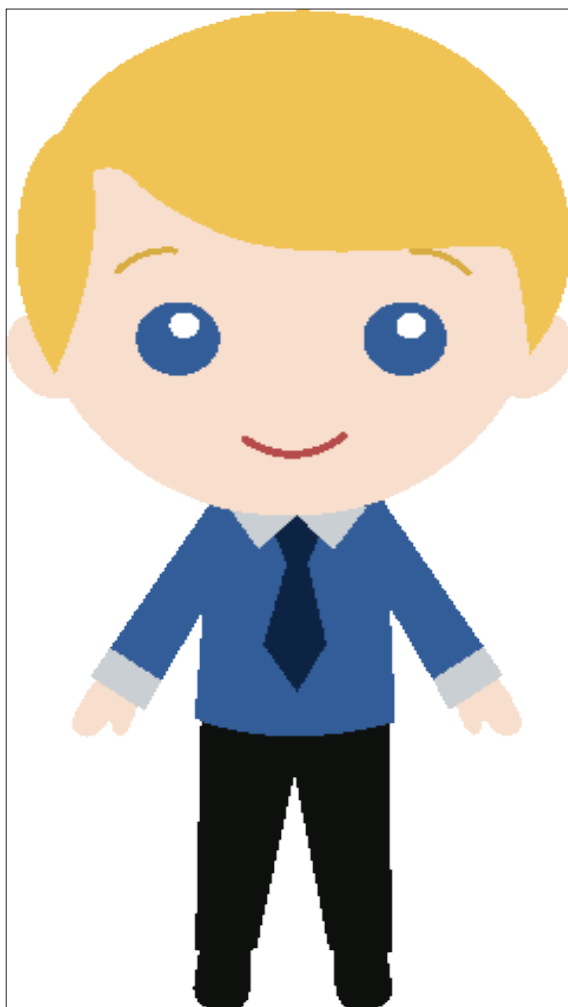
A Person Whom I Will Never Know

Throughout our lives we meet different people. After a certain time, we learn more and more about some of them. However, some of them come into our lives to show us something important, to teach us something, to reveal to us something we did not know. Exactly this type of person I encountered once in my life.

It was a Sunday. My family and I, as usual, went to church for the morning service. We went to church, sat down on a bench, and the service began. The pastor talked about how important and valuable the blessings of our parents are in our lives. The first ten minutes I could not focus on what the pastor said. I was very sleepy and yawned every three seconds. My attention was caught by one family. A mom, dad, and their four sons were sitting on the bench right in front of us. They sat with their backs to us, so I could not see their faces clearly. The main feature that stood out about them from the crowd was their hair. All the members of the family were fair-haired.

My attention was attracted by one of the boys of this family. I never knew him and I had never talked to him before. In appearance, he was about sixteen years old. When he turned sideways, I could see his face. He had a bright face and quite

a long nose. He was dressed like a typical boy of sixteen years old. Classic pants, shirt, and knitted vest were perfectly combined. In that boy was something strange and unusual. All the time during the service, he fussed and talked to his brother. He was not interested in the service, and anyone could notice it who was sitting in the hall at that time. I did not attach any great importance to it, because when I was sixteen I was exactly like him.



A few days later my grandmother said that her friend's son was dead and he would be buried soon. She showed me a picture, and it was that boy. It was the same boy with the same blonde hair and bright face. I could not believe my eyes when I looked at the funeral announcement. My grandmother said that he had used drugs for a long time with his friend, who was much older than him. The day after the Sunday service, he was found dead in a ditch. I could not have imagined that this boy was addicted to drugs. He looked like an ordinary boy, like all boys of his age. It is terrible to realize that his life ended so early.

From this story, I learned a lesson about friendship and friendly relationships. The story of the boy once again confirmed the statement, "Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are."

*Viktorii Biliak
ESLW50
Narrative essay*

Breaking up with Someone

Many people think that love is easy because many of them have no idea about it. Some of them have not tried, but whoever tries knows how hard it can be. At some point in life, we have to learn how to say good-bye and how to break up with a soulmate. However, doing that is not easy, and it requires planning. There are major steps in the process of breaking up with someone.

The first stage in the process of breaking up with someone is to invite your partner to dinner. First of all, choose a time when you will be busy and send an invitation. Then, prepare yourself by wearing some dirty clothes and using a distasteful perfume. Then, cook what your partner hates and don't tidy up your house. Next, when your partner comes, don't open the door quickly and before you open it, say, "Who is the annoying person in front of my house door? I am coming to you." The last step is to be impolite. During the dinner, which is in your dirty kitchen, use your cell phone and ignore your partner. Next, make sure that your friends call you all the time to interrupt the dinner. Your partner will not love you anymore and will not stay with you to finish the dinner. After this dinner, you are ready for the second stage.

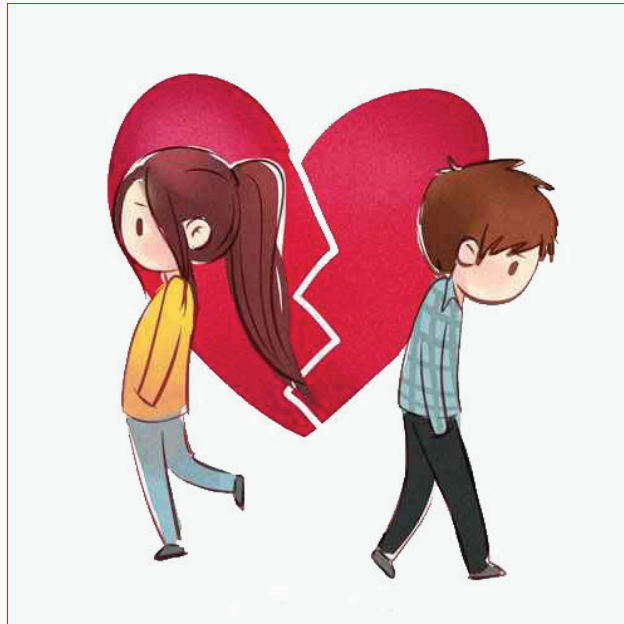
The second stage in the process of breaking up with someone is to totally ignore your partner. Don't speak to, talk to, text, or call your partner. Next, don't answer his or her calls and if you do that by mistake, just say, "I am so busy, or I can't talk to you right now." Then, don't answer her or his night call, but if you do, just say, "Stay far away

from me." Then, turn off your cell phone. Because of all this, your partner will be angry and unhappy. Then, you are ready for the last stage.

The last stage in the process of breaking up with someone is to go to the nearest lake. First, call your best friend to make a plan. The plan will be to scare your partner. Then, you have to choose the scariest mask, like a monster or zombie. Next, you have to make your best friend wear a costume to be a scary dinosaur. The next step is to pick your partner up and drive to the lake. Of course, your best friend will be there and ready. Before you arrive, call your friend to tell him or her that you have arrived. The next step is to close your partner's eyes and make sure to stand her or him at the edge of the lake and put on your scary face. After that, stand with your friend in front of her or him and

say, "Open your eyes, honey". Boo, your partner will fall down and scream, "I hate you, and I don't want to see you again." That's what you want, and you have to just say, "I hate you, too," and whatever else you want.

In conclusion, breaking up with someone is not easy. Follow my directions and everything will be cool. Enjoy your time doing that.



Alaa Shatat
ESL W50
Process essay



Plagiarists Should be Fired!

Did you see the plagiarists? Who are they? How do they look? I really hate plagiarism in all its appearances. It's very bad when people steal the ideas of others. Plagiarists are like spies looking for information or the results that belong to other people and use them for their own enrichment or satisfaction. Obviously, in real life, persons who plagiarize are prosecuted by the law. When does plagiarism begin? When some student asks his classmate for homework to copy, he starts to learn the worst crime in the world – plagiarism. Definitely, this must be prevented in the beginning of education because it is a false way to get success. I firmly believe in the premise that students who plagiarize should be kicked out of college.

The first reason why students who plagiarize should be kicked out of college is plagiarism destroys the concept of learning. Why? If you learn a good profession, you must study hard and get it. Obviously, you must understand who you are, but not what Internet source there is. Explore your mind's skills and you can increase your level. You shouldn't plagiarize by copying others' thoughts. What can you learn when you copy something? Nothing is changed in your mind. When I was young, I studied hard. Some of my classmates asked me to let them copy my test solutions and the results. I strongly answered them, "If I give you my tests to copy, you will learn nothing. I don't want to be a part of destroying your ability to learn" My classmate Oleg made a lot of mistakes because of copying the wrong work. My teacher said to him, "Oleg, you just study making other people's mistakes." I strongly believe that plagiarism destroys the concept of learning.

The second reason why students who plagia-

rize should be kicked out of college is it's a problem to teach us. Obviously, our teachers can't teach us if we copy the work of other students. Why? Professors should understand the level of our education and raise it. Prof. Bracco always says to us, "I don't want the Google essays, but I want your essays. I should understand who you are, and you should know who you are." Professor Krista Hess always strongly asserts, "Plagiarism is the worst crime at ARC. You can be kicked out of college. Don't try to do it." Prof. Elizabeth Specker says, "If I notice that



you are plagiarizing, you will lose your whole semester." Accordingly, I believe that all professors are right because plagiarism prevents them from teaching the students.

A final and extremely important reason why students who plagiarize should be kicked out of college is plagia-

rism spreads among others. This means that some people can pass on to you the test results or their homework to help you or to get money for it. In my previous country, Russia, it was called a "Bearish" service. The "Temple of Education" cannot tolerate such crimes. We all ought to fire the "salespersons of plagiarism". For example, one woman was selling her textbooks, and she advertised her stuff like this, "To whoever purchases my books, I will present all the journals and correct results for the quizzes of this whole course." Once, when my classmate gave me the correct results for a quiz, I firmly answered, "In my life I ought to have the happiness to solve my own problems, and I like to overcome them." Dear honorable students, you should fire the plagiarists because plagiarism destroys the concept of

education and prevents others' learning.

In conclusion, I ought to write to these people who wait for the easy money or look for the easiest way to learn. Plagiarism is primarily harmful to you. Are you learners or plagiarists? Your lives depend on your choices. No one but a complete idiot would believe that plagiarism helps anybody. Unshakably,

I believe in the premise that students who plagiarize should be kicked out of college!

Andrey Kozlov
ESL W50

Argumentative essay

Boring Classes

We all have had many boring classes in our lives. Sometimes the teacher makes your class boring and sometimes other students come to class in a bad mood so class is boring for them. Some teachers start lecturing from the first moment they come to class until the last moment they go, and it makes the class boring. There are three solutions to the problem of boring classes.

The first solution to the problem of boring classes is teachers need to provide some group activity for students in the classroom. Group activities make your class alive. Teachers should push their students to talk with their partners for at least five minutes. I have a chemistry class this semester and our class is not boring at all because we do lots of class activities with our partners. One day I asked my teacher about what the benefit of group activity is in class. She said, "Class teamwork not only makes the environment of your class fun, but also helps students to learn better."

The second solution to the problem is teachers should talk less in the classroom and let their students participate. Teachers don't need to teach every single thing in classes; sometimes they need to pause and let student think. It's not just good for dealing with a boring class, but it's also good for students to learn their lessons. For example, if the teacher always tries to teach students, they never try to participate in the classroom because they

don't have time to say anything. At some point, when teachers teach everything and answer all the students' questions, students don't try to find answers for themselves, and if they don't try to find answers for themselves, it means they are not trying to learn and if they are not trying to learn, obviously, class is very boring for them.



The third solution to dealing with the problem of boring classes is teachers can prepare some fun activities for each class and when the teacher sees the students are getting bored, he can start those activities. This semester I have a writing class and our teacher sometimes has little fun activities for us. One day,

when he saw students getting bored he said, "Stand up and make lines." After making lines, we had to go out of the classroom in a line and walk in a big circle. It was just one of his fun activities to deal with his boring class. One of my friend's teachers sometimes tells jokes in class to have a fun class.

Teachers have lots of options to have fun classes. If your teachers don't try to make your class fun, you can do it by yourself by stretching your hands and legs. It's just a little thing you can do to enjoy your class and learn better.

Yasaman Taghavi
ESL W50
Problem - Solution essay



My Mistake with my Uncle

It was a regular morning in my office where I did service for logistics and transportation. The smell of the fresh coffee reached my nose and filled my brain with positive emotions. I had an unusually good mood. Sunbeams played behind my computer and folders. The sound of birds tweeting outside made me happy. Everything was joyful. Around 10:00 in the morning I received a call from my uncle, a call I will remember my whole life.

My uncle is a rich farmer in my country, Moldova. He manages about 25,000 acres of land. My uncle uses John Deere brand for agricultural machines. On that day, he asked me if I could transport two big John Deere tractors from Germany to Moldova. The company where I worked provided regular trucks. The tractors that my rich uncle wanted to move were very big and regular trucks, which wouldn't work for his order. I had to find an oversized truck, which required special permits and requirements. The price for oversized transportation is twice as much as regular.

At the end of the week, I found a company from Romania that agreed to place our order. The Romanian company was a very famous company and it was a favorite in the oversized transportation field. The manager of the Romanian company, whose name was Andrian, was a very skilled person and he helped me a lot to fill the order that I received from my uncle. Andrian and I spent one more week to get directions for the oversized truck. Special trucks have special directions and have to follow these directions because on the regular roads, trucks may face a challenge like lower level bridges and narrow roads. We also calculated the price for this trip. It was a total of 10,250 euros.

Almost two weeks after the call, I presented

all the information about the tractors' transportation to my uncle. On the one hand, the price wasn't cheap; on the other hand the order was specific. As he was my uncle, I decided not to charge my commission on this order. I gave him the price without my fee. The next week the truck was in Germany. When the truck with the tractors left the company in Germany, my uncle's manager called me and told me that we didn't pick up extra wheels for those tractors. I told him that it wasn't in our order. After five days, the tractors arrived in Moldova. I called my un-



cle to make sure everything was OK. He was angry at me because I didn't pick up extra wheels for his tractors. I tried to tell him that it wasn't agreed in advance, but he wouldn't listen to me. He also told me that his order was incomplete, and he wouldn't pay for this order. I was confused and seized by a wave of anger.

I had to pay money to the Romanian company. I found myself in a bind. I couldn't believe that my uncle would deceive me. I didn't have money to pay the debt to the Romanian company. In addition, after five weeks I received a subpoena. My accounts were blocked by law. I was in big trouble. I couldn't imagine that my uncle was such a stingy person. My heart was broken. I had no choice and I took my uncle's company to court. Finally, I resolved all my questions, but I didn't forgive my uncle.

This situation was a lesson for me that I learned forever, and I will remember that situation my whole life. One person had a great phrase: "Being family is determined more by behavior than blood."

Serghei Vitcov
ESL W50
Narrative essay

Surprising Place

There are a lot of interesting places on our planet. My family loves to travel. Every year we try to visit some new places. It could be a new city, or resort, or nature reserve. We love to relax on the beach and hike in the mountains. There are places which we had visited once and that was enough. There are places that we want to go to many times. I especially love going to places where I can see the unusual natural environment. We were in one of these places in the fall of 2016. It was "Calaveras Big Trees State Park". This is a park of huge Sequoias. Giant sequoias (also known as Sierra Redwoods) are the largest living things ever to exist on the earth. I have never seen anything like these trees.

I had a particularly strong impression from one corner of the park. That place had one of the trees and it had a name "The Pioneer Cabin Tree". It was believed that the tree was more than a thousand years old. That tree had a very large trunk, and this trunk had a tunnel through which you could walk. It also was a very high tree. That was such a beautiful place! I could have stayed there for hours. The giant sequoia seemed fabulous! I thought that tree was from an ancient era, just from a different world. It was an indescribable feeling! When you stand next to that tree, you realize how small you are in this world! It was so enormous!

I also love to touch these trees. "The Pioneer Cabin Tree" seemed very soft to the touch. I felt incredibly warm from him. When I was leaning against that tree I felt that it was like a battery. I mean I got energy and charged from him.

Oh! Smell! A very pleasant smell of pine needles was in the park everywhere. Especially strongly I felt it next to "The Pioneer Cabin Tree". I think if all the time you breathe such useful air with a volatile production of sequoias, you'll always be healthy. We didn't want to leave that place. We were very glad that we visited it.

Unfortunately, this story has a sad end. Recently I read that "The Pioneer Cabin Tree" was destroyed during a storm in January, 2017. I was so upset, like I was losing my best friend! I was so

sorry! It was the last tree with a tunnel that was still standing in California, but we have photos of this amazing area of the planet, which now doesn't exist. It is very sad when such unusual trees die!

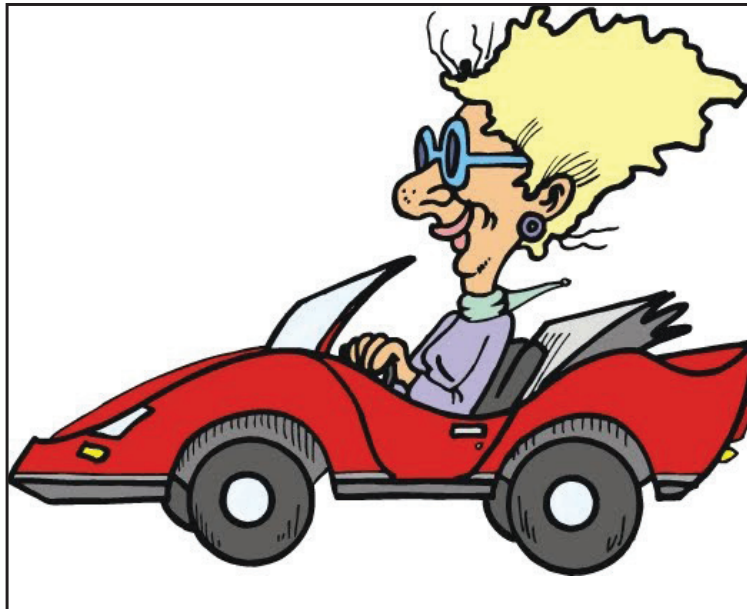


Natalia Sivoronova
ESL W50
Descriptive essay



I am for Safety on the Road!

The modern pace of life does not allow us to stand still. There is always a need to rush somewhere, whether it is work or home. Therefore, today there is a growing number of people wishing to drive a car. For both young and old, the car extends the possibilities, giving independence and freedom from other circumstances. Thus, today we can often see older drivers behind the wheel. From my point of view, on the one hand, it is good that even in old age elders remain independent and self-reliant. However, on the other hand, elderly drivers sometimes could be a threat to those around them. The main disadvantage of the elderly driver is bad health. The number of illnesses includes reduced vision, hearing impairment, chronic illness, and so on. Poor health significantly reduces the quality of driving and may lead to emergency situations on the road. I consider that



it is necessary to take certain measures to maintain safety on the road. Consequently, I strongly believe that drivers over seventy years old should be required to take a road test every year to renew their license.

The first reason why old drivers should take a road test every year is to keep their families calm. Elderly drivers' relatives usually worry about old people who still drive a car. For instance, many years ago my grandfather lost his son in the Afghan War. He was so upset and grieved the loss a lot. He also became very ill after that happened. However, he had a big household, and he couldn't abandon it. I remember how my grandma worried when he went by car on business. Most of all she was afraid that he might feel sick on the road because his

health condition didn't allow him to stay behind the wheel. Besides, even if family members understand that it's already not safe to drive because of old age, they often can't convince an older man to give up driving. For example, my friend's grandpa, who is in his eighties, doesn't want to agree that it's time to forget about driving for his own safety. "I'm fine! Why do you consider me a feeble old man?" that was his angry response to a comment that he was too old to drive a car. Even when his relatives assured him that anytime he needed to go some-

where, they would pick him up, he didn't accept their offer. The reason is his belief that it would adversely affect his independence. Consequently, I'm sure that an annual health check will identify the elderly drivers who are still capable of driving, and those who had better use public transportation.

The second important reason for taking a road test is to ensure the

elders' own security. Everyone knows that elderly people should pay more attention to their health. It may happen that a person behind the wheel who suffers from chronic diseases might suddenly feel bad, but there would be no one to help him. Just imagine this terrible situation! I think no one would want this to happen with his relative. Recently I heard on the news about an accident when an elderly driver had a stroke; he lost control and crashed into an oncoming car. Fortunately, the ambulance managed to save the old man, and no one was hurt badly. However, all cases are different, and nobody knows what might happen on a busy highway when an elderly person suddenly becomes ill. Dozens of people could be affected. My acquaintance recently drove to work when sud-

denly another car moved out from the intersection and almost collided with him. It turned out that the old driver had problems with his vision, and he did not see the approaching threat. In my opinion, it's very important for elderly drivers to recognize and accept the fact that it is time to be more cautious and for some of them to forget about driving, as it becomes dangerous for them. The main way to protect yourself and others is self-control. "Do you feel sick?" Give your place behind the wheel to your relative or ride the bus. Don't you understand; it's not only about you, it's also about surrounding people and people you love. That is why it's much better to warn yourself and those around of the danger of driving alone in old age.

The most important reason why it's important for elderly drivers to check their ability to drive a car regularly is ensuring the safety of other drivers and pedestrians. There are many examples when because of the old drivers' serious accidents, a large number of injuries occurred. One of them is a well-known tragedy in Santa Monica, California when an 86-year-old driver confused the pedals and at full speed crashed into a crowd of people; for a few minutes he couldn't stop. Ten people were killed. Isn't it terrible? Isn't it worth taking some strict measures that would protect innocent people from such incidents? It is my belief that it's necessary to take off of the roads people who pose a threat to the safety of others. I remember that, several months ago I witnessed how an old man was trying to see the name of the street while driving; for a moment he was distracted from the road and drove into an opposing

lane. It happened so suddenly that other drivers had to brake sharply to avoid a serious accident. I was so scared, and for a long time couldn't calm down. As an inexperienced driver, I am very afraid of unexpected situations, and of the people who cause emergency situations on the road. That's why I always try to be very careful while driving. What is more, I beg all of you: Be careful while driving, don't be distracted by phone calls and messages, and put safety first!



In conclusion, I'd like to say that I think the authorities should pay attention to the problems related to elderly drivers and make some changes in the rules of the road. It seems to me that when that happens, it would be safer to drive a car and the number of accidents would be reduced noticeably. But what is the solution for the older

people who are still able to drive safely? Do they have to give up their cars? Not at all! Older drivers with good health just have to accept the new rules and take a road test to renew their license once a year.



Arina Romanciuc
ESL W50
Argumentative essay



The Most Terrifying Day of My Life

As everyone knows, moving to a new country is very hard at the beginning. I moved to Sacramento, California from Afghanistan in March 2014 with my wife and two daughters. We were all happy and hoped to have a better life. It was our first week in the U.S. Everything looked strange to us. Before we came to the U.S, we all had a different picture of the U.S. We thought everything would be all right. We didn't anticipate we would face some problems. The day when my daughter became sick was one of the worst days ever in my life.

It was a beautiful morning and I woke up with my phone alarm ringtone right at 7:00 am. As soon as I woke up, I noticed someone was crying. When I went to my daughter's bedroom, I saw that my oldest daughter Hadia was very sick. She was only four years old. She had a fever and her whole body was warm and she was just screaming a lot. As a father, I was deeply alarmed and nervous. That's why I was not able to do anything. I called a friend of mine, but he said that he was just back from work and he could not help me. As a newcomer to the U.S, I didn't know anybody else around. So I called the resettlement agency "Opening Doors" which was supposed to help us, but they didn't respond. I didn't know where the hospital was. So I held my daughter and put her on my shoulder and left the house. I didn't know where to go. I knocked on the door of my neighbor but no one responded. I went to the parking lot of the complex where I was living but no one was around. I started going to the street and stopped a car and asked a guy to help me but he said to call my "insurance." I had no idea what he meant by my insurance at that time. I was so confused and didn't know what to do. At the same time my daughter was screaming. I didn't know the emergency number to call. I was running on the street. I had a bad feeling at that time. It's very hard to hear your kid screaming and you cannot do anything. So I reached the main street and

waved my hand and started asking for help. Finally a guy stopped and I told him that my daughter was sick and I needed his help. As soon as heard me, he called 911 and told me to wait there.

After a couple of minutes, I saw two red cars coming with alarm sounds on. They just stopped and asked questions and asked for an insurance card. Since it was our first week in the U.S, I hadn't received her medical card yet. Despite that, they took us to Kaiser Hospital. When we reached the hospital, they took us to the emergency department and doctors came in and started helping my daughter. Being in the hospital for the first time in the U.S was very strange for me. I never had good memories of hospitals in my life. I was stressed and nervous. I was concerned about my wife and my other daughter because I didn't have any contact with them. I felt so alone.



After an hour of treatment, the doctors told me that my daughter had become infected by a kind of virus and that she had an environmental allergy. Therefore, they gave some medications to my daughter. Hopefully, she would be well. They said that we should stay in the hospital for the entire day. Consequently, that day the time did not pass as usual for me. Two hours later my daughter started talking and it made me so happy. I thought I was the happiest father in the world for a minute. We stayed in the hospital for the entire day. By the evening, the hospital discharged my daughter and we went home. When we got home, my wife could not control herself and started screaming and hugged our daughter. From that day till now, I will always remember that day.

Abdul Baqi Jamal
ESL W50
Narrative essay

My Dreamy Room

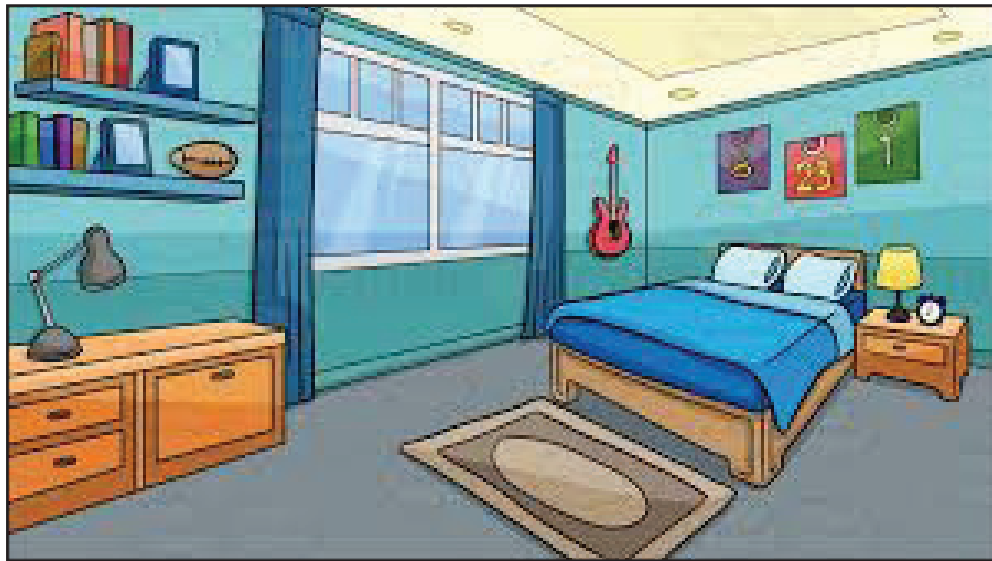
Every person needs a place like a room, a silent place where she feels better for relaxation, thinks deeply, sleeps silently, and enjoys the atmosphere. All of us usually have a special place which is important to us. Even children also have some places to play, escaping from doing homework, from listening to their parents, or from some other annoyance. Most people try to find such places as those, and they do not want to share with someone else. I will always remember my tiny, but dreamy room on the first-floor of our house in Kabul, Afghanistan.

When I was in Kabul, we had a house with two floors. My room was located on the first floor. It was a tiny yet wonderful room. When I came home from college, I would go to my room. I felt very relaxed and fresh. I thought my room was like a castle and I was the princess of that golden castle. Because it was my own room, I thought myself the owner. I could do everything in my room, designing, arranging tables and chairs, and putting every item in a beautiful place.

It was my heavenly room. When I was lying on my bed and looking outside, I went to another world. I thought that I was flying in the sky from my room and I was watching the earth behind the clouds. Why did I have that dream? I had it because I felt very relaxed and comfortable. That was a special room, no noise, nobody to disturb me, and no roommate. The important thing was this: I was alone! I was safe and I could talk with my friends freely. Furthermore, my room was my partner in

any depressing and miserable time. Any time that I felt very sad or nervous, I talked to my room and its walls because they didn't react and I could talk to them very loudly.

My dream room was also like a workroom. Most of the time, I used that room for painting too. When I wanted to invite my friends, they came to my room after dinner, because it had special décor. I had some pictures that showed some kinds of models of clothes. I changed them every week and my friends were very interested to look and talk about them. In addition, I painted some pictures in



my room and they were on the walls. The walls looked like the walls of a museum. Anytime I went to my room, I had everything with a romantic and lovely space.

In summary, almost everybody has her own important and special possessions in their lives and they hope to have them forever. If they lose them, they will never forget them. For everybody, some things are very joyful, and for me it was my room. My room was my friend, my partner, my workroom, my dream room, my relaxing room and everything in my life. Right now, I do not have any room like that but I hope to have one soon. I will always remember my tiny but beautiful room.

Halima Hussani
ESL W50
Descriptive essay



Impolite Relative

Our happiness often depends on our relationship with relatives. When we have problems in communication with them, we are not happy. It is very hard to talk with people who don't like you, who are jealous of you. Unfortunately, I have relatives that I dislike because they always says impolite things during our family gatherings. Someone can say crazy things. Someone can do things that I can't accept. Luckily there are three solutions to the problem of a relative who says impolite things.

The first solution to the problem of a relative who says impolite things is to explain to him that you dislike the impolite conversation. I hate when my relatives begin to ask me during family gatherings, "Why is your car so cheap? Can't your husband buy you a more expensive one?" or "Why are you dressed in that dress today? Change it immediately!" or "How soon will you buy your own house? Are you so poor?" In this case I should be very calm. I should smile and answer them only, "Excuse me, but your question is not polite!" or "Thank you for your interest but I can resolve my problem by myself!" or "Sorry, but I feel uncomfortable answering your question." I think that smart people will understand.

The second solution to the problem of a relative who says impolite things is not to react. Yes, the relatives often know more than others about you, because, in my case, my mother often talks too much. Sometimes they use it against you. You have to be polite, kind, and restrained only because they are your relatives. When a relative says impolite things to you and you react, he wins the battle, achieving his goal of hurting you. Not reacting always help me to avoid arguments. I often heard from one of my relatives bad things such that I am not beautiful enough and I need to see an beauti-

cian, or that my kids are not as educated as they should be. They ask me why I am studying in college, as I am too old for it. I never react because I know that it is better not to. I am stronger. They will not win.

The third solution to the problem of relatives who say impolite things is to ignore them as

much as possible. Yes, they are relatives. So what? Why should I spend my time with people that I dislike, that make me feel uncomfortable? I want to invest my time in good people, in people with whom I feel calm. If the communication is not pleasant, we have to stop it without regret-

ting it. I had an unpleasant situation with one of my relatives. I always helped him with money. One day when we met each other, he asked me to lend him money. I didn't have that amount and I said no. He was very upset with me, and I heard bad and impolite things. He told me that I was very greedy and he was disappointed in me. That was the last time I saw him. I am really happy about this. He invited our family to dinner. We refused his invitation, of course. My husband always agrees with me and supports me. He never told him anything because I don't want more conflicts. He had the same feelings about my relative as me.

There are three solutions to the problem of a relative who says bad things: to explain to them what you dislike, not to react, and to ignore him. These solutions will help our relatives to never continue to say impolite things. I hope that most people have good relatives and will never have problems with them.



Alina Baci
ESL W50

Problem - Solution essay

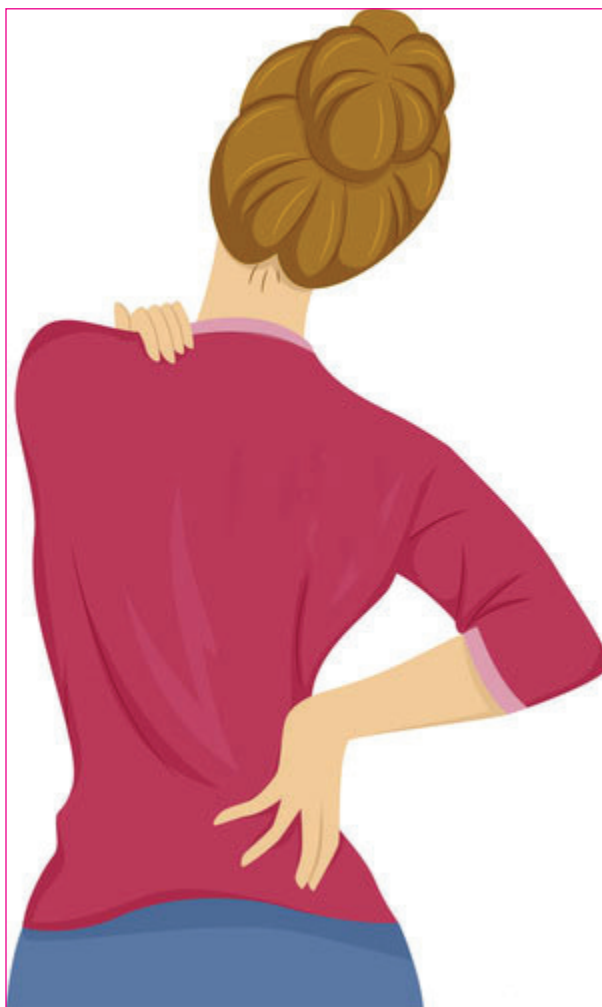
Most Stressful Day in the New Country

We are confident when we live in the country of our birth with our parents and our friends. In this time of our life we are so happy, and think that bad days can never happen in our lives. Many people have such thoughts, and these thoughts are not only beautiful dreams. These feelings are completely normal. As a song says, "We are strong when we are with other people." These feelings were in my life too. As a result, the beautiful idea of moving from my country was created in my head. My husband, my daughter, and I came to America. I will always remember our stressful day after just a few weeks in the US.

The beginning of our life was exciting because things in this country were so new, and we didn't think about sad days that would be after these events. However, our life is created so that after sunny days, rain always falls. This is the time to stop and to think about your life. In these moments I began to understand what main things we had lost. I began to feel sorry for myself, "I don't know this language, I don't have my parents, I don't have my sister and brother, and I have problems with my health." I looked out the window at the sad weather and swallowed my tears.

My husband came back from work. His coming was a small break for me, but he sat near me and began to look out the window too. These were such sad minutes, and I thought about my

daughter playing with the daughter of our neighbors. I thought, "How can we explain to our daughter why we are so sad"? I started to read a book, but I didn't understand anything that I read even though this book was in my language, Ukrainian.



It's a wonderful thing that after rainy days the sun appears again. Our Ukrainian friend Tania visited us. Tania was always such a happy girl. She saw our sad faces and laughed. She said, "All problems will pass soon. American people are kind. They love to help other people. They understand you even if you have to show with your hands what you need."

That was a very sad day, but we could have predicted this day if we wanted to sit and to think about it. That is the sad reaction of young people; they first do something and then think about it. King Solomon once said, "Those who work their land will have abundant food..." (Prov. 12.11). However, it is so boring to read Solomon's words when you are young and happy. So then

you need to wait for the sun after the rain.



Nataliya Valaga
ESL W50
Narrative essay



Nestscape -- Articles from the Web

or solutions” for space-related problems. It’s hosted on HeroX, a crowdsourcing platform. And here’s the challenge: Create an “in-suit waste management system” that can handle six days’ worth of bathroom needs.

In Space, Using The Toilet Is Quite An Operation

The logistics of pooping in space, in general, have long been resolved. Astronauts at the International Space Station, orbiting the Earth for months, have some noisy contraptions with vacuums, fans, hoses and bags that take care of business. But those space toilets won’t fit in a pressurized spacesuit — and they certainly aren’t hands-free.

“How has NASA handled this in the past? Well, for one thing, they weren’t handling it for 6 days,” HeroX explains. Basically, when astronauts are in spacesuits they stick with diapers to handle waste. That’s fine for a few hours. But someday NASA might send an astronaut on a mission that calls for spending days at a time in a suit.

What Happens When You Get Your Period In Space?

Or — no “someday” required for this one — there could be an emergency situation that leaves an astronaut with no choice but to stay in a suit.

NASA is looking for an idea for a solution that would collect feces, urine, and menstrual fluid without relying on gravity, and then keep all that waste away from the body. And the astronaut has to be able to move, sit, and squeeze into tight places without a problem. And it can’t take more than five minutes to implement the system. And it can’t cause any air leakage in the pressurized suit. And it has to be entirely hands-free in its operation. And it needs to work for both men and women of “varying

size and weight.” And ideally it would be comfortable — physically, emotionally and psychologically — for the astronauts. There’s nothing on the market now that comes close to achieving this, NASA says.

“Current commercial products that provide urine waste management utilize gravity to route and collect urine away from the body. Some require the use of hands,” the HeroX site notes. “No commercial products have been found that provide fecal waste management for a 144-hour period with or without the use of hands.”

NASA says that out of all the ideas presented through HeroX, up to three will be awarded, with up to \$30,000 total in prize money. There’s a possibility that the idea might be implemented and your idea would actually help an astronaut find relief in space, although there’s no guarantee.

The deadline is Dec. 20. You can find more information about the contest here.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/11/28/503606412/got-a-great-idea-for-dealing-with-poop-in-a-spacesuit-let-nasa-know>

Three amazing facts about living in space:

1. Preparation for a space for a spacewalk takes hours. Astronauts don their spacesuits hours before going on a spacewalk, during which time they breathe pure oxygen in preparation for the activity.
2. You see a sunrise every 90 minutes. The International Space Station orbits the Earth at about 17,000mph (27,000kph). This means astronauts aboard the ISS see the Sun rise and set every 90 minutes. However, their clocks run to UTC and they work 9-5, just like on Earth, to keep their days ordered.
3. You must sleep next to a fan. Good ventilation is vital for sleeping astronauts, as warm air does not dissipate in space. Instead, it forms a bubble of carbon dioxide around them and, eventually, they’d run out of breathable oxygen.

<https://www.spaceanswers.com/space-exploration/five-amazing-facts-about-living-in-space/>

Editor's note: ESL Professor Patrick Hoggan is teaching in China this year.

Please enjoy his impressions below.

What's in a Name?

What name would you give yourself if you were able to choose your own name? Or who would you trust to give you a new name? Since most of us go by names given to us from our parents, it seems a rather hypothetical question, but it is quite a real question for Chinese college students.

When I came to China in 1994 to teach at Nanjing Forestry University, I really wanted to call the students by their Chinese names. However, after a few days of embarrassing myself by trying to say their Chinese names, I knew that both they and I would be happier and have a much more functional classroom if I "gave up" and used English names for them.

I explained how hard it was for me to say and remember their Chinese names and asked if they would be willing to use an English name. One school of thought among language learners is that using a name from the target language helps you take on a new persona when speaking the new language and actually helps put you into a new frame of mind that can help with the language acquisition. I shared this with

my classes and also added that they didn't have to choose an English name, but if they did, I would be happy to help them.

I was surprised but pleased at how many were very eager for some help with their naming. About half of the students asked for help choosing a name. I tried not to abuse the great trust shown me when they asked me to give them a name. I loved names and would have gladly taken weeks to help them pick the right one, but time was of the essence. At the time, I was single and knew that homesickness might set in later as the initial "honeymoon" period of being "a stranger in a strange land" wore off, so I decided to give my students names I loved—the names of family members. Shari (my mom's name), Ken (my brother) and

Cheryl (my cousin) became part of my class.

Other students were more self-reliant. Some transliterated their names from Chinese into English so that I called them a name that sounded almost like their Chinese names. Others took an intermediate approach and translated their names from Chinese into English, so there was a "Bush" on the back row. Others did their own research to find names that suited them. The man who sat next to "Bush" chose a name of an American he admired, "Reagan." Having them sitting next to each other helped me remember them. As others researched names a

few things were perhaps lost in translation. I had never met someone with "Smith" as a first name, but now I had one in my class. (Bear in mind that Chinese people often go by their "family name," which is their ordinal first name, and save their "given name"—which comes last for interaction with family and friends). Jay, Johnny, Julian and other more familiar names were common, too, but having an English name was something new to most of them.

25 years later, when I arrived in Southern China to teach at Huashang College last fall (September 2018), the name game had new rules. I met a new generation of English learners. In fact, my students weren't just learning English to supplement their education: they were all English majors and most of them had been studying English for more than 10 years. I had 8 sections of sophomore English majors and everyone had an English name. The names were somewhat different. Some were translations, perhaps a few transliterations such as "Lynn," "Aimee" and "May" all of which correspond to actual Chinese names.

But there has been another factor at work in this generation: a desire to be unique, a need to be unique. (Coming from the diversity of Sacramento to the "mono-culture" of China has been fascinating





in part because I have seen how people, particularly students, try to be a little unique without being too unique. It's a tricky cultural chacha). Perhaps there has also been a little bit of a rebelliousness and even a bit of smart-aleckiness as a driving motivation. After all, many of these students had their majors chosen for them by their parents, and after 10 or more years of arguably compulsory language study, one might get a little resentful or perhaps want to push back in some way. That has been my sense as I have encountered names beyond Alice, Jennifer, Jasmine, Sherry, Crystal, Shelly, Kathy, Steven, William, Richard, Henry, Joyce, Miranda, Vivian, Annie, Kelly, Tammy, Faith, Karen, Vanessa, Whitney, Sylvia, Kaylee, Hannah, and Amy. (If the list seems heavy on the female names that is because I haven't had a class yet of less than 30 women and more than 4 men). All those names work well, but others are begging to tell a story. Among my sophomore English majors I met Green, Purple, Rainbow, Bonduca, Euller, Arehorn, Leonhard, Rolander, Dream, Vienns, Fairy, Murph, Canvis, Luvian, Sweetie, Chita, Jelly, Lemon, Arling, Kitty, Gragon, Higgs, Vesper, Jamilar, YoYo, Seven, Rain, Sunny (yes, Rain and Sunny were in the same class), Kio and...drumroll please because I ain't making this up... Auntie Ho (a guy!). I would love to hear their stories and learn why they chose these names and if they are aware of how odd most of them strike me. At least they weren't victims of an cruel English teacher. (I heard horror stories in the 90s of English teachers who gave their students truly awful names, many more suitable to pets than people such as "Fluffy").

I thought seriously about having a frank talk with "Auntie" about his name and how it's not one he would want to put on a job application or a name badge, but I resisted. However, I was so bold as to tell "Lunny" that I think she really wanted to spell her name, LYNN. I was surprised that "Rainbow" came to me after class one day, a day on which her classmates giggled when they heard me say her name, and asked if she could change it. Without betraying my delight, I said sure. Should I have said something when she returned the next week with her new and "improved"

name? "Agrikay." I didn't. It's not my name. And choosing a name is a very personal affair. I wanted to ask her why she chose that name, but I didn't.

Again, the desire to be unique runs deep, I suspect. This was confirmed to me when "Class 2" invited my family for a picnic and bike ride along a riverbank park. At the end of the day, after a BBQ of chicken legs, sautéed long, skinny mushrooms, honied corn-on-the-cob chunks, eggplant, and some Chinese sausages, after my children had knocked over a row of bikes like dominoes, and after we had bonded over games, group songs, and getting lost on the bike path, I was talking to "Leo." He confided in me that he didn't like his English name. "I know 10 Leos," he said. "Everyone here has the same names," he complained. Indeed, I knew two other Leos beside him. He wanted a new name and asked if I could help him.

I felt it was an invitation to walk on sacred ground. Giving a new name can be a holy act and truly life changing. (Consider the ancient prophet Jacob—the grandson of Abraham—and how his life was changed when an angel gave him the new name "Israel"). This time I wasn't just going to recycle another one of my own family's names for a

little touch of home. I asked him his Chinese name. "Wen Jun Fei" did not sound particularly like any English name to me, so I asked him about the meaning of his name.

Meanings of names is one of the ways I am a bit jealous of Chinese culture. Most of their names have a very transparent meaning, as I understand it, and everyone seems to know what their names mean. I'm not sure I've ever met a Chinese person who couldn't explain the meaning of their name. Even names that don't have a special meaning are usually names of a famous historical figure and that is meaningful in its own right. "Leo" explained that his Chinese and what he said led me to a very tentative offering, "Grayson."

I was quick to add that he didn't have to take the name just because I was his teacher, and that if he wanted to think it over, he could, and if he wanted me to make another suggestion, I would. Choosing a



name is so personal, and I wanted him to know how much I respected his desire, and that I wanted him to feel right about his new name. He did, and I changed his name on the class roster, and when a few of his classmates giggled when I called him by his new name for the first time, he didn't give them any heed as far as I could tell. He was Grayson.

Another difference with this generation of English self-namers is that a few students have chosen not just first names but last names as well. Such an idea had never occurred to me, so I was slightly surprised to meet "Rebecca Gillbert," "Jennifer Hathaway," and "Flora Salvatore" among my English majors. On the other hand, some have informed me that their parents chose an English name for them. Over the past nine months here in the Province of Guangdong, I have met many children with English names already chosen by their English-savvy parents. My children have had been able to play with "Lucy" and "Joshua" though I must confess that calling them "Yang Yao" and "Mao Mao" respectively has felt much more comfortable and natural. Why? I'm not sure but I suppose it might be because "Lucy" and "Joshua" don't speak English to me.

There is, I suspect, yet another force boiling deep beneath the quirky-name geyser that I think deserves some credit: the NBA. Yes, National Basketball Association. In the 25 years since I was last in China, NBA has become king. Ping-pong and badminton are still beloved, but among college guys, basketball reigns supreme. The campus probably has 100 outside courts, and every single one is busy nearly every evening and most of the day all weekend long. China loves basketball, and the backs of more jerseys are labeled with English names than Chinese, and many of those are fun or even funny names in the spirit of sports nicknames.

With the Spring semester of 2019 nearly halfway through, I'm delighted to report that among my eight sections of junior English majors I have more "family members" than ever with me in classes again: Jenny, Alisa, Isabel, Susie, Susan, Abby, Kathy, Katherine, William, Sarah, Sharon, Sherry, Monica and Alice. "Cindy" gets an honorable mention as a family mem-

ber since our happy-go-lucky shepherd-mix mutt that took care of our back yard for more than 10 years when I was a kid was a Cindy. And this time I didn't give any of them their names.

This semester, there are also plenty of simple, straight-forward names that will go well on a resumé, not raise a questioning eyebrow from a foreigner, or make an American teacher struggle to hold back a laugh. For starters, there is a new Leo, of course, but there is also Valerie, Amanda, Lilian, Ashley, Michael, Chloe, Claire, Caroline, Joy, Vicky, Grace, Sophie, Tina, Elaine, Zoey, Cynthia, Regina, Rachel, Wendy, Windy, Emily, Andrew, Maggie, Melanie, Ethan, Bella, Belle, Jasmine, Jasmin, Jesmin, Elsa, and Anna. (Who needs to ask an English teacher for name inspiration when you have Disney?)

Some names get kudos for being very creative without going too far and not causing any or at least maybe only a tiny little bit of head-scratching: Eugenia, Urania, Una, Minna, Tonna, Yuki, Yumi, (Japanese is the second foreign language of choice for many of the English majors), Agatha, Cloris and Doris (friends next to each other on the roster), Yolanda, Cherry, Shahida, Wennie, and Winnie.

I am also delighted by a new string of shall we say, "whimsical" names: Astra,

Bunny, Isa, Maple, Holiday, Soul, Kouga, Herb, Ezio, Siri, Jazz, Zero, Heli, Hebi, Kinby, Greenle, Wing, Fairy (another one—it's hard to be unique in a country with more than a billion people), Echo, Kerr (sounds like "care"), Hardy, Khakhi, Koring, Vincy, Zinnia, Bear, Pudding, Kingcess, Cupcake, Cero, Ocean (who changed her name to Nora), and ZuXin.

If ZuXin strikes you as non-English, you're right. It's Chinese. Yes, that's right, out of about 250 students, one of them actually asked me to use her Chinese name. Unfortunately, after a month of my mangling the hard-to-hear-let-alone-hard-to-say tones of her name and my perhaps inadvertently calling her something drastically different or possibly offensive, ZuXin said I should just call her "Jonesy."





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 Shrimp (Vietnam)



1/2tbs. of fish sauce in a small bowl. Stir them well, sprinkle them evenly over the shrimp.

Put the mixture above in a pot, add coconut water and add a little oil to make it more attractive.

Cook on low heat until it's slightly steamed. Add the pepper and the green onion and turn off the heat.

Serve with hot steamed rice.

Ingredients:

1 pound of large shrimp

1 can of coconut water

Green onion

Salt, sugar, fish sauce, black pepper and seasoning.

Directions:

Shrimp: remove legs, remove the shell, leave the tail, remove the head, then split the spine, remove the black thread, rinse, drain.

Fry them until they get brown. Put in a bowl.

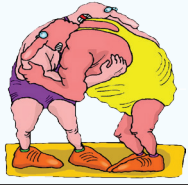
Marinate shrimp with a little minced onion oil, 1/2tbs. seasoning, 1/2tbs. pepper, 1/2tbs. sugar, 1/2tbs. salt, 1/2tbs. minced garlic and a little fish sauce.

Prepare a small bowl, add a little lemon juice, 1/2tbs. of sugar, 1/2tbs. of oil, 1/2tbs. of pepper,



<https://monngonmoingay.com/tom-kho-tau/>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Adjective Phrases

There are two main types of word chunks, **clauses and phrases**. A clause is a bunch of words with a conjugated verb in it. A phrase is a bunch of words without a conjugated verb in it.

A variety of phrases in our language will serve the role of adjective. If you were among the fortunate few who diagrammed sentences in your youth, you'll no doubt recall putting the phrases under the nouns they modified. Here's a list of the most prevalent **phrases that act as adjectives**, along with examples:

1. Prepositional phrase

Ex: The book **on the table** featured beautiful photos.

2. Present-participial phrase (-ing phrase)

Ex: Look at the man **sitting on the park bench**.

3. Past-participial phrase (-ed phrase)

Ex: The money **deposited by the customer** paid off the loan.

4. Infinitive phrase (to phrase)

Ex: The most popular movie **to hit the theaters in decades** was Titanic.

5. Adjectival phrase (discussed above)

The machines **available to the weightlifters** required a complicated assembly.

Notice that numbers 2, 3, and 4 are verbal phrases. Notice also that those verbs are not conjugated. They do not reveal tense, person, or number. Thus, these chunks of words are phrases, not clauses.

<https://www.grammar.com/adjectives-phrases-and-clauses/>

Idiom--Attic

A few sandwiches short of a picnic

A pejorative phrase meaning not very intelligent or of questionable mental capacity.



EX: He says he's going to start a business selling bees as pets. I think he may be **a few sandwiches short of a picnic**.

<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/a+few+sandwiches+short+of+a+picnic>

The Many Ways to Pronounce English Vowel Sounds

A vowel's position in a word can affect the way you pronounce it. All vowels have at least two pronunciations: a long sound and a short sound. Here are five of the most common rules for vowel pronunciation:

1. When a word or syllable ends in a consonant and has only one vowel, that vowel is short.

Examples: cat, bed, fish

2. When a word ends in "e," the "e" is silent (not read out loud), and the vowel that comes before it is long.

Examples: bake, file, rope

3. When a syllable has two vowels next to each other, the first is usually long and the second short.

Examples: pain, boat, grow

4. When a syllable ends in one vowel, that vowel is usually long.

Examples: open, unit, paper

5. Many times, these rules don't work! There are many exceptions. Sometimes the only way to learn something is to practice and memorize it.

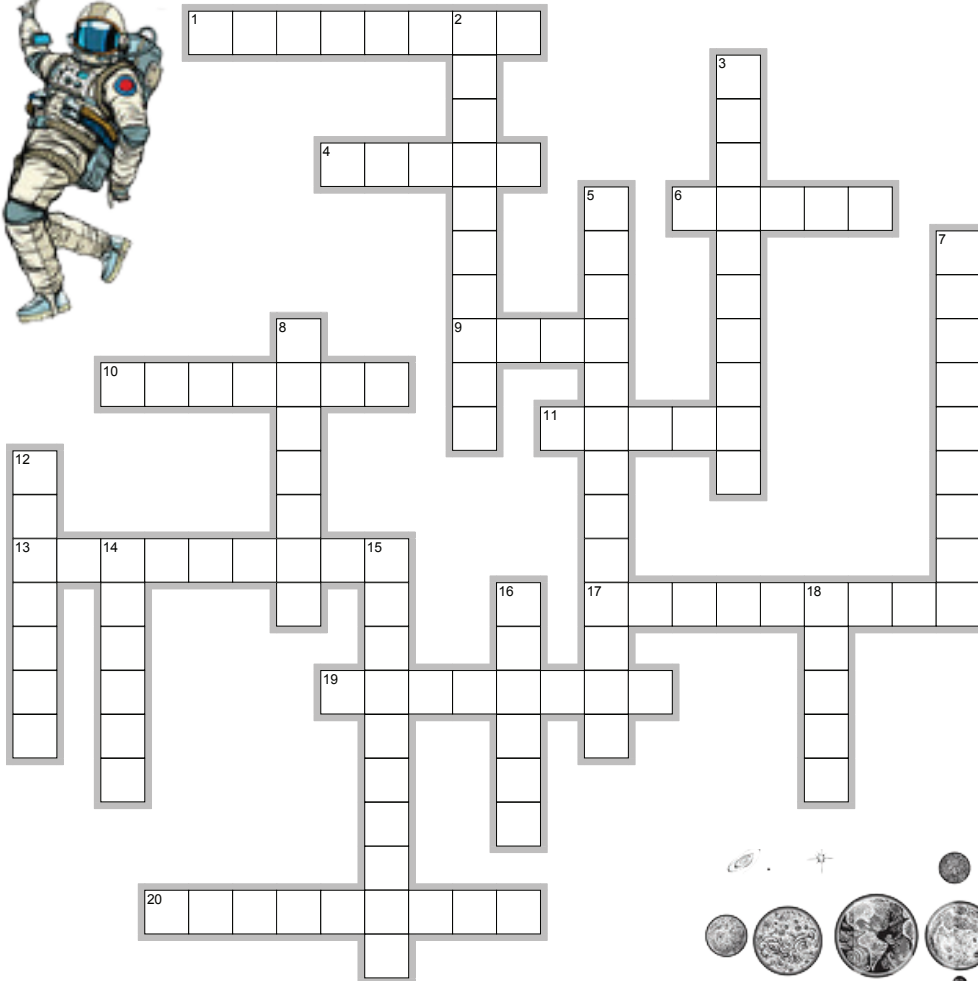


<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/english-vowel-practice/>



Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Astronomy Crossword Puzzle

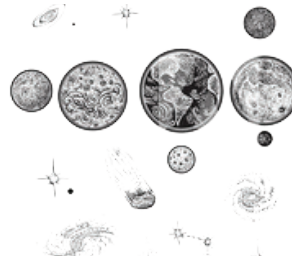


Down:

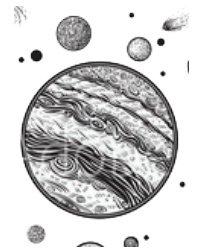
2. A scientist who studies stars and planets
 3. A star much larger than our sun
 5. A group of stars with a definite pattern or arrangement
 7. A star's brightness is called its _____
 8. The largest planet in our solar system
 12. Another name for the North Star
 14. A large group of stars, gas and dust
 15. The movement of the Earth around the Sun
 16. The planet with rings
 18. A mass of material with a long tail that travels around the Sun

Across:

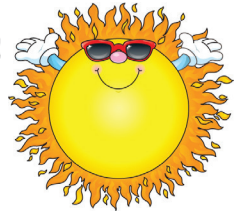
1. The name of our galaxy
 4. A very small star
 6. The planet closest to Earth
 9. The "Red Planet"
 10. The planet closest to the Sun
 11. Number of stars in the Big Dipper
 13. The distance light travels in one year
 17. An instrument that makes distant objects look larger and closer



19. The spinning of the Earth on its axis
 20. Small rocky objects that revolve around the sun, mostly in the area between Mars and Jupiter



Compound adjectives grid



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



- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Badlybehaved | Illfitting | Welltrained | Covertocover |
| Fastlearning | Hardworking | Easilydefeated | Narrowminded |
| Overpriced | Underpriced | Finelooking | Foulmouthed |
| Twentyyearold | Filthyrich | Coldblooded | Nicesmelling |
| Badtempered | Selfappointed | OVERRATED | Easytocook |
| Naturalborn | Stateoftheart | Thickskinned | Stressinducing |
| Fasttravelling | Careeroriented | Underestimated | Overburdened |
| Selfsufficient | Selfcentered | Homemade | Skyrocketing |
| Pearshaped | Slantyeeyed | Anticlockwise | |



Nanny Noetal

*Nanny Background: 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!*

Hey Nanny,

I have had a terrible time in some classes like English class. The instructor requires us to do group work. Almost all my classmates speak English as a second language. Additionally, when we do group work, my group members always speak their native language, which is so annoying, because I can't understand it. I tried indirectly to make my instructor notice this situation by emailing him, but he was unable to understand me or ignored me. Of course, I will not tell the instructor that directly because my classmates might hate me. I tried also to ask my group members to speak English, but they ignored me. So Nanny, how can I avoid studying in a group?

Sally K



My dear Sally,

Hmm... I really have to think deeply about this type of problem. So, what I am thinking about is try to be brave to ask your group members to speak English in a high tone voice. Additionally, during their conversation in their native language, say, "English, please." If they don't listen to you, don't be afraid and tell your instructor that they don't speak English in group work. You only need to take care of your studies and understanding in this class. Don't worry about your classmates, if they love you or not. Do whatever is needed to stop this problem but don't drop the class. Good luck and be brave.

Nanny Noetal

Interview with Prof. Roxanne

Continued from page 1

much. So, it's a very good school, and I really like how big it is and how many services we offer our students. All the different things that we can help with them. So I applied to come here and got here ten years ago.

The Parrot: Great. How did you get interested in your area of expertise?

Professor Roxanne: Oh, well, I graduated from San Francisco State University. I just loved teaching and reading, when I took my reading classes.

The Parrot: Oh, just reading?

Professor Roxanne: Oh, well, writing; I teach both

and so I get a chance to work with my students in writing and reading, and I just know that is what I want to do.

The Parrot: How did you get into the teaching field?

Professor Roxanne: I used to work in the business world so I was in advertising for a long time.

The Parrot: Before teaching?

Professor Roxanne: Yes, I was in it until I was forty. When I turned 40, I decided, I really wanted to be a teacher. So I quit my job and I had to go back to school full time when I was 40, and I got my masters. I had to study very hard and then I got to be a teacher. I had to start all over again but it was my



second favorite job.

The Parrot: So, great. It's so interesting that in the middle of your life you transferred to another field.

Professor Roxanne: Yes, yes. So, I don't think we have just one job in life. I think, you know, my previous job I just grew more and more. I loved when I was teaching and I was helping people in my job. So I thought, "I need to go out and be a teacher."

The Parrot: You must be a great teacher! Do you think you have grown as a teacher?

Professor Roxanne: Yes, definitely! I mean I don't think you can be a teacher and not grow. Every year you learn new things. Every semester you have students and at the end of the semester they are all gone, so one thing that I really like about teaching is that, if I am teaching and my lesson plans don't work, or my lectures don't work, I can start all over again and try again next semester. It's really fun to grow, and also our students change every semester. We have different types of students, you know, young and old.

The Parrot: Different cultures, everything.

Professor Roxanne: Exactly! It's a lot of fun to work and change with the growing population and understand how our students change and most important is to figure out what they need the most. Also, you have to grow. I'm always studying to find new ways to help my students the best, so yes, you have to grow.

The Parrot: That's great! Looking back, are there any changes you would have made in your educational choices?

Professor Roxanne: Oh, no! When I got my masters, I got my masters in literatures, in Russian literature, and French literature of the 18th century. It was very interesting and I loved it, but it didn't give me a job. It's too small, so I had to go back to get a second masters in writing and reading. Then I got a job, so I don't have any mistakes in my education, but definitely, I spent two years studying something that I really, really loved but didn't give me a job.

The Parrot: It's very hard in this area to find a job.

Professor Roxanne: Yes, but see how I'm teaching reading and writing and I get to teach a literature course once in a while. I get to teach my French and Russian literature, but not a full-time job. That was a little bit, you know, so...weird.

The Parrot: OK. What's one word that describes you the best?

Professor Roxanne: Mmm... Adventurous. I love to travel around the world. I like to hop on an airplane, get out of here. Also, I love my students, I'm talking to them to find out what they need, helping them so I like to be right there out front, and find out what they need – adventurous.

The Parrot: May I ask you what countries you have been to?

Professor Roxanne: It would be easier to say what countries I haven't traveled to.

The Parrot: Oh! Haven't?

Professor Roxanne: Yes, I lived in England for ten years. I have been to France, Spain, Italy and Norway. I lived in Germany, lived in Russia. I have been to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

The Parrot: You were everywhere!

Professor Roxanne: Yeah, I've been everywhere. India. I spent a lot of time in India, Pakistan.

The Parrot: Haven't you traveled to Iran?

Professor Roxanne: No, I really want to go to Iran. My best friend growing up was from Iran. You remember? Oh! I don't know how old are you, too young I think, but when the shah of Iran was deposed in the 70's, I lived in Boston, so we had a lot of Iranian refugees. My best friend was Halle Safavi, and she taught me how to write in Persian and how to talk. So, that was very special because her family had to flee Iran, and we were the same age, 13 years old.

The Parrot: Yeah, definitely at that time, it would be a better time for you, because now you have to wear hijab. It's so difficult, I know, for foreigners.

Professor Roxanne: Yes, yes.

The Parrot: But we have lots of ancient places to visit.

Professor Roxanne: Oh, I know, I know. The writing of Iran is so beautiful. We have an Iranian author here on this campus. Did you read his work?

The Parrot: No.

Professor Roxanne: He is very famous in Iran and now he is here.

The Parrot: Here on campus?

Professor Roxanne: Yes, yes. I will find his name. That's okay, I'll find it later. Go ahead!

The Parrot: OK. My last question: if your interview gets to be in The Parrot, how do you think it will affect your life?

Professor Roxanne: Yes, well. I hope that students like me, so they can come to take my classes. I can help them to get what they want and achieve their dreams.

The Parrot: Definitely! You are so kind. They'll definitely like you. Those were my questions. Thank you so much for letting me interview you.

Professor Roxanne: You're welcome. I'm so sorry I had to cancel last week. School was cancelled.

The Parrot: I know, you were so busy. Everything changed.

Professor Roxanne: Let me find this book. Hold on one second.

The Parrot: Oh! It's poetry.

Professor Roxanne: Yes, it's for you. You can keep this.

The Parrot: Thank you so much!

Professor Roxanne: This is Iranian, right?

The Parrot: Yes, Ziaedin Torabi.

Professor Roxanne: He is very well known at home, but he is now here in Sacramento and he wrote his book, and he is studying here. He is famous in Iran but he had to move here, and he is here at American River College to learn English. One of our authors who produces books found that he is famous back in Iran, so he asked him to write a poem and

we have it in both English and Farsi.

The Parrot: So interesting, I didn't know that; maybe many Iranians don't know about him.

Professor Roxanne: He has an English translator who is a woman, because his English is not so good.

The Parrot: Okay, thank you. I have to give it back to you?

Professor Roxanne: No, that's for you. Hopefully you'll enjoy it.

The Parrot: Definitely! Have you read this?

Professor Roxanne: I have. I think his work is beautiful.

The Parrot: Thank you, I don't want to take up more of your time.

Professor Roxanne: No, no! When are you due?

The Parrot: In the middle of March

Professor Roxanne: Oh my gosh! Is it your first child?

The Parrot: Yes, it is my first.

Professor Roxanne: Congratulations!

The Parrot: Thank you. Pray for me everything will be good.

Professor Roxanne: I'm sure, it will be awesome. Most definitely.

The Parrot: I hope. Will you teach English next semester?

Professor Roxanne: I'll teach English and Reading.

The Parrot: I hope that I can take a class with you.

Professor Roxanne: Oh, it would be wonderful that I have you.

The Parrot: Thank you so much.

Professor Roxanne: Don't forget your water.

The Parrot: Oh! Thank you so much. I really appreciate it. Have a great day.

Professor Roxanne: Thank you. Bye bye.

Interviewer: Mobina Aleahmad



Alpine Alex

Mount Judah 8243 ft / 2512 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 again. Today I decided to answer



the call from Mount Judah, a peak located near Truckee, California. The trail starts fairly rocky and smooths out again until you get closer to the top. There is very nice scenery throughout the hike. The view from the top is a nice payoff. There is no water so bring what you'll need plus food. Make sure you have the right equipment such as

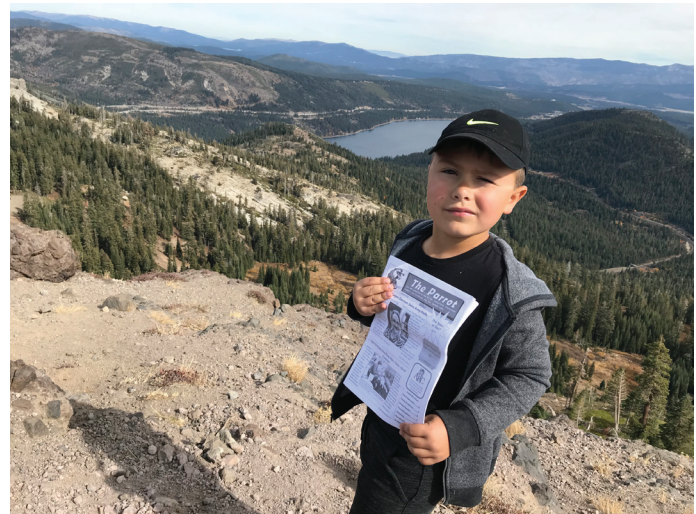
hiking shoes, jacket, etc. My son and I did it in early July last year and saw lots of wildflowers. The trail is well-marked and it is hard to get lost. There are lots



of great views and the weather was perfect. Since we live in the valley, it was a nice day trip to get out of the heat and get in some fun exercise. The first



two miles could be challenging for people who have knees problems because the trail is steep and could be slippery. It took us three hours with stops. Although a relatively short hike, the climb provides good exercise if done at a brisk pace. I would definitely do it again.



I do not recommend doing the full loop in winter. The trails up to Mount Judah are of medium difficulty. They are mostly covered in snow and a bit of ice, so I would recommend bringing some kind of spikes or snowshoes. This was a fun hike with my son. See you on the trail. Have fun and be safe.

VIETNAM TRIP DIARY

I have been living in the U.S.A. for over one-and-a-half years. Finally, I was able to go back to my country – Viet Nam – to visit my family. I went there in January and came back here in early February.

Vietnam has changed so much, especially the living standard. The traffic jams are still the



Jesus Christ's statue in Vung Tau City

same. I can see a lot of road construction, more cars, new bridges, and especially more and more motorbikes on the road. I thought I could drive my motorbike again to around but I couldn't. They drive get down the streets like crazy, and it makes me scared. I had the chance to visit some places



near my home, Binh Duong City. Vung Tau City, the beach tourism place. We spent two days there to see some tourist places.

After that, I visited some eco-tourism places, and went to the city center in Saigon to walk around on Lunar New Year. They have a flower festival every New Year and people go there and take pictures. I spent my last day there at my hometown Binh Duong City to visit my grandmother.



Every family built a fire in front of their house when New Year came.

I felt so happy to spend time with my family on Lunar New Year and go around to see my country changing. I hope I can go back again soon to see it change in a better way.

Tuyet Le

Out of the Cage

Sacramento Job Fair

Thu, May 9, 2019

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING A JOBFAIRX EVENT:

Open the doors of opportunity when you meet and interview with hiring managers at companies ranging from small local businesses to Fortune 500 corporations. This career fair will allow you to learn about the businesses that are hiring and what their hiring needs are. Tired of sending your resume over the web and not receiving any responses back? By attending this event, you will be able to meet directly with hiring managers and get instant feedback on your resume and possibly even BE HIRED ON THE SPOT!

FREE FOR ALL JOB SEEKERS!

Whether you are a seasoned executive-level professional, just beginning your career, or anywhere in between, our events can connect you with as many valuable employer contacts in three hours as you would make in weeks of job searching on your own.

Location:

Hilton Sacramento Arden West
2200 Harvard Street
Sacramento, CA
95815



Deer Creek Hills Preserve Hike

Sat, May 11, 2019

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Hike, stroll, meander or run. Open Saturdays are for YOU! Explore the trails of Deer Creek Hills Preserve at your own speed. Open Saturdays are FREE, but please register online to ensure gates will be open. A map will be provided and the trail is marked. Please dress appropriate for the forecasted weather. Layers are recommended. Sturdy shoes, cell phone, snacks and water are required. SVC Staff working the event will exchange cell numbers with you, prior to hiking out. Smoking is prohibited on the preserve. No dogs allowed, except working service dogs. Please practice Leave No Trace Ethics: Pack It In – Pack It Out. Arrive as early as 9am to start your Deer Creek Hills experience. Return and be off trails by 1pm. Gates will be locked at 1:00pm.

Location: 15489 Latrobe Road

Admission: Free with pre-registration



Questions/Comments?

Student Editors: **Alex Grynishyn, Alaa Shatat, Laura Lopez, 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. 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