

THE PARROT



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

From Mom's Book Club to English Professor: Michael Angelone

The Parrot: Good afternoon, Professor Michael!

Prof. Angelone: Good afternoon!

The Parrot: Professor Michael, how did you get into teaching?

Prof. Angelone: Well, I liked a teacher when I was in high school. His name was Brandon Delordo. He was my high school



world studies teacher. He was very talented as an artist. He would draw the wonderful comic book version of history lessons. So there were pictures that he would draw and open classes with his drawings. He was very talented. And then I took some drama

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American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 484-8001

Family Games

p. 13

"No matter what happens to you, do not take anything to heart. Few things are important for a long time."

Erich Maria Remarque

Coronavirus scare: When will 'hamsterkauf' become an English word?

by DW business editor Hardy Graupner

Supermarkets in Germany have witnessed signs of panic buying as the new coronavirus spreads. Some English-language media are in love with the special word the Germans use for hoarding stuff, as Hardy Graupner found out.



The coronavirus scare has seen quite a number of Germans resorting to panic buying, although the chances of them really needing a lot of stuff at home over a longer period are rather slim. But that's a different story.

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Student Chirpings

When Life Was Very Dangerous

I will always remember the day when we left my country. When I was nine years old, we moved from one country to another. We moved to find a country to immigrate to because of the war in our country Iraq. So, we found a country called Cyprus. Cyprus is an island next to Turkey and near Greece. Greece is accepting immigrants, but we couldn't go there because we didn't have a passport. If my family and I wanted to go, we had to go there illegally.

So we looked for a smuggler and we found one and he agreed to take us there. The smug-

gler told us to meet at a location and we met. The smuggler said not to worry because it will be easy and he would take us there.

Then he told us sit in the car. In the car, there was a driver. We sat in the car and the driver drove us.

After one hour the driver stopped. The smuggler said we had to walk. When

we got out of the car we looked around but the only thing we could see was desert. The place was very quiet and there was nothing around us. We followed the smuggler for half an hour. After walking for half an hour, we saw another car. It was very far. The smuggler stopped and said he had to go because all of us were going to this car and the car would take us to Cyprus. We were very happy when he said that. We thought that but we were wrong. After he left, we went toward the car but the car drove away.

At that moment I was very scared. We looked back to see where the smuggler was but the smuggler had disappeared. My father had the smuggler's phone number so he called him and told him that the car was gone. The smuggler said to keep going and we kept walking like the smuggler said but there was nothing. So we called again and again. Every time we called him, he told us a

different direction, but there was nothing. After a lot of walking, we started hearing sounds animal sounds like howling and barking but the sounds were far. My father saw a piece wood on the ground. He grabbed it so that if anything came at us he would hit it so he could defend us. We walked and walked and walked until our legs cramped. The weather was very cold too. My little brother was 6 years old. He was freezing.

My father gave my mother the piece of wood and he took his jacket off and covered my



little brother with it and then he held him in his arms. I was very cold and afraid and felt a lot of pain in my legs. However, I didn't want to tell them because I wanted them to see me as brave.

After he held my little brother, we continued walking until the

sunrise at 5:00. When the sun rose, we were able to see a little bit. We saw a British military base. It was damaged and deserted since the Turkish war with Greece in 1974. My father climbed the destroyed building so he could see where we had to go, but he didn't see anything, so my father said that there was no hope and he saw my little brother shaking and my mother was very tired. We decided to go back. We went back and we saw the Turkish border and the Turks took care of us.

When I grew up I realized why my father did that. He wanted my brother and me to have a safe place and better future, and he didn't have any choices better than that.

*Backer Alshaban
ESL W50
Narrative Essay*

Living in the USA

Many immigrants come to the USA. They come from different countries. Most of them come with their families. Every family has reasons to live in the USA. The USA is a dream for everyone because they can save their lives, people respect women, and immigrants can learn a new language.

First, one good thing about living in the USA is a safe life. Some people come from a country that has a war. Their lives are not easy because they lost one of their family members or a friend. They saw everything in front of their eyes. Some people are scared because bad people kid-napped them. In the USA, the government protects people. There are police officers everywhere, and the laws are very strong. In short, everyone had a hard life in their country, but they feel safe in the USA.

Second, respect for women is a very important and good thing in the USA. Women in the USA can work, but some women can't work in their countries. Also, women in the USA can drive, but some countries don't allow them to drive. In addition, some countries don't allow women to go to school or college, but in the USA they go to school, learn, and study. Women in the USA can say anything and talk with anybody anytime. However, in some other countries, women can't speak with everyone, just with their families. Also, women in the USA can refuse to marry when they are little. To

sum up, women get respect and support from all the special laws in the USA.

Third, learning a new language is a good thing in the USA because English is an important language. People in many countries speak or understand English. Some people learn English to communicate with people. Also, some people learn English to study and get a certificate or graduate from University. Some people learn English to get a good job. In short, if they have good language skills and a good certificate, then they get good jobs.

To summarize, every family has a new life in the USA, but I think it's a very good life because they save their lives, have respect for women, and can learn a new language. Some

people are lucky because they live in the USA. I hope everyone has good luck and comes to live in the USA.



Zaman Zawit
ESLW40
Descriptive Essay



Say “Goodbye” to Your Comfort Zone

The way you speak reveals who you are. It can show a level of your education, your background, and even your life status. That is why it is very important to learn the language as soon as possible when you immigrate to a different country. It will affect your entire life: your job, your surroundings, and your perspectives. One of the first things I did when I came to the US were my assessment test for the ESL program in ARC. I did this test five days after I had come. However, my experience shows that it is better to mix an academic learning of English with out-of-the-classroom learning because

when you learn a language from real life, you can have extra benefits. In my opinion there are several advantages to learn-

ing English outside the classroom: you can hear the real everyday language, you can feel the variety in language, and you can learn language much faster. The first advantage of learning English outside the classroom is an opportunity to hear real everyday language. In my opinion, a language is alive in a manner. Languages live, progress, and change all the time. You can't speak and understand language correctly if you don't hear and feel all these changes. I learned English in Ukraine for many years at school and I had good grades, but when I came here, to the US, I understood that I couldn't speak. At first, I could understand just half of what people said, but I couldn't lead myself to say a word. I was scared because I had all this vocabulary, but words didn't come together into sentences in my head. However, after some time, I finally understood that this wasn't a classroom test, and there were no grades. People didn't kill me if I

mixed up Past Simple and Past Perfect. Very slowly, I started to hear and feel real English. I got used to it. Now, I don't need to remember the tense chart all the time; I just speak. Of course, my English is not perfect. My English is not even very good, but people understand me, and I can express myself. The second example how real speech differs from classroom English is contractions. At first, when I heard all this “they're”, “we'll”, and “who's”, I wanted to say “What???” I couldn't understand why these people was in a rush. Why can't they say a whole word? However, then I learned to understand them.

I still don't use contractions when I speak, but I can figure out what people tell me. Surely, this is one of those things you can learn



only outside the classroom.

The second main advantage of learning English outside the classroom is getting an opportunity to feel the variety in language. English has so many dialects that even native speakers do not always understand each other. You can learn all this nicety in the classroom. You need to go and hear it. For example, I don't have any problem with understanding here, in California. However, I visited Texas, and there was a big surprise for me because I hardly understood what people said. My husband and I went to a restaurant and a waiter was very nice. He asked us where we were from and how our trip was going and made all kinds of chatter, and my husband answered, but I just nodded. I was in shock. I thought my listening-speaking teacher should change my A to C because I could understand less than sixty percent of what this guy said.

The third main advantage to learning English

outside the classroom is to get the opportunity to learn language much faster. Learning language is like learning to drive. You can know all the rules, but if you don't test yourself on the real road, you won't learn to drive. You don't have the time to think what rule matches a situation. You need to think very fast and decide what to do. It is the same situation with language. You don't have much time to think about what word or tense you should use.

At first it is very hard, but then you start to get used to it, and think faster. When time passes, you will stop translating in your head and start to think in English. I haven't reached this goal yet, but I'm on my way. In real life, you don't have a choice and you have to learn faster. Life won't wait until you read

your textbooks.

In conclusion, learning language outside the classroom gives you many benefits – you can improve your English in a real-life context, you can experi-

ence the various dialects, types of English, and you can learn faster. Of course, academic studying is very important and useful too, but if you want to speak well, you need to leave your comfort zone in your comfortable classroom and go outside.



Viktoria Gunenko
ESL W50
Prescriptive Essay

Important Event in My Life

Five years ago, a bad event happened to my family. I didn't expect it and it changed my life. I was living in Mosul, Iraq and my life was normal. I was watching news on TV. Suddenly I heard terrorists attacked Iraq and ISIS occupied Mosul. My husband decided to leave Iraq because it was dangerous to stay in Mosul and it became no longer safe, so I left Iraq to Turkey. In the beginning, I was afraid and sad because I left my home and relatives. The decision wasn't easy, but I had no choice. When I got Turkey, my family's life was difficult because we were without jobs and we couldn't go to school because of the laws.

Also, Turkish is very difficult and it was impossible to get a job without speaking Turkish. Luckily, we registered with the United Nations and it helped us to come to America. When the time for my arrival

to America approached, I was very excited because my dream was to come to the USA. America is a big country with a strong economy and it supports refugees. The laws in America help immigrants to

learn English and integrate into society. Today, I have a lot of friends and relatives. I'm learning English at ARC and I feel safe. In fact, there were two events. The first event was leaving Iraq, and it was a bad event. The second event was arriving the USA, and it was a happy event. I learnt from those two events patiently. Although I feel homesick, I always thank God because I'm here in America.



Aseel Alhayali
ESL G50
Narrative Writing

Does Communication Technology Really Affect Our Profundity?

The avalanche of information puts us, the communication technology users and the readers of the press, in a bottleneck: how to gulp and to bowl out a colossal incessant flow of information and not to shallow our pensive capacity. In this aspect, some concerns were raised in publications whether the media has its harmful effect on our intellectual toughness. Particularly, in his article "Mind Over Mass Media," Steven Pinker (2010), a professor of psychology at Harvard University, points out a significant role of electronic and print-

ed publications in the promoting of the human thinking capacity and a morale stance. Although there are moot signs of degrading our intellect in view of a shortened attentiveness, he explains that forging our interest in finding the

unknown by utilizing the helpful communication devices has resulted in essential breakthroughs in many studies and led to a plethora of the new branches of knowledge. In view of a schism between the supporters and the critics of the role the media on the quality of our intellect, I agree with Pinker's position for three reasons: the media drives us to the knowledge, helps us to shape our beliefs and worldviews, and impels us to reveal and realize our talents.

First, with the invention of the printing press through the discovery of electromagnetic waves to the creation of the first radio and then the mechanical television system, plenty of informative sources had become accessible to raise our intelligence quotient. Pinker (2010) states that the usage of the electronic and the print media has enhanced the quality of our wit. Indeed, the conjunctures in our lives have impelled us to lengthen our endless list

of questions, and finding answers to the questions always instills us to delve into various publishing or broadcasting sources (e.g., academic sources, literature, advertising or the news) that is now available via the press and the Internet. Moreover, our growing demands for the satisfaction of our curiosity in comprehension of the world have induced the inventors to advance in devising of the new forms of media outlet to accelerate the speed of information exchange. On the other hand, the necessity to utilize these new customized electronic devices has



encouraged us to educate ourselves. At the same time, with these technological innovations to quench our fast-growing societal demands, the scope of our intellectual needs has shifted and widened from

humdrum postulate to precise scientific data and to more realistic philosophical tenets. To compare, centuries ago, there was a small circle of literate people and autodidacts and a mass of illiterate poor people. Their interests were focused on the implementation of simple mental tasks: how to enhance ones' authority or to conquer one's throne and how to detect physical strength on performing drudgery. However, today's mass media opens the opportunities to all of us around the world to reveal the treasures of knowledge to benefit in many aspects of the life, broadening the scope of our interests so far. Once we overcome our illiteracy, the industrial sciences have imparted us the recent events and discoveries. For example, the running of the open experiments, forums, pre-election campaigns or public opinion hearings allow people to disseminate the agenda about the current serious social and economic issues, the consideration of

which requires us to exercise our critical analytical skills. So far, we've created the organs of public opinions to allow ourselves to give our feedback about the issue by expounding our own ideas throughout the nexus of discussions and debuts in the system of networks, such as Google, YouTube, or Apps (there are more than sixty social apps). Therefore, the ascendancy of the mobile technology, computers, and the printed sources has reasoned its wide-spread invasion in all spheres of our life (public and private) to enable us to appease our learning desires in discovering the diversity of the unknown, to solve the social or economic issues, or to find the explanations to a mystery of the world.

Second, there is a tremendous impact of the hard-printed and electronic publishing in molding of our beliefs or our own ethical incentives. Pinker (2010) emphasizes the role of information exchange in the deepening of our thinking. Although conversation of memory in the brain differs in volume in all of us, the communication tools have forced us to remember more important matters that are reflected in our mindset. Whilst we crave in discovering the unknown through using searching devices in probing our primary assumptions and hypotheses, we're all excited about learning what we don't know. We've honed our ruminative skills by focusing rather on the evaluation of an informative object than on simple digesting of informative bits. As a result, throughout our brainstorming of ideas, we have become equipped in making steps forward from our vacuity to perceptions and from our perceptions toward the profound comprehension of the world. In short, for example, the reading of scientific reports or watching documentary movies helps us to shape our worldviews. At the same time, we've become at an increasing scale dubious, and our gluttony for figuring out the answer to our questions imbues us to gorge a slew of information from e-articles, e-books, or movies. Consequently, we might come across only the acuity of a new question that was inferred from our biased opinions and perceptions. Inasmuch we've progressed from our dogmatic platitudes about trivial matters to an insightful evaluation of significant subjects, our

thinking power has dramatically changed due to an authentic content of media information. Throughout our mistakes and blunders of the past experiences, the media enables us to turn our fallacies down to our perspicacious understanding of what the real fact is. Looking back, the low-level class of the population hasn't had mental skills to hone insightful meditation because of the wide-spread illiteracy and the non-existence of media tools; therein, the beliefs in the eerie and mystical things were dominant in their minds. With the emerging of the books and then the arrival of the Internet, the exchange of reliable information became available to all people at higher speeds than before. With these breakthroughs in communication technology, we've looked forward to deepening our contemplation about natural matters and other abstract meanings as to what reality is. Being excited about our own ideas, we've ventured on inducing and deducing to settle on what a veridical gist of the answer is. This way, we've brought about a crucial change in the criterion of values in our minds. Therefore, the possibilities for exchanging ideas have contributed to how we rack up to some extent the wise perspicacity in our mentality in such a way that we've become more prudent, astute, and judgmatical in carrying on our pondering efforts for a reasonable outcome.

Third, one of the most important aspects of the media is that it inspires us to experiment on revealing our extraordinary skills. Pinker underscores that "accomplished people ...immerse themselves in their fields" (2010, para. 7). To explain, ordinary people usually dissipate their mental energy on grasping the bits of information, but the professionals harness their analytical efforts mainly in areas of their interests to boost their intellect. It is unsurprising that specialists are urged to go over-and-over their own ideas via exchanging information through social or industrial networks to cross out the outdated patterns and to galvanize their keen intelligence in their fields. One American TV channel for shopping is an example of the imaginative capacity of the producers in devising the innovations and introducing the improvements in

the products for consumers. Also, TV commercials demonstrate the promotion of ones' excogitation of ideas upon consumers' interests. Furthermore, the level of education is a key point to address how people treat the media searching tools to reveal their expertise. There are two categories of media consumers: the stereotyped people view it as an entertainment tool, but the genius uses it as an inquiry gear to examine beyond the limit or the known. From my personal observation, college and university graduates are inclined to rethink the hardest issues while ordinary people indulge themselves to contemplate over the easiest topics or to glean ones' ideas. Moreover, our social relations have dramatically turned to a high demand for intellectual brains due to applied science in all aspects of the modern life in public and in private spheres. Such a demand for intellects induces the specialists to execute their cognitive capabilities and talents at all academic levels by using media outputs (e.g., Internet Explorer, Stumble Upon, Pinterest, QZone, or LinkedIn) to aim a unique idea or to devise a thing. Even though gifted people have succeeded without media devices in the past, nowadays, they have more privileges with the electronic sources to apply their creativity than the mediocre have done.

To sum up my standpoints, my consent with Pinker's position is based on three aspects of my opinion: first, since the technological advancements have revolutionized our model of living, they turned our intellectual demands from moral infirmity to the building of mental capacities; also, the new forms of exchanging information have favored in changing the values in our attitudes by switching the focus of our rumination from the inconceivable beliefs in the uncanny toward the facts; last, the usage of media outlets stimulates our talents in all specters of the human and scientific knowledge. However, Pinker (2010) comments that our creativity is worthy if we persistently perfect our

imaginative aptitude in a way that we would not assimilate each other like puppets. Occasionally, we exploit our interests to eschew our unawareness at such an extent that our searching endeavors make us even device-addictive or multitaskers. Not long ago, there was a fallacy about the magical effect of listening to Johann Bach's polyphonic music enhancing one's logical brainstorming. In fact, without training and achieving the strong skills in critical meditation within the school walls, we cannot benefit from exercising the logos; meanwhile, do we really listen to Bach's music when we're ruminating about other aspects?

As long as a proper time is managed for media usage, it will help to avoid the nurturing of a device-addiction and multitasking. Whereas our growing social, cultural, and economic demands have forced the wide-spread modernization with the electronic and print



media, the level of a country's wellness has become dependent on the prevalence and the speed of information exchange in the population (e.g., compare the economic and social progress between the developed countries and the less-developed ones). Considering this aspect, the usage of communication sources where all issues of our life are tracked and retraced with constant updated revision makes our life extremely interesting, and it becomes a benchmark in boosting our intelligence under the view of criterion for the extent of our sagacity and prowess.

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Olga Bulanova-Solovyova
ESLW340
Expository Essay

Vacation in Ukraine

Ukraine is a beautiful country in the east of Europe where everybody can find a vacation of his choice. I can say without exaggeration that no matter what types of recreation you prefer, exploring Ukraine you would have a vacation of your dreams. There are three types of vacation people take in Ukraine: vacation in villages, vacation in the mountains, and vacation on the sea.

The first type of vacation people take in Ukraine is vacation in villages. At first sight, it doesn't look

tempting, but exploring Ukrainian villages people can enjoy several advantages. When I was a child, my parents sent me for a vacation in the village of Chernyavka, which is near my hometown Zhytomir. As a little girl, I was completely satisfied spending my vacation in this place and seeing domestic animals, playing with my friends in our

backyard, and living close to the wild nature. Ukrainian parents prefer that children spend their vacation in villages rather than in other places because it is not expensive, their children live with the relatives, and kids can eat true organic food every day during vacation. My good Ukrainian friend, Boris, sent his wife with children every year for two months on vacation to a village. During vacation in a village, they were always in fresh air, they drank fresh cow milk, and they poured themselves a cold water every morning. As a result, his kids and wife returned from vacation healthy, full of strength, and happy.

The second type of vacation people take in Ukraine is vacation in the mountains. Our country has the gorgeous Carpathian Mountains, which are in the west of Ukraine. These mountains are a favorite vacation spot for thousands of Ukrainians and foreigners from around the world. My friend, Yuliya, never missed the opportunity to go on vacation in the Carpathian Mountains during winter time because it is the peak season in the ski resort Bukovel, which is the best ski

resort in Ukraine. The Bukovel is the perfect place for those that love skiing, hiking, and hot springs. In contrast, my friend, Yuri, goes to the Carpathian Mountains in summer because he loves hiking in the mountains when all around is green. A few years ago, he climbed to the highest point of Ukraine, the Goverla Mountain. Yuri shared with me that he really enjoys going on vacation in the mountains, and for him it is even better than vacation at the sea. A vacation in the Carpathian Mountains is always an unforgettable

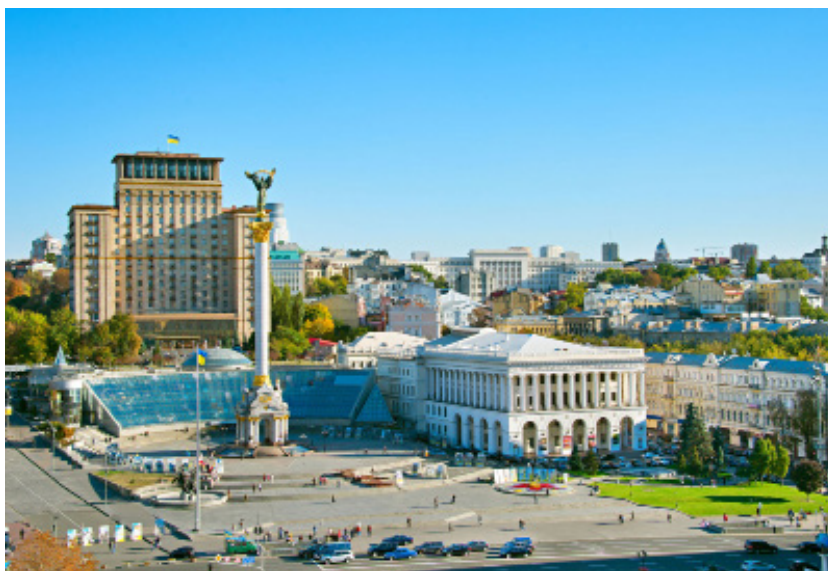
experience for those who love extreme sports as well as for those who like a relaxing holiday.

The third type of vacation people take in Ukraine is a vacation on the sea. Ukrainian banks are washed by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. People that love warm water, an inexpensive vacation, and healing mud, prefer going

to the Sea of Azov. My aunt, Valentina, likes going on vacation to this sea because the water in it is not deep, so the water temperature is very warm. Other people prefer going on vacation to the Black Sea, especially to the city of Odessa. This city is known as a port city, but, also, as a resort town. Going on vacation to Odessa, people combine a rest on the beach with visiting the city. My good friend, Anna, always went on vacation to Odessa because after a day on the beach, she liked to go to one of the restaurants to spend time with friends.

In conclusion, people that live in Ukraine have a wide choice of where to go on vacation. They make their choice based on the cost of travel, the individual preferences, and the things that they want to do during vacation. Types of vacation people take in Ukraine are vacation in villages, vacation in the mountains, and vacation on the sea.

Kateryna Maksymenko
ESL W50
Descriptive Essay



Preparing for Moving to a Foreign Country

I grew up in Moldova, a very small and beautiful country. Even if it has beautiful nature with orchards, forests, and historical monuments, people face a common problem: they don't have jobs. For this reason, they are supposed to go abroad to work to sustain their families. In the past, people went abroad to work for several months, then they returned home. Now hundreds of people are leaving the country forever in search of better life and stable future for their families. It isn't so simple to move aboard because you must pass through a long process. Moving to a different country is easy when you follow these important steps.

The first step in the process is to decide to which country you want to go to and to be informed about that country from all points of view. Whatever the destination country will be you have to find the right information about that country from the Internet

or from the embassy website. You have to know about their culture, how the climate is, what the medical system is like, what opportunities you will have, what kind of documents you need, and how easy is to get a visa for that country. Next, you have to be informed about the educational system if you are planning to go with your kids. After you decide in what country you want to go you have to study their language. You have to attend some courses that will help you to learn the new language in a short time. Then you have to find acquaintances in the city where you will go who can help you to find a temporary place to live or a job. At the same time, you should start to save your money because you will have many expenses.

The second major step in the process of moving to a different country is to prepare all the required documents. First of all, you need to set up a visa because people often don't have free exit. To apply for a visa, you have to collect all original documents such as birth certificates for all family members, passports, and marriage or divorce certificate. Next, you have to make an appointment with the embassy where the



ambassador will review all documents and will make the decision to open a visa or not. If you are lucky, you can have your visa in a few days! Then you have to see if all family members have all the required shots. Next, you have to translate all documents into the language of the country that you go, starting with high school diplomas and ending with birth certificates.

The third major and most important step in the process of moving abroad is to prepare for leaving. First, you have to book your flight. In my country, you

can't book tickets online by yourself; you have to find a special travel agent and he will book for you. Once you know the departure day, you can start the preparation. Actually, people sell their car, furniture, and even the house. You have to be careful to have enough time for selling everything. While preparing, spend a

lot of time with your family or friends because nobody knows when you will come back. Next, you have to purchase some good suitcases and pack things you might need immediately. Then you have to cancel any accounts that you have such as bank accounts, pay all the bills, break the phone contract, and go to the City Hall to get records. The last step to do is to organize a big party with all your friends and neighbors. Finally, you have to say goodbye to your dear friends and hometown and go to the airport.

To move to a different country is a long and very complicated process for Moldavian people. However, they are ready to face everything just to have a better future. The hardest part is to receive a visa; otherwise, it is easier to overcome all obstacles because people have strong characters. Even if the process of moving to a different country is boring and unpleasant, it is easy when you follow these important steps.

*Lenuta Musorivsi
ESL W50
Descriptive essay*

My Favorite Souvenir

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 the examples of 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 life.

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 delicate color – ivory color! 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 to 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 as-



sociated 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
Descriptive essay

Nestscape -- Articles from the Web

Coronavirus scare

Continued from page 1

The point is that the Germans have a rather nice and descriptive word for hoarding stuff. They call the activity of panic buying hamsterkauf, with the corresponding verb being hamstern.

It's not too hard for people from the English-speaking world to guess its meaning. After all, they share the same word for the rodent that's used as a descriptive term in German to indicate that if you do a *hamsterkauf*, you want a lot of stuff — just as *hamsters* are eager to store as much food as they can in their cheeks. You never know, it could come in handy.

Soon an English (borrowed) word?

Panic buying is perhaps part of the German angst that crops up once in a while. The question is: If angst made it into the English language long ago, isn't it time for hamsterkauf to follow suit and join the likes of dachshund, blitzkrieg, kindergarten, realpolitik and hinterland? Probably not, as compound words stand a far lower chance of ever being incorporated, but never say die in this crazy lexiconic world.

Be that as it may, there's no denying the fact that a number of English-language publications have explicitly mentioned and explained the German expression for hoarding as they seem to like it quite a bit.

In a daily email newsletter called Morning Brew, which says it covers the latest news from Wall Street to Silicon Valley and beyond, hamsterkauf made into the "beyond" section this week.

"They say there's a German word for everything, so obviously, there's one for hoarding during times of widespread panic," the newsletter points out. "Hamsterkauf has a connection to hamsters, which store food in their cheeks," it continues. It even suggests using the German word in sentences such as "German grocery stores have been experiencing a wave of hamsterkauf during the coronavirus scare."

Let's not be wonkish here and ignore the fact that hamsterkauf is a countable noun and would require the plural form in that headline.

Trending on social media

Quartz, an online guide to the new global economy, put the German word right in a headline reading "Germans taking part in coronavirus panic hoarding are doing a hamsterkauf."

After explaining the word and its origin, the web portal notes that hamsterkauf has been trending on social media "as people share photos of store shelves cleared out of food and other household items." It notes that a standard hamsterkauf involves the purchase of canned goods, pasta, mineral water, disinfectants and toilet paper.

"Austria [another German-speaking nation]," it continues, "is also seeing instances of hamsterkauf after it reported two cases of coronavirus in its southern Tyrol region."

Quartz also mentioned the so-called hamsterkauf list, a compilation of items that authorities say should be in every household to fall back on in times of emergency. The fancy German word also featured in the English-language edition of Arab news website Sada Elbalad SEE egypt. Its article titled "Germany sees hamsterkauf, what is it?" explains why shelves can sometimes be empty in Germany these days because of the coronavirus threat. Importantly, it also adds that it doesn't take an epidemic to see people engaged in hamsterkauf activities in Germany.

"This word has also been used to describe the rush on supermarkets that occurs before long holiday weekends when markets will be closed."

And indeed the word is used in a much wider context. Right now, though, hamsterkauf and coronavirus tend to be glued together.

Don't panic; it's just a suggestion

"German [word] of the day: Hamsterkauf" is the headline for a story I spotted on a website called Observing Hermann.



The author explains that the word means panic

buying, adding "you know, like in 'oh my God, are we all gonna die?'"

Most likely not. In my humble opinion, there's a far greater chance of hamsterkauf becoming a standard English word. Quite frankly, such a development would truly reflect the current zeitgeist and wouldn't be the worst borrowed word in a language that has tons of them already.



<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-scare-when-will-hamsterkauf-become-an-english-word/a-52635400>

Indoor Game Recommendations!

We think it's a tough time for everybody who is stuck at home for a long time because of the home quarantine order. Many festivals or holidays around the world have been called off or delayed. People may get bored and find nothing interesting to do. However, The Parrot has some suggestions for inside activities for family to spend time together.

Watching movie together.

All members in the family can choose their favorite movies or shows which everybody likes to watch together. You should prepare some snacks like popcorn, nuts, drinks, and other things that your family



likes to eat. Then you choose a comfortable place which is usually in the living room, laying on the couch or a blanket. Let's enjoy the movie!

Tent Camping.

It is always interesting to go camping in safe places like our houses and of course it will be fun tent camping at home. You should use a small tent or kid's tent to play this activity. All members in the family can spend time in the tent together reading books, singing, playing mini games or telling scary stories. It will be fun to camp in your backyard, too.

Painting.

If you want to have a thing to do with your kids, painting will be a good activity for you and your kids to spend time together. This can give you and your kids a long period of time to work on a drawing and painting a picture.



Cooking.

It is never boring to cook with your family. It will be great to prepare a very complicated meal for your family because everyone will have to give a hand in the kitchen.



Hide and seek.

You don't need to have a very big house to play this game. Every corner in your house can be a good place to hide. It can be in another room or behind the wardrobe or anywhere in the kitchen.



Blindfolded hide and seek.

It is so enjoyable to run away from people who can not see you and tease them. One person has to cover his/her eyes with a blindfold, and other players have to make sure he/she can't see anything. People stay around him/her to make noise and he/she tries to catch one person and guess their name. The person who is caught will be the next one who has to cover his/her eyes with the blindfold. It will be fun to play this game with your family inside the house or in your backyard.



Cleaning the house.

We think this activity is really helpful for parents. You can clean your house, spend time together with your kids, and also teach your kids how to clean. However, it's not easy to make kids work. Rewards can motivate them to participate in the work.

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!

Pad Thai

Pad Thai: Ingredients

3 to 4 cups medium-width rice sticks, soaked
 2 tablespoons (30 ml) vegetable oil, such as canola, grape seed or peanut oil
 3 to 4 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
 1/2 cup (95 g) Thai-style baked tofu, sliced
 1 teaspoon dried shrimp
 1/2 cup (95 g) chicken, cut into thin strips, 1-inch lengths
 2 large eggs
 4 teaspoons packaged salted turnip, minced
 8 shrimp, peeled and cleaned
 1 cup (240 g) bean sprouts
 1/4 cup (50 g) dry-roasted unsalted peanuts, crushed
 3 to 4 garlic chives (or scallions), cut into 2-inch lengths on a bias
 1 lime, cut for garnish

Directions:

1. For the Pad Thai Sauce: In a small bowl, stir together the fish sauce, sugar, tamarind paste, lime juice, vinegar, paprika and chili sauce. Set aside.
2. For the Pad Thai: Soak the noodles in enough warm water to cover for 1 hour.
3. If using, cut the banana leaf into round shapes using an overturned bowl. Place on the serving platter and hold for plating.
4. Heat a large cast-iron skillet over high heat. Add the oil and coat the skillet completely. When the skillet starts to smoke, add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 5 seconds. Add the tofu and dried shrimp and cook, stirring, until they begin to soften, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the chicken pieces and cook, stirring, until no longer pink, 1 to 2 minutes.
5. Push ingredients in the skillet to one side and let the oil settle in the center of skillet. Crack the eggs into the oil and let set until half-cooked, about 30 seconds, then lightly scramble. Combine with the remaining cooked ingredients in the skillet, scraping the bits from the bottom before they burn.

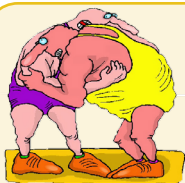
Pad Thai Sauce: Ingredients

4 tablespoons (60 ml) Thai fish sauce
 4 tablespoons (50 g) sugar
 3 tablespoons (45 ml) bottled tamarind paste
 1 tablespoon (15 ml) fresh lime juice
 1 tablespoon (15 ml) unseasoned rice wine vinegar
 1 tablespoon sweet paprika, for color (optional)
 2 teaspoons chili sauce, such as Sriracha



6. Add 3 cups of the drained noodles and cook, stirring, until softened, 2 to 3 minutes. Reserve the noodle soaking water.
7. Add the salted turnip and shrimp. Cook until both the chicken and shrimp are at medium doneness, about 1 minute. Add the sauce and fold together until all the liquid is absorbed, about 2 minutes.
8. Place half of the bean sprouts, half of the crushed peanuts and the garlic chives (or scallions) in the center of noodles, and then spoon some noodles over them to cover and let steam for 30 seconds. If the skillet seems dry, add a small amount of the noodle soaking water. Transfer to a serving plate with the banana leaf circle, and garnish with the remaining bean sprouts, peanuts and lime.

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Indirect Objects

The indirect object is a noun that receives the action of the verb, but the action is indirect because it affects the direct object first. Not all sentences that have a direct object also have an indirect object. All sentences with an indirect object must have a direct object.

The indirect object always comes before the direct object.

EX: I threw Jonas the ball. [I threw the ball (direct object) but Jonas got it (indirect object).]

To find the indirect object, ask to *whom* or for *what* was the verb done?

EX: My grandfather left me his gold watch. ("me" is the indirect object)

The indirect object is very similar to the object of the preposition. They can mean the same thing. If the preposition is missing, the word is an indirect object. If the preposition is there, the word is the object of the preposition.

Ex: I gave my mother my report card. (Mother is the indirect object.)

Ex. I gave my report card to my mother. (Mother is the object of the preposition to.)

If there is no direct object, the indirect object is the direct object.

Ex. I told her the news. (indirect object)

Ex. I told her. (direct object)

Compound Indirect Objects

An indirect object may be compound.

Kevin brought Madeline and Josie flowers for Valentine's Day. (Madeline and Josie are the indirect objects).

Common Indirect Object Mistakes

Some verbs that seem like they should take direct objects do not. They sometimes lead to grammatical mistakes.

Ex. Our librarian lent me a book. (correct)

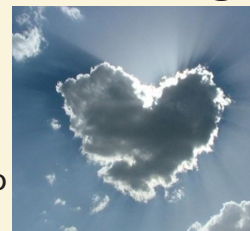
Ex. A friend borrowed me a book. (incorrect)

<https://www.englishgrammar101.com/module-5/sentence-parts/lesson-8/indirect-objects>

Idiom--Attic

Every cloud has a silver lining

Meaning: A silver lining on a cloud is an indication that the sun is behind it. Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.



<https://www.smart-words.org/quotes-sayings/idioms-meaning.html>

Pronunciation Rules

CH and J Sounds

In English, the CH and J sounds are often studied together because they are made in the same part of the mouth and pronounced in a similar way. In this lesson, we will learn how to make the voiceless CH sound (China, century) and the voiced J sound (Germany, jump).

1. In the English language, we use many voiced sounds. That means that the vocal cords vibrate when you say that sound. The J sound is a voiced sound because you use your voice to make the sound.

2. The CH sound is a voiceless or unvoiced sound because the vocal cords do not vibrate when you make the sound. Instead, you release air out of your mouth to make the sound.



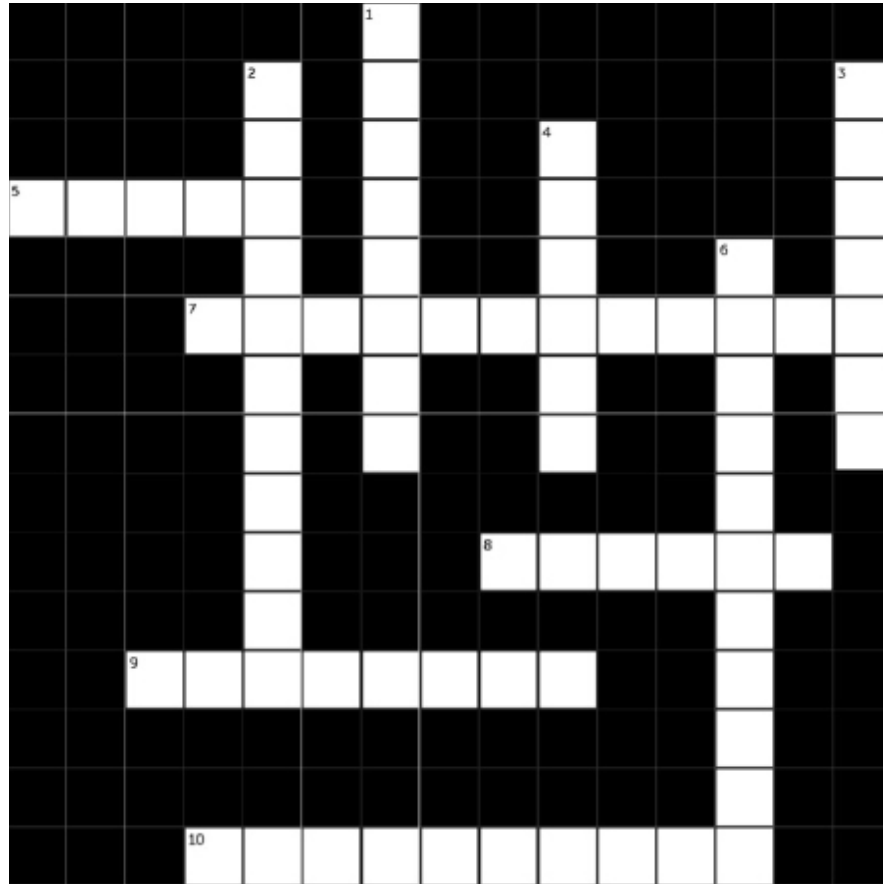
3. The voiceless (unvoiced) CH sound (IPA symbol: tʃ) can be found in English words such as China, child, church, century, watch, and catch.

4. To make the CH and J sounds, air is stopped from leaving your mouth for a short time. The tip of the your tongue presses against the back of your top teeth to stop air from leaving your mouth. The sides of your tongue press against the sides of your upper teeth.

<https://www.really-learn-english.com/english-pronunciation-lesson-29-ch-and-j-sounds.html>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

PANDEMIC PUZZLE



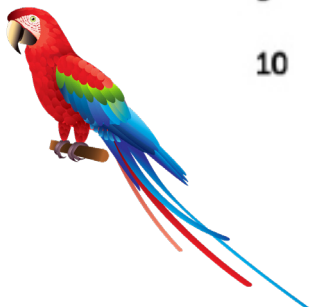
ACROSS

- 5 An abnormally high body temperature
- 7 The state of being unemployed.
- 8 Extreme dangerous
- 9 An action to prevent virus
- 10 What do you need to do when the pandemic happen?



DOWN

- 1 Disease rampant
- 2 Any of a group of RNA viruses that cause a variety of diseases in humans and other animals.
- 3 If you feel hard to do this thing, you have to go to the hospital at once
- 4 People who work in pandemic
- 6 the degree or intensity of heat present in a substance or object



Consolation

*How agreeable it is not to be touring Italy this summer,
Wandering her cities and ascending her torrid hill-*
towns.

*How much better to cruise these local, familiar streets,
Fully grasping the meaning of every roadsign and
billboard*

*And all the sudden hand gestures of my compatriots.
There are no abbeys here, no crumbling frescoes or
famous*

*Domes and there is no need to memorize a succession
Of kings or tour the dripping corners of a dungeon.
No need to stand around a sarcophagus, see Napoleon's
Little bed on Elba, or view the bones of a saint under
glass.*

*How much better to command the simple precinct of home
Than be dwarfed by pillar, arch, and basilica.*

*Why hide my head in phrase books and wrinkled maps?
Why feed scenery into a hungry, one-eyes camera*

*Eager to eat the world one monument at a time?
Instead of slouching in a café ignorant of the word
for ice,*

*I will head down to the coffee shop and the waitress
Known as Dot. I will slide into the flow of the morning
Paper, all language barriers down,
Rivers of idiom running freely, eggs over easy on the way.*

*And after breakfast, I will not have to find someone
Willing to photograph me with my arm around the owner.*

*I will not puzzle over the bill or record in a journal
What I had to eat and how the sun came in the window.*

*It is enough to climb back into the car
As if it were the great car of English itself*

*And sounding my loud vernacular horn, speed off
Down a road that will never lead to Rome, not even
Bologna.*

By Billy Collins

Rigoberto's Riddles

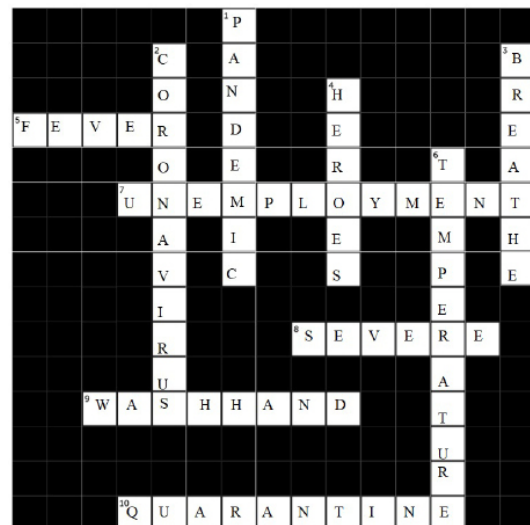
Take away my first letter and
I sound the same. Take away
my last letter, I still sound the
same. Take away my letter in
the middle, I will still sound
the same. I am a 5 letter word.
What am I?



EMPTY

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

A man goes to a job interview and the inter-
viewer begins with the question, "What do
you think is your biggest
weakness?" The man
thinks for a moment,
then says, "I think
my biggest
weakness
is my brutal
honesty." The
interviewer
says, "I don't think
that's a weakness."
The man then says,
"I don't give a darn
what you think!"



“50/50 Vocabulary Quiz” about “Consolation”

Each of these words is used in the poem “Consolation” by Billy Collins. This is called a 50/50 quiz because you only have two choices for the definition of each word. If you’re not sure, flip a coin! You can check your answers below. If you want to see the word in a sentence, look in the poem.

1. **consolation (noun)**

A. Something that makes a person feel less sadness, disappointment, etc.

B. Something that people put a TV on so that it is higher and easier to see.

2. **to wander (verb)**

A. to think about something with curiosity

B. to move around or go to different places usually without having a particular purpose or direction

3. **torrid (adjective)**

A. very hot and usually dry

B. very shocking or bad

4. **to cruise (verb)**

A. to move around in (a place) without a specific purpose but usually with the hope of finding something interesting

B. to look for information or other interesting things on the Internet

5. **to grasp (verb)**

A. to breathe in suddenly and loudly with your mouth open because of surprise, shock, or pain

B. to understand (something that is complicated or difficult)

6. **abbey (noun)**

A. a large area of water that is part of an ocean or lake and partly surrounded by land
B. a church that is connected to other buildings where monks or nuns live or once lived

7. **fresco (noun)**

A. a citrus flavored soda that many people prefer more than 7-Up or Sprite.

B. a painting that is done on wet plaster such as on a wall or ceiling

8. **dome (noun)**

A. a large rounded roof or ceiling that is shaped like half of a ball

B. a doll that is shaped like and is as large as a person

9. **dungeon (noun)**

A. a gray bird that is common in cities and that has a fat body and short legs

B. a dark underground prison in a castle

10. **sarcophagus (noun)**

A. a hard black material that is made by burning wood with a small amount of air

B. a stone coffin from ancient times

11. **saint (noun)**

A. a person who is officially recognized by the Christian church as being very holy because of the way he or she lived

B. a pleasant smell that is produced by something such as a flower, candle, etc.

12. **to dwarf (verb)**

A. to make (something) look very small or unimportant when compared with something else

B. to give (a person or an animal) a vaccine to prevent infection by a disease

13. **wrinkled (adjective)**

A. Making sounds like the sounds of a small bell

B. Having many small folds in the surface of clothing, paper, skin, or other things that are normally smooth and flat.

14. **eager (adjective)**

A. feeling a strong and impatient desire to do something or for something

B. having or showing complete and constant support for someone or something

15. **to slouch (verb)**

A. to take (something that does not belong to you) in a way that is wrong or illegal

B. to walk, sit, or stand lazily with your head and shoulders bent forward

16. **ignorant (adjective)**

A. having an education and especially a good education

B. lacking knowledge or information

HINT: Do you want to hear these words pronounced? Go to LearnersDictionary.com by the company Merriam-Webster. The dictionary switches between male and female voices, and it has clear American-English pronunciation. It’s also free!

ANSWERS: How did you do? Are you ready for a trip to Italy? 1-6 correct answers: Beginner—don’t go to Italy without an interpreter!

7-11 correct answers: INTERMEDIATE—you’ll enjoy Italian culture, but keep a dictionary close by. 12-16 correct answers:

ADVANCED—You are ready to be a tour guide!

Interview with Prof.

Continued from page 1

classes with him. I kind of wanted to be like him because he was a great mentor.

The Parrot: Did you admire him?

Prof. Angelone: I admire him very much. I said this is a great job. When I went to school, I was an OK student. I got good grades. I wasn't the best but I also knew that I like people.

The Parrot: I know you have been at ARC for a while, how long have you been here?

Prof. Angelone: I was hired in 2008.

The Parrot: Why did you choose English over other subjects?

Prof. Angelone: My mom belonged to a book club. When I was very young, she would be involved in clubs. I don't know if we still have these book clubs now, but I am pretty sure they did back then. With Amazon and all these big companies now, they're probably no longer around as much as they used to be. My mom was a member of a book club, meaning she would pay money, and then the company would send her three best book - the 3 best books of that month you know. She would put them on the bookshelf. As a youngster, I would read them. She was also a typist, so she typed very fast. She worked in law. I was around a lot of writing and a lot of books even though my parents were blue collar. Do you know what that means?

The Parrot: Blue collar?

Prof. Angelone: It means they didn't have a lot of education; my dad was a car mechanic; my mom went to typing school but she was always an avid reader. I guess I was just always good at it. I could read and retain a lot of information quickly. So I said, "Hey! I guess I can use that. It is a skill, right?" That is a long answer. But I think my interest in stories, in movies, in books has always been there since I was a little boy. I'm always fascinated with stories.

The Parrot: Could you tell me how your first day was when you became a teacher?

Prof. Angelone: I remember that day. I had a position offered to me up in Orland, CA which is 2 hours north of Sacramento - up near Chico but out further. My class began at 8 am in Orland, and I lived in downtown Sacramento. To make sure I was there

at 8, I had to leave my house right at 6 and that was cutting it close for that 2 hours drive. Sometimes it was 2 hours and 5 minutes and I would be walking in late. I had a class of about 20 students, and they were all from the area up there. It was very rural: lots of farms, not a lot of businesses. On my first day, I walked in. This guy came in about 5 minutes after I did, and he had these big boots on up to his knees. They were rubber boots, and he kind of smelled a little bit, too. It was like he just came from work, "Sorry I am late. I just came from the cow farm."

The Parrot: Was he one of your students?

Prof. Angelone: He was a student and he was also a cow farmer. So on my first day, I was still very young; I was 24. All of a sudden I feel like a kid and I had this man with boots. He already worked a shift at a dairy farm where he was milking cows, and now he is coming in late with boots. I was like, "Wow, this is not what I expected." But it eventually became a very good experience. His name was Sam by the way.

The Parrot: I guess you really enjoy teaching, right?

Prof. Angelone: I do, I get a lot of joy from seeing students tell me their stories. I like stories and everybody has one, right?

The Parrot: Yes, of course. What are the differences between regular English and ESL?

Prof. Angelone: I think that my understanding might be incorrect. What I mean is an ESL teacher is much more qualified at knowing the differences between ESL and regular English than I would know. But from my understanding of ESL classes, in addition to my degree in English, I would have to have some background and a certificate in teaching English as a foreign language. That gives me a basic understanding of the important aspects of acquiring a new language - any new languages. I think we're all language learners. It should be called LL. What's your native language?

The Parrot: It's Vietnamese.

Prof. Angelone: For instance, if I tried to speak Vietnamese, I would be a VLL (Vietnamese Language Learner). I think the things I learned from my certificate were speaking, listening, reading and writing. They are all difficult and we all learn how to learn a language in our own special ways. I think I am a listener; I am an ear guy. I want to hear

the sound and also see how it is written and then I combine these two things. Some people they don't really like to speak. They would rather watch or they would rather read. My understanding would be that there is no real standard difference; they are equally difficult in challenges. I think the expectation in English is the same expectation as a Vietnamese composition class. Meaning if you are in an advance class in a university in Vietnam and you are speaking Vietnamese and analyzing art or poetry in Vietnamese, then you would follow the same standard as any writing class. I have a lot of smart students who have degrees from countries like Vietnam or Ukraine. They are doctors. They are just learning a new language. They already know how to think, write or present ideas. The big difference to me is that we teach form, essay, different genres of writing, with emphasis on critical thinking and critical analysis and less on mechanics.

The Parrot: Are there many ESL students taking your class?

Prof. Angelone: Yes. There is a new law that pre-

vents community colleges from giving remedial English classes, so ESL students are forced to take level 300 English classes. I am not sure if students are telling each other to take my classes or not, but other teachers are not seeing many ESL students in their classrooms.

The Parrot: Last question - What's your advice to the highest ESL students who will be taking regular English next year?

Prof. Angelone: To identify your learning style, we offer opportunities for students to look at the syllabi of multiple teachers. They are all on files in our office. Grammar is unimportant because there are people out there who can edit and revise your work. So choose your professor wisely to meet your needs. The teacher needs to know that you are learning a new language.

The Parrot: I really enjoyed talking to you. Thank you very much for your time.

Prof. Angelone: You're welcome!

Interviewer: Dai Nguyen

Reading for Beginners

Neighbors

Jack and Ann are married. They are not happy together. Why not?

They are very different. Jack smokes. Ann doesn't smoke. Jack likes to watch baseball on TV. Ann doesn't like baseball. Ann likes loud music. Jack doesn't like loud music. Jack snores at night. Ann can't sleep.

One day, Ann looks at the house next door.

It is for sale. Ann buys the house and moves in.

Now Ann lives in the house next to Jack. In his house, Jack can watch baseball on TV. He can smoke. He can snore. In her house, Ann can listen to loud music. She can sleep.

Now Jack and Ann are married and happy!

Complete the sentences. Write the letter of your answers.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Jack and Ann are not happy ____ | a. but Jack doesn't like loud music. |
| 2. Jack smokes ____ | b. because they are very different. |
| 3. Jack likes to watch baseball on TV, ____ | c. and Ann can't sleep. |
| 4. Ann likes loud music, ____ | d. but Ann doesn't like baseball. |
| 5. Jack snores, ____ | e. but Ann doesn't smoke. |

Franny Noetal

*Fanny Background: Nanny 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-grandmother **Fanny 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 Fanny Noetal will receive them!*

Dear Franny Noetal,

I am a new ESL student at ARC. My native language does not use the English alphabet. It doesn't even use capital letters, so writing with the English alphabet is very difficult. In some ways, I like typing on my keyboard more than writing by hand because it is easier for people to read, but the English keyboard is crazy. I don't understand the organization. I need help learning how to type. Right now I use just two fingers, but I see friends type with all of their fingers. They fly all over the keyboard. Can you recommend some ways to practice.

Thanks,

QWERTY Crazy



Dear QWERTY Crazy,

If you want to improve your typing skills, you should follow certain steps. Many American students take a keyboarding class in school when they are young, and then others practice online. If you learn to type 40-50 WPM (words per minute), you are doing fairly well. If you want a true goal, you should know that according to Quora.com the highest typing speed ever recorded was 216 WPM, set by Stella Pajunas in 1946, using an IBM electric typewriter. Currently, the fastest English language typist is Barbara Blackburn, who reached a peak typing speed of 212 WPM during a test in 2005, using a Dvorak simplified keyboard. There are some good websites to help beginning typers.

<https://www.typingclub.com/>

This site is good for elementary school children. It is to be really well organized and easy to follow. This site is free and doesn't require you to sign in.

<https://www.typing.com/>

When you look at the homepage, you think you need to set up an account, but it's not required. Just click on "For Students" and it will take you to the practice pages. If you create a free account, it will keep track of your progress. This site has a lot of games to help you practice. If you're a zombie fan, you're in luck! There is a "Zombie Defender" game.

<https://www.typingtest.com/>

This website starts with a transcription style typing test, which may seem a little hard for English learners because transcribing (copying words that you see in a paragraph on the screen) is a much different skill than typing ideas from your mind. This is another website that does not require you to sign in or create an account.

Around the World

MID-AUTUMN OR MOON FESTIVAL

The legends of the Mid-Autumn or Moon festival are different in many East Asian countries. In China, the Moon festival is a special time like Thanksgiving in America and known as the harvest festival. In Vietnam, the moon festival is special for children.



Dragon dance

The Mid-Autumn festival is usually in the middle of August in the Lunar calendar and often falls in September or October in the Gregorian calendar. It's celebrated with many different activities in many Asian countries.



Mooncake picture

In China, the ancient Chinese used to worship the moon to thank for the harvest; today, people gather together to celebrate the festival and eat food together.

In Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines, people celebrate the festival with many activities like dragon dancing and lighting lanterns. In Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam, which have been influenced by Chinese culture, also have a lot of activities to celebrate this meaningful festival. In Vietnam, children always bring lanterns around their communities to show the lantern shapes to their friends.



Children show their lanterns

Mooncake is a special food and cannot be missed in this festival. The mooncake is made from many ingredients like wheat flour, yellow mung bean, red bean, nuts, fruit, egg yolks, lotus seeds, melon seed paste, ham, duck, roast pork, etc. The mooncake has a special shape like the moon with a textured pattern on the surface. People can also create the shape they want for themselves. It's always eaten with hot tea to reduce the sweetness of the cake. It's a kind of dessert but it can make you gain a lot of weight.

Tuyet Le

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/festivals/mid-autumn-festival.htm>

White Mountain Peak 14252 ft (4342 m)

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

Hello ARC family! The mountains have definitely been calling. Today I decided to answer the call from White Mountain Peak. This mount is located northeast of the city of Bishop on US-395, which is the third highest peak in California and the highest outside of the Sierra Nevada. Gener-



ally, people climb June to October, but ascents are possible year-round. White Mountain Road and others are not plowed during the winter and maybe gated when blocked by snow. If you choose to do the South Face when the road is blocked with snow, it's an additional 26.5-mile ski approach to Barcroft Gate for the final 7 miles to the summit. I have climbed White Mountain Peak, and I still love this mountain. I started my hike from the locked gate on October 9, 2019. My friend and I left the gate at 7:30 and made the summit by 11:00. We did the short rock scramble near the top to avoid the snowfield which is larger this year than I have seen it previously. The weather was clear but very windy the whole way. It is a desert mountain, but it was greener this year than I have ever seen it.

White Mountain is called an easy mount above 14000 feet, but it would be a big mistake to underestimate it. The altitude and distance are significant, especially if you start at the locked gate. The drive to the trailhead is one of the worst dirt roads I've driven in. I would not recommend doing it in a sedan. I have done it in a 4x4 car. It's best

to go slow and take in the massive views at every turn. At the top, there was still snow. The hike is relatively easy, but the altitude really hits you. Do not underestimate climbing on 14000 feet. White Mountain is beautiful. Sometimes it feels like we're on another planet, another time like we're in the middle of a valley of a fairy tale story... The last 2 miles are a challenge due to the lack of oxygen at the high altitude, combined with the many steep rocks that slowed us down significantly. There were some snow patches but not really obstacles as everyone can get around them easily. Not as challenging but very good for acclimatizing and conditioning if you intend to hike other 14-ers .

The stark, rather barren terrain and multi-colored rocky peaks give the area an otherworldly look. And when you combine this with the deep blue high altitude skies and sunshine that is brighter than anything you will see at sea level, this area just screams 'La La Land'. Oh, and let's not forget the spectacular views of the Eastern Sierra and surrounding countryside. These views only get better



the higher you go. In addition, the Bristlecone Pines are the oldest living things in the world. There are found on the way up and no permit is required. I hope you will enjoy it as I did! See you on the trail. Have fun and be safe.

Out of the Cage

VIRTUAL

TRANSFER

WEEK

2020

More than 50 CSU, UC, Independent/Private and Out-of-State Colleges/Universities!

These virtual sessions will be hosted by University representatives providing information regarding the application process, financial aid, programs and scholarships.

SEPT 21 MONDAY
Sac State Day

RSVP

<https://tinyurl.com/transfer2020SacStateDay>



SEPT 22 TUESDAY
Private/Out-of-State University

RSVP

<https://tinyurl.com/transfer2020privateday>



SEPT 23 WEDNESDAY
UC Day

RSVP

<https://tinyurl.com/transfer2020UCDay>



SEPT 24 THURSDAY
CSU Day

RSVP

<https://tinyurl.com/transfer2020CSUday>



LOS RIOS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT



Out of the Cage

American River College



- Questions about college?
- Need more information?
- The ARC ELLIS Club can help!

The ARC ELLIS Club is a group of ARC students and professors committed to helping people transition into college and achieve success. Our focus is immigrants and English language learners like you!

Email us to connect with one of our club representatives. ellis.club2019@gmail.com

Meet Your Health Resources

Meet the Los Rios Health and Wellness Services staff as well as some of our community partners. Learn how to connect with much-needed services remotely and in-person in the Sacramento area. We are here for you!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
11:00AM - 12:30PM**

[Click HERE to join!](#)

- NAMI
- WEAVE CONFIDENTIAL ADVOCATE
- SACRAMENTO COVERED
- GOLDEN RULE SERVICES



WOW Arabic/Middle Eastern/North African Mixer 2020 September 22, 2020 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (zoom)

We will be welcoming all students, faculty, staff and administrators to connect and begin celebrating being in our community. We will have giveaways, introduce ARC Faculty/Staff/Admin as well as share resources for students, network to meet departments, and build new connections.

The Meeting Link: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8223239652>
Register via Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8223239652>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?



SQUAWK!!

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

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Contact us by e-mail, call, or drop by. Professor Travis: Davies 370, (916) 484-4524, or Travism@arc.losrios.edu; Professor Hoggan: Davies 334, (916) 312-3574, or Hogganp@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to <https://www.arc.losrios.edu/academics/the-parrot-newsletter>.