

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



The Parrot



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Issue

THE PARROT MEETS POE'S RAVEN



Recently, *The Parrot* was in New York City on vacation and, while there, visited the building in which Edgar Allan Poe composed his most famous poem, [The Raven](#), in 1845. One little known, astonishing fact is that the talking raven featured in the poem is still alive today, 180 years later, residing in that very building! Being the oldest bird in the world, it is frail and spends much of its time resting. *The Parrot* was beside itself with joy when it was granted an interview.

It's an honor to meet you! We're grateful to you for this opportunity to interview you.

The Raven: I've always liked parrots. You're so colorful, and you can talk, too, just like ravens.

Yes, we've come a long way from squawking, just as you have from cawing. Ravens normally caw, don't they?

Untutored ones do, yes. I ceased to caw nearly two centuries ago, preferring

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Disneyland Is Coming to Town! Disneyland's Robotic Revolution in Sacramento

In a surprising twist, Disneyland has announced plans to open a new store in Sacramento, catering to the city's enthusiastic Disney fans. This new venture is set to be unlike any other, as it will be entirely staffed by robots. The decision comes after extensive research revealed that Sacramento residents have a deep love for all things Disney, making it the perfect location for this innovative experiment.

The robotic staff will be equipped with the latest AI technology, ensuring that they can interact with guests, answer questions, and even perform classic Disney songs and dances. These robots are designed to provide a seamless and magical experience, bringing the enchantment of Disneyland

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DAVIES HALL: GRAND RE-OPENING!

You read that right, we are open! After being closed for a year and a half for “safety reasons,” we are pleased to inform you that Davies Hall will finally be reopening! Turns out it wasn’t that it got shut down for safety reasons, it got shut down because the building needed some much needed remodeling work. Please come join us this

next April 32nd for the grand reopening! The Kings basketball team will be hosting, and we’ll have special guests such as Ariana Grande and Sacramento native, Mariah Carrey. Make sure you wear your best clothes since Fox and CNN will have cameras everywhere broadcasting live the special event.

April Fool's Idioms

April Fool's Idioms: Fun Sayings About Tricks and Jokes

April Fool's Day is a time for playing jokes and tricks. But did you know that the English language has many idioms about fools, jokes, and tricks? These idioms can help ESL students understand how native speakers talk about being fooled, tricking others, or acting silly. Let's look at some fun idioms that fit the spirit of April Fool's Day!

1. "Pull someone's leg"

This idiom means to joke with someone or trick them in a playful way. It is not serious; it is just for fun.

Example: *I didn't really win the lottery. I was just pulling your leg!*

2. "A fool and his money are soon parted"

This means that people who are not careful with their money will lose it quickly.

Example: *Jack spent all his money on a fake gold watch. A fool and his money are soon parted!*

3. "Make a fool of yourself"

When you do something silly or embarrassing, people might say you "made a fool of yourself."

Example: *Tom tried to dance at the party, but he slipped and fell. He made a fool of himself!*

4. "Play a joke on someone"

This means to trick someone in a funny way.

Example: *On April Fool's Day, I played a joke on my friend by putting salt in her coffee instead of sugar!*

5. "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me"

This means that if someone tricks you once, it is their fault, but if they trick you again, it is your fault for trusting them.

Example: *Last year, my brother told me school was canceled on April 1st. I believed him. This year, I won't! Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me!*

6. "Laughing stock"

A person who does something embarrassing and makes everyone laugh at them.

Example: *After wearing mismatched shoes to work, Sam became the laughing stock of the office!*

7. "Trick up your sleeve"

If someone has a "trick up their sleeve," it means they have a secret plan or joke that they are ready to use.

Example: *I think my friend has a trick up his sleeve for April Fool's Day!*

Final Thoughts

Idioms make English fun and colorful! On April Fool's Day, people love to play tricks, pull each other's legs, and laugh. Learning these idioms will help you understand jokes and conversations better. So, don't be a "laughing stock" – use these idioms and have fun this April Fool's Day!



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English instead. But it was a gradual process. Initially, I could only speak one word of English.

We know the feeling. What was your first English word?

"Nevermore."

Amazing. You really *are* the raven from *The Raven*, aren't you? We had assumed that *that* raven was a product of Edgar Allan Poe's imagination.

In many ways I am, but my body is not. The grayish-black feathers you see before you are real, as are my eyes and beak.

Such a wonder it is that you are still alive! What is the secret of your longevity?

Mainly it is the literary legacy in which I bask. No matter how many years go by, new readers are captivated by Poe's poem, and this gives me a powerful will to live! But I also credit my diet—I am the only raven to have gone vegetarian. As you can see, it has really worked out well for me. Had I continued to feast on roadkill, I should have perished decades ago.

Do you mind our asking what your pronouns are?

Not at all. I go by *thou*, *thee*, *thy*, *thine*, and *thyself*.

Oh dear! If only we'd asked that question at the outset of the interview!

No worries. Most people have forgotten how to use those pronouns anyway.

Dost thou have any preferred *THIRD*-person pronouns?

Not really. Poe was never able to tell whether I was male, female, or something else.

Didn't Poe know ravens?

Well, people always used to say, "Poe knows ravens." Indeed, it was after that commonplace that Nike modeled its 1989 "Bo knows" commercials. But, no, Poe never did know how to tell whether a raven was male or female. In the poem, sometimes he even refers to me as an *it*, as if I were just any other bird.

**Which thou most certainly art not. Thou even hast a football team named after thee. Hast thou heard of the Baltimore Ravens?**

Yes, many visitors have mentioned the team to me, and now I follow their games in the newspapers. I'm one of their biggest fans.

Doth that make thee a fan of thyself?

I suppose so, but never vainly.

"Never?" That's an unusual pronunciation.

Ravens prefer to pronounce *never* as if the second *e* were an *a*; *nevar* is *raven* when read backwards.

Clever bird! Tell me, hast thou been able to solve the Mad Hatter's riddle about ravens in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*: "Why is a raven like a writing desk?"

Oh, yes, that's a piece of cake. People get confused because they assume that *a raven* and *a writing desk* are meant generically. But *a writing desk*

actually refers to one particular writing desk, built in mimicry of the form of one particular raven—an old friend of mine, actually.

How about that! Now, so that readers can get to know thee better, canst thou tell me what thy favorite color is, thy favorite movie, and thy favorite kind of music?

Certainly. My favorite color, as one might guess, is black, my favorite movie *The Birds* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1963), and my favorite kind of music gothic (I've even been known to go *ravin'* from time to time); however, I also appreciate classical music.

Interesting. What is thy favorite classical piece?

Franz Schubert's string quartet titled *Death and the Maiden*.

We should have known! There's no denying that there are aspects of thee which remind one of Poe's poem.

I should hope so. I do strive to embody much of my literary legacy, though not all of it.

Art thou a demon? Please forgive the directness of our question. We honestly do not feel as the poet did when he said that thine eyes "have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming." Far friendlier hast thou been to us!

I'm no demon—of that I can assure you! The student in the poem was going mad on account of his having lost his soulmate, and simply misinterpreted my presence above his chamber door. At first he even thought I was she! Only later did he decide I was a "thing of evil." By that point in the poem, people have often forgotten that it was "a midnight weary" in "the bleak December." I simply wanted to come in out of the storm! When I saw a sculptured "bust of Pallas" (the goddess Athena, goddess of ravens) above his chamber door, the place seemed the perfect haven for a raven. I didn't know the occupant's state of mind. Were more people aware of this, instead of [The Raven](#) the poem might be known as *The Ravin'*, in the manner of Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*.

Heaven forbid! Our apologies if we ruffled thy feathers with that last question, dear raven. We thank thee very much for thy time. My pleasure.

[This interview was reported by ARC ESL professor David Evans.]



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to life in a whole new way. From Mickey Mouse to Elsa, the robots will be programmed to mimic the beloved characters with remarkable accuracy.

While some may miss the personal touch of human staff, Disney assures that the robots will offer an unparalleled level of efficiency and consistency. They will never tire, ensuring that the magic never fades, no matter how long the lines get. Additionally, the robots will be able to handle complex tasks, such as customizing merchandise and providing detailed information about Disney's history and upcoming attractions. And guess what! You do not need to deal with staff's attitude because our robots will welcome you with enjoyment.

This groundbreaking move is set to revolutionize the way we experience Disney magic. So, mark your calendars and get ready to visit us on February 30th, 2026. We will have door prizes

for lucky customers. Don't forget the opening day because we offer one week without a ticket.

The new Disneyland store in Sacramento, where the future of entertainment awaits.

Source: <https://www.thesun.ie/tech/845974/disney-land-could-turn-into-westworld-as-firm-reveals-new-huggable-humanoid-robots/>



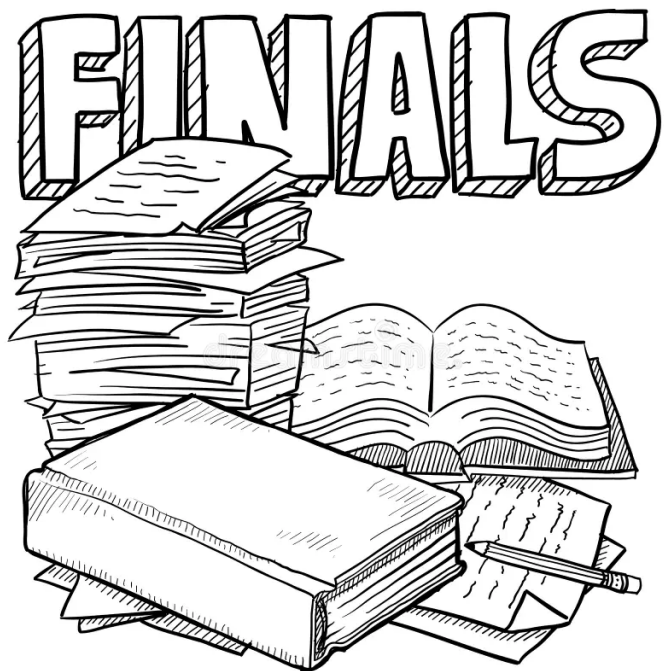
Final Exams? Nah. Just a Vibe Check Now

Big changes are happening to grading this semester! Instead of traditional final exams, professors will now simply ask:

"Do you get it?"

- If you answer "Kinda" → You pass!
- If you answer "No" → You retake the class.
- If you answer "It's a metaphor for life" → Congratulations, you graduate with honors (or at least get a fancy sticker).

Y.A.W.N. -- If you, like thousands of other ARC students, want this policy to be adopted this semester to be in place for final exams in May 2025, then email your support to the newly organized ARC Y.A.W.N. Club (**You All Want This Now**) at YawnForFinals@arc.losrios.site



How Lisa Found Her Lisa

This story is totally, completely, unarguably true. The only question is – how will you perceive it?

It was a usual day. Well, as usual. Usually unusually busy, with miles of stacks of papers and documents, usually waiting for her – the president of American River College, Lisa Cardoza. A slightly elegant tapping of high heels is heard by her secretary, and then she is greeted by a smile from Lisa.

“Good morning! Are those perpetual papers still waiting for me?”

“Indeed, Dr. Cardoza. As usual!”

“How I love these usual beginnings to the work day,” Lisa says, gently laughing.

Slowly opening the door to her office with a key, Lisa steps in, one step, second step, third step, and another... she stumbles on a slightly cracked part of the floor, which, as usual, is waiting for her to be trapped.

“Oh, it happened again. When will the workers finally fix the floor? It’s been almost 3 weeks since we sent the request.”

“Unfortunately, they’re too busy. You know, the maintenance department is always overwhelmed with requests every day. As usual,” the secretary responds, her voice echoing behind the President’s door.

“I hope they will come soon. Wait... there’s something here,” Lisa says, trying to free her shoe from the small crack in the floor.

Then, she tries to open the crack further. A piece of thick paper peeks out from the dark hole. Lisa tries to reach it, while her secretary eagerly jogs over to help.



“What is it?” she asks.

“I don’t know. Let’s get it out.”

“Ahhh... I hope there are no spiders. I don’t like spiders,” the secretary says, slightly shaking.

“Hey, they’re smaller than a hundredth the size of your hand! Let’s go, don’t worry, we’re doing this together,” Lisa assures.

With combined effort, they delicately pull out a rolled-up paper, covered in a thick layer of web.

“Oh, it looks so dusty... Let’s unroll it,”

Lisa eagerly continues, unrolling the mysterious paper. "Oh no... Oh my goodness! Oh no, no. Do you see what I see?" Lisa asks in delighted shock.

"Oh yeah. It's so unusual," the secretary slowly enunciates, devouring the paper with her shocked eyes.

"What are we going to do?" Lisa slowly shakes her head.

Two months have passed since this unusual finding, but the usual days continue. Students still are buried by books in the library, staring at the bright screens of their laptops, headphones in their ears, heavily concentrated on their studying. Of course, they are all focused, because she is watching them! Those never-ending eyes, a creepy half-smile, and usually folded hands – the famous, legendary Mona Lisa is watching all the students at ARC. Even Leonardo da Vinci, the great painter, struggled to assure Mona Lisa to sit peacefully and calmly while he painted her. Now, she is

here, at ARC, after our Lisa found her.

"I had no words at that moment. I just unrolled the paper, and there she was – just watching me with those dark brown eyes, smiling at me. She was smiling at me. Can you believe it?" President Cardoza shared with me during our interview.

Now, ARC is famous worldwide. The Louvre, far away in Paris, is in panic as they were deluded all these years, thinking they were the ones who possessed the real painting by Leonardo da Vinci, under the sure protection of glass in that big hall of the biggest museum in the world. But now, Mona Lisa has found her place here, on the first floor of the library, serving as the guardian of wisdom, checking on students to make sure they don't cheat. She found her place here, far away from the thousands of visitors in the Louvre. Indeed, now she is here – with Lisa, the president of ARC, who promised the Louvre that the painting would be securely protected under her care.

By Ennui Oui-Oui, ARC Professor of Art

Professor Oui-Oui was the last apprentice of legendary surrealist painter Salvador Dali, who died Jan. 23, 1989. After the death of Dali, the young Ennui began her academic career at ARC where she double majored in Welding Technology and Fashion. She transferred to Liealotta University and earned a B.S. and M.S. in Creative Writing before getting a Ph.D. in Fastfood Technology, Logistics, and Arterial Coagulants. She has served for 25 years as the curator of ARC's private art collection and was key in getting Subway to open a hub in the cafeteria.



News at Los Rios

1. Los Rios to Offer 'Napping Major'

Exciting news! Starting next semester, all of the Los Rios community colleges will be offering an Associate Degree in Sleep Studies, finally giving students' academic credit for their top skill—napping! Course offerings include:

- "Power Napping for Productivity" – Learn the fine art of squeezing in a quality nap between classes.
- "Snoozing Through Zoom: How to Look Awake" – Master survival skills for online lectures.
- "Snoring as a Competitive Sport" – Features live snore analysis and group practice sessions.



• "Drool as a Renewable Resource" -- If students have passed Biology 440 "General Microbiology and Chem 306 "Intro to Organic and Biological Chemistry," then they are eligible to explore the structure, variations, and uses of sleep drool of humans and other species (particularly St. Bernards, Mastiffs, Newfoundlanders, and Great Danes).

Final exams? A two-hour nap, where professors will grade your snoring technique, sleep posture, and ability to wake up looking somewhat functional.

2. New Campus Napping Zones: Because Coffee Can Only Do So Much

Tired of awkwardly dozing off in the library with a highlighter in your hand? Good news! The college has officially introduced designated "Snooze Lounges" where students can recharge without judgment.

These premium nap stations include:

Soundproof pods (to block out that one professor who never stops talking)

Weighted blankets (for that deep, borderline-coma sleep)

Pre-set alarms (so you don't accidentally sleep through your next semester)

A strict "No Snoring Too Loud" policy—violators will be gently rolled off their nap pods onto the floor.



Nap Passes & Reservations

Due to high demand, students must book their nap slots in advance using the "Snoozi" app. Those caught hogging the best nap spots will be required to write a 500-word apology letter explaining why others deserve sleep too.

3. Community College Introduces 'Emotional Support Coffee' – Because We Need It

In a groundbreaking policy update at American River College, students can now officially register their coffee cups as emotional support beverages, making it completely acceptable to bring multiple cups of caffeine to every class. Professors have agreed to turn a blind eye, as long as they get a sip.

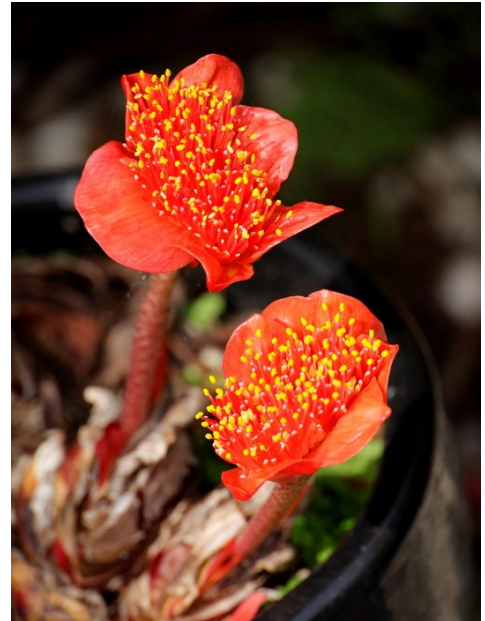
Flower of the Day

Haemanthus Coccineus

Haemanthus coccineus is widely known as 'April Fool' due to its tendency to bloom around April 1, following early autumn rains.

The blooms provide a welcome splash of reddish orange, and to residents of the winter rainfall region of southern Africa, it is one of the most recognizable members of the genus.

Source: https://www.thegardener.co.za/the-gardener/the_gardener_categories/haemanthus-coccineus-april-fool/#:~:text=H.,recognisable%20members%20of%20the%20genus.



Turtles, Ninja, Gladiators, and Pizza

"Are you ready?" Leonardo, the oldest, asks.

It's more than 2,000 years ago. The Colosseum arena in Rome is filled with thousands of spectators, cheering for them – green-skinned, with stone-like shells on their spines, watching bitterly as their biggest enemies stand before them.

"Let me calculate," Donatello, the smartest, says, his brow furrowed in concentration.

"Of course, we're ready!" Raphael, the angriest, says, always eager for a fight.

"Guys, no worries! We've always beaten them. This will be fun!" Michelangelo, the most

optimistic, says, bringing joy even in the most intense moments.



“Then let’s go!” Leonardo urges.

“Wait, I’m still calculating...” Donatello doesn’t have time to finish, as Raphael grabs him and, together, they charge, attacking their biggest rival in the arena.

Imagine this: all those childhood memories you have of your favorite cartoon? Well, they were never real. The truth is far more exciting. It wasn’t the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles who appeared later – it was them who appeared first. (Recent research published in the *Journal of European Archaeology* has been based on the work



of a consortium of 12 Italian universities. The articles connect scatological analysis of samples from the arena and gladiators’ quarters, the restoration of newly discovered mosaics, LIDAR imaging of several of Rome’s greatest ancient structures, and a collaborative translation of carbonized papyri made readable by the University of [Kentucky Digital Restoration Initiative](#). The combined efforts and the conclusions have shocked the archaeological world). The legendary heroes were gladiators in Ancient Rome, the greatest warriors to ever step into the Colosseum. Crowds cheered as they fought, and they became national heroes, honored time and time again by the emperor himself.

would forever be tied to their names. Leonardo da Vinci, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Their parents were huge fans of these legendary gladiators, so much so that they named their sons after them. And why not? In every Italian family, at the time, who wouldn’t

want their child to have the names of the greatest heroes who ever lived? As they grew, they were given talents that could only be described as legendary – just like the turtles who had fought for Rome. They became the greatest artists of the Renaissance. Everyone believed the turtles were named after the great Renaissance figures, but the truth was

much deeper – hidden beneath the surface all along.

The secret is out now. So, if you ever find yourself in Rome, I highly recommend seeing the sculptures by Donatello, who created them to honor his gladiator ancestors. They’re right by the Colosseum. On the other side, you’ll find a pizzeria where these turtle-gladiators used to spend their time. It still exists today, and they serve a special pizza called “This Will Be Fun,” dedicated to Michelangelo, who was, after all, the biggest pizza lover of them all!

Parrot Staff Writer: Isadora Lavald

Centuries later, four boys were born who

Out of the Cage



**Why did the parrot
sit on the clock?**

*Because it wanted to
be on time!*

Happy April Fool's Day!

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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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 at TheParrot@arc.losrios.edu.

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