



The Parrot

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

Issue # 78 Spring 2014

Joe Gilman: All that Jazz and More

Parrot: Hello! Joe Gilman, my name is Wanvipa and I'm an ESL student and I'm interviewing you for my listening class ESLL320.



Parrot: Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

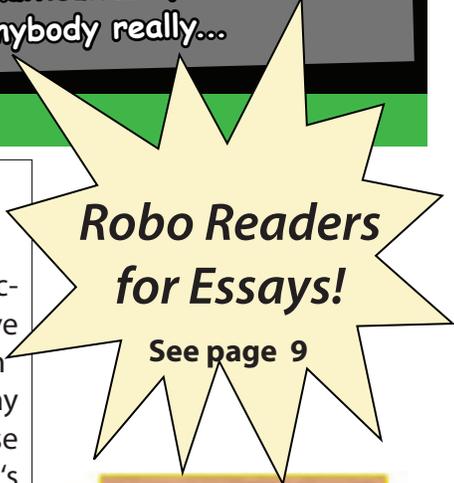
Joe: Ok. My name is Joe Gilman and I live in Carmichael, California and I'm a professional teacher at American River College and I also teach

at University of Pacific and CSU Sacramento and I'm married and have two children and I play and compose music. That's what I do for a living.

Parrot: Another job, I think you work in San Francisco?

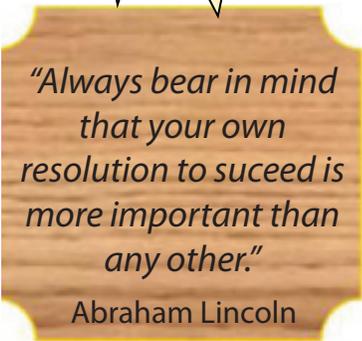
Joe: Some-

times I perform professionally in San
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Robo Readers for Essays!

See page 9



"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other."

Abraham Lincoln



Let's Meet in the Cafe, I'll be the One with a French Dictionary Under my Arm

Are conversation exchanges the quick, no-strings-attached way to get fluent in a language?

We arrange to meet after just two e-mails. As I stand outside the cafe, not knowing who to look out for, I wonder whether we'll get on. I don't care if he's attractive. I don't even mind if he's married. I just hope I don't say his name wrong, or make things tense by



commenting on his irregular past. This is not a date, but a foreign language exchange. Our hour of small talk over coffee will be roughly split in half between English and my exchange partner's mother

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Student Chirpings

Follow Me to Lose Your Job

It is a very beautiful and happy day; all your family, your uncle, and the cousins are together in your home. While they talk about their plan for the rest of the day, your soul fills with a kind of unfortunate feeling. You think how much your life is miserable because you can't stay with them and have to go to your office. By imagining the office, you imagine yourself in hell. You don't like your job, but your family doesn't let you quit it, and you depend on it financially. However, don't worry too much; there is always a solution for everything except death. If you look for a solution to get rid of this damned job, it is not too difficult. Follow these three main steps to lose your job easily.

The first main step toward losing your job is related to punctuality. Your boss and manager will be crazy when you are late every day; therefore, try to arrive late as often as possible. Leave your home for work on time because maybe your family taunts you about it, but choose a street with heavy traffic. In the meantime, don't forget that you get fat by sitting behind the desk, so park your car far from your office; you need exercise. Do this every working day. After that, leave your office as soon as you can by using different excuses. One day talk about your doctor's appointment, another day tell your boss about a family problem, and so on. Meanwhile, ask for leave with or without pay as much as you can. Many managers will become angry and dismiss you. However, if you haven't still gotten any notice, don't be disappointed, and follow the rest of the instructions.

In order to lose your job, never perform your job duties correctly and completely, as the second main step. This step isn't so difficult; while you leave a gap between your duties and other colleagues' work,

they will be in suffering, especially if you work as a team on a project. First of all, try not to finish your project on time. Spend your time in the office with more fun and less work. In addition, find a way to stay at least one step lag between you and your co-workers when you collaborate with them on a project. It creates a problem that your manager can't easily fix. At that time, don't follow the job instructions and direct yourself through your personal ideas and agendas. After that, don't try to have any commitment to your job by damaging the equipment and



losing the materials that your company has given to you. There is no manager who can bear this situation. However, if you still work without any problem, be a little bit curious -- maybe your boss is in love with you.

The last step to losing your job deals with behavior. You have tried all of the previous steps but you've still not been fired because you have an extremely nice manager. Change your behavior quickly. First of all, don't be polite with other colleagues; it is a big mistake. Try to annoy them and let them go and complain about you. Meanwhile, make a disturbance in your office in any way that you know. In spite of all these shameless deeds, ask your manager for promotion as the final step.

In conclusion, if your job is boring and hard, it is better you leave it. It is very easy if you follow these three steps: don't be on time, don't complete your duties properly, and don't be polite. Then, you can go home and think about another job. However, never forget that you need a good job background!

Fariba Darvishi
ESLW50

Illness at the Worst Time

Have you ever experienced a bad day in college after a great holiday? Some students study during the semester but some do not. They prefer to study one day before the exam. I always like to study one week before but sometimes I can't do as I like. I will never forget that sad day at my college in Iran when I was sick during the most important exam that I ever had.

We had a lot of homework to do like finishing our projects and submitting our last reports. We also had an exam in the last semester at college, but one of the most important was Architectural History. That exam was very important to me because if I didn't pass, I would not graduate in winter. I would have to spend one extra semester. I decided to get a good grade. One weekend before the exam, my friends asked me to go skiing with them. I love skiing and I couldn't say no. My friend said, "We can come back soon. Come on Nasim!" and finally I accepted. We went to Dizin Ski on Saturday and we were supposed to be back home Sunday. Dizin is north of Tehran. There are beautiful mountains that have snow all the year.

Everything was great. The weather was clean and sunny. We spent a lot of time skiing and eating delicious Persian food, kebab, in the hotel. At night we listened to music in our room in the hotel and watched my favorite TV show, "Red Apple". That was about two groups of teenagers that have to answer general information questions. Then Sunday we skied again for five hours. We were supposed to be back home at night. When we collected the ski equipment, I felt a headache and dizziness as if I were sick. I remembered that when I skied, I hadn't

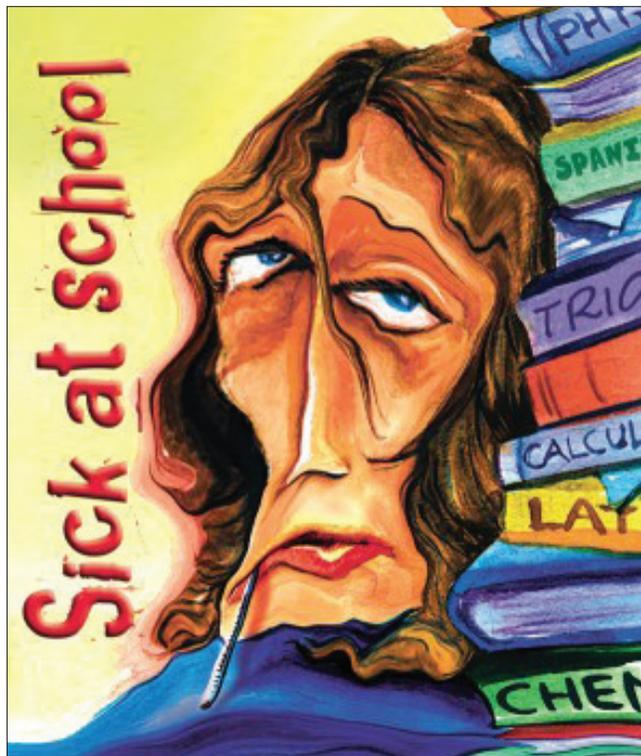
worn my jacket. So during the week I was sick and I didn't study for my exam. I was very sad because that was very important to me.

The exam day arrived, but I wasn't ready to get a good grade. That day was very cold and cloudy. I was wearing a red woolen jacket and wool hat. When the professor passed out the papers, I had dizziness again. I was wondering how I could pass the test. It was very cold and I couldn't take the pen in my

hand. When I saw the first question, I was very happy. I remembered when the professor explained that in class. Most of the questions were about the ancient city of Shiraz. I knew all about ancient Iran because I had traveled to most of the cities in Iran and I had visited all the monuments. So I answered the questions from my own experience. It was the first time that I didn't write exactly the same as in the textbook. It was a different experience. I forgot the illness and tried to remember what I knew about the architecture. I didn't think that I got a good grade. But when I saw the grade on the

wall of the Art Department, I was very happy. I got the best grade, "A". But still I felt bad, because I was sick.

In conclusion, you can become sick when you have to take a very important test. However, in this situation we can use our experience or knowledge. I think it is better that we are careful to choose the time for entertainment. I learned it is better to plan to ski or go somewhere only after the finals are done.



Nasim Ashratirad
ESLW50

No More Cheating

Everyone who has gone to school or who has gone to college or who is currently attending college or university had a situation when they weren't prepared for some test, quiz, or even final exam. When you're not ready for a test in high school, it's not a big deal because you almost always can retake it. But when you're not ready for a test or exam in college, it's more serious. You cannot cheat there. You need to have good grades if you want to go to the university and continue to study. In the past I had a situation in which I could have been well prepared for an exam, but I preferred to cheat.

In Ukraine, where I used to live, I studied at a university for four years. My major was social pedagogics. I wanted to be a social worker and work at some social organization to help people who have some problems, for example, to help people who don't have a job, home, and food, and who have many kids in the family can't take care of them. I wanted to help people that have mental or physical problems and because of their diseases, they can't be successful. During those years that I studied, I learned a lot. I also knew when you need to be prepared for the class, and when you didn't have to be prepared for class. Some of the teachers checked the homework and some of them didn't care about it. Usually, I was doing my homework and I was studying a couple of days before I had some tests or quizzes. It was easy to study. I was alone, no husband, no kids. All my free time I spent with my books.

When I was in my third course, I got married. From that time some things changed, but still it wasn't very hard to learn. But then, six months after my wedding, I got pregnant. It was our first baby, and

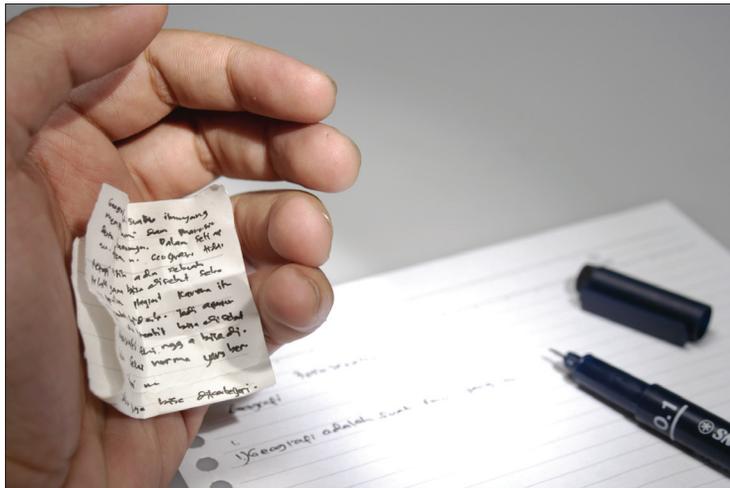
we were very excited. My education wasn't very important to me anymore, even though I continued to study. I wanted to finish university and get a bachelor's degree. I was working hard to reach that goal.

At the end of the year, we were going to have four final exams. I was very scared of that because I knew that it would be not easy for me to be well prepared. It was hard to combine studying and pregnancy. I often didn't have the desire to study and I felt powerless. Even though I felt bad, I was trying to do my best to prepare for the exams.

The finals began. We had three to four days to study before each exam. I studied really hard for the first three exams, but then I quit. My last one was social pedagogics. I was so tired from studying that I decided to cheat by looking at little notes. I had three days before my exam. All of the three days I was just writing notes on little pieces of paper. I wrote almost everything I would need to answer the questions. Time flew so fast that I didn't even realize it.

I was eight months pregnant at that time and I had a pretty big belly. That's why the teachers were kind and had a special approach to me. They were also tolerant, sympathetic, and created a good atmosphere in the classroom. Still I was very nervous; my hands were shaking, and I was all sweaty. When I received my questions, I went and sat down at the desk. I wasn't ready for the exam. My best hope was to cheat. It was difficult to look down and find what I needed because teachers were always looking around. They didn't say anything to me even though they saw that I was cheating. I think they just closed their eyes to the poor, pregnant woman.

After I finished, I went to the front of the class to tell



them what I wrote. I was just reading instead of talking from my mind. I couldn't get my eyes off the paper because I didn't know what I wrote. They were listening carefully. After I finished, they asked just one question: How do you feel? I said that I was fine; however, in reality I didn't feel good about myself. It wasn't about my health; it was about what I had done. I lied to myself. The teachers gave me a good grade, but I wasn't as happy as I would have been if I had studied.

It's very important to study and not to cheat. If you are learning something it will stay in your memory for a long time. To have good results, you have to

study a couple of days before your final, not just one day before.

I was disappointed in myself and at what I had done. Maybe for some people it's not a big problem and after they cheat they feel comfortable, and their conscience is clear. But I felt guilty. I cannot bring time back and change what I want but I can not do it in the future. I wasn't cheating anymore. I better spend my time and learn what I need rather than do something that will waste my time and won't help me.

Evelina Demchuk
ESLW50

A Special Place in my Childhood

Childhood is the shortest period, but most significant time in our life with lots of special memories. I am going to talk about the most memorable thing from my childhood -- my hiding place. This was a small forest behind our backyard where I used to go and spend a lot of time. This was a special place where I liked to hang out for several reasons: I could observe nature, I was quite comfortable there, and it became my refuge from the world.

First, this was a special place because I could observe nature. When I went to this forest, I liked to lay on the grass and look at the different types of bugs. I was very interested in the way they behaved. I looked where they went and what were they doing for a long time. Also I liked to climb up on a big tree and look around me. If I saw a bird, I tried not to move and listen to its song. All my first knowledge about nature, I got there.

Second, this was a special place because I was quite comfortable at my hideout. I made a small cave from old blankets between the trees. An old blanket and pillows covered the ground. It was cool inside in the daytime and warm in the evening. Also a big box was inside of the cave. It contained snacks, a few of



my favorite color books, and crayons. I could spend hours in my comfortable hiding place.

Finally, this was a special place for me because it became my refuge from the world. I was growing up in a big family, so I could never find a quiet place in our house. I often went there to escape from my brothers and sisters. Also, if I behaved badly and got punished from my parents, I went there too. I could sit alone for hours and daydream about something positive. I liked to imagine that there were magical people and I was a beautiful princess. This place helped me to forget the real world problems for a while.

To summarize, when the years go by, most of my childhood memories became unclear or even lost. This place where I liked to hang out in my childhood I have never forgotten. It was special for a lot of things there about nature. There I had relaxation and it became a shelter from lots of my problems. I would keep this memory forever and I would like to bring my kids there some day.

Zoia Iurova
ESLW40

Losing My Brother

No one in Iraq can forget the Iran-Iraq War from September, 1980 to August, 1988. It was a terrible time for our country. My younger brother, Moayad, joined the Iraqi military on January 15, 1986. He was 22 years old. He hoped to live a long and happy life, but that didn't happen. On March 28, 1988, I received the worst telephone call of my life, and my awful day began.

At 10 AM that day, the Iraqi military called to give me the bad news. My brother was killed in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaymania. He was 24 years old. The official told me to pick up his body. When he called me, I was at my home in Baghdad. After I heard this news, I was very sad. I did not know what to do.

I just got on the bus and rode to Sulaymania to get my brother. It took eight hours to get there. Then I took a taxi from the bus station to the Sulaymania Military Hospital.

At last, I arrived at the hospital at 9 a.m. on March 29.

I requested to see my brother's body. The officials wanted to make sure that it was the right body and that he really was my brother. Soon, they brought me his body, and I confirmed it was Moayad. His body was wounded very badly, and his blood stains still remained. His face was destroyed, and mostly it was just his lower body. His clothing was filled with blood. I cried and was very sad. My heart was broken, and I was in shock because I never expected to lose my brother so early. The war was almost over, and we thought he would come back home. I was deeply hurt emotionally, and there was nothing else to do than just cry.

Next, I met some more military officers and soldiers

at the hospital. They worked there. I saw hundreds and hundreds of bodies on top of each other. All had to go to the hospital morgue. It was a terrible scene. Before I could pick up my brother's body, I needed to see a special officer. I was shocked because he said I could not take the body. He wanted to send the body back home to us on a military plane with the other dead soldiers. I refused, so I asked to speak to another officer. I explained my situation. I told him that I rode the bus for eight hours to get my brother! Finally, the officer was humbled and decided to let me take the body. I was very thankful and pleased by the officer's care and attention. At the same time,

I was still miserable and heart-broken.

At last, the officers brought the body inside a casket and covered it with the Iraqi national flag. I called a taxi to take us to Baghdad. I put my brother's casket on top of the taxi and tied it down. We left the hospital

around 11 a.m. and arrived in Baghdad at 7 p.m. Immediately, we drove directly to the Baghdad Baha'i Cemetery and buried my brother. During the burial, my close friends came and said prayers. I did not have my parents join us because I did not want them to suffer more grief.

That terrible experience in Iraq was twenty-four years ago, but I remember everything. I still miss Moayad.

A.K.
ESLW30



Escaping To the Balcony



The pressure of daily life makes people feel exhausted, especially if they lived in a country like mine, Iraq, where there was a lack of confidence and peace and poor services in all fields of life. So, there were some ways to escape the stress of real life, and the way that suited me the most was finding a quiet place that made me feel relaxed and satisfied. As a personal experience, I will always keep in my mind the image of my magical balcony of my second floor apartment in Baghdad.

Every day and after getting done with the exhausting chores such as cooking, cleaning, shopping and helping the kids do their homework, I needed a break to relax and escape from all responsibilities. In addition to that, I needed to go gain energy for the rest of the day. So I found my satisfaction on my balcony where I had my rocking chair with the comfortable cushion. There also existed my wonderful plants that I looked after as if they were my kids. Some were on the ground and some were hanging from the ceiling, which made the atmosphere so cool and fresh and smell as if I were in a forest.

Sitting on my balcony made me daydream and travel away from my anxiety and fears. Staring at the clear, blue sky that introduced the beautiful shiny stars in a romantic view made me relax and often fall

asleep. As a matter of fact, what made my balcony even more romantic was the direction of it facing the open space. There were also standing with pride and glory a few date palm trees representing the land of Mesopotamia. The gentle wind blew across my face, drawing a cheerful smile on it. In fact, it carried that beautiful fragrance of spring roses.

Finding my comfort and relief in that place encouraged me to add more interest to it. I got a beautiful, colorful, warbling bird, which made it even more difficult to leave my balcony when it was time to work. Whenever I sneaked onto my balcony, my charming bird started warbling as if he were happy to see me, just as I was happy to see him. We enjoyed each other's company, even for just a few minutes. Did I mention my tea? My cup of tea, and without exaggerating, had the best taste and smell on my balcony, more than at any other place.

Finally, finding my satisfaction and joy on my balcony made me do my work very quickly in order to rush back again to my magical, warm and cool shelter, my balcony, to start a new journey in a new dream.

*Sawsan Hameed
ESLW50*

Dirty Dishes

Family is one of God's miracles, and there is no one more important than people in our family. It is people with whom we get together in a cozy home, with whom we laugh when we are happy and cry when we hurt, and with whom we spend a good time and celebrate holidays. However, all families have routine problems. My family is not an exception. One of the most current problems is dirty dishes, which my husband leaves after himself. Even though we are living in an advanced civilization with a lot of dishwashing techniques, machines, mechanisms, utilities, and different dishwashing liquids, we have disagreements and disputes about who will wash the dishes. In my family three commonly proposed solutions to this worldwide problem are using new technology, making a schedule, and disciplining yourself.

One solution to the problem of dirty dishes is to buy a dishwasher. A dishwasher is a really great mechanical device for cleaning dishes and utensils. When my husband and I rented our apartment, it had a dishwasher. I can say that it really made my life easier, especially when we had guests. But we bought a house three weeks ago, and now we don't have this ingenious device. My husband says that it's not effective and doesn't clean our dishes well enough. But I told him, "Here's the secret. Put your dishes in the dishwasher right away after eating. Don't leave them overnight or for a week. If you leave your dishes dirty, leftovers harden. As a result, it's very difficult to wash the dishes". Of course we have to spend more on utilities for it, but if we can allow ourselves, why not?!

Another solution to the dirty dishes problem is to make a schedule. We can make up a list with members of our family and days of the week and wash our dishes in rotation. This solution will be good

when we have two or more children. It will be wonderful if they don't include me on this list. First of all, I cook for the whole family and wash dishes at all hours while I'm cooking. It's not fair that someone washes the dishes all the time. In this case, no one will be hurt, especially me. Moreover, we don't need to use a lot of electricity, gas, or water like with a dishwasher. Of course, now it is just in my mind for the future because we have only one one-year-old baby boy, but I hope that after five years it will be a great solution for our dirty dishes problem.

The best solution to the dirty dish problem is "self-discipline". There is one famous Russian expression, "It is clean not where we clean, but where we don't litter". I told my husband, "It should become a habit with you to wash your dishes directly after eating. My responsibility is cooking and cleaning our whole house, but washing the dishes after yourself is yours. It's very easy to clean one or two plates after yourself. If you do that, you won't have an enormous mountain of dirty dishes. Just do it three weeks continuously, and you will have developed the habit of washing dirty plates. This habit concerns not only dirty dishes, but also can be applied to your clothes, shoes, socks, etc. As a result, we avoid a lot of conflict with our family members in the future."

In conclusion, I'd like to add that when I get mad because of dirty dishes, I don't try to change my "better half" because it's impossible. I just wash the dirty dishes myself. My life and the lives of my relatives are too short, and I don't want to spend my precious time on these meaningless conflicts and quarrels. That's why I have a warm and friendly atmosphere in my house.

Olga Strizheus
ESLW50



Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Humans Fight Over Robo-Readers

Les Perelman, the former director of writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, known for taking on the writing test of SAT, is challenging a well-publicized study that claims machines can grade writing exams about as well as humans.

During a presentation today to what is likely to be a friendly crowd at the Conference on College Composition and Communication convention in Las Vegas, Perelman plans to talk about his "critique" of the 2012 paper by Mark D. Shermis, the dean of the college of education at the University of Akron.

Shermis and co-author Ben Hamner, a data scientist, found automated essay scoring was capable of producing scores similar to human scores.

Perelman argues a close examination of the paper's methodology and the data show "that such a claim is not supported by the data in the study." Perelman claims the authors didn't run statistical tests on the data, looked at random variables and essentially compared apples to oranges.

The new flashpoint in the machine grading dispute comes as the vast majority of states are planning to introduce new high-stakes tests for K-12 students with writing sections slated to be graded by machines.

Perelman thinks teachers will soon teach students to write to please robo-readers, which Perelman argues disproportionately give students credit for length and loquacious wording, even if they don't quite make sense. "The machine is rigged to try to get as

close to the human scores as possible, but machines don't understand meaning," he said.

Shermis, who said he worked under machine grading pioneer Ellis Page, said Perelman's criticisms mostly don't add up and accused Perelman of sniping from the sidelines.

"We're at least doing some research and our critics seem to be a little bit short on that," he said.



Shermis did concede one point: he did not do a regression analysis on the data in his study. He said that was part of the conditions he accepted in order to be able to test the essay grading software produced by a number of major vendors, including McGraw-Hill and Pearson. He said someone who knew what they were doing could take his work and do further analysis, though.

Shermis said his work is set to come out as a book chapter and that *Assessing Writing*, founded in 1994, is still reviewing his paper, which is in its third revision there; Perelman said he will submit his paper to the *Journal of Writing Assessment*, which was founded in 2003.

Perelman, in particular, argues there is an iceberg ahead at the K-12 level, where two consortia of states are preparing to introduce totally new high-stakes standardized exams to match the Common Core curriculum, which has swept the nation. The two consortiums -- the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium -- are eyeing

machine-graded essays as a way to reduce the time it takes to grade exams and to drive down costs to states.

Perelman wants a better vetting of the science, particularly Shermis's paper, before that happens.

"Because of the widespread publicity surrounding this study and that its findings may be used by states and state consortia in implementing the Common Core State Standards Initiative, the authors should make the test dataset publicly available for analysis," Perelman wrote in his paper.

(Shermis said some of the data are already online and have been used in an online competition to make improvements to existing essay grading technology.)

Smarter Balanced has actually already scaled back its plans for grading writing with machines because artificial intelligence technology has not developed

as quickly as it had once hoped.

In 2010, when it was starting to develop the new Common Core exams for its 24 member states, the group wanted to use machines to grade 100 percent of the writing.

"Our initial estimates were assuming we could do everything by machine, but we've changed that," said Jacqueline King, a director at Smarter Balanced.

Now, 40 percent of the writing section, 40 percent of the written responses in the reading section and 25 percent of the written responses in the math section will be scored by humans.

"The technology hasn't moved ahead as fast as we thought," King said.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/03/15/professors-odds-machine-graded-essays>

Actroids -- The Faces of the Future?

While the HRP-4C was fitted with an uncanny humanoid face, the Actroid matches it with an equally realistic body and even more human behaviors. It was first manufactured by Kokoro Company Ltd., who have since created several new and improved versions. Using air-powered actuators placed at several points in her upper body, the Actroid can react accordingly to different kinds of tactile data. For example, if Actroid feels a slap coming, she can quickly move out of the way or retaliate, but will react normally when tapped on the shoulder. She is also designed to express the subtle human-like movements of the head and eyes and even looks like she's breathing.

Actroids can be taught to learn even more human movements, though their actual locomotion abilities are non-existent and they can only be placed in



a sitting or standing position with firm supports. In addition to their earlier Actroid model, Repliee Q-1, Kokoro has also created Repliee R-1, an Actroid of a small Japanese girl. Kokoro and a team at Osaka University say that their main goal is to create robots so

realistic that people won't notice they're even interacting with a robot. So far, Actroids have come very close—some people mistake them for humans for the first few minutes. In addition to this, some people even forget they're interacting with a robot at all because their

movements and reactions are so realistic. A cousin to both Repliee Q-1 and R-1 is known as Geminoid, an android created by and fashioned at Hiroshi Ishiguro.

<http://listverse.com/2013/10/05/10-most-mind-blowing-androids-and-robots/>

Let's meet in the cafe...

Continued from page 1.

tongue, which I am learning. We correct each other as we go along, offering idiomatic vocabulary or pronunciation tips when needed, like a free private lesson.

As a modern languages student, practice with native speakers was essential. Before my finals I deliberately organised meetings with as many French-speaking strangers as possible, to prepare for the blind fear of the upcoming oral exam.

Other exchanges have been more light-hearted, like the impromptu rendez-vous I had with a French student in Montpellier. She took me to a bar where her friends happened to work and we were nattering over €1 glasses of kir in no time.

Real-life conversation is valuable at all stages of language learning and has been cited as one of the best ways to improve by polyglots. However, this leap into the unknown may be off-putting for some, to whom the faceless nature of online ads for conversation partners too closely resembles the dark corners of the web's countless "casual encounters" sites.

Comparisons with a blind date are perhaps inevitable. However, this image can be frustrating if the only thing you really want to conjugate is your verbs. If I had rejected all conversation exchanges as sleazy, I would have missed out on productive friendships with people like Elena, an Italian living in Cambridge who I saw every week for over six months.

When we first met, she was looking for work and her English was as basic as my beginner's Italian. As we both improved over time, she found a job in a canteen, and then in university administration, whilst I was just happy to pass first year.

Not all were so long-lived; some of my more transient encounters have also been the strangest. This was the case with Florent, who arrived exactly on time having made a two-hour journey on foot from Shoreditch to our meeting in Brixton. "I just love to walk," he explained. "The other night, when I couldn't sleep, I left the 'ouse... I ended up at 'ammersmith!"

I probably won't see Florent again, nor the spaced-out Italian photographer who was more absorbed in the natural lighting of the pub where we were sipping Peronis than contributing to the conversation. These were not a

waste of time, however – as well as the obvious linguistic benefits, I now know who to call if I need directions to somewhere obscure, or an arty print of a London bus.

Comments on the Guardian's recent live chat on the cultural power of languages suggest that many would-be linguists are inhibited by shyness when it comes to speaking. Regular, structured practice can help to build up the confidence needed to engage in more spontaneous chats when working or travelling abroad. Beginners worried about lengthy silences may find it useful to bring along a crib sheet or a textbook to use in their half of the session.

The global desire to learn English means it has never been easier for language learners in the UK to find a conversation partner. Classified pages such as gumtree.com have a "skills & language swap" section, while dedicated sites *mylanguageexchange.com* and *conversationexchange.com* claim to have millions of members worldwide.

There are many variations on the simple one-to-one swap: anyone who wants to learn South American Spanish can find a Skype contact in Argentina, while those trying to perfect their writing skills can look for an old-fashioned penpal. If you have another particular skill, you could create original combinations of exchanges, such as "my web design for your Japanese" or "my Urdu for your ukulele".

Group exchanges can also be found in most big cities, although these are sometimes geared more towards meeting people than honing the subtleties of your accent. Organisations such as Franglish organise multi-lingual "speed-swapping" style events where you have just seven minutes to get to know each participant.

I have a confession to make – I did once snog my conversation partner, the innocent first intentions of our series of non-dates forgotten in a frisson of mutual attraction. Perhaps the possibility of romance cannot always be forgotten when meeting people whose interests – linguistic or otherwise – mirror yours.

Yet I am sure that this singular story, along with my other (strictly platonic) exchanges, have seriously improved my cultural knowledge and language skills. Conversation exchanges may be seen as the fast and loose way to achieve fluency, but if your present perfect is conditional on a fling, here's a preposition for you: why not try Tinder instead.

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/nov/21/no-strings-attached-language-swap>

Legends and Truths About George Washington

Myth: George Washington chopped down a cherry tree

Truth: The story of George Washington chopping down a cherry tree and then telling the truth about it probably did not happen. The story was written after Washington died by a man named Mason Weems in a book about the life of Washington. It is very possible however that George Washington was an honest young boy and, if this story really happened, it would have been when he lived at Ferry Farm. There were cherry trees at the Farm then. Read the story by Parson Weems.

Myth: George Washington threw a silver dollar across the Potomac River

Truth: This is just another legend that has changed several times over the years but it may have some truth. When George was a boy, there were no silver dollars as we know them today. Even if there had been, George probably would not have owned one and he certainly would not have thrown one away! The same man who wrote the cherry tree story wrote about George throwing a rock across the Rappahannock River (not the Potomac, which is too wide). According to the legend, George and his friends threw rocks across the river while waiting for the ferry. In George's time, the Rappahannock River was about 300 feet wide, but George was a strong boy and probably could have done it. Other strong people have thrown a rock across the river at Ferry Farm in modern times.

Myth: George Washington had two children

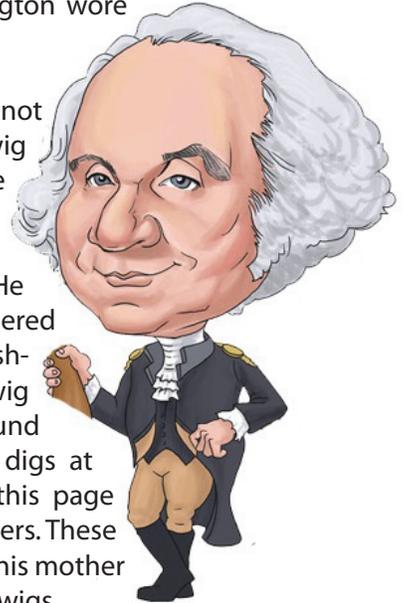
Truth: George Washington had no children of his own. George married a wealthy widow, Martha Dandridge Custis in 1759. She had two children from her first marriage - a boy, John (nicknamed Jacky); and a girl Martha (nicknamed Patsy). George Washington never formally adopted these children, but he loved them and raised them as his own. So, if anyone ever says they are a direct descendant of George Washington, they are mistaken!

Myth: George Washington had wooden false teeth

Truth: George did have several pairs of false teeth during his lifetime, but none were made of wood. If you ever visit Mount Vernon, you can see a set of his false teeth on display in the Education Center.

Myth: George Washington wore a wig

Truth: George was not known to wear a wig even though they were popular at the time. He often tied his own hair in a queue (pony tail). He also frequently powdered his hair which was fashionable then. Many wig curlers have been found in the archaeological digs at Ferry Farm. Look on this page for a picture of wig curlers. These probably belonged to his mother or sister who did wear wigs.



Myth: George Washington was born at Ferry Farm

Truth: George was born in 1732 at a plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia, that had been in the Washington family since 1657. It is now called the George Washington Birthplace National Monument. When George was 3 years old, his family moved to another family plantation named Little Hunting Creek, now known as Mt. Vernon. He purchased what is today called Ferry Farm in 1738 and moved the family there that same year. When Augustine died in 1743, George, just 11 years old, inherited the property. His mother, Mary, managed the property for him and lived there until 1772, when she moved to a small house in Fredericksburg to be closer to her daughter Betty. George sold the farm to Hugh Mercer in 1774.

Myth: George Washington had only 1 sister

Truth: George had two sisters. His first sister, Betty, was born just one year after George. In 1739, his second sister, Mildred, was born at Ferry Farm. Sadly, she died at the age of just 18 months. George also had a half-sister, Jane (by his father's first wife) but she died in 1735, when George was only 3 years old. Learn more about the Washington family genealogy.

There are many other common myths about life in Colonial America. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has an excellent article that describes some of these.

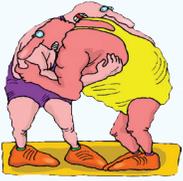
All Things Lincoln

1. Abraham Lincoln spent less than 12 months in all attending schools as a youth growing up on the frontier. Each one was very small, and the lessons were most often taught orally, and schools thus got the nickname "blab" schools. Abraham attended school in Kentucky for a few weeks in the fall of 1815 and again in the fall of 1816. In 1815 his teacher was Zachariah Rinney, and in 1816 the school was taught by Caleb Hazel. In Indiana in 1819-1820 Abraham attended school briefly. The teacher was Andrew Crawford. In 1822 Abraham attended a school for a few months. The teacher was a man named James Swaney. Finally, in 1824 he attended (for several months) a school taught by Azel Dorsey.



2. Lincoln was the tallest president. Artist Francis B. Carpenter measured Lincoln's height in the White House. He measured six feet three and three-quarter inches in his stocking feet. Most sources round it off to 6 feet 4 inches. Lincoln's average weight was 180 pounds.
3. Lincoln's hat size was 7 1/8. His shoe size is normally listed as between 12 and 14.
4. Abraham Lincoln was brought up by Baptist parents and occasionally attended Presbyterian churches in Springfield and Washington. He was married by an Episcopal minister. However, he never joined a church during his life. He sporadically attended services with his wife; she was a church member, and he was not.
5. Lincoln's coffin has been moved 17 times, mostly due to numerous reconstructions of the Lincoln Tomb and fears for the safety of the president's remains. The coffin itself has been opened five times: December 21, 1865, September 19, 1871, October 9, 1874, April 14, 1887, and September 26, 1901. In 1876 grave robbers tried to steal his remains.
6. Lincoln did not attend his own father's funeral. The two were not close. Upon being informed of his father's declining health, Lincoln refused to visit him and asked his stepbrother to "Say to him that if we could meet now, it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant." Thomas Lincoln died 5 days later.
7. Lincoln, the 16th president, was the first president to be assassinated.
8. Abraham Lincoln is the only president to have a patent. The patent was for a Lincoln-devised device for freeing ships that had run aground in shallow water. Lincoln received patent number 6469 in 1849 for his invention.
9. The items in Abraham Lincoln's pockets the night of the assassination were as follows: a pocketknife, a linen handkerchief, a sleeve button, a fancy watch fob, two pairs of spectacles, a lens polisher, a tiny pencil, and a brown leather wallet (one section was engraved "U.S. Currency" and another section was engraved "Notes"). The wallet contained a Confederate five dollar bill, and nine old newspaper clippings. Included among these clippings were two articles of praise and five others dealing with the issues that were on Lincoln's mind during his final months. These items are now in the Library of Congress.
10. Abraham never once was photographed with his wife Mary.
11. Abraham Lincoln had no middle name. He was named after his paternal grandfather who had been killed by Native Americans in 1786. He was simply (and legally) just Abraham Lincoln his entire life.
12. Sometimes Abraham Lincoln's stovepipe hat was called was his "desk and memorandum book" and also sometimes his "filing cabinet". This was because he kept mail, his bankbook, important papers, etc. in it.
13. Lincoln was the first president to be born beyond the boundaries of the original 13 states. He was the first president born in Kentucky.
14. Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard.
15. Abraham Lincoln earned his first dollar ferrying passengers to a steamer on the Ohio River in 1827.

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Where To Put the Preposition in a Relative Clause

There are often prepositions in relative clauses, and the relative pronoun is the object of the preposition. This means that the preposition can sometimes be omitted.

The preposition is normally placed at the end of the relative clause:

- *Is that the man (who) you arrived with?*
- *Do you know the girl (that) John is talking to?*

In formal or written English, the preposition is often placed before the relative pronoun, and in this case the pronoun cannot be omitted:

- *The person with whom he is negotiating is the Chairman of a large company.*
- *It is a society to which many important people belong.*

However, this is unusual in spoken English.

- *The jungle the tribe lived in was full of strange and unusual animals.*
- *He liked the people that he lived with.*
- *The tree under which they had their picnic was the largest and oldest in the park.*
- *To the east of the city was a lake that many people went to on the weekend.*

http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/relative_clauses_and_preposition.php

Idiom--Attic

If the Cap Fits, Wear it
also: If the Shoe Fits, Wear it



If something unpleasant is said about someone, something that could just as easily apply to you, you should take notice of it. If necessary, you should accept it as constructive criticism. That's what we mean when we say if the cap fits, wear it. "I didn't say you look funny, but if the cap fits, wear it!"

<http://www.englishdaily626.com/idioms>

Beak Speak

Learn English Pronunciation

(continued from Parrot 77)

Regarding Consonants

-dge: Usually pronounced like 'j', as in 'bridge'.

G: Usually pronounced as in 'go'. However, before 'e', 'i' or 'y', 'g' is often pronounced like 'j', as in germ, ginger, gyrate, etc.

-gh: In some words, '-gh' is pronounced like 'f', as in laugh. However, in some words it is silent, as in high.

H: For example, 'head'. However, in a few words, the 'h' is silent, as in hour, honour, etc.

K: Generally pronounced like the 'c' in 'cat'. However, when followed by 'n', it is usually silent, as in knife, knave, knight, etc.

L: Generally pronounced as in 'leaf'. However, in a few words, the 'l' is silent, especially when followed by 'k' and 'f', as in talk, walk, half, calf, etc.

S: Generally pronounced as in 'sun'. However, in some words 's' is pronounced like 'z', as in nose, president, etc. In a few words, such as television and azure, 's' takes on a sound generally represented phonetically as 'zh'.

Th: Generally aspirated, ie, let out with a puff of air, as in think, third, etc. However, in some words, such as this, 'th' is not aspirated.

X: Usually pronounced like in box (the sound is -ks). However, when it is the first letter of a word, x is pronounced like 'z'.

Y: Generally pronounced as in yesterday. In some words, it takes on the sound 'ee', as in city. In yet other words, it takes on the sound 'ai', as in fly.



Continued in Parrot 78

<http://www.englishleap.com>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

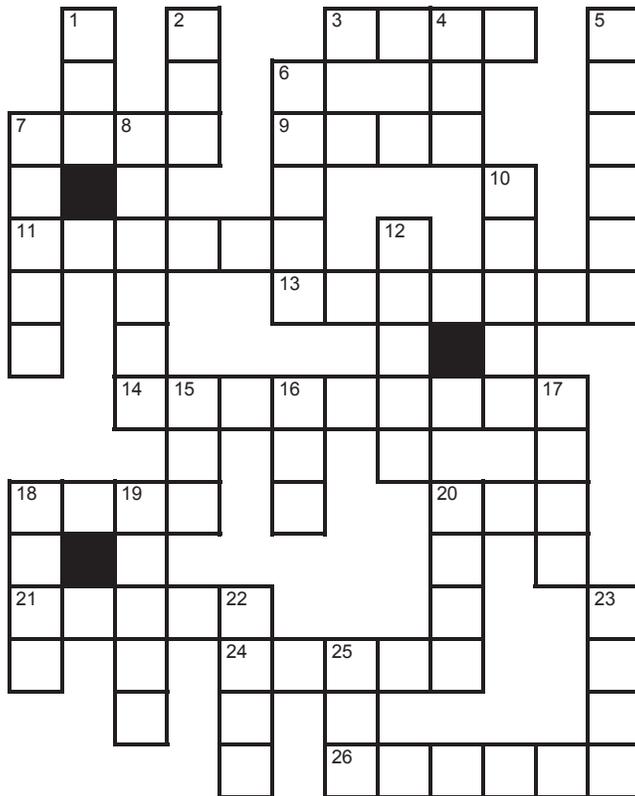
Boats Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the boats that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.



CANOE	CRAFT	SKIFF
CATAMARAN	HYDROFOIL	STEAMER
DINGHY	KAYAK	SUBMARINE
DORY	OUTRIGGER	TRAWLER
FERRY	PONTOON	WHALER
GALLEON	SCHOONER	YACHT
HOVER-	SCOW	

Answers on page 16



Down

- 1 A drink that rhymes with sea.
 2 The opposite of in.
 4 The opposite of young.
 5 A kind of bird that begins with P.
 6 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep.
 7 The antonym of back.
 8 A synonym of afraid.
 10 Another word for sniff.
 12 A place that rhymes with teach.
 15 Another word for sick.
 16 A forest animal that rhymes with socks.
 17 Another way to say 'very small'.
 18 A place that rhymes with dark.
 19 The opposite of heavy.
 20 Another way to say 'very big.'
 22 Another word for speak.
 23 Another word for throw.
 25 A farm animal that rhymes with wig.

Word Skills

Across

- 3 The antonym of fast.
 7 Another word for quick.
 9 The opposite of soft.
 11 A type of fruit that begins with O.
 13 A synonym of gift.
 14 The antonym of easy.
 18 The opposite of push.
 20 A farm animal that rhymes with pen.
 21 The opposite of wrong.
 24 A kind of fruit that begins with A.
 26 A kind of fruit that begins with G.



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

Where does your name, "Noetal", come from? Is it really your name?

Curious,

Larry Lingo

Dear Larry,

"Lingo". That's an interesting name, too! I wonder if that's your real name. In any case, my name has an interesting history. Centuries ago in Great Britain my family's last name was Knowit-all. After a period of persecution and death, the family name became "Knewitall". We were not



Granny

held in high regard, probably because of our penchant for correcting others. In any case, at that time the name was pronounced "canoe-it-all". To more accurately reflect pronunciation changes in the English language, the "K" was dropped and we became the Newitalls. My grandfather, who worked for Encyclopedia Britannica, changed it to Nueital and then Noetal. I married a distant cousin from another village by the name of Nosalot but retained my maiden name of Noetal because I am proud of being from a long line of Noetals. Most people don't know that. I hope I've satisfied your curiosity.

Joe Gilman: All That Jazz and More

Continued from page 1.

Francisco too, every once in a while.

Parrot: So, you're pretty busy!

Joe: Pretty busy, yes.

Parrot: You began playing piano at the age of 7, right?

Joe: Correct yes, my sister played piano and my brother played guitar. They're older than me. And a person who lives down the street who was one year older than me played piano and all those things made me think I wanted to try to play a piano when I was 7.

Parrot: Wow, so you wanted to try yourself; nobody pushed you to do it.

Joe: Right. Not at first. No one pushed me but you know after a while just like all kids you know you'd rather be outside playing. So, my mother had to kind of push me a little bit for the first few years and then I started to enjoy it on my own.

Parrot: That's called talent.

Joe: Well...

Parrot: Do you remember how you felt and how different it was from today?

Joe: Sure! Well, when I first started playing music, it was almost like a chore, something I had to do for twenty minutes a day or thirty minutes a day. And it took me a while, really, to feel comfortable but it wasn't till I found some music that I really liked to listen to that I could also play on the piano that made me feel like I wanted to go the piano to play. Now it is something like a "second nature" which means it feels almost like you're breathing or something. It is part of you now. So it changed over time.

Parrot: Wow, is it difficult to study piano?

Joe: I would say at first, just like learning anything new, it is kind of hard; you have to learn parts of it and find out how it all works but eventually you learn how it all works. It isn't too hard, just like speaking...

Parrot: Because you love it.

Joe: Because you love it and you get more familiar with it.

Parrot: I see. And how did you get interested in your area of expertise?

Joe: Well, I mean I was interested in music when I was a kid but I was also interested in other things too. I liked basketball and I was pretty good in high school in a lot of subjects but music became the thing that I just enjoyed the most and wanted to do in my spare time. I was practicing and playing music with my friends and the music that I listened to really inspired me, made me want to play that music.

Parrot: When did you find this out?

Joe: In high school.

Parrot: High school? That's really fast!

Joe: Well; it hit me before that and I was interested in other things in high school too but just music and jazz in particular become the music that I found myself wanting to spend my free time doing.

Parrot: So you were particularly into jazz, right?

Joe: A little bit more. I mean I played classical music too and for some reason I became mostly interested in jazz.

Parrot: How different is classical and jazz?

Joe: Classical music when you look at the music all the notes that you are going to play are written out for you; 100% of the music is written out for you on the music sheet. But with jazz you give them a little melody and you give some clues about the harmony parts. Remember? We talked about that and then you make it all up. We called it improvising; you make it up.

Parrot: More creative.

Joe: Yeah! Creative. So the same jazz song by two people will never sound the same but the same classical piece of music by two different people will sound very much the same.

Parrot: I see. More interesting. How long have you

been teaching at ARC?

Joe: Nineteen years

Parrot: Nineteen years!?

Joe: Yeah.

Parrot: And how do you like it?

Joe: Very much. I tell people that American River College saved my life. Before that I was a professional musician and I had a hard time making a living and playing a lot of music that I didn't really want to play but when I started to work at American River College and I got to meet new people, I got to be around music all day. I have a comfortable lifestyle and I have some free time too, especially in the summer. So, I like it. I like it a lot.

Parrot: Yeah, I believe so. Because I heard your wife, Kai, tell me that you got an offer of a higher position in a different place but you picked here. I'm glad that you're here with us.

Joe: Yeah. Thanks.

Parrot: Did you always think you would be this successful?

Joe: I never thought about it (laugh) I just, well, I'm interested in this music and I want to play it and study it and be the best that I can and success just means that I'm doing what I want to do and living the way that I want to live. Then I guess that I always hoped I would be this successful, yeah.

Parrot: Did you plan for this success?

Joe: Did I plan for it? Maybe a little bit because when you go to college to study music you're either going to become a performer or you're going to be a teacher. It's usually what you're going to do. You're going to take that knowledge and go and perform.

Parrot: Achievement, right?

Joe: Yeah. I guess I had a plan that I would perform and teach. Maybe by the time I got into college, I started planning for this sort of career. Yes.

Parrot: How long does it take you compose a song?

Joe: One song?

Parrot: Yeah.

Joe: That could be very different from one song to the next song. A very simple song in say twenty minutes to half an hour. But if it is a longer song and maybe has more parts, like more instruments, that could take a long time. It could take a month or longer so it depends on when you're writing. If someone asks you to write a book it will take you a long time but if someone asks you to write a paragraph maybe you can do that tonight. Some songs are very short and simple and some songs very long and complicated so it could be twenty minutes to a month, I suppose.

Parrot: So you do think of the melody or what is that called?

Joe: The harmony, right.

Parrot: Yes. When you don't have a piano and you have it in your mind, how would you record that?

Joe: If you don't have a piano, well, the ear and music, your ear is the biggest tool so you learn how to use your ears to record your own music inside of yourself .

Parrot: Is it called a monitor or something like that?

Joe: Maybe, kind of, yes. So, yes, sometimes I can listen to something that is on a recording and I can tell you what all the notes and the harmony are just by listening to it just like you would look at something and read it and you know you might hear someone say something to you and in your own mind you can spell out those words. It's kind of the same for me in music. I can listen to a piece of music and I can tell you what the melody is, what the chords are.

Parrot: Wow. It's very difficult.

Joe: Well, it's because of my training. I want to make sure I answered your question, though.

Parrot: Yeah, I mean if you write a song and you don't have paper or a pen . How do you remember it?

Joe: How do you remember it?

Parrot: Right.

Joe: Well that's true. I can only remember something for a while and then you know just like someone gives you a phone number but after a while you forget it so if I don't have anything to write with I just have to retain it as long as I can until I can sit down at a piano and write it down. I can have a melody in my head that I like and I can sit and start with the melody and figure out the harmony or I can hear the sound of the harmony in my ear first, then go figure it out and hear what kind of melody sounds good with that harmony.

Parrot: It looks like you are creative every day, in daily life.

Joe: Yes, perhaps.

Parrot: It's very interesting. And you also have CD's right? How long does it takes you to have a CD selling on the market?

Joe: I think I have nine CD's now and how long does it take? Well, first you would have to write a bunch of music so that takes as long as it takes. That could take anywhere from 1 month to 1 year or more. It depends on your free time and then you have to get into your recording studio, get all together to record. Most of my recordings have all been made just in the recording studio. One or two days in a recording studio.

Parrot: That's fast!

Joe: Then you have to take that recording and do what's called mixing it. Have you ever seen a recording studio -- all the big giant things and all those buttons and knobs? Well, someone has to get in there. They have to move all the knobs and make it sound good. Then after that you have to make a CD and put all the songs in order. Then you have to find someone who's going to take that CD and make the artwork for it. You know and write anything you want to write about it. Like, you know, the song is about happy times or whatever and this song is about flowers, whatever it is, and then you have to

find someone who is going to put it out on the radio station, someone who is going to sell it on the Internet. All that. So, from the time you start writing the music to the time that it actually comes out and is available that could be anywhere from . . . I mean I will say six months is a very short amount of time. To give you an example, I recorded a CD in May 2010 and it is just now going to come out so that is 2 years. So anywhere from about six months from the beginning to two years. It's about that long it takes.

Parrot: So for you to make a CD is easier than the marketing things or business.

Joe: Yes, so if I want to start today, start a new CD, I would probably just know that is going to be anywhere from a year or two years to come out.

Parrot: I understand now. And for people who don't know jazz very well, how do you define it?

Joe: Jazz is an improvised language of musical sounds that come from an African American musical tradition. I'll say that again. Jazz is an improvised language of musical sounds so it is like a language just like English but it is musical tones and sounds that we improvise. That comes from an African American musical tradition. Music came from slavery and from the early 20th century with blues music and ragtime music and it improvises music with different instruments. R&B music, funk music and rap music -- a lot of that is from an African American musical tradition also but jazz is just maybe an earlier form of that style of music.

Parrot: Oh, that's the first time I heard that. Have you ever thought of putting lyrics into jazz music, like Norah Jones does?

Joe: You had asked the question before of "I don't understand why this music is all instrumental. But it

has a title like, "I Love You."

Parrot: Yes.

Joe: Some early jazz come from African popular songs that had words, but a jazz musician just plays instrumental, so that's why sometimes you have the title, for example of "Night and Day" on that the old song that people just play instrumentally.

Parrot: So, with your answer, it makes me think about if one person has different lyrics, you know, using the same instrument. You know what I mean?

Joe: Yeah. You can have one person write words and one person write five totally different words.

Parrot: Oh, that's really interesting. Do you believe relaxing music like jazz or other instrumental music can help students get better in reading, studying or doing homework?

Joe: Well, I guess I would say if the music is relaxing enough and is not distracting then sure, maybe. It could make the environment where you're studying more peaceful and help you to concentrate a little

bit more. But for me, it would never work because as soon as music is on my mind, I try to figure out what it is so I can't have music on at all.

Parrot: So it depends on the person. I asked that because I tried once before studying, doing homework. I also heard people say that it can make a baby smarter but not like adults (laugh)!

Joe: I heard that some classical music they play for small toddlers or something and they show them that they can concentrate more or they can learn easier different things. Some people believe that there a musical intelligence, you actually have a specific intelligence in music and if you listen to good music, it can help you develop that intelligence.

Parrot: Kai, my friend and your wife, told me she took



a class with you before. What do you think about ESL students?

Joe: Aha, she did. I gave a guest lecture and she was one of my students on my guest list.

Parrot: And how did you feel about your wife sitting in your class and what do you think about ESL students?

Joe: Oh, OK. The first part is I didn't think anything about it and .. (laugh) she just sat in my class and I just taught the lecture the way I always teach. I was doing drum instruction on the drum. I might have asked her to come up and volunteer, you know, to hit the drum or something.

Parrot: Did she sit in the front?

Joe: She sat right in the front.

Parrot: Hahaha!

Joe: Yeah. So I didn't think anything. A bit later, then "Oh, there's my wife sitting there. I've got to give this lecture so didn't distract me." What do I think about ESL students? I mean I think I know how difficult it is to be in college and to learn all college level information in math and English and history, chemistry and all that and not even know how to speak English very well.

Parrot: Exactly.

Joe: So I know how difficult it is. I have many Asian students, you know, some Japanese, and Korean and now more Russian students and some Iranian students. They are coming into my music classes, and I know how difficult it is so, yes, I have a lot of respect and know how difficult it is.

Parrot: That's good.

Joe: Yes.

Parrot: Do you think experience or education is more important?

Joe : Both are equally important.

Parrot: Do you have a funny story experience from

inside the classroom at ARC?

Joe: One time when I was the director of the jazz band at ARC, I scheduled a performance for the band at Rio Americano High School at 7 am on a Thursday morning. I was so worried that the students would not wake up in time. I made them all take an oath with me that they would not be late and that they would all call each other to make sure they would be there. The next morning my phone rang while I was in bed. It was one of my jazz band students. They wanted to know where I was. My alarm had not worked, and I overslept. The band was all waiting for me at the high school, it was 7 am, and I was still in bed. I was so embarrassed!

Parrot: List five adjectives that accurately describe yourself.

Joe: Ambitious, hard-working, silly, focused, light-hearted.

Parrot: What were you like as a student?

Joe: I was always a good student and worked hard. Getting good grades and becoming the best I could be was the most important thing for me, especially since my parents were paying for my education.

Parrot: What do you like to do in your free time?

Joe: Oh, I like to spend time with my family, especially spend time with my children and my wife or just go see a movie or go out to dinner or maybe go see a concert or do something at ARC or go ice skating or a basketball game. Most things I just like to do with my family.

Parrot: What types of movie?

Joe: Oh, well lately it's been mostly kid movies.

Parrot: Family movies.

Parrot: What's your best advice to our ARC students?

Joe: Take time to follow your dreams. There will be plenty of time for reality after you finish school.

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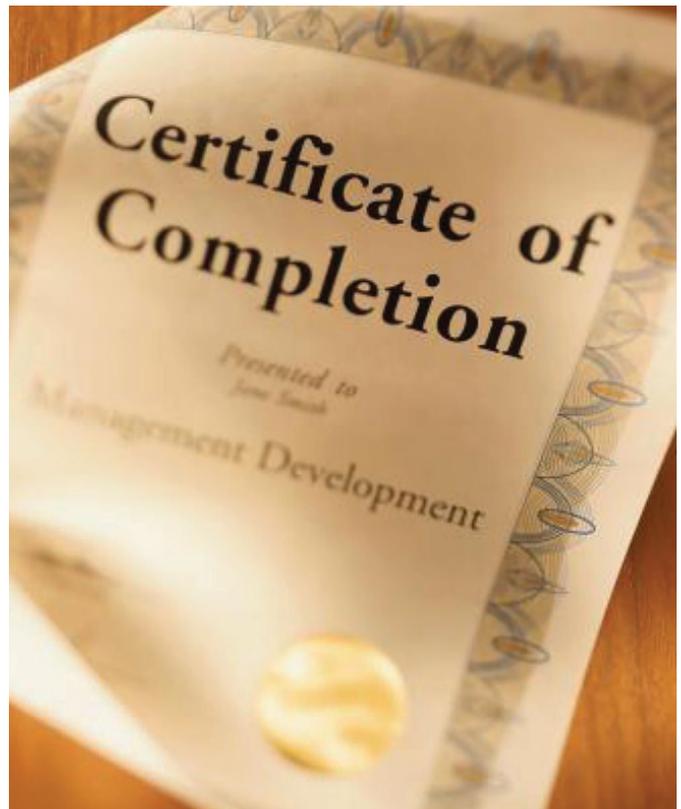
Certificate Level	Units	Required Courses:			
		G50 or higher	L50 or higher	W50 or higher	R50 or higher
Intermediate Proficiency	16	G50 or higher	L50 or higher	W50 or higher	R50 or higher
Advanced Proficiency	16	G320	L320	W320 or higher	R320 or higher
Advanced-High Proficiency	15-16	G320 or L320	ESL 350	W340	R340

* You may earn more than one certificate. * Courses can count twice for different certificate levels.

Why Get an ESL Certificate?

Last year I had ESLG-50 class with professor Ann Creighton. She mentioned at the beginning of the semester that after finishing ESL 50 level -grammar, reading, writing and listening, it is possible for every student to get a certificate, which could help in getting a job. So I'm hoping that it will help me to get a job since I have tried already several times unsuccessfully.

Antanas Naujokaitis



Out of the Cage

Interview Success Workshop

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

10:00 am - 11:00 am

This workshop includes information on researching the organization, reviewing anticipated questions, specific strategies, assessing your skills, making a professional presentation, and body language and presentation. Please call the Career Center and register for this workshop. 916-484-8492

Location: Career Center in the Student Services Building

Sexy Feminism!

Thursday, February 13, 2014

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Please join author Heather Wood Rudolph as she discusses her book, *Sexy Feminism: A Girl's Guide to Love, Success, and Style*. Feminism can still seem like an abstract idea that is hard to incorporate into our hectic, modern lives, but *Sexy Feminism* shows how the everyday things really matter. In an age when concern-trolling, slut-shaming, and body-snarking are blogosphere bywords, when reproductive rights are back under political attack, and when women are constantly pressured to "have it all," feminism is more relevant than ever. Covering a range of topics from body issues and workplace gender politics to fashion, dating, and sex, *Sexy Feminism* is full of advice, resources, and pop culture references that will help shape what it means to be a feminist today.

Location: Student Center Community Room

Remembering "Lost History" Celebrating African-American History

Thursday, February 20, 2014

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Topics of slavery and Jim Crow frequently create sharp differences in social opinions and political debate. Often lost in the heated rhetoric are the historical contributions of black people and/or the cultural impact of race in society. Students and faculty will share their stories of "lost history" and reflect on the importance of memory in our society. Students and faculty will share their stories of "lost history" and reflect on the importance of memory in our society.

Location: Raef Hall 160

River City and Valley Life: An Environmental History of the Sacramento Region

Thursday, February 27, 2014

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

You are invited to join Sacramento State History Professor Lee Simpson for a discussion of the fascinating and multi-layered environmental history of Sacramento presented in her recent co-edited book *River City and Valley Life*. As the book's contributors show, Sacramento has seen its landscape both ravaged and reborn. Blighted areas, rail yards, and riverfronts have been reclaimed, and parks and green spaces have been created and expanded. Though Sacramento's identity continues to evolve, it remains a city and region deeply rooted in its natural environment.

Location: Student Center Community Rooms

Questions/Comments?



Student Editors: Olga Cuzeac and Christian Valenzuela

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm