



# The Parrot

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

Issue # 82 Spring 2014

## A Lady with a Plan: Itzin Alpizar!

**Parrot:** This afternoon we met with one of our ESL classmates. She had an interesting journey in arts in her country, and she is going to share a bit with us today. Thank you very much for this interview. From which country are you from and how many years ago did you come here?



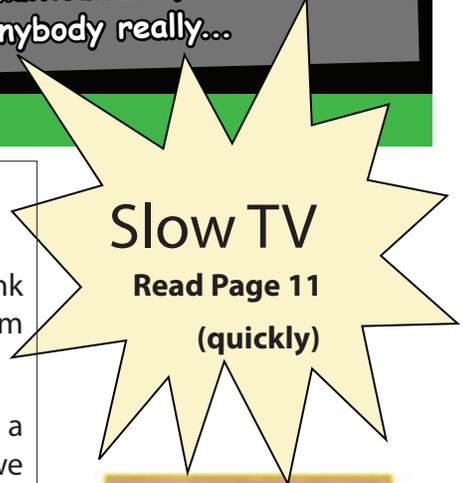
in Costa Rica. So, I think I can say that I'm from Costa Rica.

**Parrot:** Costa Rica is a beautiful country as we have heard. Why are you living in the United States?

**Itzin:** I moved to the United States for personal reasons, but then I fell in love with the country. I think it has very good educational

**Itzin:** You're welcome. I was born in Veracruz, Mexico almost 26 years ago. I come from a Costa Rican family, so when I was a kid we moved to live

opportunities and I want to take advantage of them. *Continued on page 18*



*"Give a girl an education and introduce her properly into the world, and ten to one but she has the means of settling well, without further expense to anybody."*  
Jane Austen



## Elephants Can Tell Gender, Ethnicity in Human Voices

African elephants can differentiate between human languages and move away from those considered a threat, a skill they have honed to survive in the wild, researchers said.



This African elephant is all ears.

when it comes to understanding human dangers.

African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) are the largest land animals on Earth and are considered a vulnerable species due to habitat loss and

The study suggests elephants, already known to be intelligent creatures, are even more sophisticated than previously believed

illegal hunting for their ivory tusks.

*Continued on page 20*

### Inside this Issue

- Iraqi Corruption . . . . . 2
- Lesson from Mistake . . . . 4
- The Wallet . . . . . 5
- You Are Fired . . . . . 6
- The Mosquito . . . . . 7
- Cell Phones . . . . . 8

# Student Chirpings

## Corruption in Government

There is a lot of corruption in governments. Every government probably has corruption in their facilities and departments. I had a good government. They were less corrupted; they had integrity. It was the government of Iraq. We had justice, integrity and all government facilities were ruled by one leader, Saddam Hussein. Saddam was known internationally as a war criminal, but the truth is he wasn't. He ruled the Republic of Iraq very well. For instance, as I saw in my country and the news the percentage of criminal activity was less than 2%, drugs 0% and no one had a weapon. That was before the last war began, 2003. After the war, when the U.S. army was in charge and ruled my country for two years, everything was fine: no weapons in the streets, no thieves and there was a curfew on people and vehicles after 11:00 pm. That was from 2003 to 2005 until they passed the control to one of the most intelligent persons who used to work for Sadaam government

in the 1980's. However, there were people we never heard of before the war. They came from many different countries. They gave it to one called Ayad Allawi. He was the first prime minister. He built a new army, the government's facilities, etc. After the election of 2006, there was another winner named Al-Jaafari. He led the country to civil war and chaos. In that time, my country was a real disaster. There were armed groups, gangsters, and terrorist militias in the streets. They killed more than 1500 persons every day after drilling their bodies, breaking all their bones and burning them. They tortured in very savage ways the people before they killed them. There were kidnappings, rapes, and robberies, and that didn't exist in Saddam's time at all. Jafaari's party replaced him with another person called Maliki. The reason for replacing him was the big massacres that he caused. Maliki moved the country to a



new level of chaos and confusion, from bad to worse. The first bad thing they did was they changed the flag and the constitution. Saddam had one political party. The new government has 87 known political parties and more than 120 unknown parties. In addition, each individual has his own militia, and they are stealing the nation's fortunes such as the petroleum and the mercury. Moreover, they are making fake contracts with unknown companies. For example, I saw on Al-Sumeriah Iraqi News Channel an interview with Baghdad's governor. He signed a contract with a Chinese company to buy only one bulldozer; that Bulldozer cost 50,000,000 Iraqi Dinar, which is equal to almost \$50,000. That was only one truth from millions of fake contracts and companies. There are bad services, a high percentage of assassinations, and suicides. They also changed the country from the Republic of Iraq to the Federal Republic of Iraq, which is not good for

a country producing oil in the north and south only. For example, people who live in the north are the Kurdish in three Iraqi provinces, and the south are the cities of Basra, Omarah, Samawah, Najaf and Karbala. Only these places can use the oil products and export them and keep these benefits only for these cities. It is an unacceptable thing and unfair and because of the new constitution and Federal government in Iraq, it means every state or province has to use their own resources. Then, there is a very bad government which wrote the new very bad constitution. What about the rest of the cities: the west, middle, and the cities in the east which have nothing? In Sadaam's time, all the country's resources were used equally for all with no differences. There are three solutions to the problems of government corruption: Replace and disband the entire police and the military's fake high ranks and

leaders and the parliament, rebuild the infrastructure of the country, and provide good services and jobs for people.

The first solution to solve the problems of the government corruption problem is to replace and disband the entire police and military leaders and the parliament. According to the annual survey by the Berlin-based organization Transparency International, the Iraqi government's rank is 5th on the list of the most corrupted governments. There are a lot of major problems in Iraq, and fake military ranks are one of them. I worked for the U.S. army from June 2003 until the Iraqi government was elected, and the Iraqi army and security forces had been established. Ninety percent of the military and police leaders do not have real ranks, I believe. In addition, they were regular people who didn't have any military experience. At that time, the U.S. army's job was to train and meet with Iraqi security forces such as army, federal police, etc. We met with the leaders of federal police, local police; intelligence agencies and the army; most of these people were civilians, and they didn't have any military training or knowledge to control the security situation. These people got their ranks through their relatives in the government. The only solution is to replace these people with the ex-military commanders, which is now impossible because the new government doesn't trust them based on fear the commanders will turn against them, but that is not correct. Then the only option is to have new real officers who studied in the military academy and the officers whom the U.S. army sent for training in their war academy. The parliament also has to be chosen by the Iraqi people in official elections sponsored by the U.N.

The second solution to solve the problems of government corruption is to rebuild the infrastructure of the country. The new government, instead of building new schools, hospitals, sewer systems and a lot of services, just led the country to ruin. They cut the supplies and didn't fix or build new schools or hospitals. Their only jobs were destroying and stealing and killing. That is all that they did and are still doing. In the past, Saddam's government focused on education and the infrastructure. They built a lot of schools, especially in the countryside. They also built many new clinics and hospitals and many different services. The only solution is to rebuild the schools, hospitals, power plants, sewer systems and water delivering systems. Sometimes I hear

some governor in Iraq announce that it will cost a lot of money, which makes the government unable to start any project! Unbelievable, I say; that's my country. I know exactly that they have money to build the entire Middle East. Iraq is producing oil by \$12,000,000 a day. They don't have the money? So they have to build, pay the debts, and make the country stand again.

The third and most important way to solve the problems of government corruption is to provide more than perfect services and jobs. There were a lot of opportunities in the past before 2003. Now if you graduate from school, you'll never be hired unless you bribe some managers who work with the government. My cousin graduated from electrical engineering college, Baghdad University, Iraq in 2012 and until now he doesn't have a job. My cousin is one example of unemployment in Iraq. Thirty nine million, seven hundred and sixty thousand people live in Iraq. Based on the Al-Jazira documentary channel, 78 % of the Iraqi people are without jobs right now, 38 % of them have a high level of education, and the rest of them have high school degrees and under. Unemployment is like a cancer. We need to cut at the roots. The new government has to offer a lot of opportunities for these people. How can you make people love their government? The answer is by providing them all the necessary services and the correct opportunity that fits each one.

In conclusion, there is corruption in the government. The Iraqi government has no integrity, and they don't build for their people and don't provide them what they need. The Iraqi government is not one of these good governments which provides their people what they need. The solution is to make elections supervised by the United Nations, replace all useless people with people who have skills and are educated, rebuild infrastructure for the country and provides opportunities for people. If the government does all these, it will be successful and have a strong base, who are their people. So people are the basis for the community and the government.

*Mohanad Aldayyeni*  
ESLW50

## My Cousin's Bicycle

If you took someone's belongings to use without permission from the owner, what would you do when you brought them back? I bet you might do something to make an excuse, and I also expect that you would probably learn something from your mistake, right? Of course, people have a lot of different techniques to stay away from troubles because they absolutely do not want to be punished. There are a lot of people who keep reading about new ideas or worldwide experiences that can help them to be good people, and others prefer to use their old experiences in the past to teach themselves. Like these people, I have learned a lot of new things from my good and bad experiences. I will never ever forget my huge mistake when I was in the fourth grade in Cambodia.

One Wednesday of my fourth grade, I got up early around 7 am, had breakfast and was ready to go to help my parents with housework because I had a day off from school. However, I did not have a chance to help my parents at all because my cousin, Kimhong, who lived close to my parents' house, asked me to take her brother, Hokseng, who was the same age as I was, to school and bring the bicycle back home right away after I dropped him at his school. I had done this many times, and I felt comfortable to be a great cousin with Hokseng every time and everywhere. Even though we are cousins, we love each other like siblings. Then, Hokseng sat on the back seat behind me and I was the driver. It took us ten to fifteen minutes to get to the school; however, when we got there, we realized that Hokseng's teacher was sick and the whole class was dismissed. Hokseng ran quickly into the class and just turned around to say "Just a minute—I'll come back soon." I smiled and bowed my head to inform him that I agreed. A couple of minutes later, I saw Hokseng and seven other boys and five girls, who were Hokseng's classmates and our neighbors, come out of his class. They were as young as Hokseng and me. Then, they told me, "We are going to the park, behind the school.

Do you want to come with us?" they asked me. "Yes, of course!" I replied without hesitation. Then, some of us commenced our ride right away, and others ran toward the park with excitement.

We climbed the trees, played games, and rode in a boat happily. That was a remarkable chance for my friend and I to have a great time playing with each other and sharing social lives together. While I was enjoying running with my friends, something came into my ears and whispered, "You have forgotten your day, my friend!" That sense immediately reminded me that I had to go home

as fast as possible. I noted that the sun was almost directly overhead. I glanced at my small watch, and it said 11:45 a.m. "I've got to go!" I shouted at my friends. I realized that I had forgotten my promise to my cousin to take the bike back home quickly after I had dropped Hokseng at school.

At that moment, I was scared by my carelessness. Then, after thirty minutes, all fun activities with friends had to be finished even though nobody wanted to quit the wonderful time. I quickly jumped on the bike, and Hokseng was also behind me. I did not even say good bye to everyone on the team either because I just wanted to get home in one second. Hokseng and I had the same idea that we were going to be blamed and punished when we got home.

I was so nervous and my tears started to drop from my sad eyes when I was walking into my house. My parents and my cousin, Kimhong, were sitting around a meal table which was placed in my living room. They said nothing to each other or even to me who was just walking in, but they looked like they were thinking about something that had just happened. Hokseng and I did not sit with them because we knew that we had made mistakes, and we walked through them to the kitchen. When we had just sat down on the chairs, I saw that Kimhong stood up rapidly with anger and called Hokseng to go to her home with her without putting her eyes on me. After Hokseng and

**LEARN FROM  
THIS  
MISTAKE**

his sister went out of my sight, my parents called my name with a slightly heavy sound “Eh..Bora!! Come here!” My heart started beating faster and faster like a new army recruit’s heart, battling in the most violent war. I kept telling myself that I must pay for my mistake, while I was walking slowly to see my parents. My mom just glanced at me and asked, “Do you know how foolish you were today?” I felt like I was hit by a big stick, and my whole body felt numb like I was bitten by a cobra. Then, I replied to her with a regretful tone, “I’m so sorry, mom.” Moreover, my Dad advised me, “You are a boy who is a strong man and who must be a responsible person—do not make this terrible mistake again!” I kept staying still, and I said, “I am not going to make you mad at me again.” Finally, we start-

ed to have lunch together, but I always kept reminding myself that I would never ever make my parents and my cousins angry at me again.

In conclusion, the phrase “No one is perfect” is absolutely true. Everyone always make one mistake, two mistakes, ten mistakes, or plenty of mistakes; however, those mistakes are the teacher and we can learn to avoid the other mistakes. To me, I have learned new things from my mistake and those are my lessons that have taught me not to do bad things again and again. I would like readers to use mistakes to avoid making the same mistake again.

*Bora Hourt  
ESLW310*

## The Wallet

When I lived in Stavropol, Russia, I had a hard day in a grocery store. I can never forget that day because it was terrible! It was in 1990, when the Soviet Union was falling apart. It was a very difficult time in Russia. There was almost nothing in the stores, so the lines were long everywhere.

One day in the morning, I went to the store because my family—my husband and my three kids—needed some food. As usual, there was a long line to enter into the store because the store didn’t have enough produce. I put my wallet with my money in my coat pocket and stood behind the last man in the line. Soon, other people stood in line behind me. I thought about how much meat to buy and what to prepare with it when I got back home. Finally, I chose a piece of meat, eggs, milk, bread, and a little candy for my kids. I put the items in a cart and was very satisfied because I got what I needed and I didn’t stay in that line very long.

After that, I went to the checkout. I wanted to take my wallet from my pocket. “Oh, my God! Where is

my wallet? Perhaps it is in another pocket.” I looked, but it was not anywhere! Then I remembered a young man who stood behind me in the first line. He didn’t stay very long, and soon he went away. I realized I didn’t lose my wallet. It was stolen. I was confused. What must I do? Did I have to return the food? What about my children? They were waiting for me to come home with food and some candy.

I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t cry, but I wanted to return my selections. However, I was surprised again when one young man said he wanted to pay for my items. Now I don’t remember how much they cost, but I told him thanks

many times. He was very kind, and I was so grateful.

I can’t forget that difficult experience in the store in Russia over two decades ago. After that, I never kept my wallet in my pockets, but I also learned that there are many kinds of people in the world, and I had met two kinds that day.

*Liudmila Tarshikova  
ESLW30*



## Get Yourself Fired

Don't you sometimes hate your job? Maybe your coworkers and your boss bother you time and time again? Perhaps you want to spend more time with your family? If you want to lose your job for one of the above-mentioned reasons, follow these wonderful steps: make your co-workers question your behavior, hurt their feelings, and then get a big project and fail it on purpose.

The first step is to be lazy, come to work late, not finish your job on time, and then go home early, even though it is really busy. You have to do this until the whole department recognizes your work ethics have changed. Then, at this time, people will try to talk to you about the sudden change in your behavior and understand what is happening. This can be longer depending on how well your relationships with your co-workers are. If you had a good relationship with them, they would tend to be more patient. If not, you may move to next step quickly.

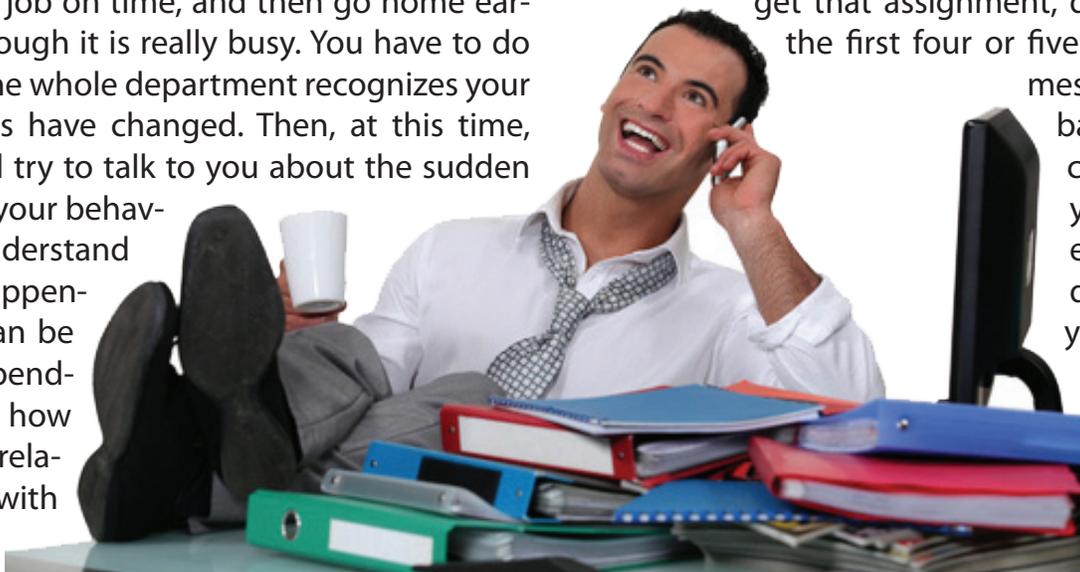
The next step is to hurt the feelings of the people in your office. This could be hard especially if you are a polite and warm-hearted person. However, in order to lose your job, you have to be strong. You have to throw around some mean words to hurt their feelings. Be a depressing and bad-mannered person in the office and fight with somebody if you can. Then, your boss will want to talk to you and ask why you are causing problems. Tell your boss that you want to resign then and there. Some bosses will accept your request;

however, others will not because you're so intelligent and your company needs you.

If you are not fired yet, here is the final step: give the company an even better reason to fire you. First, you have to change your attitude again. Be nice to people and finish your task on time. You have to do this until people believe in you again. After that, take charge of a very important project. It is best to get a critical project. When you get that assignment, do it well in the first four or five weeks and mess it up as bad as you can. Aim your project towards damaging your company. At the end of the day, tell them that you did this on purpose.

Not finishing your job, hurting your co-workers feelings, and giving them a reason to fire you by damaging your company are the three wonderful steps to lose your job. Mission completed. However, following these steps could cost you not only getting fired from the company, but also may include not being able to go back to that entire industry. Thus, you have to think carefully before following these steps.

*Soohyun Jeong*  
ESLW50



## The Mosquito

### Fiction

Why do people hate mosquitoes? Of course, the answer is that mosquitoes carry diseases and cause pain and suffering. The mosquito is an insect that sucks human blood, which is the mosquito's main source of food. Have you ever thought about why the mosquitoes like human blood so much? Why?

Once upon a time in a village, there was a poor couple. They really loved each other very much. The husband, Ngoc Tam, was a farmer. He was hard working, but he was really naïve. However, his wife, Nhan Diep, was a beautiful but lazy woman. She did not want to do anything. She just stayed home and waited for her husband to come back from the field. She did not even cook or clean for Ngoc Tam. Although Nhan Diep was lazy, Ngoc Tam still loved her very much and they had a happy life together. One day, Nhan Diep died suddenly. Ngoc Tam was really distressed. He cried a lot and wanted to die with her.

Everyone in the village felt bad for him because of his wife's death. A hermit came and told him, "If you want your wife alive, you have to make her body warm by hugging her for three months and ten days." The husband was really happy and he started immediately. But after three days, the neighbors asked him to bury her because they could not stand the rotten stench of her body.

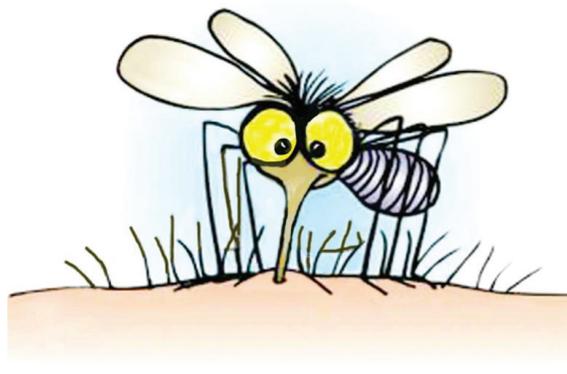
The husband realized that he could not stay in the village and he sold everything he had to buy a boat. He knew that only in the boat, no one would complain about the smell. On the fifth day, he came to an island which had many beautiful flowers and medicinal plants. When he was looking for some medicinal plants, he saw an old man who had white hair and a white beard. He went to the old man and asked him for some medicinal plants. After the conversation, the old man knew the husband's story and wanted

to help him. He asked the husband to put three small drops of blood from his finger into his wife body. In a few minutes, Nhan Diep slowly opened her eyes, and sat up from her long sleep. The husband was really happy and thanked the old man. Before the couple went home, the old man told Nhan Diep, "Don't forget the duties of a wife; always think about your husband. If you don't love your husband anymore, you just give three drops of blood back to him."

On the way home, they stopped at a small village to buy some food. At the market, Nhan Diep had gotten the attention of a local business man, who was selling clothes. When Ngoc Tam did not pay attention to his wife, the businessman came to talk to Nhan Diep and invited her to come to his place to see more clothes. When the husband turned around, he did not see his wife anymore. He was looking for her everywhere, but he did not find her.

While he was sitting on the boat, he saw his wife on a fancy boat with many people. He was excited to see her again. He came to her and asked her to go home with him. But he was surprised at the answer from Nhan Diep. She said, "I am so sorry. I don't love you anymore. I want to have a new life with the business man. I want to give you your three drops of blood back." After that, she pricked her finger to give him his three drops of blood. When the third blood drop came out, she fell down and died. When Nhan Diep died, the businessman threw her body into the ocean.

After Nhan Diep died, she really wanted to be human again. But she was reincarnated as a little insect. Day and night, she was chasing people to regain the three drops of blood to become human. Later, a lot of people named this little insect, the Mosquito. Because of her infidelity, people always slap the mosquito when it is close to them.



## Cell Phones

We live in a world of technology. The number of people using cell phones has increased in the last few years. Even kids in elementary schools have cell phones. Cell phones can be very useful for college students. They can be used as a dictionary, calculator, or for research. Some teachers in college think that students shouldn't use cell phones and they had take them. I firmly believe that teachers at the college level should not be able to require students to give up their cell phones.

The first reason why teachers should not require students to give up their cell phones is because teachers don't want to be responsible if something happens to the phone. Some cell phones are very expensive. When teachers take cell phones from students, they can be scratched or broken. It costs a lot of money to fix or replace a cell phone. If something happens to the phone, the teacher will not pay you for that. She or he will just say sorry. Many students don't have money to buy another phone. For example, my friend's phone was scratched badly when the teacher collected cell phones. He went to the teacher and told her that, but she said that she was sorry, that she didn't know what happened. My friend had to spend money to fix his phone.

The second reason why teachers should not require students to give up their cell phones is because students can forget to take their cell phones back. When class is finished, sometimes students forget to retrieve their cell phones. It's very bad because they have family and kids who can't call them if something happens. They also have work and if their boss calls them, they don't have their phones. For example, one of my classmates told me she left

her cell phone in class one day. Her kids from school called her because they were sick but she didn't have her phone. She was only able to get her phone when the teacher has office hours. She was very unhappy.

The third reason why teachers should not require students to give up their cell phones is because students may need their cell phone during class. Students need to turn off their cell phones or put them on vibrate, but teacher shouldn't take them away. Some people have kids and their kids

can call them or the principal can call them if something happens at school or kids may be sick at home. For example, when my older sister went to school, she always had her cell phone when her kids were sick. She told the babysitter to call her anytime if the kids got more sick. If the teacher took away her cell phone, she wouldn't be able to receive that call. Other

people use cell phones to translate words or as a calculator. People who don't speak English well often use the phone to translate words they don't understand. It is very helpful.

In conclusion, I believe that teachers at the college level should not be able to require students to give up their cell phones for three reasons: teacher's don't want to be responsible for damaged or broken phones, students forget to take their cell phones back, and students may need their cell phone during class. I believe that college students are adults and have a right to keep their cell phones.

*Oleksandr Iliukhin*  
ESLW50



## A Charming Family Room

The cool morning breeze touched my face. I wrapped myself in the blanket tightly while twisting in the bed; the sun was shining and sending its warmest and shiniest ray to my bed through a big window. The birds were singing. With half-opened eyes I looked at the digital clock on the night stand. I couldn't sleep because my class would start in less than an hour; it was wake up time. The cool air quickly faded away, I woke up, then I looked at the big mirror on the dressing table; I had to take a bath, but I didn't have enough time, so I washed my face quickly. Without making the bed, I passed through

the small corridor. Rosa and Nasi, my little cats, were waiting for their breakfast; I gave them their food while I was in the shiny and clean kitchen. Notwithstanding the charming vase of red roses, three messy glasses, a can of soda, and a wrinkled napkin remained from the last night on the dining table. Without passing through any door, I was

in the family-dining room to pick my textbooks and papers up. The family room is the most charming, lively, and delightful part of my home.

My family room is an ordinary family room. The dim lights come to it through two small curtained windows. A fireplace covered with a brown metallic guard is situated in the wall between the windows, and a very fantastic garden painting in a large golden carved big frame was hung above the white tiled wall of the fireplace. On the left side, by the doorway, a 50" LED TV stands on a black two-shelved table. A PlayStation, a DVD, a satellite receiver, a modem, a rotor, a digital set-top box, a DVD player and lots of games and DVDs sit on the shelves. This table looks like a dark spot on my clean and beautiful family room. The table is in the corner of the room, so no matter if you sit on the huge, brown reclining sofa,



the loveseat that has a cupboard in the middle, or the recliner chair you can see the TV easily and all the furniture is comfortable. Two decorative end tables are placed near the sofa. A floral rug covers the entire family room, which has a cream-chocolate color, as it is the theme of the entire room. A hexagonal metallic tea table, with a heavy glass at the top, is on the rug. A crystal vase with a bunch of beautiful flowers along with a candleholder show themselves off on the table. On the wall opposite the fireplace hangs a fascinating painting of a sunset in a forest. The wall adjacent to the windows extends to the dining

area; the family room is "L" shaped. On this part of the wall there is a big and beautiful frame similar to the frame above the fireplace. A crystal chandelier has been hung exactly above the dining table. The dining table is a compact, brown, round, glass-top bar table with four stools. Under it is a cream-chocolate rug. Although everything in

this room is simple, it is a charming room.

Adding to the quiet and simple mood of the family room, its atmosphere is filled by the warm and lovely spirit of my family. While the family is away, at work or college, it is a quiet room. However, at the end of a busy day and especially on weekends, when my son comes back home from San Francisco, the family room isn't quite as it had been before. The TV blares in the background of all voices in our home when my family gathers to reconnect and enjoy the time together. Talking about our day, plans, or feelings, watching our favorite TV series or movie, playing games, petting our cats, drinking coffee and tea, eating together in the dining area, and, most joyful of all, sitting by the fireplace during winter creates a lively atmosphere in the family room.

I usually spend lots of time in the kitchen and the

living room where the computer table and four bookcases are placed, but I prefer to sit on the recliner chair to get a relaxing cup of tea, read a book, do my college assignments, or make a decision after creative thinking. It is a very delightful room.

Despite the beautiful garden, a comfortable bedroom, and a living room with expensive furniture, I

think I'd have to say the family room is my favorite place in my home. This simple, beautiful, warm, lively, delightful, charming and cozy room is the heart of my home.

*Fariba Darvishi*  
ESLW50

## How To Wash an Alligator

Most Americans love pets. According to an article from "People" magazine, about sixty three percent of Americans live with one or more animals. About thirty nine percent of households have at least one dog. Thirty four percent own at least one cat. In addition, Americans buy birds, rats, snakes, chickens, and pigs. However, only a few people own alligators because a lot of Americans don't know how to take care of them. Many Americans don't even know how to wash them! Washing an alligator is easy if you follow these steps.

The first step is to find an alligator. You have to practice before buying your own alligator. Ask your friends, relatives or neighbors where you can find an alligator. Maybe they saw one somewhere. If they don't know, find information on the Internet about where alligators dwell near your house. If you find a swamp with alligators, go with a fishing rod and catch one. If you don't, go to the nearest zoo and steal an alligator (but return it after washing). Don't forget to leave a note, "Went to take a shower. Will come back soon."

The next step in the process is to prepare the place where you will wash the alligator. Choose the backyard for this. The first step is to lay an oilcloth and bring some supplies for washing. It can be shampoo, body wash, soap, and a bath sponge. Make sure you have a hose with water because it's easier to rinse an alligator with it than with a bucket of water. Next, bring a rope, soft towels, and toothpaste. After that, check that your neighbors don't watch secretly because they could

think you are crazy. Before you start, turn on classical music. Your alligator will feel relaxed with it.

The last step is to start to wash your alligator. First, tie the mouth of your alligator with a rope because it can bite off your hand, leg, or head. After that, tie the

claws because your alligator can crawl away. Don't forget to bind the tail to a tree or to a pole because the tail can hit you. Then moisten your alligator with warm water and soap it, starting with its head. Wash your alligator very carefully because this is a sensitive animal. After that, rinse it with warm water and wipe with a soft

towel. Finally, untie the mouth of your alligator and clean it with toothpaste because of the bad smell. But be careful; it's dangerous because not all alligators like to clean their mouths. As soon as possible, return your clean alligator to the zoo or to the swamp where you got it from.

As you can see, it's not very difficult to wash an alligator. After you read the instructions I have given you, you will probably want to go to a pet store and buy one. Just don't be afraid to take care of it. Alligators are very smart and beautiful animals. You will enjoy having one. But if you grow tired of washing your alligator and taking care of it, you can kill it and make beautiful shoes or handbag from alligator leather. It's also not difficult, but that's another story.

*Olga Strizheus*  
ESLW50



## Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

### Norway's 'Slow TV' format coming to US

Would you watch 13 hours of speed-knitting?

Last month 1.3 million Norwegians — 25 percent of the country's population of 5 million — did just that in what's become a programming phenomenon called Slow TV.

Pioneered by Norwegian public broadcaster NRK2 in 2009, Slow TV is characterized by hours and hours of continuous coverage of fixed cameras on a subject or event — think of it as the television equivalent of those viral online Puppy Cams.

Past programs have included a seven-and-a-half hour train journey, a 134-hour coastal cruise, 12 hours of firewood burning and 18 hours of salmon fishing — we're talking three or four hours before the first fish bit.

And now producers are betting Americans will be just as entranced by this slow-moving entertainment.

Last month, US production company LMNO Productions (TLC's "The Little Couple") acquired the rights to bring the Slow TV format stateside.

"It doesn't compete for your attention. In a world where we have this many channels and every channel has a docu-soap about some outrageous personality who lives unapologetically and sort of yells at us, as television viewers . . . This was just the oppo-

site," says Lori Rothschild Ansaldi, senior VP of development at LMNO.

"This one allows you to watch and just sit back and relax. Not in a boring way but in a really 'that's different' sort of way. It allows you to breathe."

Of course, it's a vague idea to adapt. What LMNO actually acquired is the rights to the technology that makes it possible to be live for many consecutive hours — the art of camera-switching and the option to use the trained Norwegian crews.



*One 'Slow TV' program was a seven-and-a-half hour long train ride.*

But for as static as Slow TV is on-screen, it became an interactive event in Norway when people tracked the cruise

ship's five-day journey on social media, and went out to the coastline for their 15 minutes of fame — even the Queen came out to greet the boat.

"It stands out, it is so different from everything else on TV. I think that in itself is an important reason [for its popularity]," says Rune Møklebust, head of programming at NRK. "Apparently, people love to watch a journey or a process in its original length.

"[It's] not edited — this is real reality TV."

And Møklebust thinks the format can definitely translate to an American audience.

"They'll have to work out what do to, what will work

in the US," he says. "Then I think it will work for the same reasons as here."

But don't expect the American version to be speed-knitting a US flag. "It's just not part of our culture," Rothschild says. Instead, LMNO is looking for American pastimes to document — current ideas being kicked around include observing wildlife, people-watching at a train station, a cross-country road trip or watching the seasons change at a dangerous railway passage.



Strategically placed cameras catch all the "action" on a high-speed Norwegian train.

Rothschild said Slow TV could be premiering on television sets as early as summer 2014.

Not everyone in the production community is convinced of its cross-cultural appeal, however.

"It's a perfect example of how insane our industry is," says one US reality producer.

"I think it is representative of a trend that we are now so unwilling to be original [in our formats] we're literally going to produce shows about watching paint dry."

The ultimate topic will depend on which network picks up the format, envisioned as a once-a-quarter event program. LMNO currently has four networks interested (both broadcast and cable) and Roth-

<http://nypost.com/2013/12/02/norways-slow-tv-format-coming-to-us/>

## Hundreds of Millions of Chinese Stubbornly Resist Speaking the 'Common Tongue'

*It has four tones, strange "measure words" and thousands of characters to memorize. So for English-speakers, Mandarin can be an especially difficult language to tackle.*

But here's some more bad news. Even if you become fluent, you may not be able to communicate with nearly a third of the people living in China.

State media recently reported that more than 400 million Chinese are unable to speak Mandarin — the national language — while millions

more speak it poorly.

Instead, they rely on regional dialects — some call them separate languages — that are so far apart, they're mutually unintelligible. Even Mao Zedong, the founding father of the People's Republic of China, spoke with such a pronounced regional accent that many Chinese had a hard time understanding him.

### ***A long trip, linguistically***

Today, non-Mandarin speakers tend to be older Chinese from



Gu Hangyu, sits with his grandmother Wang Yufang, at her home on Chongming Island near Shanghai. She speaks the Chongming dialect, but not standard Chinese.

rural areas, like the island of Chongming. It's just 45 minutes by bus from the center of Shanghai, but linguistically it's a much longer trip.

"Like eating, eating the dinner. In Mandarin we call it 'chi fan,' but in Chongming language we call it 'chibie,'" said Gu Hangyu, a student from Chongming.

Gu's grandmother, Wang Yufang, is one of the millions of Chinese who doesn't speak Mandarin. As a farmer, her life has been hard. Corncocks fuel her stove and handpicked cotton fills her comforter. In winter, she heats her home with the energy from a car battery.

With her grandson translating, Wang said she doesn't speak Mandarin, and has no need to. All her neighbors speak the Chongming dialect and so do the vegetable vendors in the market.

But Gu is less matter-of-fact. He's worried his native dialect might fade. He also noted that some city dwellers look down on new arrivals if they speak with thick regional accents.

"I have a special feeling towards my native language," he said. "I'm proud of Chongming. It's a beautiful town. The people are friendly... the air is fresh, the water is clean."

### *Dialects or Languages?*

You Ruijie, a linguist at Fudan University, said dialects spoken widely in commercial hubs like Shanghai will likely survive for generations. Others are on their way out.

"I think some dialects, especially the small dialects, could disappear in the near future," he said.

It's a testament to today's mobility and migration in

China that You's family speaks four dialects. Yet his son and his parents don't have a single dialect in common. It's a linguistic leap that's not uncommon here.

You says for all intents and purposes, China's 10 or so dialect groups should be treated as completely separate languages. He says it's like the difference between Italian and Spanish. At the same time, many Chinese minorities have their own languages, like Uyghur, Mongolian and Tibetan.

This adds another degree of complexity, especially for visitors. If you want to buy a necklace in Xinjiang in the west, or

a cellphone in parts of southern China, you might get further in English than in Mandarin.

On Chongming Island, Gu's grandmother says she has no plans to take up Mandarin herself.

"She says it's hard for older people like her to study Mandarin. It's use-

less for them. But it's useful for young people like me," Gu said.

At 68, she added, she's confident the Chongming dialect will outlast her. And if it is lost and she's still alive, at that time, she said, "I will leave the world."

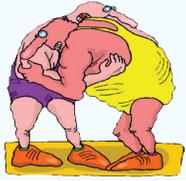
The World in Words podcast is on Facebook and iTunes.

<http://pri.org/stories/2013-12-03/hundreds-millions-chinese-stubbornly-resist-speaking-common-tongue>



*Wang Yufang and her grandson, Gu Hangyu, at her home on Chongming Island, near Shanghai. Gu says when he has a family, he'd like his son or daughter to speak his native Chongming dialect. Many young Chinese do not speak their grandparents' dialects.*

# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### Viewpoint and Commenting Adverbs

There are some adverbs and adverbial expressions which tell us about the speaker's viewpoint or opinion about an action, or make some comment on the action.

#### Viewpoint :

*Frankly*, I think he is a liar. (= this is my frank, honest opinion)

*Theoretically*, you should pay a fine. (= from a theoretical point of view but there may be another way of looking at the situation)

These adverbs are placed at the beginning of the sentence and are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

Some common Viewpoint adverbs: *honestly, seriously, confidentially, personally, surprisingly, ideally, economically, officially, obviously, clearly, surely, undoubtedly.*

#### Examples:

- *Personally*, I'd rather go by train.
- *Surprisingly*, this car is cheaper than the smaller model.
- *Geographically*, Britain is rather cut off from the rest of Europe.

#### Commenting:

These are very similar to viewpoint adverbs, and often the same words, but they go in a different position - after the verb to be and before the main verb.

#### Examples:

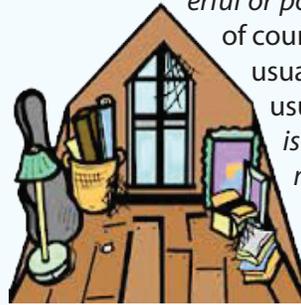
- *She is certainly* the best person for the job.
- *You obviously* enjoyed your meal.

Some common Commenting adverbs: *definitely, certainly, obviously, simply.*

## Idiom--Attic

### Strong Enough to Put Hair on my Chest

In this expression the word "strong" means *very powerful or potent*. It's used ( humorously, of course ) to describe something -- usually a beverage -- that is unusually strong. "Wow, *this coffee is strong enough to put hair on my chest!*" Mr. Wilson gulped. "I can see that," Mrs. Wilson frowned. "There goes another button."



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

## Beak Speak

(Continued from Parrot 81)

### Silent Letters

These are those letters in words which are not pronounced when we say the word.

#### Silent U

'U' is not pronounced in words when it comes after 'G' and is followed by a vowel:

*Guess; Colleague; Guitar; Tongue*

#### Silent W

We avoid pronouncing 'W' when it begins a word and is followed by 'R':

*Wrist; Write; Wrong*

'W' is not pronounced in these three pronouns:

*Who; Whose; Whom*

It is also avoided in words like:

*Two; Sword; Answer*

#### Silent X

'X' is not pronounced in most words that have come from the French language:

*Faux Pas; Bordeaux*

#### Silent Z

'Z' remains silent in the word: *Rendezvous*



<http://www.englishleap.com>

# Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

## Astronomical Delights Wordsearch

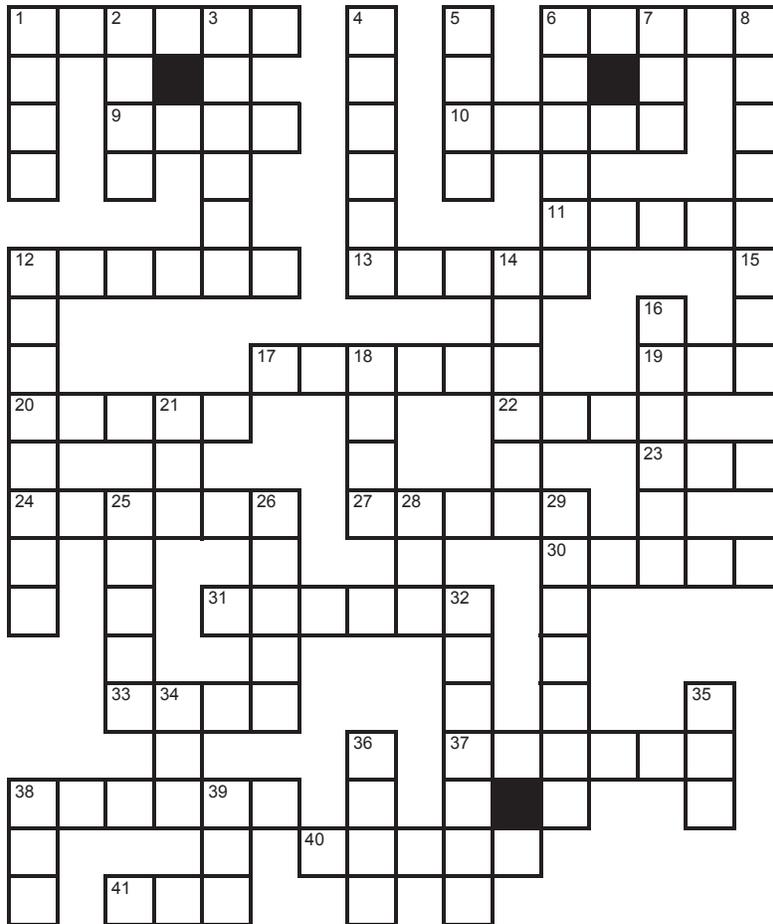
Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions. Words may overlap and share one or more letters.

- absolute zero
- eclipse
- nova
- scintillation
- airglow
- ecliptic
- ozone
- selenography
- albedo
- ecosphoere
- parallax
- solar flares
- barycentre
- exosphere
- parsec
- solar system
- binary star
- gamma ray
- penumbra
- spicules
- black hole
- geocentric
- perigee
- stratosphere
- bolide
- gibbous
- phases
- supernova
- bolometer
- ionosphere
- photosphere
- syzygy
- cepheid
- kirkwood
- gaps
- proton
- terminator
- chromosphere
- lunation
- quasar
- troposphere
- clusters
- magnetosphere
- radiant
- umbra
- comet
- mass
- red
- shift
- zenith
- constellation
- meteor
- revolve
- density
- milky way
- rotate
- earthshine
- nadir
- satellite

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



## Word Skills



## Hodgepodge

### Across

- 1 A place that rhymes with pool.
- 6 The antonym of long.
- 9 A farm animal that rhymes with boat.
- 10 A synonym for yell.
- 11 A toy that rhymes with bite.
- 12 A kind of fruit that begins with G.
- 13 A kind of flower that begins with D.
- 17 The opposite of top.
- 19 Another word for pull.
- 20 The antonym of clean.
- 22 A fruit that rhymes with hair.
- 23 The opposite of young.
- 24 A type of lizard that begins with I.
- 27 A farm animal that rhymes with sleep.
- 30 The opposite of wrong.
- 31 A season that rhymes with king.
- 33 A food that rhymes with dice.
- 37 A kind of fruit that begins with B.
- 38 Another word for cold.
- 40 Another word for big.
- 41 A farm animal that rhymes with wow.

### Down

- 1 The antonym of fast.
- 2 Another way to say 'very big.'
- 3 A type of fruit that begins with O.
- 4 A synonym of afraid.
- 5 A type of flower that begins with R.
- 6 Another word for scary.
- 7 The opposite of in.
- 8 Another word for speak.
- 12 A kind of fish that begins with G.
- 14 Another word for easy.
- 15 A pet that rhymes with log.
- 16 The opposite of strong.
- 18 Another word for throw.
- 21 A drink that rhymes with sea.
- 25 The opposite of over.
- 26 A kind of fruit that begins with A.
- 28 A farm animal that rhymes with pen.
- 29 A synonym of gift.
- 32 A synonym for trash.
- 34 Another word for sick.
- 35 The antonym of good.
- 36 A forest animal that rhymes with hair.
- 38 A pet that rhymes with hat.
- 39 The opposite of high.



## Granny Noetal

**Dear Granny Noetal,**

What are you doing this summer – just sitting around on your butt like most of the teachers?

**W. Eisenkopf.**

**Dear W,**

So nice of you to take the time to write! So succinct and to the point! So caring that you should consider the welfare of my “butt”. Sorry, but Granny and her fanny seem so off-limits to write about and, gosh, that word “butt” I still have a difficult time accepting in polite discourse.



Nonetheless, to satisfy your curiosity, I plan to do quite a bit this summer. I have a trip planned to the Galapagos to see the wonders of nature. I’m also going to read two novels and two non-fiction books. In addition to that, I’m going to tend to my tomatoes, walk my dogs, learn something about beekeeping, mend my fence, polish my brass, build a koi pond, swim a mile every day, sew a quilt, learn how to make baba gnoush, mind my great-grandchildren, practice my taekwondo, write some poetry, further research my ancestry, backpack in the Sierras, refurbish my ’57 Chevy and take it to the levee, write to my congressman, sing in my choir, drill a well, and, oh yes, just sit around.

**Granny.**

### *Interview with Itzin Alpizar*

*(Continued from page 1)*

vantage of them.

**Parrot:** How long have you been in the United States?

**Itzin:** I recently celebrated my three years here.

**Parrot:** And how long have you been studying at ARC?

**Itzin:** This is my first term.

**Parrot:** What are you studying at ARC?

**Itzin:** At this moment I am studying English as a Second Language. I also plan to study the required classes to transfer to the UCLA in the future.

**Parrot:** At UCLA, what will be your major?

**Itzin:** There, my major will be Film and Television.

**Parrot:** You were on TV in your country, right?. How did you start with it?

**Itzin:** Well, first I started with theater and modeling. Later, I graduated with a major in theater in a conservatory that was my high school; I started to work at some theater companies. I liked hard metal and rock music in my teens years, so one day I had the opportunity to audition to be the host of a T.V. program presenting videos of rock music. I started presenting this program while I was still modeling and acting.

**Parrot:** Then you have other experiences apart from television. How many and what kind of modeling and acting did you do?

**Itzin:** My passion always was and has been the theater. I started at three in children’s musicals. Later, I started to study music and other arts for a few years more. Then in the theater companies I worked in

various sectors: in some acting, directing, production, lighting and sound technician, writing works, or even advertising; whatever we had to do, I was there. For these connections, I started working in advertising agencies, helping them in commercials, jingles, and then modeling for print and runway. I think it could be approximately 18 plays, 4 years as a teacher of theater, 1 movie, 4 short films, mmm... around five catwalks, two years on television, some festivals, radio and advertising campaigns, among others. They were very great years.

**Parrot:** In those years, can you tell us about some work that you feel proud of it?

**Itzin:** One of the best jobs of which I'm still proud for having the opportunity to work with was the association Arts to Help. With them I worked with the National Children's Trust of Costa Rica in various theater projects, radio programs, short films, and conferences with topics such as "Sexual and Commercial Child Abuse". One of the most beautiful projects was working in a theater workshop with orphans and children with a history of domestic violence; it was very sad and hard for me, but the smiles of those children proud of their work will always be in my heart.

**Parrot:** Would you like to do the same in the U.S.?

**Itzin:** Of course I'd love to, some day. For now I want to open a new path in film and television. Therefore, first learn English very well.

**Parrot:** How many units are you currently taking at ARC?

**Itzin:** Currently 12 units, but in the fall I will add more. I hope.

**Parrot:** Do you have any scholarships at ARC?

**Itzin:** For now I have only BOGW.

**Parrot:** Are you currently in a club at ARC?

**Itzin:** Yes, the Latinos Unidos Club.

**Parrot:** How do you view yourself in 5 years?

**Itzin:** Well, I think graduating from the School of Film and Television at UCLA. I also hope to be working on

some theatrical and cinematographic projects here in the United States and Costa Rica.

**Parrot:** Would you like to return to live in your country?

**Itzin:** It's hard, I don't think so. I love Costa Rica, but I see it only as a place to vacation and to visit my family. I already have the usual lifestyle of this country.

**Parrot:** So, is your whole family in your country? Do you live by yourself?

**Itzin:** Yes, I came alone. I live with two roommates.

**Parrot:** That was a hard decision.

**Itzin:** It was.

**Parrot:** What do you like to do for fun?

**Itzin:** I have very good friends here; they are like my family. So we have many social activities. I also love to paint, read, dance, play my guitar sometimes, and of course watch movies.

**Parrot:** What do you think about our teacher and his ESL40 class? How do you like it?

**Itzin:** I think he is an excellent teacher. He has a slightly different technique to teach, so learning feels easy with him. It's a pretty interactive class, and fun. The truth is you learn a lot here. I highly recommend it.

**Parrot:** How do you describe yourself if you were in an interview on TV?

**Itzin:** Well I think I am a normal person who dreams big, works hard, and tries to intelligently move the tiles to make a checkmate to the obstacles of my life. We are all here in "Pursuit of happiness", is that not true?

**Parrot:** Yes, we are. Thank you very much for your time.

**Itzin:** Thanks to you.

## *Elephants Can Tell Gender, Ethnicity in Human Voices. (Continued from page 1)*

### **Elephants Instinctively Get Human Pointing**

Researchers played recordings of human voices for elephants at Amboseli National Park in Kenya to see how they would respond, according to a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Some of the voices were from local Maasai men, a group that herds cattle and sometimes comes into conflict with elephants over access to water and grazing space. Occasionally, elephants are killed in clashes with Maasai men, and vice-versa.

Other recorded voices were from Kamba men, who tend to be farmers or employees of the national park, and who rarely represent a danger to elephants.

Still other voices tested on the elephants included female Maasai speakers and young boys.

All were saying the same phrase: "Look, look over there, a group of elephants is coming."

The recorded voices were played for hundreds of elephants across 47 family groups during daylight hours.

### **Elephants Outwit Humans During Intelligence Test**

When elephants heard the adult male Maasai voices, they tended to gather together, start investigative smelling with their trunks, and move cautiously away.

But when elephants heard females, boys, or adult male Kamba speakers, they did not show concern.

### **Discriminating between languages**

"The ability to distinguish between Maasai and Kamba men delivering the same phrase in their own language suggests that elephants can discriminate between different languages," said co-author Graeme Shannon, a visiting fellow in psychology at the University of Sussex.

That is not the same as understanding what the words mean, but still shows that elephants can decipher the more sing-songy Maasai language from the Kamba tongue, perhaps based on inflections, use of vowels, and other cues.

"It is very sophisticated what the elephants are doing," said Keith Lindsay, a conservation biologist and member of the scientific advisory committee of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project.

"A lot of animals will take flight at just the general threat posed by people, but a smart animal doesn't do that," he told AFP.

"Their response to hearing Maasai men talking was to be alert, to move away, but not to run away in total fear," added Lindsay, who was not involved in the study.

### **Elephants Added to List of Animals That Show Empathy**

"It is suggesting that elephants are capable of thinking, (of) recognizing that if Maasai men are talking, they are not likely to be hunting because if they were hunting, they would be quiet."

### **Wiser with age**

Elephant groups with older matriarchs in their midst did best at assessing the threat from different speakers, further bolstering the presumed role of learning in the animals' behavior.

The elephants also did not act the same way as they did when recordings of lions were played, as was shown in a previous study.

In those scenarios, they bunched together so that juveniles -- those most at risk from a lion attack -- were in the center, and moved toward the sounds as if to scare the lion away.

When it comes to recognizing people, elephants may not be alone in this ability. Other research has suggested that wild bottlenose dolphins in Brazil have become so familiar with humans that they engage in cooperative hunting with artisanal fisherman.

Great apes, crows and even prairie dogs have also been shown to differentiate between humans on some level.

A separate study published last month in the journal PLoS ONE showed elephants even have specific alarm calls for when humans are near, suggesting the relationship between people and elephants has reached a troubling point and that conservation efforts are more important than ever.

"We have become a formal enemy of the elephants," said Lori Marino, an expert on animal intelligence at Emory University.

"They can not only make some distinctions between us, but we are now on their list of species to watch out for."

<http://news.discovery.com/animals/elephants-can-tell-gender-ethnicity-in-human-voices-140311.htm>



# Summer Plans for Students

## Encourage Students to Make the Most of Summer Break

Summer break is a perfect opportunity for your students to gain experience through paid or volunteer jobs, internships and other summer activities — pursuits that can also demonstrate a student's sense of responsibility to college admission officers. How can you help your students choose the most rewarding summer activities?

First, encourage students to talk to adults in their lives who can help them find activities that match their interests.

Next, share the following ideas and suggestions with your students as they begin the search for that perfect summer job or internship.

### 1. Follow a passion

Ask your students, "If you could do anything this summer, what would it be?" For example, a student who enjoys the outdoors and hiking could look into working at a summer camp or national park.



### 2. Get a taste of a future career

Advise students to experience the careers they hope to pursue. They can start by calling businesses and organizations related to their chosen field about summer jobs or internships. Professionals in any career often go out of their way to help a motivated student, so even if they're not hiring they may have suggestions.

### 3. Create an internship

During a job search, students may come across a potential employer — someone who inspires them or to whom they'd love to apprentice — who just can't afford to hire them. One option is to offer to work for free. The job skills gained may be worth their weight in gold.



### 4. Create a business

Motivated and mature students may find it rewarding to start their own small businesses. A bilingual student can advertise services as a language tutor, and a student with a green thumb can become an independent landscaper. Tell students to start lining up a few clients before the summer — and warn them that being your own boss can be hard work.

### 5. Think outside the box

Doing something constructive with summer vacation doesn't necessarily mean having a traditional job. Students who are really into performing or sports may want to devote their full-time energy to formally developing these skills. Encourage these students to look into special programs or summer learning programs.



### 6. Volunteer

Spending a summer pitching in at a local charity is a great way for students to learn about life and themselves. It can help them develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime. Students can volunteer and discover how to help others — while helping themselves.



### 7. Read! Read! Read!

Whatever students decide to do this summer — work, volunteer, intern or study — encourage them to read. Reading opens students' minds and introduces them to other worlds while sharpening important skills such as comprehension and vocabulary. Before school lets out, challenge them to generate a list of summer reading based on recommendations from you, teachers and parents.



# What Are Your Plans For The Summer ?



**Hayder Al Haddad:**

*I want to study English: read books and visit ESL LAB.*



**Maria Sanchez:**

*I want to go to Los Angeles and visit two my sisters.*



**Vitalie Topala:**

*I want to take one class – ESL Lab and work on campus as a student help in the maintenance department.*



**Absa Sanchez:**

*I want to take vacation and go to Guadalajara, Mexico which I last visited 4 years ago.*



**Sharis Bostani:**

*I'm going to study hard to take an exam for regular English classes.*



**Oleg Zavyalov:**

*I'm planning to change my job from a moving company for a better one and I'm going to prepare for the new semester.*



**Kishwar Saeeda:**

*I, my husband, and our children – son 25, daughter 22 are planning to take road trip to New York by car. We are going to visit some places in states through which we will be driving. Last year we took road trip to Canada with our car for 7 days.*

# What Are Your Plans For The Summer ?



**Mila Litvinova:**

*I want to go to Lake Tahoe with my friends; we are going to rent a house, make barbeque, and enjoy fresh air and night life – casino, cafes, and restaurants.*



**Badamrenchin Choisurejav:**

*I'm going to visit Seattle, Washington for the first time, book a hotel and relax there for 2 days.*



**Celene Lule Hernandez:**

*I'm going to visit my mom, brothers and sisters in Mexico for 1 month; where I was last time 8 months ago.*



**Fatima Zahra Ryad:**

*I'm going to visit my parents and relatives in Morocco, Africa for 1 month, which I haven't seen for 3 years and then I'm going to take summer classes: math and business.*



**Javad Yaghoubi:**

*I'm planning to volunteer in Wells Fargo Bank.*



**Quyen Nguyen:**

*I'm going to take ESLG310 with Mark Rau, do homework, listen to Vietnamese music, and listen to American music to improve my English.*



**Cesar Idrovo:**

*I'm going to go to Washington DC for the first time and visit my uncle and cousins. I want to see the White House there and get to know a lot about this city.*

## Out of the Cage

### UC Davis Visits

Monday, May 5, 2014  
Monday, May 12, 2014  
Monday, May 19, 2014  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Call the Transfer Center for an appointment: 916-484-8685

### "You Don't Look Asian": (Mis)perceptions within the Asian Communities

Thursday, May 8, 2014  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Description: In honor of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month, we will look at the truths behind some of the stereotypes of Asian communities as well as some of the cultural diversity that can be found at ARC. This presentation will include explanations of special clothing, food, and holidays associated with some Asian cultures. Additionally, you will learn just the right thing to say when someone says, "You don't look Asian."

**Location:** Raef Hall 160

### ARC Bands: Sensational Shostakovich!

Monday, May 12, 2014  
7:30 pm

The ARC Concert and Symphonic Band conclude their semester with band classics by the legendary Russian composer, 108- year old Dimitri Shostakovich. The combined bands will conclude the concert with the Finale from his mighty Fifth Symphony!

Admission to the concert will be \$9-General; and \$6-Students and Seniors.

For more information, contact Susan Hamre at 484-8541.

### ARC Orchestra

Wednesday, May 14, 2014  
7:00 pm

Join the ARC Orchestra as it presents the Sibelius Symphony #2.

This concert will be held in the Gibbons Park Community Center located at 4701 Gibbons Drive in Carmichael. Donation: \$10.

For more information, contact Dr. Steven Thompson at 484-8368.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm)