



# The Parrot

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

Issue # 85 Fall 2014

## Prof. Zarate: Physics Rocks!

**Parrot:** Prof. Zarate, I know you have a Hispanic background-South American. Could you please tell us about it?

**Zarate:** Sure, I myself was born in Arizona, but my parents are from Bolivia, right next to Peru, and I think they came here in 1965. They emigrated here, and then I was born in 1968.

**Parrot:** What was it like for you to grow

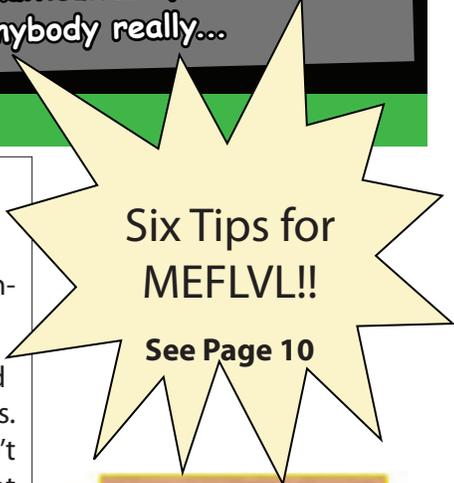


up in a family of immigrants?

**Zarate:** It had its challenges. My parents didn't speak English that well, and my father didn't speak very much at all, so I grew up speaking Spanish and then when I went to school it was all English, so it took

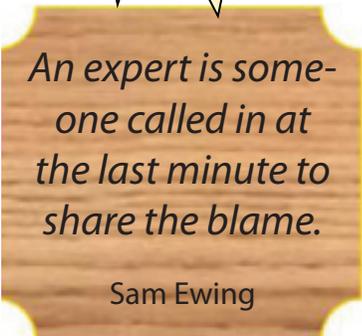
me a while to get adjusted and learn English and understand it. Our neighborhood was an immigrant neighbor-

*Continued on page 17*



Six Tips for MEFLVL!!

See Page 10



*An expert is someone called in at the last minute to share the blame.*

Sam Ewing



## Haute Cuisine: Spanish Farm Makes Bet on 'Bug Revolution'

In a warehouse in Spain, a French farmer is raising what she hopes will be the next big thing in French and European cooking: insects.

It's a sound you'll hear on a lot of farms around the



Mealworm larvae munch on flour at Laetitia Giroud's farm, in southern Spain. Giroud hopes the warm climate will save her on heating - and give her an advantage over her handful of competitors in northern Europe.

world at night, off in the distance, behind the moos or clucks of the farm animals.

But on this farm in the southern Spanish town of Coin, the creatures making the soothing chirping

*Continued on page 11*

### Inside this Issue

- English Lady..... 2
- The Angry Sea..... 3
- A Magic Box..... 4
- Irreplaceable Object.... 5
- Neighbors!..... 6
- Burning Pants..... 8
- Beliefs..... 8

# Student Chirpings

## English Lady

How many times have you met a wonderful person in your life when you went to a foreign country, or you moved to a different place? How long are you going to remember that person who was very kind and trust worthy to you? Meeting and having reliable friends is always memorable. My friend Carol is a very kind and trustworthy person whom I met in England.

England was the third country where I worked abroad. My days off were boring without my daughter and friends, because I moved there by myself. One day, I was looking around my new town, Clacton-on-Sea, by walking the town's streets. I saw a Baptist church. There was a visible sign with a schedule of church services. It was very interesting for me to see an English church service for the first time. Therefore, I went on Sunday at 10a.m. The service was quite different from in my Ukrainian church. After service I met an English lady who came up to me to say "Hello."

I remember that day when I met Carol for the first time. She was quite tall and slim, a nice-looking lady. Her hair was cut just above the shoulder and looking silky. Her smile made me feel comfortable, because I was struggling with answering questions. Carol asked many questions of me: "Who was I? Where am I from? What was I doing at Clacton-on -Sea? How did I find the church? Where did I live in Clacton-on-Sea?" I could see she was polite and intelligent. Her body language was revealing that. She surprised me by her kindness and goodness, how she quickly decided to invite a stranger, like me, to her house. Carol had known

me for ten minutes, and she invited me to lunch at her house. Carol cooked a delicious lunch. She baked salmon with mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables. During the lunch, she told me her short life story. Carol told me that she had four kids. All her children grew up, and all of them lived in different cities in England. She also had three grandchildren. Then Carol showed some pictures of her family. She lived alone in a small townhouse. Since that day, we have been friends.



My friend has been very helpful for me in my different moments. Even though she was at retirement age, she still had been working part-time as a teacher at elementary school. Carol always found time to help. She helped me in the bank when I needed help with translating for opening an account.

She also wrote the petition letter to bring my daughter to England. As soon as I brought my daughter to England, Carol went to school with me to get an application form for my daughter. Carol is the kind of person that I can rely on. She sacrificed her time and patiently advised me by explaining ways to deal with difficulty.

I was so glad that I met Carol at church in Clacton-on -Sea. I will always remember her personality and what she did for me. In conclusion, we have not seen each other for a long time, but we still keep in touch by e-mail. I don't know when we are going to see each other. I have a hope that one day we are going to see each other.

*Nadiya Krainov  
ESLW50*

## The Angry Sea

I was born and lived my whole life near the Black Sea, so I can't remember a time when I couldn't swim. I had a lot of practice and thought that I was a good swimmer. The sea is my second home, and I could swim in any weather. However, there was a really dangerous thought in my head – I can't drown, as long as I have air in my lungs. That's why I ignored all warnings of my parents and went swimming even during storms. I was too careless and frivolous, until one day when the sea taught me a very important lesson. I will never forget that lesson and that experience.

It happened at a summer camp, when I was 15 years old. I remember that day like it was yesterday. It was windy and cloudy. The beach was closed and I was bored. I decided to kill some time by going for a swim during the storm. I knew my friends would dissuade me, so I didn't tell anyone where I went. The beach was empty and the storm had just started. The water was very warm and it was really enjoyable to swim in the high, strong waves. Suddenly, I realized the storm had become stronger. In the next minute a wave hit and twirled me. Under the water was chaos. I couldn't even understand where the surface was. When I came up, I looked back to find the beach. The understanding of danger came when it was too late. The beach was very far away and I realized the game was over.

I tried to swim back as hard as I could, but waves hit and pulled me back. I swam mechanically, without hope. Fortunately, I saw the breakwater and concentrated all my strength to swim to it. When I was closer to the breakwater, I saw how terribly and strongly waves broke on it. I understood that if I didn't drown today, the waves would break me on the breakwater. Unexpectedly, when I was on top of a wave and was ready to hit the breakwater, I saw someone running on it and diving in front of me. Underwater, at the moment of hitting, I felt someone push me away from the rocks of the breakwater. Then, I came up to

the surface and saw a boy next to me. He took my hand and we climbed on the breakwater before a new wave came. I was rescued.

Later, when we got to the beach, I thought about how foolish I was. I looked at my injured hands and legs and at his injured back and realized death was really close. I survived that day only by some miracle. That boy, whose name was Tharas, came to swim in the storm, too. But when he saw that storm become stronger, he changed his mind.

He almost left the beach when he noticed something between the waves. That something was me. In the next minute, he ran on the breakwater to jump between me and it. I looked at Tharas and realized that I could have killed him too.

Now I think it wasn't just a storm, it was a lesson that the sea taught me. From that day until now, I think twice before doing something risky. I know even professional swimmers can drown. Statistically, a lot of people who drown in the sea are good swimmers, and they die because they were just too confident in themselves. Like those people, I forgot that the sea is unpredictable and too powerful to play games with. That mistake could have taken mine and Tharas's life. I will never forget that day and that lesson.

Whenever I see a storm, that incident flashes in my memory. I see that beach, the breakwater and my friend Tharas. I can even taste the taste of the salty Black Sea water. However, ancient Greeks named that sea "Black", which means "angry." And now I understand why. In the end it was a lucky day. I found a teacher where I would have never expected to find one. I won't forget my teacher and the lesson that it taught me.



*Olga Tsomkalova*  
ESLW50

## A Magic Box

Forty years ago, when I was a little girl in my small city, television was not as popular as it is now. On our street, my family was the only household that had TV, and most of our neighbors, especially the kids, came to our home to watch TV. Our TV was in an entertainment cabinet and the box had a door. The day that stayed forever in my family mind, and we laugh every time we remember it, was the day that one of my great-grandmother's relative came to our home. She was an old, simple woman who lived in a very small village. In the evening when all of the family was watching TV and focusing on a TV series without paying attention to anything else, suddenly the old woman cried, "Help! Your next-door neighbor's room is on fire!" At that time, a fire scene was being broadcast; since she had never seen TV before, she thought the door of the TV box was our next-door neighbor's window and the fire was flaring from there! For sure when she returned to her village, she described television as an odd thing. In the past few decades, technology has developed quickly, and our lives have grown dependent on many technologies; one of them being laptops. In my imagination, if that old lady was still alive and she saw my laptop, she would be shocked by that strange box. She could describe it for her fellow citizens in astonishment.

In order to describe my laptop, she would probably say, "Fariba has a, small, light and partly-smooth magic box in black with its outer part made from a kind of plastic. On both sides of that, there are several buttonhole shape slits. When you open the lid it has two sections. The upper inner part has been made from a kind of glass that shows everything. In the middle of this part there is a tiny round hole that is a camera. The lower inner section has been made from plastic and has several black

buttons with some letters, numbers, and strange shapes on them; this box should be plugged into a socket with a long cord to work. When you turn it on, at the beginning a very brilliant and colorful light come out from the window, and you can see some small shapes on a very colorful picture of a ranch. The box smells very strange; it is like a very weak perfume, because Fariba always cleans it with a smelling tissue.



The sound of my laptop would be described in her words as a magical sound. Maybe she would say, "When the box is off, there is no sound from that at all, but when you turn it on, it has a sound like a duck. The sound is variable because you can make it louder or softer. It does not look like a radio or television but you can hear radio and television program voices via this box. You can also hear musical sounds if you use it as a phonograph."

I think the most amazing part of her commentary would be about how my laptop can be used. She would be very excited and say, "This box that Fariba named "Laptop," a ridiculous name, is truly a wonderful box. It has many abilities that are amazing. Fariba uses it for entertaining and talking with her family and friends. In addition, it is the same as a photo album, a notebook, television, radio, calculator, camera, and so on. All of these could be easily done by touching a pad, located in the box, and moving your finger on that. If you do that, you will see a little arrow on the screen; there is a relationship between your finger movement and moving the little arrow. By bringing the arrow near an every small shape that is placed on the screen and tapping the pad, it brings you to a new different window. These amazing, powerful and magical shapes are different from each other; every one of them has its ability and usage; because of them, the box is such a magic device. Fariba connects the

box to something that is called "Internet." I have not seen it ever, and I do not know how she connects the box to a thing that never exists! However, if you do that, the box will be even more magical. You can shop, do your banking, or even talk and see friends and family that are far from you. At the same time, the magic box is very handy, because it is portable; you can use it wherever you like.

She could sum up her description about appearance, sound, and function of my laptop in a small paragraph: "Fariba's box is a small, thin, black box

with an amazing bright window and wonderful voice; you can do a lot of work and use many services; you can do everything you want with this little box. Although Fariba carries a lot of files, pictures, documents, and many other things in her magic box, it is still light, portable, comfortable and handy."

*Fariba Darvishi*  
ESLW50

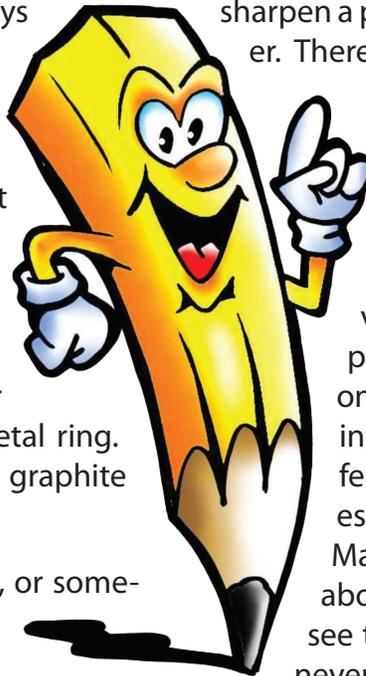
## Irreplaceable Object

All people need to leave their thoughts on paper for different purposes, such as for assignments, for study, for memory, to share information or just for drawing or making notes in the margins of a notebook. The easiest and the simplest way can be done with a pencil, which is always with me.

A pencil is a necessity. I have different pencils. Some of them are green, blue, red, or black. There are a lot of different kinds of pencils: mechanical and regular wooden. My favorite pencil is ½ foot long, with six sides. It's made of smooth wood and covered with fine yellow paint. As a bonus it has an eraser on the end, surrounded by a green metal ring. At one end it's sharpened, and there is graphite inside.

With my pencil I can draw, write, or sometimes chew it. In winter, in the cold, it continues to stay warm, as it is made of wood. Graphite doesn't freeze. Ordinary ink pens freeze. My pencil is always ready to work in any weather, regardless of the forecast. I write with my pencil on different surfaces. Oh, this is a wonderful world of pencils! As a child, I dreamed of being a manager of a pencil factory.

With a pencil I can write an essay or, like Sir Winston Churchill, my autobiography. If I make a mistake, I can immediately erase it with the other end of the pencil. Unfortunately, it happens very often, so I use up the eraser fast. Every time you sharpen a pencil, it becomes shorter and shorter. Therefore, you need a stack of pencils.



I bought a set of ten pencils. At first glance, they are all the same, but each has its own unique character. Some of them I break fast at breakfast; others have very soft erasers, but my favorite pencil, HB2, has never let me down. I only take parting with my pencil during Writing 50 class because my professor prefers pens instead of pencils, especially my favorite yellow pencil. Maybe he has his own tragic story about pencils, so he doesn't want to see them again. If it were my choice, I'd never leave my very useful super-duper pencil.

*Andrey Arakelyan*  
ESLW50

## Neighbors, Neighbors...

Neighbors are the part of society where we live. It doesn't matter if you live in a gigantic busy city like New York with a lot of skyscrapers, yellow taxis, and eternal traffic, or in some African tribe surrounded by an impenetrable jungle with a big quantity of wild animals. Everyone has neighbors, of course, unless you are Robinson Crusoe. With some of them, we have friendly relationships. With others, we don't even know their names. But there are neighbors with whom we often have disagreements. In my opinion, the causes of friction between neighbors are similar in different countries. There are three most frequent causes of disagreements between neighbors.

The first cause of problem with neighbors is property damage. There is one famous Russian superstition that if you made a good expensive repair, without fail you will be flooded. One of my neighbors from Russia often forgot to turn off his water. They usually flooded us. After a time, fungus appeared on the ceiling in our bathroom because of dampness. My father made the repair, but it was for nothing because they continued to flood us. I wasn't a good neighbor either. When I was a child, I flooded my neighbors one time because I forgot to turn off the water and went for a walk with my friends. On the other hand, there are neighbors who do their repairs but at all hours. When I lived in Moscow, I had a neighbor who made her repairs after 11 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and started at 6 a.m. on Saturday. It was horrible when I had bad sleep and needed to go to work angry with red eyes.

The second cause of disputes between

neighbors is laundry. In Russia, where I am from, a lot of people live in multistoried houses. Usually it's five floor houses, about forty apartments per house. There are not any dryers in the apartments. That's why people dry their clothes on the balconies. Outside of the balconies people fastens ropes to metal poles where to hang their clothes. When I lived with my parents on the third floor,

we often had friction because of clothes. I remember one neighbor, who lived on the fourth floor and hung out her not-squeezed clothes. Streams of water flowed onto my almost dried clothes. At that time, I had only one question, "Why does she never wring out her clothes?! If her washer doesn't work, after all, she has hands!" Another neighbor from the fifth floor smoked all the time. He

flicked cigarettes ashes off his balcony and sometimes I discovered holes in my clothes. I was angry, but he didn't care. He thought only about himself. Maybe he didn't think anything like me. One day our neighbor from the second floor complained to my mom about me. I washed a big red carpet from our living room and hung it on the balcony. I didn't wring it because it was too big. As a result, water from our carpet got on to her clean windows and left streaks. So, sometimes we all make mistakes.

A final, and perhaps the biggest cause of disagreements between neighbors is cigarette smoke. When you don't smoke, you feel it so hard. Now I live in a one-bedroom apartment on the second floor. Last year we had neighbors with two poor children. They lived on the first floor. One of them, smoked every two hours. All our apartment was filled by her smoke. I couldn't open the win-



dows to air out my rooms. It was a difficult time for me because I was pregnant. I couldn't tell her anything about the smoke because my English was not good. I only dreamed they would go away from our apartments. Fortunately, it happened. After three months, young couple with a one-year little babygirl took up residence on the first floor on the left side. That man and woman were drug addicts, but they smoked drugs at all hours. So, I didn't open my windows because it stank like a pair of skunks grazing under my windows. My sister-in-law had disagreements because of cigarette smoke too. Her neighbor had the custom to smoke under her window. She was getting mad whenever he smoked because she had to close her window. But one day she shouted angrily, "Don't

smoke under my window!" As a result, he stopped to do it.

Sometimes, our neighbors annoy us by their stupid acts. But how often do we do something that irritates people around us? Maybe we see only their misdeeds, not ours. First of all, I think we should be more critical of ourselves and less condescending to other people. Secondly, we need to tell people about our dissatisfaction; maybe they don't even know that you have something against them. Lastly, we must try to live in peace with our neighbors if it's possible from our side.

*Olga Strizheus*  
ESLW50

## My Look-alike

Well, ever since I let my hair grow out, I've always been mistaken for other people. But in one particular case I was mistaken for the same person on more than one occasion, "David." After many encounters of this sort, something in me just wanted to finally meet this guy. I guess I wanted to see how alike we really looked.

So time passed and I would still get confused for him, usually around soccer events. Knowing that we both shared the passion for soccer, I knew it was only a matter of time. Not long after, I heard one of my own friends mention the name David so I had to ask, "Does he like soccer?" He answered, "yes"; the next question was obvious: "Does he look like me?" He answered, "kinda." he also mentioned that David was his brother. After further investigation, I realized he was the so-called look-a-like.



So after having found out that he was closer than I thought, I told my friend I wanted to meet him, and that we should all go play soccer sometime. He agreed. So finally the day came, the day I would meet my clone. My friend had warned me that we didn't really so look alike. I ignored him; I had been mistaken for this fellow too many times for us not to look somewhat alike. It was terribly wrong after seeing him; I was frankly disappointed. We shared nothing in common. There he was juggling the ball, warming up and all. Such disappointment! The guy was overweight and clearly didn't have my good looks. Moral of the story: you can't believe everything they say, even if repeated by several different people, and on different occasions.

*Ivan Noriega*  
ESLW50

## Burning Pants

It was late spring that year in Kiev, Ukraine. Even though it was already April, big chunks of ice were still afloat on the surface of the lake near my house. We could not tear our eyes from that fascinating show. We imagined ourselves as the sea sailors conquering water surfaces. "Let's swim across the lake on the largest ice floe," said one of us by the nickname of Shurik, restless adventurer and troublemaker. "Why not," responded all of us at the same time, and the adventure started.

First we found and snapped off long branches to use as paddles; then we looked for and chose the biggest piece of ice and one by one climbed onto it. We allocated the roles, and of course Shurik (as the dreamer) became the captain. Yaroslav was steering, but my best friend Stas and my older brother were the paddlers, and finally your humble servant as an observer. Around 7 o'clock we were across the lake; we felt like heroes.

Then Shurik had the idea to jump onto the closest but smaller piece of ice and go floating by himself. We tried to talk him out of it, but the more we try to persuade him, the more he wanted to do it. Shurik was determined. It was always hard to convince him. And of course when he jumped onto the ice floe, it



tipped and he fell into the cold water waist-deep. We were scared and led our ice ship to shore. When we landed, he was already there shivering from the cold and fear.

We started laughing and suggested to him that we dry his pants with a bonfire. While the fire was burning and Shurik was drying his pants, my brother told him, "Shurik, your pants are on fire." He jumped to extinguish the fire, but there was just steam. This was repeated three times and repeatedly he jumped up screaming, "My pants, my pants!!!" Then we saw that his pants were actually on fire and we all started to shout loudly together, "Shurik your pants are burning," but he looked at us smiling and saying, "I won't fall for it anymore!" Then he scented the smell of his beautiful and new pants, which his mother gave him on his birthday, burning. It was real fear in his light brown eyes. Without a word, he threw his pants on the ground and started to trample them. The fire was extinguished and the pants were dry, but they were now two sizes shorter.

All the way back home, we were filled with laughter looking at Shurik's pants and crying, "Shurik, your pants are burning, your pants are burning!!!"

*Sergii Blagovisnyi*  
ESLR340

## Beliefs

"At Christmas Eve, men try to persuade their children that they are Santa Claus, but they also try to persuade their wives that they are not Santa Claus." This joke shows us that making a "miracle" for a child is much easier than making a "miracle" for an adult. We like to make "miracles" for our children because "miracles" make the children happy. However, the older our kids become, the harder it will be to make "miracles" for them. One day, they are supposed to realize that there are no miracles in the world. How will they

feel? Should we teach our children to believe in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and Tooth Fairy? I strongly disagree with the idea that parents should encourage their children to believe in entities that don't exist.

The first reason why parents should not encourage their children to believe in entities that don't exist is because it's absolutely useless. Some people think that making children believe in fairy-tales is helpful for them. However, how can this help them? Children are supposed to live in real life. They need to

live in real life, not in unreal life. We can try to make their real lives happier. I make presents for them, but I never say that they are from Santa Claus or from the Easter Bunny. I always say that the presents are from their Dad and Mom. Of course, my children are always happy to receive the presents and they say thank you, but not to Santa Claus or to the Easter Bunny. They say thank you to us. They appreciate us, not them. They know that their Mom and Dad care about them and try to make them happy. One time I wrote notes to each of my children to say how we are lucky to have them in our family and how they are important to us. I put those notes in little baskets with candies that I put next to their beds. I did it at night because I wanted them to find them when they woke up on Easter morning. These things are supposed to be from their Dad and Mom. I wanted my children to know how we, not the Easter Bunny, love them. If they needed some help, they didn't need to wait for the Tooth Fairy. They needed to come to their parents.

The second reason why parents shouldn't encourage their children to believe in entities that don't exist is because it will be hard for kids to distinguish between reality and folklore. Parents have to teach children to believe in God because God is real. God, not the Tooth Fairy, can make miracles. I teach my kids about God. I read stories to them from the Bible. I always say that those stories are true stories that happened with real people. Miracles, that happened to them long time ago can also happen to us in our days, because God stays the same. He made miracles a long time ago, and He can make them nowadays too. In contrast, fairy-tales are fiction; I always tell my kids this. I sometimes read fairy-tales to my kids. Why did I do that? There are several reasons. The first reason is because I knew they would read or hear them in school or somewhere. In that case, I showed them the difference between those kinds of stories. The second reason for that is pleasure. Adults don't believe in fairy-tales, but some of them like to read and



watch them on TV. In addition, they like to read novels, even if they are fiction. The third reason why I read fairy-tales to kids is because many of the fairy-tales have good lessons. However, I always tried to tell my children that they were not true. I wanted to make sure that they knew the difference between fairytales and the stories from the Bible. I want my children to believe in God and trust Him because it's very helpful. It has helped me many times in dangerous situations and it will help them. They should distinguish between God and the Tooth Fairy.

The third reason why parents shouldn't encourage their children to believe in entities that aren't real is because some of those beliefs can be harmful. I strongly believe that behind beliefs in fairies and magicians, evil spirits are hidden. The minds of the children who believe in fairies and good magicians are most likely opened for evil spirits. They might start doing the things that will hurt their spirit and their minds. They might want to practice "spiritualism". This is dangerous because after that, they will be under the influence of evil spirits. That happened to one of my friends. She was suffering under that impact until she cried to God for help, and she was relieved. I heard that after the movie "Harry Potter" many children were suffering. Something strange began happening to their minds. They began to be afraid of the dark or of being alone. Some of them started suffering from nightmares, woke up in the middle of the night and were screaming. In addition, some kids start to practice the incantations that they heard in the movie.

In conclusion, parents should not encourage their children to believe in entities that don't exist because such belief will not help them to have better lives. Instead, parents are supposed to teach children things that are really useful for them. They also should think about the result that their lessons might bring.

*Nadia Mavrin*  
ESLW50

## Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

### Six Tips for More Effective Foreign Language Vocabulary Learning

Learning a foreign language is one of the most rewarding and beneficial learning tasks I can think of. Even if you only have the time to learn the basics, you get such a boost in cultural understanding and ability to move around in a foreign land. As of today, I am fluent in three languages, and have learned two more to a level where I can express myself and get everything I need in daily life. Ideally, you want to learn a foreign language in a country where it is spoken, however most people initially encounter their first foreign language in school.

No matter where you are, one of the most important tasks is to build a reasonably large vocabulary fast, so that you express yourself, and use more natural learning resources to further improve your learning.

To this end, here are six tips to help you speed up your vocabulary learning, no matter whether you want to learn English, Chinese, French, German, Thai, or any other foreign language:

1. **Use a flashcard program with spaced repetition and automatic scheduling of reviews.** You are going to learn at least a few thousand words in the foreign language of your choice. Most of these words, you will forget again, unless you use them at least a few times. This is easy enough for the most frequent words such as I, you, play, and, and so on. For less frequent, yet essential words it is not so easy to keep track and use them often enough to make them stick. What's more, you want to avoid always having to review the easy words along with the difficult ones. Ideally, a flashcard program should keep track of which words are easy for you, and which ones you need



to practice more. Modern flash card software does just that. It automatically keeps track of every word you have learned and shows you a word just before you are likely going to forget it.

My two **favorite choices** are the free open source programs *Mnemosyne* and *Anki*. Both

work on Windows, Linux, and Mac. Anki is also available for most smartphones and tablets, including iPhone, iPad, and Android. If you want to practice your vocabulary on more than one device, definitely check out Anki. It allows you to effortlessly synchronize your vocabulary cards across different devices and platforms.

2. **If you want to increase your active vocabulary** (e.g. expressing yourself in a foreign language), spent the bulk of your

time using the words, rather than just learning their meaning. You practice active vocabulary by saying words and/or writing them down. If you are using a flashcard program, test yourself by looking at the words in your native language and trying to say and write the foreign language words.

3. **Don't learn words with a similar or opposite meaning together** because this tends to lead to confusion as to which word means what. In cognitive psychology this is also called interference.

- A. Don't learn synonyms such as big and large together.
- B. Don't learn antonyms such as concave and convex, big and small, etc. together.
- C. Don't learn words which belong to the same group together:

- Items of clothing such as short, trousers, socks
  - Furniture
  - Months of the year
  - Fork, knife, spoon
  - etc.
4. **Don't learn words which sound or look similar together.** So don't try to learn beside and besides at the same time.
5. **Learn words, as they would appear in a natural story.** Here is an example: Tuesday evening, I looked out of my bedroom window and saw a monkey climbing up a coconut palm tree... This sentence includes a day of the week, an animal, and a fruit, but not all of the days of the week, ten fruits, and 20 animals.
6. **Use mnemonics such as the keyword mnemonic to learn words you find hard to remember.** For most words, using them a few times is enough. However, you may find that some words are going to use up most of your time because they just don't want to stick. The keyword mnemonic is a wonderful tool to fight those time leeches. It goes like this:

A. Pause, and take a look at the foreign language word.

B. Write it down and pronounce it.

C. Try to find a keyword or phrase in your native language which sounds similar. For example, let's say, you want to learn the German word Flasche (bottle in English). Flasche looks a bit like flash and is almost pronounced the same way. Only the "a" sounds more like in bark than in flash.

D. Visually connect the keyword (representing the foreign language word) with its meaning. In the example above, imagine a flashing beer bottle. Try to really see the flashing beer bottle, then say the word in German: Flasche.

E. The next time, you see a bottle, and wonder how to say that in German, chances are, you will remember the flashing beer bottle – oh – Flasche.

For more info on the keyword method, please check my post *The Mnemonic Keyword Method*. More info on mnemonics in general can be found in the article *Mnemonics*.

<http://remembereverything.org/six-tips-vocabulary-learning-strategies/>

## Haute Cuisine: Spanish Farm Makes Bet on 'Bug Revolution'

*Continued from page 1*

sound are the farm animals themselves—crickets. And then there are the tiny mealworm beetles—thousands of them, squirming in a vat, munching on corn flakes, looking a lot like cockroaches.

But don't call them that.

"If you say cockroach, it seems like trash," says bug farmer Laetitia Giroud. "My partner hates this word."

If you were Giroud or her partner, you probably would

too. After all, they're trying to get people to eat these things. She says it can be a tough sell.

"For us in European culture, insects, you know [are] just disgusting. We try to kill them."

Beetles it is, then.

Dozens of plastic vats of them, on the floor of an otherwise empty warehouse on the outskirts of this quiet village. But it's only a fraction of what Giroud hopes to grow here in the future. She calls it Europe's coming bug revolution.

"They have amazing power that we just discover in Europe," Giroud says. "You know, 80 percent of the

population in the world eats insects. We are the weird people here in Europe. We prefer to waste.”

People have been eating bugs for centuries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. They’re an excellent source of protein.

But here in Europe, Giroud and a small but growing number of other insect farmers need to overcome a couple of obstacles. She’s already alluded to one: the yuck factor. How do you convince someone who’s never done it to chew up and swallow a bug?

Just tell them they’re really tasty, she says.

“For example, the meal worm, I like them, as an appetizer, you know? With some salt. [They taste] like potatoes, like potato chips. And when you try an insect once, you come back.”

For the irredeemably squeamish, Giroud says there’s a plan B.

She takes me up to a small loft in the warehouse to what I’ll call “Cricketville.” There are thousands of the chirping insects, leaping against their mesh cages.

Giroud says they’re amazing insects that she can watch for hours.

But she also sends them off to be milled into powder, which can then be mixed into other foods. Like cookies.

“With chocolate chips and cricket powder,” she says. “You mix and make your own. That is really awesome. Really good.”

Or pies with meal worms. In fact, Giroud says, for just about anything you cook at home, you can substitute insects for meat or nuts.

And you don’t even have to tell your dinner guests.

But you do have to tell European health authorities,

if you’re trying to sell insects commercially. And this is obstacle number two. Only a handful of European countries even have regulations for bug-eating.

Spain’s bug norm is like the one regulating marijuana—if you have some, you can consume it, but you can’t buy or sell it. So initially Giroud plans to export her critters back to her home country of France and elsewhere.

So why start her operation here in Spain? The weather.

“It is the best weather here, to save money [on heating],” she says. “Because it is really warm inside.”

Giroud’s also confident that a Spanish market is about to be born. European food and health organizations want to make insect eating legal everywhere, because as the world’s population explodes, meat and fish

will become more expensive and scarce.

Bugs, by contrast, are cheap and plentiful. Giroud says in just three days one pound of black soldier flies can produce about 300 pounds of eggs. That’s a lot of protein.

It’s also a lot baby bugs to look after, but Giroud says insect farming is a lot easier than, say, raising livestock.

She works in flip-flops and a black dress.

“We can raise them in open boxes,” she says. “There is no risk with them. It is easier to run after a cockroach than to run after a pig. Have you ever done that? That is awful.”

If all goes well Giroud hopes to sell about 20 tons of bugs to European consumers next year.



The World’s Gerry Hadden brings some meal worms to his mouth (Photo: Gerry Hadden)

<http://www.pri.org/stories/2013-07-23/haute-cuisine-spanish-farm-makes-bet-bug-revolution>

# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### Conditional "IF" Sentences

Conditional ("if") sentences normally have two parts. One part shows a **result** and the other shows a **condition** on which the result depends. The condition is normally preceded by *if*. In "*He gets angry if he doesn't get what he wants,*" the result is "*he gets angry*" and the condition (introduced by "*if*") is "*he doesn't get what he wants*". **Notice:** a comma is used with the *if* clause when it begins a sentence. Notice also that there is no comma when the *if* clause is in the middle of a sentence.

There are two main types of conditional sentences: **real** and **unreal**. **Real** conditional sentences refer to situations that are either true or possible. **Unreal** conditionals refer to situations that are untrue, impossible or hypothetical; conditional sentences of this type are often described as being contrary to fact.

#### Real Conditionals

There are two types of real conditional sentences. In the first type, the **result is known**: it happens every time the condition is met. In conditional sentences of this type, *when*, *whenever*, or *every time* may be substituted for *if* with no change in meaning:

**EX:** *If she studies, she gets good grades.*  
(*When / Whenever / Every time she studies, she gets good grades.*)

The second type of real conditional sentence is used for situations that are **possible**. Here the *if* clause is usually present tense and the result clause is usually shown by *will (may, might)*+ a simple verb. Here *if does not = when / whenever / every time*. The result is possible, but it hasn't happened: it depends on meeting the condition (shown by the *if* clause):

**EX:** *If she studies, she'll get good grades.*  
(*Getting good grades is very likely for her, but first she needs to study.*)

<http://www.eslcafe.com>



### Idiom--Attic

#### Common Idioms

Common idioms that refer to people include:

- *High as a kite* - to behave in a silly or excited way because you have taken drugs or drunk a lot of alcohol: . Ex: *I tried to talk to her after the party, but she was as high as a kite.*
- *Sick as a dog* - means you are very ill. Ex: *Helen hates to miss work, so she really must be sick as a dog if she isn't here.*

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/idiom.html>

### Beak Speak

#### Speak the R

##### British vs. American R

In British English and some southern US dialects, the R sound is dropped when it is in the middle or at the end of a word. In standard American English, *no R sounds are dropped*. Pronounce all R sounds, whether the R is the first letter, a letter in the middle or the last letter.



##### Trilled R vs. American R

To make the trilled R, your *tongue is relaxed* and the tip of the tongue taps the roof of the mouth one or several times (depending on your language). To make the American R, you need to avoid having your tongue touch the roof (the top) of your mouth. Tensing the tongue should do this. Concentrate on tensing the back of the tongue--this should cause the front of the tongue to be tense also. Make your throat a little tight. This will help with tensing the tongue as well. Then you need to practice a lot--you are using muscles in your tongue which need to become stronger.

<http://www.speakmethod.com>

# Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

## Trees Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the Trees that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Greek Proverb.

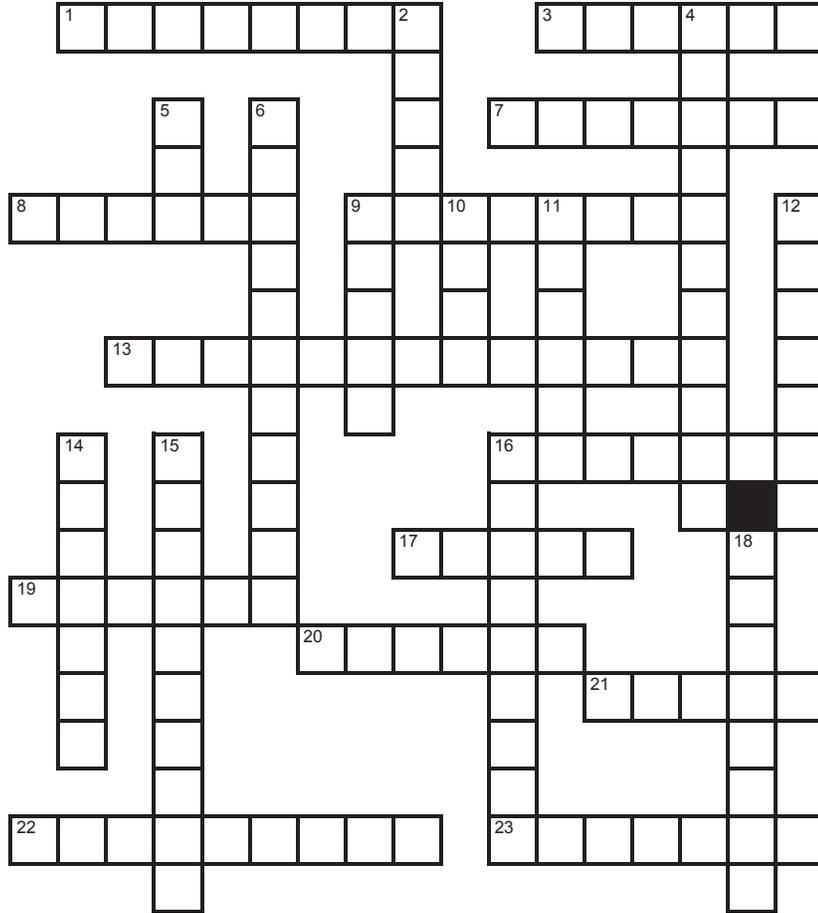


APPLE	CEDAR	LINDEN	REDBUD
APRICOT	CHERRY	LONDON PLANE	RUBBER TREE
ASH	CHESTNUT	MAPLE	SEQUOIA
ASPEN	COTTONWOOD	NECTARINE	SPRUCE
ARBORVITAE	ELM	OAK	SYCAMORE
BALD CYPRESS	FIR	PALM	TULIPTREE
BEECH	GINKGO	PEACH	WALNUT
BIRCH	GOLDENRAIN	PEAR	WITCHHAZEL
BOXWOOD	HAZELNUT	PECAN	WILLOW
BUCKEYE	HEMLOCK	PLUM	YELLOWWOOD
BUTTERNUT	HICKORY	PINE	
CATALPA	LARCH	POPLAR	

**Jobs Crossword:**

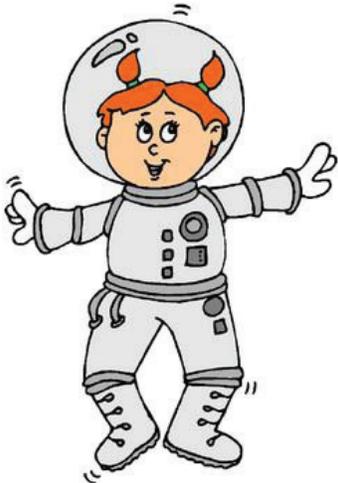
**Across**

- 1. Somebody who plays an instrument.
- 3. Someone who grows crops.
- 7. Somebody who fixes teeth.
- 8. A person who serves food.
- 9. Someone who fixes cars.
- 13. Somebody who catches criminals.
- 16. A person who plays sports.
- 17. Someone who stars in a movie.
- 19. A person who sings songs.
- 20. Somebody who helps sick people.
- 21. Somebody who flies airplanes.
- 22. A person who does experiments.
- 23. Somebody who teaches.



**Down**

- 2. A person who helps a doctor.
- 4. Someone who delivers mail.
- 5. Somebody who helps sick animals.
- 6. Somebody who puts out fires.
- 9. Someone who digs for metal ore in the ground.
- 10. Someone who cooks food.
- 11. A person who paints pictures.
- 12. A person who protects a country.
- 14. Someone who cleans buildings.
- 15. A person who makes computer games.
- 16. A person who goes to outer space.
- 18. A person who tells us the news.





## Granny Noetal

**Dear Granny Noetal,**

I read your advice column in every Parrot. You sound like an optimist all the time. Are you really an optimist or do you just pretend to be one?

Just wondering,

**Nolo Kreo**

**Dear Nolo,**

That's a great observation, a great question you have there! Am I being too optimistic already? The great Oscar Wilde once wrote,

*"We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars."* (Oscar Wilde, Lady Windermere's Fan)

At my age, Nolo, I count my blessings. Life hasn't always



been easy but I find that waking up and finding something to look forward to each day keeps me hopping, keeps me excited, keeps me pleasantly alive! It may be the thought of an English muffin with honey, it may be the idea of finding a ripe tomato on a withered vine, it may be the thought of a frolic with my puppy, it may be the anticipation of reading a new poet, or it may be the opportunity of receiving a curious letter from a reader like yourself! Optimism is for everybody. Here's another quote worth thinking about:

*"What day is it?"*

*It's today," squeaked Piglet.*

*My favorite day," said Pooh."*

(A.A. Milne)

So, Nolo, pretend or not, optimism rules in my book!

**Sincerely,**

**Granny**

## Interview with Prof. Zarate

*Continued from page 1*

hood, kind of a poor neighborhood, so it had the usual crime and violence and stuff like that.

**Parrot:** Was it in L.A.?

**Zarate:** Yeah, I grew up in L.A.

**Parrot:** So you grew up speaking "Spanglish"?

**Zarate:** Yeah, actually for my first few years I just spoke Spanish and when I started going to school I learned English. Yeah, I kind of mixed English and Spanish sometimes.

**Parrot:** Being the child of immigrants, did you have any cultural conflicts or challenges while growing up in America?

**Zarate:** Oh absolutely, I think anybody... Especially when your parents emigrate they come with their culture, their values which many of them are good, I'm not going to deny that, but they're different values and there are values here in the US that are also important.

I mean, to some degree you have to assimilate, you have to learn the culture, you have to learn the language, you have to learn the laws and how things work because you are going to be living in that society. So sometimes they were conflicts. My parents are pretty conservative, traditional, Catholic type of people and that didn't always go well when they came here because in Bolivia just about everyone is Catholic. When you come here, there are all sorts of religions, so there were conflicts sometimes. I mean the value systems my parents... Some of the good things they really value were hard work and they said that the only way to get some place in life is by working hard for it, but their idea of hard work was, you know, going out and working at a job. The idea of education being an important part of success was not there, and it's not their fault because where they came from that's not how they were able to be successful. They did it by working hard; it wasn't by going to school. Here is all different, so there was a little bit of conflict with that and just their moral values are different. I think here we're more open and there is a wider variety, a wider spectrum of ideas, beliefs and philosophies, some of which conflict

with the more traditional culture and values that my parents came with, and as I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do there were times when I wanted to do the American things and my parents said, "That's not good, that's not how I raised you." That type of situation, happens in any type of immigrant family, I think

**Parrot:** Can you give a specific example of "doing the American thing?"

**Zarate:** Yeah. I wanted to go out with my friends; I wanted to have all the cool clothes, the things that you like when you grow as a kid. Some simple things; I started to like American rock and pop music and they weren't happy about that. They wanted me to listen to the more traditional Bolivian music or Spanish music, even Spanish rock was okay, but they thought that the American rock thing was based on worshipping the devil. They had all these kinds of ideas that they heard from other people and they thought they were true. They wished I was more religious. I believe in God, I'm religious, but for them, especially my mom, her whole life was basically based on her religion and the church. Everything she does, ties into her religious beliefs and trying to help the church. I'm not that involved as she is and for her that was disappointing, because she didn't think I was religious enough. She stills pray to God for me saying "God please forgive my son, he doesn't understand..." It's a good intention because she really thinks that my lifestyle is not proper, I guess, or not the way she would like it to be as far as religion goes.

**Parrot:** My dad is very traditional too, not religious, but very traditional.

**Zarate:** Oh yeah, the other thing is that in Bolivia there is a tremendous amount of respect for parents. You listen to your parents, and you don't speak back to your parents. Over here when I would go to my American friends' homes, they'd be shouting at their moms, shouting at their dads and their parents would be shouting back at them. I picked up a little bit of that; I started to be a little rebellious. I started to say "I don't want to do that, or "I'm an American, I'm grown up enough, I can do this..."

**Parrot:** Didn't you get beaten for that? I mean, that's what parents do over there sometimes... (Laughter)

**Zarate:** Yeah sometimes they used "el cinturon" (belt), or if I was really bad "el cordon" (cord) which is an extension cord, and that hurts more (laughter). I don't

want to say that they abused me, but back there that is the way you discipline your kids and in all instances when I got the beating, I deserved it. I did something bad I knew I shouldn't be doing.

**Parrot:** Have you ever been to Bolivia, your parent's native land?

**Zarate:** Yes I visited it a few times. I think the last time I went was like twelve or fifteen years ago, in my late twenties. It's good to meet all the cousins, uncles and aunts, and they don't see me that often so they always treat me really well. But I'll be honest, it was good to visit for two or three weeks. We actually spent a whole summer in one of those visits, but then you start missing the stuff here. Things are better now, but back when I went fifteen years ago, technology-wise it was not like what I was used to. In my dad's neighborhood they didn't have running water all day, there was no electricity, no telephone.

**Parrot:** Things are probably better now.

**Zarate:** Yeah, it's better now. Now they have a lot more technology, but back then the first few times I went, man I had to take cold showers, they didn't have hot water!

**Parrot:** Oh that's not that bad!

**Zarate:** Well, when you're here in the US you're used to just turning on the hot water and it's there for you. On the other hand, I had the chance to learn the culture and see what the traditions are there and what the festivals are there. Actually, I began to appreciate my parents a lot more because I could see why they were the way they were. I spent some time there and I saw the environment and the culture they grew up in, and it really made sense to me why they were like that and why they would try to preserve that.

**Parrot:** Do you feel now more identified with your parents' cultural background or with American culture?

**Zarate:** I'm definitely Americanized, fully Americanized, but I'm very appreciative of the culture, and it fascinates me. In fact, when I learn more about Bolivian culture, I get more interested in kind of researching about other cultures and seeing how they are different. Even working in a school like this where you have so many cultures and ethnicities, you kind of get a sample and see the variety there is in the world. I'm definitely American, but I have no shame, I'm not hid-

ing my Bolivian background. In a way I'm very proud of it because it makes me who I am, but if people were to meet me and talk with me, I think they would probably say that I'm more American than Bolivian.

**Parrot:** What was your favorite, and your least favorite subject at college and why?

**Zarate:** In a sarcastic way I would say that my favorite and least favorite were both physics because I liked physics but I found it really hard, so it was kind of a love-hate relationship. When I was able to solve problems I loved it, but when I struggled and wasn't able to do it. I didn't like it so much. I mean that in a sarcastic way, but I've always had a science mentality; I love science. The classes I didn't like at college were English, literature, anything where there wasn't any math or graphs, just all text and where you have to read and then write pages, like five pages on this particular subject. That was hard for me. I grasp things easier if they are equations and graphs. If it's just words, I don't think that way as easily as when I think in numbers and graphs.

**Parrot:** I used to think I hated math, but now I like it. I'm not the best at it but I enjoy it more than before.

**Zarate:** Yeah, that's the way physics is. Students are surprised when they ask me what kind of grades I got in this class. I was a B/C student for my first two or three physics courses. It was only afterwards when I really started to understand.

**Parrot:** Why did you decide to go for physics instead of any other area of study? Why physics specifically instead of chemistry or biology?

**Zarate:** Actually, I started in engineering. My background is in engineering.

**Parrot:** What type?

**Zarate:** Civil engineering. When I took my physics courses, I liked those more than my engineering courses. I took as many physics courses as I could and things worked out, so I ended up teaching physics. I just liked it; it wasn't easy but it was interesting; it was fascinating how equations can explain things around us.

**Parrot:** Could you describe one of your typical workdays?

**Zarate:** Just when I'm at school or the whole workday?

**Parrot:** The whole thing, in general.

**Zarate:** There is a preparation part that you hopefully are doing a couple of nights before, but sometimes the night before. You get to school, answer e-mails, go to class, set up demos, teach your class, and answer questions. Then students come in to office hours for help. Students come in wanting to interview you. Then there is coordinating. I'm the department chair, so I have to worry about the budget and make sure all the equipment is supplied for our labs. That's what I do. I don't know if that answers your question...

**Parrot:** So, are you very busy all the time?

**Zarate:** Pretty much. There is some down time, and I really appreciate those. Maybe just twenty or thirty minutes where you can eat a little bit and get some other stuff done.

**Parrot:** What should your students have gained from having taken your course?

**Zarate:** That depends on what physics course I'm teaching. If it's a non-major course, that's maybe the only physics course I'll teach them, maybe they are not going to take other physics classes because they're not science or engineering students. You always want them to learn something. That's what I as a professor want to do, but for them three things: I don't want them to have a bad taste of physics, I don't want them to hate this class, and I also want them to maybe open up their perspective, to realize that everything around us, everything you can observe can be explained in terms of physics and math. I mean, we're just sitting here but there is physics going on, as you guys are listening to me and processing in your brain what I say, there are all sorts of electrical circuits and electrical currents going inside your brain and all that electronics is what we use to see, to hear, to taste, to touch and that's all physics. For those who are majoring in physics or science it is a little bit different. It's more rigorous. A lot of times we're teaching the content that they're going to need for a later course so it's about getting them to understand the topics to a much deeper level. The other thing is problem-solving skills. Not everyone is going to be a physics major, but when they take these classes they learn how to solve problems and hopefully they are going to be able to use those techniques in other classes, in biology, in chemistry. So in addition to the actual physics you are preparing them for future science classes and are letting them understand that there is a certain amount of time and effort

expected from them if they're going to proceed and have a career in science. Physics is one of those courses that people struggle with; it's a good measure for you to see if you have the determination, the motivation, the will to carry through with your career in science. We'll challenge you; I want to challenge you. If you're not challenged in the course, I'm not sure if you are learning it well enough. I do want to challenge you, but also at the same time I don't want you to hate physics. Some come to this class thinking that they wouldn't be able to do physics, but after some time taking it, they develop more confidence. If you can get through a physics class, it really does develop your confidence.

**Parrot:** What parts of your job do you find most challenging?

**Zarate:** The most tedious is definitely grading. Grading is not challenging, it is just that you do the same thing over and over again. But challenging, I think, for me is that every class every semester you teach you have a whole different set of students. Especially here at American River College you have a whole spectrum; you have students that are not well-prepared and students that are extremely well prepared and somehow you have to teach them both. You don't want to bore the ones that are fast but you don't want to overwhelm the students that are not well prepared. You don't want them to give up, so the challenge is always to figure out where the class is, get a feel for the breakdown and then come up with some type of lesson plan where you are allowing the not well-prepared students to learn and do well in the class, but not boring the more advanced students. That's the challenge, dealing with a wide spectrum and figuring out how to reach the most students.

**Parrot:** And, what's the most enjoyable part?

**Zarate:** You guys, the students. I'll tell you, most of the times the students think that when we [the professors] think of you guys, it is just about the grades that you're getting, good student, OK student, bad student, but I like to get to know my students more. There are a lot of times when we interact. We do physics, but there is also time for us to talk. What I found is that students are amazing, some of the talents that I found in students may have nothing to do with physics but nonetheless are fascinating. Yesterday one of my students, who is as American as he can be, was talking Chinese to one of our physics professors who speaks Chinese. They

were having a long conversation in Chinese and that just blew me away. Then there are some amazing musicians. One time I had a student that had a band and that's how he made a living for fifteen years. Students are amazing. Some have full time jobs, have kids, and take full-time classes. I like to get to know the students and appreciate them for more than just what they can do in the class because they have other talents. Sometimes, I think, especially the very serious students forget that if they don't do well on a test or do badly in the class, they feel really bad about it which, I mean that's not a bad thing, grades are important, but sometimes they take it way too seriously and get down and forget that they can offer much more. Who they are as a person is much more important than how they do in the class. Sometimes they forget that not everything is about grades.

**Parrot:** What motivates you?

**Zarate:** Good question. I think it's probably fear of failure. If I do something, it has got to be a good job, I don't want to do a mediocre job, I don't want to do a bad job, so what motivates me is that whenever I'm teaching or doing something related to my profession, it's a reflection of me and what kind of professional I am. I don't want people to think, "He doesn't do a good job," or "He is not putting forth the effort, that was a poor performance." That doesn't make me feel good.

**Parrot:** So it is more like a pressure issue?

**Zarate:** Yeah, that's kind of how I'm wired. Every morning I sweep my office floor, and this morning I remembered that you are going to be here and I said, "Oh I'm going to do an extra good job sweeping and make sure that it looks really good." That's kind of how I am. I take pride in what I do. I don't want people to think that I'm not doing my job, or that I don't put forth an effort and I'm not professional enough. That's what really motivates me.

**Parrot:** Who is your favorite scientist?

**Zarate:** Albert Einstein. Just because of who he is, but there are others. I'm fascinated by Stephen Hawking, and Brian Greene, who is a big string theory guy. That's way beyond what I can understand, but he has an ability to explain really complicated things. The things in math and physics that I don't understand, he can do that. I like him because I think it's important that science has representatives that cannot just make fasci-

nating discoveries and win Nobel prizes, but scientists that can explain these beautiful theories to people who don't have science backgrounds. I think Brian Greene does that, Carl Sagan back in the seventies also did that, there is also another guy, Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Those are people that I really admire and I'm just glad that there are people like them out there. Science is not just for scientists. The more educated all of us are, the better decisions we can make. Just to throw out some example, global warming is a very hot political issue but it's based on science and you can take whatever side you want, but all I ask is that at least you have an informed decision, because sometimes I hear people from both sides saying something that is obviously wrong, it's a political statement.

**Parrot:** They don't know what they're talking about, do they?

**Zarate:** You know, either they don't know or they are saying something because it supports what they believe. This happens on both sides; I'm not saying only one side does it. So someone who has a science background may be able to pick out and say "wait a minute that doesn't make any sense" and I think that's important because you can then make a decision not just based only how you feel. I mean a lot of decisions are made that way. When there is science involved in it you can use science to make a better decision or at least a more informed one.

**Parrot:** What do you like to do in your free time? Do you solve equations?

**Zarate:** You know, sometimes I do that, but I also do non-physics stuff. People kind of laugh when I say this, but I like to play the piano, I like to garden, and I like to cook. All three of those relieve stress and relax me after a hard day of work.

**Parrot:** What do you think about the Parrot newsletter?

**Zarate:** I'll be completely honest; I haven't read a lot of it. I read a couple but honestly I don't know much about it.

**Parrot:** What do you think about ESL students?

**Zarate:** So The Parrot is an ESL newsletter?

**Parrot:** Yes

**Zarate:** Oh, now I'm learning, now you're going to

make me feel that I have to read the Parrot regularly (laughter), I will though, I'll read more.... I have got to admire them [the ESL students]. Think about this; for them the problems are worse, for some of them the struggle is just understanding the question and what I found a lot of times is that if they can understand the question, they're fine. The rest is all math and graphs. I have a lot of respect for them. I can imagine that situation. What if I was given a test where maybe thirty or forty percent is words that I don't understand. For instance, I might speak Spanish but I don't read it that well so I won't do well on a Spanish test. Also some of the words are physics and science vocabulary; it's not something that they're going to be hearing often in conversations. I have got to give it to them, those are additional struggles that native speakers don't have to go through and in my experience, they have not done any worse or any better than native students. In fact, I would make the argument that it's harder for them because of the language not being their native language. My guess is that they probably don't think in English. When I read Spanish, I'm kind of translating in my head. So they are amazing people for being able to do that.

**Parrot:** What are your plans for the future? Are you planning to teach all your life or do something else?

**Zarate:** This is my twentieth year of teaching and I love it. Don't get me wrong; there are a lot of moments when there is a lot of work and I get frustrated and want to just scream and shout, but there are a lot of good moments. I've had a lot of great students; there is a wonderful faculty here. I like teaching, wouldn't have mattered what I studied. If I had studied English I would have probably ended up teaching English. I think I'm meant to be a teacher; it's comfortable for me and natural. I'm happy teaching.

**Parrot:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Zarate:** I think I'm good.

**Parrot:** Thank you so much for your time, Prof. Zarate.

*Christian Valenzuela*

# What is the Hardest Part About Learning English?

(asked of Listening / Speaking 40)



**Vlad Triog:** *"The hardest thing for me is speaking and listening. I do well with reading and writing."*



**Laleh Soltanian:** *"Right now, listening is the hardest part for me. Writing is my best skill."*



**Luda Leliuhina:** *"Because I work in a nursing home, I get to listen a lot, so for me English is not difficult."*



**Saba Gebriniwet:** *"I'm starting to learn and I'm better at listening and reading."*



**Yodit Debas:** *"The pronunciation of the words is hard for me."*



**Alyaa Kazem:** *"A hard thing for me is the grammar. You need to understand the grammar to understand English."*



**Slav Rummyantsev:** *"Sometimes the speaker speaks too fast and it's hard to understand 100%."*



**Ali Oualiken:** *"The hardest part is writing essays and grammar confuses me a little, and I have a bad habit of not listening."*



**Doan Le:** *"Vocabulary and listening is the hardest. Learning new vocabulary makes listening harder."*

## What is the Hardest Part About Learning English?



**Oxana Cekan:** *"Spelling out words, and learning grammar."*



**Maria Salas:** *"The hardest part for me is pronunciation and communication because of my accent."*



**Juan Carlos Redden:** *"Speaking and pronunciation is the hardest part for me because of my accent."*



**Ekaterina Kuzmina:** *"The hard part for me is listening, pronunciation and vocabulary."*



**Fadi Abuatwan:** *"The hard part for me is writing, the spelling is not easy either."*



**Elvira Garibay:** *"Speaking would be the hardest part for me. Right now I am just trying to learn everything."*



**Gabby Tarna:** *"To think in English is the hardest part for me. First we have to translate it in our language and then back in English."*



**Chong Thao:** *"For me, it is writing and reading."*

# Out of the Cage

## The Tragedy of Coming out

Thursday, October 23, 2014  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Coming out is an experience that is more complex, problematic, and perilous for members of the LG-BTQ community than most people may realize. What does it REALLY mean to “come out,” and what are the real life consequences as well as psychological and emotional impacts? Join us in this highly engaging activity and discussion of empathy building and consciousness in a process intended to compassionately connect participants on a personal level to the often traumatic and devastating realities members of this community are forced to deal with throughout their lifetime.

**Location:** Community Rooms 1-4

## R.A.D. Presents One Book: All Shook Up

Thursday, October 30, 2014  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Rock ‘n roll came onto the American scene in the 1950’s and changed the culture in a variety of ways; it celebrated sex and drugs, ridiculed the working class, and brought the Civil Rights movement into the American home. The divide between generations widened, and the stage was set for the social turmoil of the sixties. Join us as we discuss the sex, drugs and rock ‘n roll’s influence on America.

**Location:** Raef Hall 160

## Life Cycles: Issues with Your Aging Parent

Monday, October 27, 2014  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Join this on-going discussion series by Barbara Gillogly. These discussions focus on how to balance your own life and remain supportive to your parents’ aging process. Additionally, Life Cycles provides guidance towards understanding your role as a caregiver, insight into the stages your parents might experience, how to evaluate proper care for these stages, and how not to lose yourself in the process. Life Cycles discussions are held on the last Monday of the month for this semester.

**Location:** CTL Conference Room

## The United States of Armageddon

Thursday, November 6, 2014  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

From the mega-best-selling “Left Behind” novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins to films like 2012 and Rapture-Palooza—not to mention the zombie apocalypse of The Walking Dead—the end of the world fascinates us. And, while the idea of apocalypse pre-dates the Christian era, Americans have refined it to a gory, glorious epic, then exported it to the rest of the world, with implications for the environment and international relations, not to mention the economy. What is it that leads Americans toward apocalypse? Kel Munger, an adjunct professor of journalism and regular contributor to The Sacramento Bee, the Sacramento News & Review, and the Colorado Springs Independent, is working on a book about our love affair with Armageddon, and she’ll offer some theories about when and why we start craving the end.

**Location:** Raef Hall 160



## Questions/Comments?

**Student Editors:** Olga Cuzeac and Emma Jaques

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)