

# Learning another language

**Dear Annie:** I love learning languages. I grew up with immigrant parents who spoke their native language to me, and I studied another language in high school. I'm also a native English speaker. I wouldn't say I'm trilingual, but I can get by in those two languages I've learned aside from English.



**ANNIE LANE**  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

The thing is that learning those languages was easier than it is to learn languages now that I'm out of school. I learned my parents' language as a child, when the human brain's plasticity is at its maximum and learning new languages is easiest. And the other language I learned while in school; I essentially didn't have a choice but to show up to class and learn the language.

Now learning a new language requires self-discipline. No outside force is going to help me learn another language. I'm not sure I have the discipline, but I really would like to learn another language or two. Any tips? — *Lazy Linguist*

**Dear Lazy Linguist:** School is always in session on the inter-

net. And in many cases, tuition is free. Check out the website Duolingo, and visit your local library to see whether it has a Rosetta Stone subscription. Software solutions aside, one of the best ways to practice and learn a new language is simply to speak with people in it. Once you've gotten on track learning the basics of a new language, check out Meetup to find a group in your area that speaks in that language.

It's wise of you to take such an interest in learning new languages, as it can be a big boost to your brain. Researchers at Penn State University found that bilingual people are better at multitasking, and researchers at the University of Chicago found that bilingual people tend to make better, more rational decisions when speaking in their nonnative tongue, presumably because they're forced to think in a more deliberate way. Though you're already nearly trilingual, it stands to reason that you could reap more of these benefits with each new language you learn. And though it might

be more challenging to pick up a new language as an adult than as a child, it's by no means impossible. See the article titled "A critical period for second language acquisition," published last year in the journal *Cognition*, if you'd like to read more about that.

**Dear Annie:** In regard to the letter from "Polite Guy," I have to side with the former hippies and their daughter on this one.

The other day, I was delivering some books to the local high school. At one point, I was standing in front of a door with a 2-foot stack of books in my arms, trying to figure out how I was going to open the door. More than a dozen kids walked around me. Finally, one kid opened the door for me.

I didn't think that was a matter of good manners. I thought it was a matter of common decency — with a little bit of awareness of what's going on outside your own skin thrown in.

I value kindness, sincerity and consideration, not good manners. — *Judy G.*

**Dear Judy:** I don't espouse etiquette as a set of ironclad rules that we all must follow for fear of punishment.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Over the course of the day, you'll definitely get less done than you wanted to. That's OK. As long as you keep plugging away, you'll also get way more accomplished over the next three months than you thought possible.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People who are more socially connected tend to be less materialistic. To live simply is a virtue and a skill that pays back spiritual dividends. In short, the less you need the happier you'll be.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Right now, your hottest clue about the future can be found in the past. This involves three magic steps. Study the history; look for patterns; and believe them when you see them.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your eloquence is undeniable. It's not about what you say; it's about what you don't say. You'll be guided by a sense of restraint that will hold you in good stead.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Take stock in all that you can do in the current situation. It's more than you could see in the beginning, and you'll continue to grow in power if you don't give your power away.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll be the first among your friends to recognize a need and fulfill it. To give a little is to give a lot, as it's a direction to lean into, and it starts a trend of generosity.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's as if love really does make the world go around — and not in a particularly reciprocal sort of way. It may be that you're chasing someone or something that is chasing someone or something else.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You never know what someone else is going through. What looks like a routine action may actually be requiring great courage and perseverance of a person. Your kindness and soft heart will be appreciated.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** For today, if you can't see which option is right, then there is no right option. In such a case, the best move is no move. When it's time to act, you'll feel it.

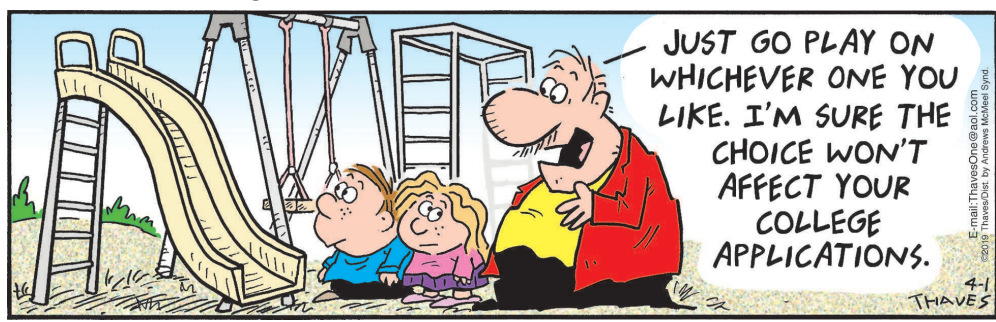
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Distraction isn't always negative. In fact, distraction can be just what's needed to help you through a healing process or a transition. You'll come back later with a more enlightened perspective.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Hope is crucial, and there's not enough of it. Be an agent of hope. When the facts do not point in a hopeful direction, hold on to hope anyway. The very act of hoping can sometimes be enough to turn things around.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** This is no time to return to where you've been and what you've done. That's over. Moving on won't be hard once you commit. The mantra now: "Tomorrow." Go ever forward.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 2).** A liberation takes place over the next five weeks. A counterintuitive approach will be your success key. For instance, the answer to getting what you've wanted for a long time is to stop trying. An upgrade in June allows you to make more money. September brings the boost your family has needed to strengthen ties. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 3, 33 and 17.

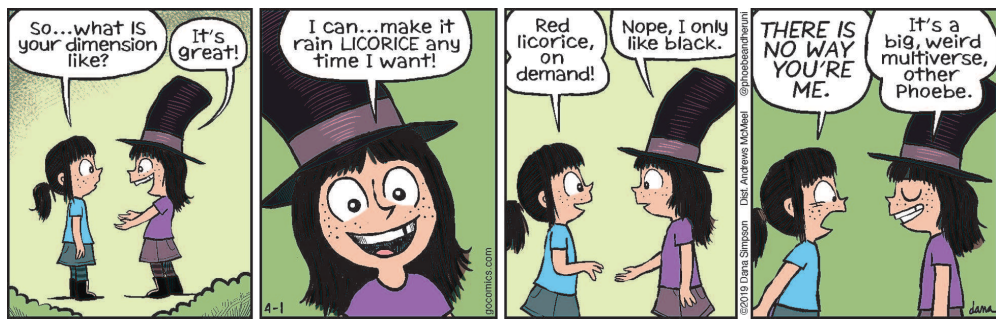
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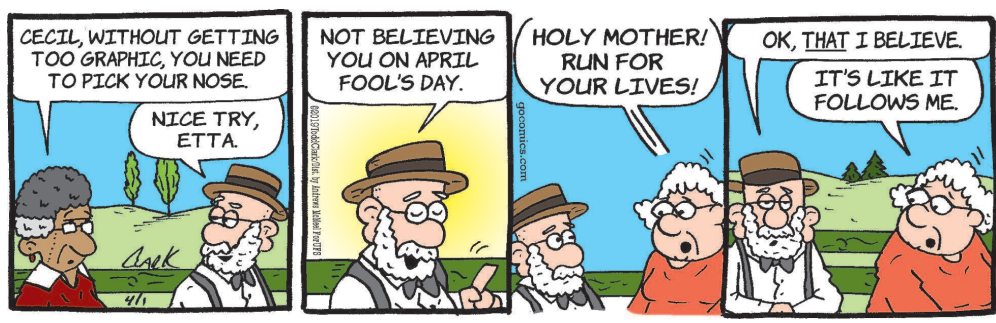
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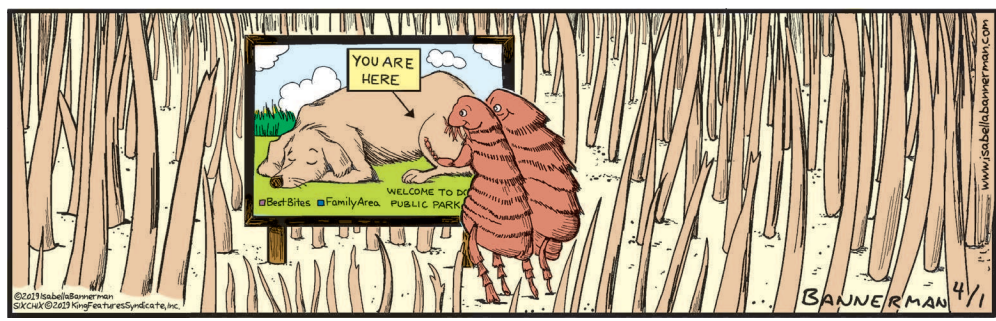
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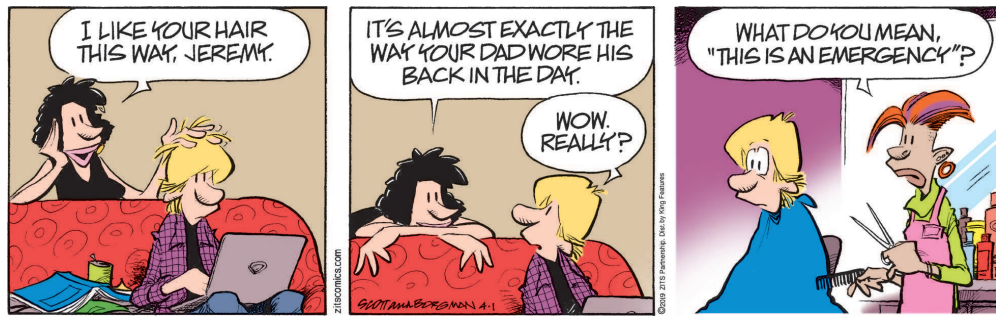
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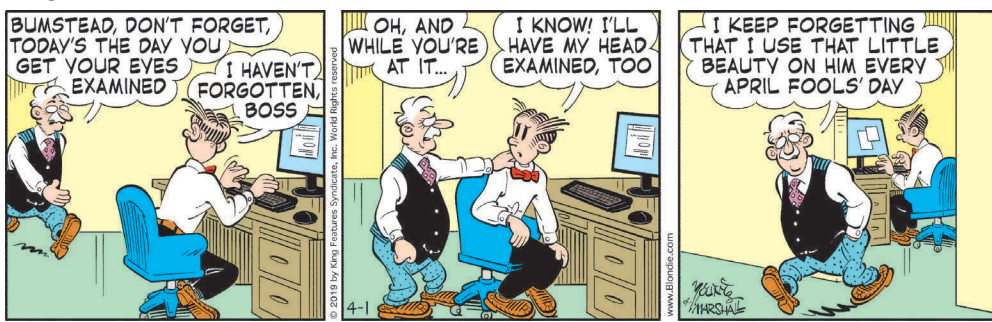
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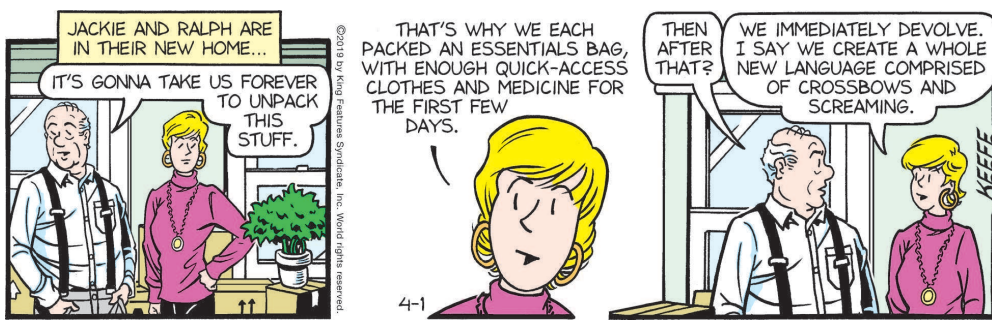
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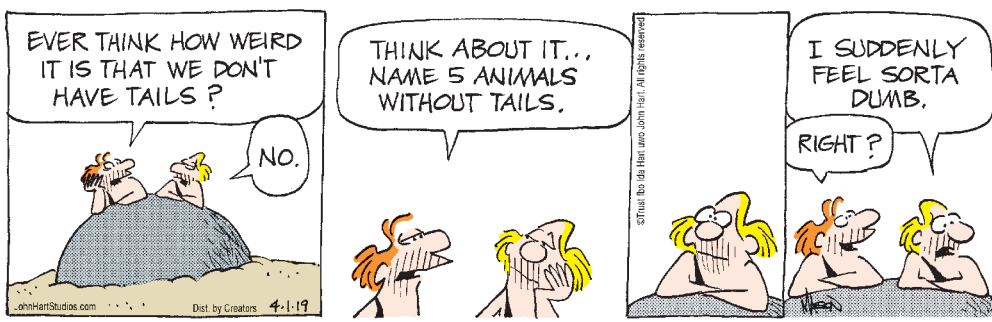
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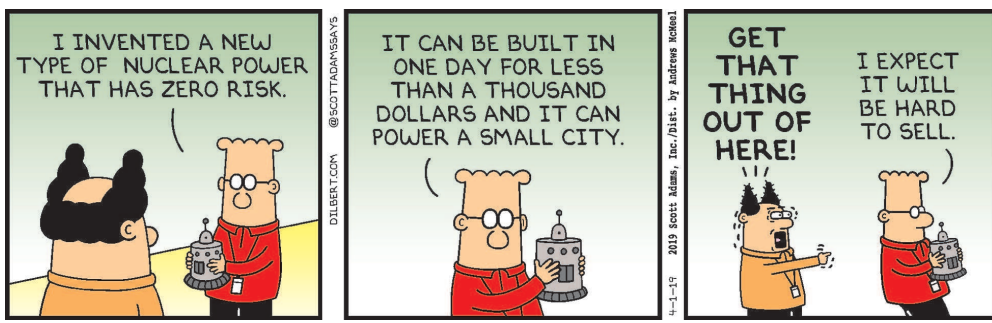
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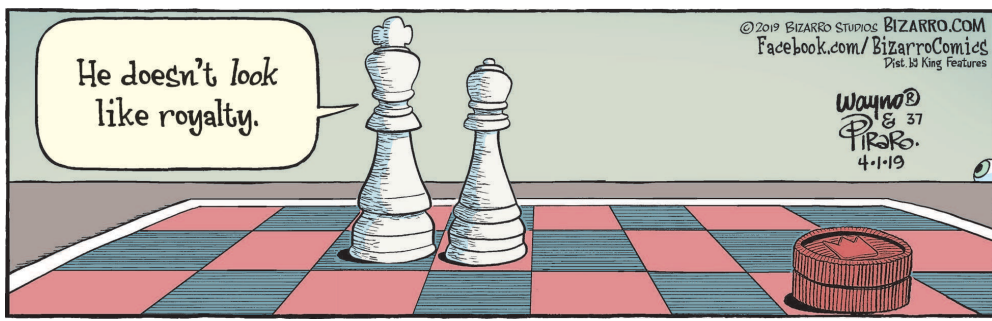
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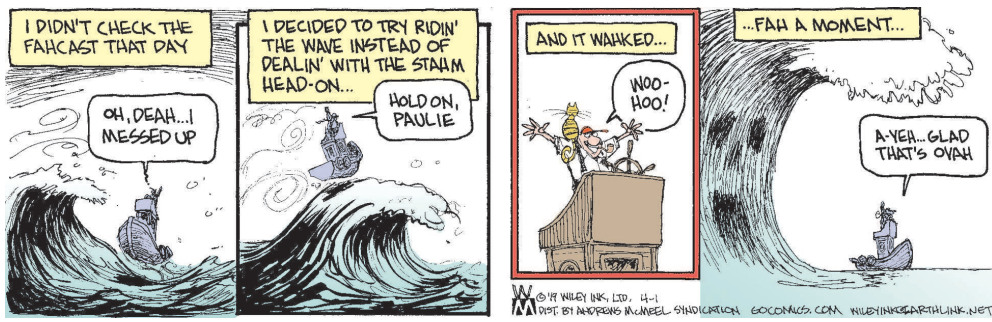
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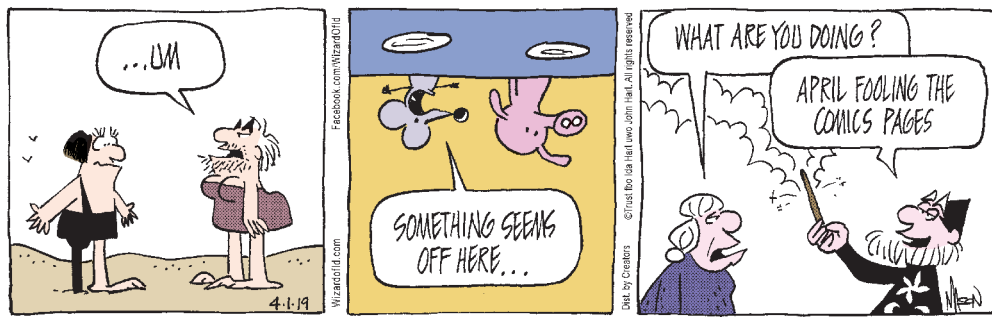
### BIZARRO



### NON SEQUITUR



### WIZARD OF ID



### ROSE IS ROSE

