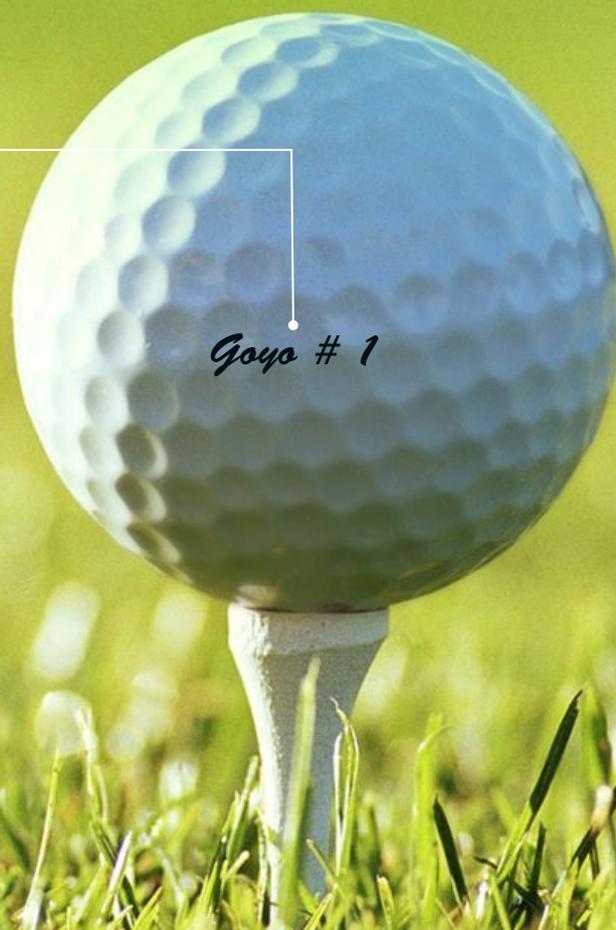


ST.SOMETIMES

The Life and Times of an International Golfing Educator

Having a Ball

Playing golf in the middle of the desert doesn't always mean sand. We play on grass even at night.



Goyo # 1

Golfing Greg

it's time to be on the Links. The Links are Close. Now I have lessons, a membership, but no clubs or car.

Learning Arabic

The Arabic language is very difficult to learn for English speakers. Read backwards. No vowels. Ughh.

Health Challenge

et quinta decima. Eodem typi, qui nunc clari, fiant sollemnes in futurum.

GREG THE MECHANIC

I'm growing older but not up

My metabolic rate is pleasantly stuck

So let the winds of change blow over my head

I'd rather die while I'm living than live while I'm dead

Jimmy Buffett

From *Growing Older But Not Up*

I bought my Suzuki moped a few months ago. Imagine, within a month something went wrong. What could possibly go wrong with a brand new moped that only goes 5 km a day (if that) on great roads? The odometer and the speedometer froze. This may not seem to matter much, but I have realized in the past that most motorized vehicles need oil regularly. If you don't know how far you've gone, how do you "regularly" add or change oil. There is no clock on the motor like I had on my boat motors. On my boat, even without an odometer or speedometer, I could still clock the hours of operation. But this isn't a \$20,000 boat. This is a moped!

MEET THE SUZUKI AN125

Take a close look at this smart city mover and forget about bus timetables, taxis and unreliable pick ups from friends.

Feel the freedom with a Suzuki AN125 Scooter. With a push of the electric start button this fuel-efficient four-stroke will take you around town quietly and with style.

Whatever this is just a scooter! It works. No hassle. A to Z and that's it.



No one around here could help me. At least, no one I have met yet. What to do? I didn't want to call the Syrian mechanic and have him charge me. So I YOUTUBED it. After 20 minutes with a screwdriver and a pair of pliers, it worked.



I'm not saying it will keep working, but I certainly gave it the ol' "college try". It's working just fine so far. If anything major goes wrong, I'll just call the Syrian that sold it to me. Wish me luck. I better not have any more problems with this little piece of crap! (knock on wood and fingers crossed)



HEALTHY?

About a month ago, there was an email going around to join a health challenge. Why not? I joined. There is a lot to it: water (check), clean eating (check sort of), and exercise.

The food isn't really that difficult. Since there really isn't any peer pressure, eating healthy is just a

matter of focus. There really isn't any pressure from fast food joints. There aren't any. I go to the commissary and get veggies, apples, and a bit of peanut butter (for lunch). The only caveat is staying focused and sticking to it.

I happen to love going to the Horse barn. They make such yummy hamburgers and their chili is fantastic, for overseas.



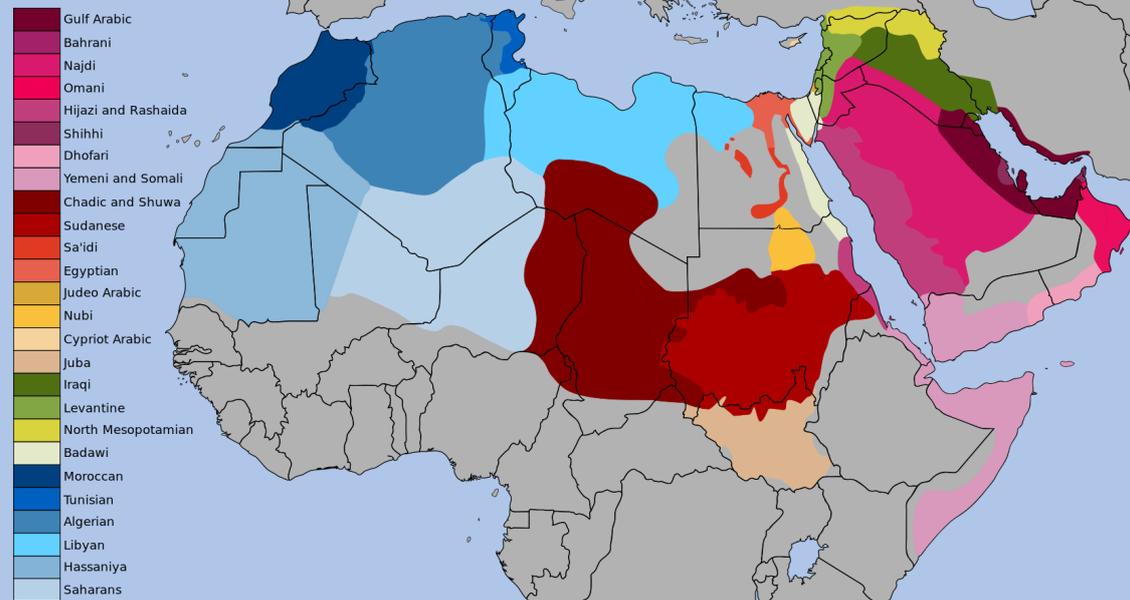
THE PLAN

I'll work up to two trips around the golf course after I have gotten into the nightly habit of one time around. It's walking but it is a long way.

Mornings are meant for biking. I still ride once in a while, but there is no reason I shouldn't be riding every morning. That's the goal. That's what will happen.

Wish me luck. I have about three months to get into gear. So far, I've been doing OK with the official weigh ins for the staff Health Challenge. My BMI has been going down but my weight fluctuates only a bit up or down, not far from the mean.

This is it. The time to jump in all the way. My next weigh in should be glorious. The next week will be busy with more than just eating clean.



JUST A FEW WORDS TO KNOW

شُكْرَان

[Shook-ran] - thank you

رِخَاخَة

[de-jaj] - chicken

رِخَاخَة كَبِير

[de-jaj ka-bir] - big chicken

بُوبَاي

[boo-bees] - Popeye's Chicken

كِتَاب

[ki-tab] - book

إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ

[in sha Allah] - God Willing

مِنْ فَضْلِكَ

[min-fud-luk] - please

Learning Arabic

What better activity exists than learning the local language of the culture you are living in? When I heard that my fellow Midwesterner, Judith, was taking written Arabic class, I signed right up. I hadn't been keeping track of the availability of the courses. 500 SAR (\$135) gets you eight weeks of Monday and Wednesday lessons from 18:00-19:30.

Because of all the aforementioned features, Arabic is categorized as a State Department "level 3" language -- the highest on the difficulty rating scale (1-3), along with Japanese, Chinese and Korean. It is the only Semitic language rated at this level of difficulty. Hebrew and Amharic, for instance are rated at difficulty level 2. For level 3 languages it takes longer (sometimes twice as long) for adult learners to reach their proficiency goals. It also requires a substantial study abroad and/or immersion experience for development of full communicative competence. (Source: [Georgetown Website](#))

Every Monday and Wednesday, Judith picks me up and we drive the two minutes to the Middle School campus. Our teacher, _____ is a bit boring. She goes "by the book" basically. We go around the class and repeat words and sounds. She really mixes it up by changing the order of who goes first. Oh, I forget, she actually called on us to go to the board and write words, but we don't really know what any of the words mean. So far, I have about a ten word vocabulary but I can read some familiar words with their coexistent brand like Snickers, McDonalds, or Popeyes. I am going to take the conversation Arabic next month.

IF you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.

- Jack Lemmon



Signing Up for the Club

For months, I have been planning to join the Hills Golf Course. All I had to do was fill out a form and pay an annual club fee of about \$500. Then I took the form to the greens office and signed off a form to deduct \$1,000 from my company paycheck. Done deal. Now I can golf any day or night all year and participate in any/all tournaments. All I am waiting for now is my password for the app so I can get a Tee time via the app. Awesome!

Stuart the Pro

For 1,000 SAR (\$300US) I hired the local Welsh golf pro, Stuart, to teach me for six private lessons. One email and I was suddenly a golf student.

The first lesson was on a Tuesday night. I met Stuart at the driving range. He taught me three stretches, took video, and taught me how to grip the golf club. It's amazing how much a grip really changes things. My swing feels so much different and the swing effortlessly hits the golf ball. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Once that golf ball starts going straight again, it's going to fly a lot farther down the fairway than it did the old way. It

feels a lot less like dragging a bucket to the golf ball.

Stuart also showed me what "toe to toe" means. According to him, when the face of the golf club comes back and when it follows through, the face of the club is faced out. I should be able to hold the back swing steady, turn around, set the club down "as is" and swing again.

Pacing the Cage

Now I am impatient. I want to know more. I want to be out on the links and play full games like a Pro. This is ludicrous. I know.

Going to Bahrain Soon

Matt wants to take me to Bahrain to play a different course. He doesn't have much time left. He and Stacey have their son #4 on the way. It might be his last chance for freedom for a while.

See you next issue. I should be a little more experienced at golf by then.



ONE OF THE FRONT NINE AT NIGHT. THE HILLS GOLF COURSE IS IN THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND WITH 18 HOLES. THE FRONT NINE AND DRIVING RANGE ARE LIT NIGHTLY UNTIL 9PM.