Whatever your past has been your future is spotless.
~Anonymous

Web Sites

February 1
Serpent Day
Serpent Day is a day of reflection and coming to grips with our fears. It's dedicated to pondering our reactions to the prime material behind that expensive high–fashion snake–skin handbag. Its unique, slithering form has long been associated with wisdom and power, used for either good or evil. Either way, it is apparent that the serpent deserves a day dedicated to its position in culture over the last few thousand years. In all honesty, where would Adam and Eve be without the third party?

The History of Serpent Day
Serpents have been both feared and revered, at times simultaneously, in many different periods of human history. Quetzalcoatl is a Mesoamerican deity, the worship of which was first known documented in Teotihuacan in the first century BCE or first century CE. Veneration of the figure appears spread throughout Mesoamerica between 600–900 AD. Quetzalcoatl, also called "the Plumed Serpent," played a dominant role as a god, model, myth, historical figure and symbol in Aztec culture. According to legend, he was incarnated on earth and founded the fabulous capital of the Toltecs, Tollan. Quetzalcoatl represented the universal quest for meaning in life, and was the guardian of water and rain, a precious resource of the Aztecs. In the Hindu regions of Asia the serpent, or naga, is considered a nature spirit. As in the Aztec belief system, Naga is the protector of springs, wells and rivers, and so serpents bring rain, and fertility. The serpent is also a fascinating biblical symbol. Perhaps the most common is the portrayal of the serpent as an enemy in general, or as Satan in particular. However, a serpent is later used to foreshadow Jesus' death on the cross and the salvation it makes possible when a bronze serpent appears on a cross that the severely ill Israelites looked upon to recover, which can be found in John 3:14–15. Anthropologists have argued that the serpent as a symbol of death is built into our unconscious minds because of evolutionary history, as for millions of years, snakes were mainly just predators of primates. Nowadays, a snake wrapped around the Rod of Asclepius is on the Star of Life, the worldwide symbol of medical aid.

[A – Z Animals: Animal Facts: Snake (Serpentes)](http://a-z-animals.com/animals/snake/)

Provides a photograph and some general facts about snakes.
http://a-z-animals.com/animals/snake/

[BBC Nature: Snakes](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Snake)

Snakes loom large in the human imagination, from the venomous cobras to the boas and pythons that squeeze their prey to death and swallow it whole. In the UK only the adder is venomous, but elsewhere – such as in Australia – are concentrations of some of the planet's most toxic snakes. Learn more about snakes in this well-constructed overview produced by the BBC. This resource includes a series of videos and images showcasing snakes, as well as information on their habitat, distribution, behaviors, and more.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Snake

[ARKive: Crested serpent eagle](http://www.arkive.org/crested-serpent-eagle/spilornis-cheela/video-00.html)

This fact file of the Crested Serpent Eagle by ARKive includes a detailed description of the species, videos, images, and much more. Links to related species and its endangered status are also included.
http://www.arkive.org/crested-serpent-eagle/spilornis-cheela/video-00.html
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Hardware/Software

How to Remove the Enhanced Dictation 1.2GB Pack from Mac

Dictation on the Mac is fantastic, and if you have chosen to use Enhanced Dictation then you've downloaded a 1.2GB voice recognition pack to your Mac locally so that it can improve the overall functionality of the feature. That's fine and dandy, but at some point if you decide you no longer need the Enhanced Dictation feature, you might want to reclaim that 1.2GB of disk space. We'll show you how to remove the Enhanced Dictation voice recognition pack and reclaim the 1.2GB of disk space from a Mac.

This is a two part sequence, first you need to disable Enhanced Dictation, and then remove the recognition pack. Obviously if you do this, you will lose the ability to have enhanced dictation unless you re-download the pack from Apple again. Thus, you'd only want to perform this task if you enabled the feature and don't need it, or if you no longer use the enhanced ability.

Deleting the Downloaded Enhanced Dictation Pack from Mac OS
1. Go to System Preferences and to "Keyboard" and then to the "Dictation" tab
2. Toggle "Use Enhanced Dictation" to be OFF by unchecking the box

3. From the Finder on the Mac, hit Command+Shift+G and enter the following path: /System/Library/Speech/Recognizers/SpeechRecognitionCoreLanguages/
4. Choose Go and delete the folder "enUS.SpeechRecognition" (it may be prefixed by enAU, enUK, etc)

To be clear, you can disable enhanced dictation and still use the Dictation feature, but it won't work offline and it won't necessarily be as accurate. If you want the full experience and full clarity for the various dictation commands, you should use the enhanced dictation feature.

This works on any Mac that supports enhanced dictation, regardless of the system software version in use or whether or not it's labeled as Mac OS X or macOS. _____

Hints/Tips

How to use Siri in macOS Sierra to find pictures in Photos on the Fly

When guests visit, we love having a Photos slideshow playing on our Mac. However, if guests show up with little or no advance notice (as they might do), you've got little (or no) time to go picture hunting. Happily, macOS Sierra lets you tell Siri to track down certain pictures for you. From that point, all it takes is a couple of clicks to get a slideshow rolling.

Make sure Siri is enabled

The first step is to ensure Siri is enabled. If it is, its colorful, round icon should be sitting pretty near the far right end of your Mac's menu bar. To summon Siri, either click the icon or hold down the Command+Spacebar for a second or two. A window slides into view from the right edge of your display and you hear a friendly sound to indicate that Siri's listening.

Now speak your command, as explained in the next section. (If you keep holding down the Command+Spacebar keys, Siri continues listening. Let go of those keys to signal that you're finished giving it commands.) If Siri isn't enabled, choose Apple > System Preferences and click Siri. In the pane that opens, turn on Enable Siri.

You can use preferences to enable and disable Siri, pick a language, voice, sound input, change Siri's keyboard shortcut, and show or hide Siri's icon in the menu bar.

Choose a scope for the photos

Since your unexpected guests likely have an interest in a small(ish) slice of your life, you need to decide which pictures to ask Siri to find in your Photos app. You can ask for any combination of time, place, people, things, keywords or words in titles and Siri will attempt to identify those objects in your pictures. (This trick works on your iOS devices, too. Just press and hold the Home button to summon Siri). For example, you may ask Siri to:

"Create a slideshow of my photos from the past month"
"Create a slideshow of my photos from last weekend"
"Create a slideshow of my photos from the Panama Canal"
"Create a slideshow of my photos of flowers"
You can phrase your question in various ways, too. You can say "create" or "play" or "show" and the result is the same: the Photos app launches, the pictures are tracked down and they begin to play in a soundless slideshow.

If Siri has trouble finding your pictures, or if you want to customize how the slideshow plays, try saying "find" or "show me" instead. Photos launches and you see the collection of the photos you requested. For example:

"Show me my photos of puppies"
"Find my photos taken this summer"
"Find my photos of me in Italy" "Show me my photos of flowers from 2012"
Thankfully, Apple is constantly improving Siri and Photos, so in the future you may be able to search for additional attributes. Feel free to try anything you can think of.

Playing your slideshow

To play a slideshow of the pictures Siri located for you, select some or all of the pictures in Photos and then Control-click or right-click on one of the selected photos. From the menu that opens, choose Play Slideshow. Pick a theme and music from the next window that opens, as shown below. When you're finished, click Play Slideshow to trigger a glorious, full-screen slideshow of the selected pictures.

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Riddles You Can Tell in Class

Why should dieters avoid the letter C?
Answer: Because it makes fat a faCt.

Why does Lucy like the letter K?
Answer: It makes Lucy lucKy.

What did the letter say to the postage stamp?
Answer: You send me.

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This Day in History

Birthdates which occurred on February 2:
1882 James Joyce Ireland, novelist/poet (Dubliners, Ulysses, Finnigan's Wake)
1888 Frank Lloyd Scotland, actor/director (Mutiny on Bounty, Oliver Twist)
1895 George S Halas [Papa Bear], end/coach (Bears), co-founder NFL
1905 Ayn Rand writer (Atlas Shrugged, The Fountainhead)
1937 Tom Smothers New York NY, comedian (Smother Brother Show, Serial)
1942 Bo Hopkins Greenville SC, actor (Dynasty, Doc Elliot, Rockford Files)
1942 Graham Nash rocker (Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young-Southern Cross, Hollies)
1942 Barry Diller founder (Fox-TV)
1946 Howard Bellamy Darby FL, vocalist (Bellamy Brothers-Let Your Love Flow)
1954 Christie Brinkley [Ex-Mrs Billy Joel], model/actress (Sports Illustrated, Vacation)
1958 Holly Hunter Conyers GA, actress (Broadcast News, Once Around)
1963 Pebbles Flintstone fictional character on "The Flintstones"
2338 Data android character on Star Trek Next Generation

On This Day:
1536 Pedro de Mendoza finds the Argentine city of Buenos Aires
1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican War; US acquires Texas, California, New Mexico & Arizona for $15 million
1863 Samuel Clemens becomes Mark Twain for 1st time
1869 James Oliver invents the removable tempered steel plow blade
1870 Mark Twain, 34, marries Olivia Langdon in Elmira NY
1892 Bottle cap with cork seal patented by William Painter (Baltimore)
1913 New York football Giants sign Jim Thorpe
1923 Ethyl gasoline 1st marketed, Dayton OH
1933 2 days after becoming chancellor, Adolf Hitler dissolves Parliament
1935 Lie detector 1st used in court (Portage WI)
1942 US auto factories switch from commercial to war production
1948 President Truman urges congress to adopt a civil rights program
1955 1st Presidential news conference on network TV-Eisenhower on ABC
1959 Buddy Holly's last performance
1959 Vince Lombardi signs a 5 year contract to coach the Green Bay Packers
1964 GI Joe, debuts as a popular American boy's toy
1970 Pete Maravich becomes 1st to score 3,000 college basketball points
1976 "Honeymooners Second Honeymoon" airs on TV

1976 "Rich Little Show" debuts on NBC–TV
1976 Roger Connor, Fred Lindstrom & umpire Cal Hubbard elected to Hall of Fame
1977 Radio Shack officially begins creating the TRS–80 computer
1991 US postage is raised from 25¢ to 29¢
1992 IRS & Willie Nelson settle on $9 million tax bill (of $16.7 million)

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Doug Yonce

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netTrekker delivers the industry-leading digital learning resource library with only the best content from the web — 360,000+ curated digital resources tagged, organized, and aligned to standards so that teachers, students, and parents can find just what they need, all in one place, in a fraction of the time. Learn more about this tremendous resource at:

http://www.nettrekker.com/us/