



# Flexibility Makes Life Fun

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(Ugorenkov, 2010)

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### The Early Years

As a toddler, I enjoyed moving about two story houses with a brother who chased me. The meals weren't very good. When I was naughty, I was sent to my room without dinner. I made apples and oranges out of clay. My parents said that they thought I had artistic talent. In reality, I was just doing something that made the moment productive! That's **flexibility**.

### My Years in School

Throughout elementary and secondary school, I studied to learn. I didn't enjoy leisure reading much. I took ballet lessons. My sister was there—the youngest dancer. My instructors said that I was highly coordinated, and would be a great dancer someday. But I had spurs in my ankles. I switched to golf and swimming—sports that I will enjoy throughout my retirement! That's **flexibility**.

### Career Choices

All young people want to be famous, I think. I wrote commercials for radio stations for a few years. I created my own public affairs show. I did a little summer stock, but quickly foresaw that the show business would be unpredictable. My co-workers said that I had a talent for “accent reduction.” I got a degree in Speech Pathology, and the phone still rings at least once a week with still another job offer in that profession. That's **flexibility**.

### My Family

Phil and Sue had dated for awhile, were our friends, and invited Patrick and me to their annual Halloween Party. Neither of us was excited about the matchmaking at the time. Now, Patrick and I are soul mates. He studies what interests himself—and what interests me. And I follow vice-versa. That's **flexibility**.

#### His

- Glaciers.
- Mozart.
- Naked calls.

#### Hers

- Downhill skiing.
- PDQ Bach.
- Bird calls.

### My Life Now

I founded a book discussion group, and kept it running for three years. My Kindle™ filled up with the books. But I got tired of “women’s fiction.” Real life seems funnier. It’s less predictable. Now I’m reading about our national parks—especially about the Anasazi and the Chaco phenomenon. I may someday return to a book group. That's **flexibility**.

### My Future

I'll never stop being a student. I love to learn by reading. I'll never stop teaching (currently, providing speech therapy). I love to learn by doing. My future is many more years of being a student—in some fashion or other. Whatever I can do well, and whatever is needed for me to do! That's **flexibility**.

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## Bibliography

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