

One Need Not Be.....

I'm a retired "senior citizen" taking two Life Long Learning courses taught by my former colleagues at Wofford College. Each course meets weekly for eight weeks. In the "My Small Friend: The Classical Guitar," we're supposed to be able to "Name that Tune" based on three new guitar pieces we listen to and learn about each week. In the "Outdoor Adventures with Birds, etc." we stroll in various habitats for two hours looking for and listening for birds. We hear far more species than we see, so being able to "Name that Bird" based on its calls or songs is highly desirable. At this point, I can neither Name that Tune nor Name that Bird accurately or consistently, even though I'm enjoying both courses immensely.

As I lamented my deficiencies in auditory learning at this stage of life, I realized that I don't have to be an expert (or even proficient) at something to enjoy it. I started making a list. Maybe you can add a few items of your own.

One need not be ...

One need not be a sommelier to taste subtle differences in wine.

... a chef to savor food.

... an astronomer to marvel at heavenly bodies.

... a mathematician to seek patterns and relationships.

... a prophet to make predictions.

... a luthier to appreciate finely crafted stringed instruments.

... a painter to enjoy colors, brushstrokes, and compositions.

... a sculptor to delight in shapes.

... an architect to be amazed at what humans can assemble.

... a musician to be entranced by arpeggio, capriccio, declamando, docissimo, glissando, lacrimoso, lamentoso, magnifico, malinconico, ritmo, sentimento, tranquillo, tremolo, virtuoso, or silenzio.

... an archeologist to extract meaning from artefacts and ruins.
... a biker or hiker to be astounded by distances and heights gained by self-propulsion.
... a brewer to enjoy fermented grains or grapes.
... an ornithologist to be enthralled by sights and songs of feathered creatures.
... a scientist to benefit from discoveries and manipulations of the natural world.
... a teacher to relish knowledge.
... a physician to heal.
... a counselor to empathize.
... a lawyer or judge to discern what is right, proper and just.
... a citizen to deserve respect and protection under the law.
... a saint to assist others.
... a hunter or farmer to eat.
... a fool to make poor choices.
... malicious to cause harm.
... old to be wise.
... imaginative to appreciate creativity.
... talented to be proficient or productive.
... intelligent to be important.
... beautiful to be cherished and admired.
... graceful to receive grace.
... religious to experience love, hope, joy, comfort, and serenity.

G.R. Davis Jr 7 April 2025