

# Ralph Mitchell: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know

## He Ain't Heavy, He's a Cool Breeze

### **1. Ralph pronounces his name in the Irish way : /reɪf/ RAYF He says to “Deal with it!”**

Ralph has some Irish roots and has apparently lived and studied in Ireland. We do not know what Irish authors he has read, if any but we know he is a bibliophile and has read a few classics, some in the original French. We do not know if this insistence on the Irish pronunciation of his name is an eccentricity, but a central question is most certainly: why can't people follow convention? Of course we also ask why Irish people have a different pronunciation of a very common name in the English speaking world. It's called *English* for a reason, though those English people were originally known as Angles. Were they right angles or just obtuse? Also, now that we think of it, why do people in the northeast of the U.S. drop the pronunciation of the L in some words like almonds? Is Ralph [RAYF] onto something? Where in the *L* does it end?

### **2. Ralph has lived in Argentina the last 4 out of 5 years, and abroad 20 of the last 30 years. This gives him, he says, a fresh perspective on a variety of things including art, politics, economics, love, food, and family dynamics, plus time to contemplate it all. Reading nineteenth century European novels has played a similar role, as has reading in general, especially *newspapers* : paper or digital.**

Ralph has said that he loves Europe (the southern portions especially), Asia, and South America, and Africa, which he has not yet traveled. He says to not let us screw up this blue-green marble careening though the void. He says passports are a relatively new phenomenon, and along with petty nationalism are just used to divide us all up. Empires expand and die, and are terribly corrupt, he says. He believes in libraries, and information, and says these things can be liberating to those who follow the right path, but that people must be curious about how the system affects others, and who loses, and who benefits.

**3. Ralph has studied a bit about psychology and family relations in the last 4 years and now believes psychology should be a mandatory study course at all levels of education, but, alas like progressive politics, free health care, paid maternity leave, gun control or otherwise sane gun laws, (and sanity in general) he says it would somehow be an affront to white nationalist political machinations or to patriarchy in general. He says that actually, all practitioners of nationalism are tediously obtuse on their outlook (or lack thereof). *Psychology Today Magazine*, at the very minimum, should be read by all, and if you are going to read the Bible for answers, then he says to not forget *Ecclesiastes*. He says he does not know how that one got past the censors, and that yes, a live dog is better than a dead lion.**

Ralph says that there are people in the world that are just simply social disasters and that their personalities were shaped by the family and society around them which at times has been brutal towards different groups, and extremely self serving whether by parents, schools, national governments, or local communities. People can develop personality disorders, and that can play out inter-generationally between family members, with each personality disordered individual perpetuating the same dysfunction among their offspring. People need to be equipped to fight back, whether from abusive parents, schools, partners, governments, employers, friends...in short, everybody.

**4. He says he is somewhere between “delusional and extreme perspicuity” with a “touch of imposter syndrome”, and confronting cognitive dissonance in the fog, perpetually a cousin with “lost cousin” status, and currently dodging flying monkeys most likely.**

He says sometimes he cannot be right, and that he cannot be wrong. It will have to be one or the other, but that one thing is certain, he says, there are always other people to tell you that you are wrong, that something is not

possible, the naysayers if you will and the one thing they hate is your nonchalance towards their games of control, power, and domination. They want to be at the center, but they hate it if you do not get into the circle, or do not face toward it. You simply do not exist for them. He quotes the French singer Maxime Le Forestier's *Passer Ma Route* : Je fais que passer ma route, pas vu celle tracée, passer entre les gouttes, évadé belle

**5. He says that working as a “grammar engineer” abroad gives him the time to write, think, solve puzzles, do some beachcombing, and in general pay attention to things that might otherwise go unnoticed. (He spends typically 15 - 25 hours per week engineering grammar for students, excluding commute times.) He does not own a car. He would possibly be a vegetarian but the Tira de Asado and Malbec in Argentina put him in that liminal space of “Just one more!”**

What is a grammar engineer you may be asking yourself? Ralph says that while working abroad, expats used to be quite a variegated, international in outlook, and gregarious lot, but that since, oh, about 2003 there has been a definite chill among various nationalities, and even more so since about 2017...and that culture has devolved to one's own job and favorite TV show. There is a certain fixation on careerism and people just don't want to step out of their monotonous circles. Language used to be an art, and so conversation, but now everyone is either right or wrong simply ...because. People avoid Americans, and Americans may avoid each other even more. So Ralph focuses on the cold hard technicalities of language and grammar with their infinite calculations. Besides, he says, grammar engineers are paid more than plain English teachers. And in the end, isn't money what it's all about? Just like Dick Cheney getting his pals in Halliburton \$40,000,000,000 in US government contracts during his 2003 Iraq adventure.