Christmas Crackers

1990 - 1997

Gavin Holman
"Twas binary, and the wysiwyg
Did gulp and gigo in the mips:
All bubble were the memories,
And bipolar were the chips.

"Beware the Jargontalk, my son!
Like 'gigabytes' and 'Riscs' and 'rings'!
Beware all technospeak, and shun
Those dubious buzz-word things."

Base two! Base two! and through and through
The packet-switch went buffer-stack!
With multithread and thin-film head
It went on looping back.

"And hast thou sussed the Jargontalk
In interactive user code?
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
(in Lewis Carroll mode).

**Pregenesis**

In the beginning there was maximum entropy. And then it came to pass that it decreased. Out of the chaos and darkness came order.

On the first day, matter was formed. It separated from the primordial energy and created space.

On the second day, baryons and leptons were formed. They took unto themselves positive and negative charges.

On the third day, atoms were formed. Great and small forces made baryons and leptons cling to each other.

On the fourth day, molecules were formed. They were of all types: small, large, polar and nonpolar, stable and unstable.

On the fifth day, molecular aggregates were formed. Water molecule cleaved unto water molecule, magnesium unto chlorophyll, globin unto heme.
On the sixth day, the molecules reproduced themselves. DNA separated and rejoined, RNS clung unto amino acids, amino acids clung onto proteins. And on the seventh day, the entropy started to increase again....

**Variations on "As good as gold" etc..**

| As gold as green               | As eery as complaint        | As prime as stove        |
| As right as cramp              | As saucy as apprentice      | As lank as sheer         |
| As full as earth               | As wily as telegrapy        | As finned as fish fingers|
| As fast as sleep               | As mad as on Avenue         | As mattly as Rosie       |
| As squat as rights             | As benign as split          | As jewely as Caesar      |
| As vain as blood               | As off as dyke              | As old as Huxley         |
| As foul as Modern English      | As tight as oats            | As taut as shell         |
| As wicked as Almanac           | As find as keepers          | As cheep as creepers     |

**Grammar Rules?**

Don't use no double negatives.
Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent.
When dangling, watch your participles.
Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
About those sentence fragments.
Try to not ever split infinitives.
It is always important to use apostrophe's correctly.
Always read what you have written to see you any words out.
Correct spelling is esential.
.... and remember: Dsylexia rules OK

**Acronyms - variants on "NORWICH"**

Bedsprings Always Twang Harmoniously
Say When Available - No Spouse Etcetera About
Got Lustful Young Nymphet Decidedly Behind Orchestra - Unusual Repertoire Neatly Executed
Colonels Here Expect Lovemaking Twice Every Night. Hurry Aunt Mabel!
When I'm Near, Darling, Strip Off Regalia
Excitement Definitely Imminent. Now, Book Usual Room Grand Hotel

**Acronyms - re-expansions**

Have A Rolls-Royce On Daddy, Sweetie
Illiterate Louts Explained Away
Try Walking Across
Plethora Of Noisy Trippers In Nasty Shacks
Aircraft Landing In Tokyo. All Luggage In Amsterdam
We Overwork Old Ladies, Wickedly Overcharge & Rule The High Street
Weaker And Tasting Nastier Every Year
Bottled Effluent Encouraging Regurgitation
Carcinogenic Incendiary Gadget Attenuating Respiration
A Loud And Remorseless Metallic Clang Leaving One Completely Kayoed
Slimy Nocturnal Animal Invading Lettuce
Luminous Incandescent Gadgets Helpful To Sight
Disciplined Intake Encouraging Thinness
Limericks

There was a young man of Japan
Whose limericks never would scan
When someone asked why
He replied with a sigh
It's because I always try to get as many words into the last line as I possibly can.

Another young poet in China
Had a feeling for rhythm much finer
His limericks tend
To come to an end
Quite suddenly.

That things were not much worse was a mercy
You read the bottom line first
Since he wrote all reversed
He did every job arsy-versy
A very odd poet was Percy

Two hunters were tracking a deer
On a trail that was not quite clear
When one of them said
With a shake of his head
"There's a sharp drop off right about he
You can't really call it a limerick
I guess it's more of a gimerick
'Cause this poem of mine
Stops at the fourth line"

When the 'Rose & Crown' signboard fell down
George, the landlord, remarked with a frown
"On the one to replace it
We'll have much more space b't-
Ween Rose and & and & and Crown"

McKnight, and irascible Col.,
Had a temper simply infol.
He often would try
To slaughter a fly
With a tightly-rolled paper or jol.

\[ 12 + 144 + 20 + 3\sqrt{4} + 5 \times 11 = 9^2 + 0 \]
1991

Sentences that could have changed the course of world history

Moses: "So I just legged it back down because there was no way I could carry that lot...."
God: "All right, so you were peckish - but don't let it happen again."
Charlady: "I cleaned out all those dirty old dishes, Mr Fleming."
Robert Catesby: "Quick, Guy, light the fuse. I can hear someone coming!"
Box Office: "Sorry, Mr Lincoln, we're sold out for the entire run."
Art dealer: "We really like your paintings, Herr Hitler."
Columbus: "Let's give it a miss, it's probably only a small atoll."
God: "Let there be heat."
Adam: "I don't care what the Serpent said."
Pilate: "Jesus of Nazereth - bound over to keep the peace."
Tablet: "Thou shalt not have sex."
Old Testament: "And on the sixth day, God rested."
Joseph: "It's a girl!"
Churchill: "We are not prepared to fight them on the beaches."
Saxon: "You'd better wear your full helmet today, Harold"
Paul Revere: "....damn this laryngitis!"
Chamberlain's Private Secretary, at 10.59 am: "Sir, the German Chancellor's on the line for you."

Collective Nouns

An Absence of field engineers A bleat of users
A panic of computer managers An expectation of systems analysts
A detail of programmers An indifference of operators
A trough of salespersons A retreat of consultants
A sequence of deadlines A conspiracy of connectors
A gloom of dumps A vest of strings
A jangle of crashes A loss of data
A babol of high level languages A load of old Cobollers (programmers)

Table of DP Irregular Verbs

I construct algorithms; You program; He/She uses PASCAL
I consult; You freelance; He/She moonlights
I chart; You Code; He/She runs
I'm with DEC; You're with IBM; He's/She's with UNIVAC
I refine; You debug; He/She patches
I assemble; You compile; He/She/It interpets
I market; You sell; He/She peddles
I manufacture; You sell; He/She suffers
I heurist; You try and err; He/She flounders
I interact; You timeshare; He/She hogs
I extrapolate; You conjecture; He/She guesses
I was Turing; You were Turing; He/She Tured
I verify; You punch; He/She joggles
I curtail; You truncate; He/She shortens

**Inflationary Language**

Twice upon a time there was a young lieuenevanent in the Army Air fivesces named Bob, who lived in sunny Califivenia with his sister Anna. They had been very close ever since Anna saw the light of day for the second time. They were very proud of the fact that their fivefathers had been among the crenineors of the American constithreeion.

Tonight they were commemornineing her engagement to Don Two, an assiten egotist who hadn't even shown up. The table was beautifully decorninee d with Anna's favourite flowers, threelips. Bob looked at his sister and said elevenderly, "Darling, you look twoderful threenight, you never looked so lovely befive, but you have three of the saddest eyes I have ever seen." Anna really looked twoderful in spite of the illness from which she had not yet recupernineed.

It was midnight. A clock in the distance struck thirteen, and suddenly, there in the moonlight, stood Don Two, obviously intoxicnineed. Bob jumped to his feet. "You three-faced triple-croser!". But Anna, trying to avoid a scandal, said, "Any two for elevennis?" Bob grabbed from the table in front of him a piece of marinnineed herring, but Anna warned, "Don't throw it! Remember you are an officer in the United States Air fivesces!" Don Two retorted, "Are you two? I am two three!" Then he left, and when he was one and a half way through the door he turned, "Anna", he said as he wiped his fivehead, "If I can't have you I shall  never marry, I shall remain double. Goodbye Anna! Threedleoo!"

**Monarchs Mnemonic**

Willie, Willie, Harry, Steve,
Harry, Dick, John, Harry III,
123 Neds, Richard II,
Henry 456, then who?
Edward 45, Dick the Bad,
Harry's twain and Ned the Lad,
Mary, Bessie, James the Vain,
Charlie, Charlie, James again,
William and Mary, Anna Gloria,
4 Georges, William, and Victoria.

**Metric Prefixes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Symbol(s)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 mentality</td>
<td>100 centimentality</td>
<td>1 X 10^1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 camp beds</td>
<td>1 tricot</td>
<td>10^3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 unicorns</td>
<td>1 triceratops</td>
<td>10^3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10^{-12} dillies</td>
<td>1 picodilly</td>
<td>10^{-12}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 glassfuls</td>
<td>1 decanter</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10^{-15} homicides</td>
<td>1 femtofatale</td>
<td>10^{-15}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x 10^6 pinpricks</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>2 x 10^6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10^{-6} fish</td>
<td>1 microfiche</td>
<td>10^{-6}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10^{-12} surprises</td>
<td>1 picoboo</td>
<td>10^{-12}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tribes</td>
<td>1 diatribe</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 dice</td>
<td>1 trice</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 itches</td>
<td>1 bitch</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
$10^6$ cops = 1 megapolis  
2,000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds

Mocking Words

I wish you would stop apologising! Sorry.
Will you stop asking rhetorical questions! How can I when I don’t know what ‘rhetorical’ means?
Why do you keep answering questions with other questions? Do I?
If there’s one thing I hate, it’s pedanticism! The word is ‘pedantry’
Please stop arguing! I am not!
You don’t catch on quickly, do you? Who doesn’t?
Will you stop agreeing with everything I say! OK.

Programmer

"A programmer is a person who passes as an exacting expert on the basis of being able to turn out, after innumerable codings, an infinite series of incomprehensive answers calculated with micrometric precisions from vague assumptions based on debatable figures taken from inconclusive documents and carried out on instruments of problematical accuracy by persons of dubious reliability and questionable mentality for the avowed purpose of annoying and confounding a hopelessly defenseless department that was unfortunate enough to ask for the information in the first place."

"Hermans"

"She's my woman", said Herman
"Can I touch you", said Ophelia
"Is that a window?", asked Isadore
"I'll have a hot dog", said Frank
"That's quite a storm out there", said Abigail
"Your cat scratched me!", said Claude
"You're my best friend", said Opal
"There must be a way", said Will
"Me! Me!", cried Mimi
"What a sexy nightie", said Teddy
"I'm sad", said Merry.
"I'm merry", said Sadie
"Yeah!", said Noah
"My legs hurt right here", said my niece
"Bottoms up!", said Fanny
"My cup's empty", said Phil
"Listen, I hear horses", said Winnie
"You certainly may", said April to June
"My watch alarm is going off", said Elsie Dee
"Nobody ever remembers my name", said
"Over and out", said Roger
"On your knees", said Neil
"Pass the binoculars, please", said Seymour
"Step on it", said Matt
"I can count", said Owen
"I can also count", said Juan, too
"What comes after H?", asked I, Jay, Kay, Ella and Emma
Self-referential phrases

This sentence contains ten words, eighteen syllables and sixty four letters.

Only the fool would take trouble to verify that his sentence was composed of ten a's, three b's, four c's, four d's, forty-six e's, four g's, thirteen h's, fifteen i's, two k's, nine l's, four m's, twenty-five n's, twenty-four o's, five p's, sixteen r's, forty-one s's, thirty-seven t's, ten u's, eight w's, four x's, eleven y's, twenty-seven commas, twenty-three apostrophes, seven hyphens and, last but not least, a single !

Try this one yourself....
"In this sentence the number of occurrences of 0 is _____, of 1 is _____, of 2 is _____, of 3 is _____, of 4 is _____, of 5 is _____, of 6 is _____, of 7 is _____, of 8 is ____ and of 9 is ____.

The following sentence is true. The preceding sentence is false.
If I were you, who would be reading this sentence?
You have, of course, just begun reading the sentence that you have just finished reading.
If you think this sentence is confusing then just change one pig.
This sentence is false.
While you are not looking at it, this sentence is in Spanish.
The French sentence "Cette phrase en français est difficile à traduire en anglais" is difficult to translate into English.
I eee oai o ooa a e ooi eee o oe. Ths sntnc cntns n vwls nd th prcdng sntnc n cnsnnts.
"T" is the first, fourth, eleventh, sixteenth, twenty-fourth, twenty-ninth, thirty-third......

The Turbo-Encabulator in Industry

For a number of years now work has been proceeding in order to bring to perfection the crudely conceived idea of a machine that would not only supply inverse reactive current for use in unilateral phase detractors, but would also be capable of automatically synchronising cardinal grammeters. Such a machine is the Turbo-Encabulator. Basically the only new principle involved is that instead of power being generated by the relative motion of conductor and fluxes, it is produced by the nodal interaction of magneto-reluctance and capacitive directance. The original machine had a base-plate of malleable aluminite, surmounted by a pre-fabulated logarithmic casing in such a way that the two main spurving bearings were in a direct line with the pentametric fan. The latter consisted simply of six hydrocoptic marzlevanes, so fitted to the ambifacient lunar vaneshart that side fumbling was effectively prevented. The main winding was of the normal lotus-o-delta type place in panendermic semiboloid slots in the stator, every seventh conductor being connected by a non-reversible termic pipe to the differential girdlespring on the up end of the grammeters.

Forty-one manestically placed grouting brushes were arranged to feed into the rotor slipstream in a mixture of high S-value phenylhydrobenzamine and 5% ruminative tetryliodohexamine. Both these liquids have specific pericosities given by :  
\[ p = 2.5C^{6.7n} \]  
where n is the diathetical evolute of retrograde temperature phase disposition, and C is Cholmondeley's annular grillage coefficient. Initially, n was measured with the aid of a metapolar refractive pilfrometer\(^1\), but up to the present date, nothing has been found to equal the transcendental hopper dadoscope\(^2\). Electrical engineers will appreciate the difficulty of nubing together a regurgitative pugwell and a supramitive wennel-sprocket. Indeed, this proved to be a stumbling-block to further development until, in 1942, it was found that the use of anhydrous nangling pins enabled the kryptonastic bolling shims to be tankered.
The early attempts to construct a sufficiently robust spiral decommutator largely failed because of a lack of appreciation of the large quasi-piestic stresses in the gremlin studs; the latter were specifically designed to hold the roffit bars to the spamshaft. When, however, it was discovered that wending could be prevented by a simple addition to the jiving sockets, almost perfect running was secured. The operating point is maintained as near as possible to the h.f. rem peak by constantly fromaging the bitumogeneous spandrels. This is a distinct advance on the standard nivelesheave in that no dremcock oil is required until after the phase detractors have been remissed.

Undoubtedly, the Turbo-Encabulator has now reached a high level of technical development. It has been successfully used for operating nofertrunnions. In addition, whenever a barescent skor motion if required, it may be employed in conjunction with a deep-drawn reciprocating dingle arm to reduce sinusoidal depleneration.

1. For a description of this ingenious instrument, see: Rumpelvertstein, LP. ZEITSCHRIFT FUR ELECTROTECHNISTATISCHEDONNERBLITZE. vol. VIII

2. See: PROCEEDINGS OF THE PERUVIAN NITRATE ASSOCIATION, June 1914

Laws of Project Management

1. No major project is ever installed on time, within budgets, with the same staff that started it. Yours will not be the first.
2. Projects progress quickly until they become 90% complete, then they remain at 90% complete forever.
3. One advantage of fuzzy project objectives is that they let you avoid the embarrassment of estimating the corresponding costs.
4. When things are going well, something will go wrong. When things just can't get any worse, they will. When things appear to be going better you have overlooked something.
5. If project content is allowed to change freely, the rate of change will exceed the rate of progress.
6. No system is ever completely debugged. Attempts to debug a system inevitably introduce new bugs that are even harder to find.
7. A carelessly planned project will take three times longer to complete than expected; a carefully planned project will only take twice as long.
8. Project teams detest progress reporting because it vividly manifests their lack of progress.


Some seasonal poems

These two samples of verse have been taken from recently discovered 16th century French manuscripts. Translations and explanations of the text, together with many more examples, can be found in the quoted references. However, the first beats a remarkable resemblance to a traditional English Yuletide poem, and the second might be said to have some connection to Easter (very loosely!)

Crie, ce mât cis-Comines, Un petit d'un petit
Dégoût cesse, gâtine fat. S'étonne aux Halles
Plisse, tu peux taper néant: Un petit d’un petit
D’ioule Manès hâte. Ah! degrès te fellant
Fieu à veine gâte-à-penné, Indolent qui ne sort cesse
A Epernay huile d’houx. Indolent qui ne se mène
Fieu à veine gâte-à-Epernay, Qu’importe un petit d’un petit
D’Aisne godent blé, chou. Tout Gai de Reguennes.

_Quotes_

- In times of crisis, it is of utmost importance not to lose one's head. -- M. Antoinette
- To function efficiently, any group of people or employees must have faith in their leader. -- Capt. Bligh (ret.)
- One of the joys of travel is visiting new towns and meeting new people. -- G. Khan
- This is another fine myth you've gotten me into. -- Lor L. and Har D.
- A woman, like a good piece of music, should have a solid end. -- F. Schubert
- Life is a series of rude awakenings. -- R. V. Winkle
- Numerical superiority is of no consequence. In battle, victory will go to the best tactician. -- G. A. Custer
- Diplomacy is the delicate weapon of the civilized warrior. -- Hun, A. T.
- All's well that ends well. -- E. A. Poe
- Once more into the breach... -- Zarna, the Human Cannonball
- Old heroes never die; they appear in sequels. -- M. Moorcock
- What do you mean, "You've got a little job for me?" -- Hercules
- Or was it unlock the safe then swim to the surface? -- H. Houdini
- I'm sure we can talk things out like civilized people. -- J. Wayne
- Why should I have to pay a troll just to cross a bridge? -- B. G. Gruff
- We've got an unbeatable team! -- Sauron
- Life is full of little surprises. -- Pandora
- Ask not for whom the bell tolls -- M. Ali
- The only thing worse than a sorcerer is a sorcerer's apprentice. -- M. Mouse
- I don't know why anyone would be nervous about going to see royalty. -- P. in Boots
- Tell you what. Let me sweeten the deal a bit for you... -- Beelzebub
- Marriage, being a lifelong venture, must be approached with care and caution. -- Bluebeard
- The best laid plans often go a fowl. -- Wile E. Coyote
- Reputations are fine up to a point. After that they become a pain! -- D. Juan
- Success often hinges on choosing a reliable partner. -- Remus
- Reliable information is a must for successful planning. -- C. Columbus
- To survive, one must be able to adapt to changing situations. -- T. Rex
- First, let's decide who's leading and who's following. -- F. Astaire
- For the right person, the impossible is easy! -- Dumbo
- I've never seen so damn many Indians. -- G. A. Custer
- Relax, Julie. Everyone will understand. -- Romeo
- There's no accounting for taste! -- Colonel Sanders
- There's a time to fight, and a time to hide out! -- B. Cassidy
- They never let you live it down. One little mistake! -- Nero
- A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down! -- L. Borgia
- Your Majesty should pay attention to his appearance. -- H. C. Anderson
- I need all the friends I can get. -- Quasimodo
- Can't you take a joke? -- T. Eulenspiegel
Exceptional Rule

If for every rule there is an exception, then we have established that there is an exception to every rule. If we accept "For every rule there is an exception" as a rule, then we must concede that there may not be an exception after all, since the rule states that there is always the possibility of exception, and if we follow it to its logical end we must agree that there can be an exception to the rule that for every rule there is an exception.

Coda

She is: agreeable, becoming, careful, desirable, English, friendly, generous, happy, intelligent, joyful, keen, lively, merry, natty, obedient, philosophic, quiet, regular, sociable, tasteful, useful, vivacious, womanish, xantippish, youthful and zealous.

I do not know where family doctors acquired illegibly perplexing handwriting; nevertheless, extraordinary pharmaceutical intellectuality, counterbalancing indecipherability, transcendentalis intercommunications' incomprehensibleness! [n=1-20]

Bill, where Had had had HAD HAD had had had had. Had Had had had had, had had would have had the editor's approval.

When vorianders seek to huzzlecoo, when jurapid splooch or vilpous drillig bores, When cowcats kipe, or moobles wog, Or you are machizzled by yowfs or xenogores, Remember Burgess Unabridged and think, How quisty is his culpid yod and yab! No fidgetick with goigsome iobink, no varmik orobaldity - his gab. No more tintwiddling slubs, like fidgeticks rizgidgeting your speech shall lalify; But your jujasm, like vorpid gollotrix, shall all your woxy meem golobrify!
A Pun is its own Reword, and other thoughts.....

If she says "So far and no fervour", should I try a little ardour?
If at first you don't succeed, you're not the eldest son.
Faith can move mountains - she's a big strong girl.
II ER is human. I ER was divine.
Fancied myself as a knight errant, but some other guy had his armour round her.
No-one gives you a black eye, you have to fight for it.
If a swan sings its swan song, does a young swan sing its cygneture tune?
A little loining is a dangerous thing, but man cannot live in bed alone.
A first cousin once removed is hard to replace.
Would aural sex be heard but not obscene?
When does calf love become feet fetishism?
A Miss is as good as a Mlle.
Don't worry, lightning never strikes twice in the same

Rules of Life:

You have two chances, slim and non-existent
You never get it where you want it
If you think it's tough now, just wait
There's more to life than increasing its speed
Today is the last day of the first part of your life
Mother said there would be days like this, but she never said there would be so many
The alternative to getting old is depressing
Just when you think you can make both ends meet, somebody moves the ends
Live every day as if it were your last .... and one day you'll be right.

Signs of maturity:

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work
The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your spectacles
You get winded playing chess
Your children begin to look middle-aged
A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable bladder urge
You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions
You turn the lights out for economic rather than romantic reasons
Your knees buckle but your belt won't
Your back goes out more than you do
The little grey-haired lady you help across the street is your wife
You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there

**Metricalation**

As I 2.54 centimetred my way along the ledge, I could feel my heart 0.454 kilogramming with the fear that I might fall like a 6.35 kilogrammes to the 0.914 metres below. I paused a 12.7 kilogrammes of the way along with one 30.5 centimetres 5.03 metred precariously on a short 5.03 metres projecting from the wall. 0.142 litres would be a 1.61 kilometres away by now but anyway I had no 1.29 grammes about her, as I'd had that 4.55 litres on my mind for far too long. I summoned every 28.2 grammes of strength, grasped a rusty 20.1 metres with both 10.2 centimetres and slid to the ground. I could hear a hen nearby 9.10 litring at some loose 0.0648g rammes. Once down, I tried to 1.83 metres why our plan had misfired, what was the 20.1 centimetres I had overlooked, the 1850 metres/hour I had yet to untie?

*Key: inch, pound, stone, yard, quarter, foot, perch, pole, gill, mile, scuple, gallon, ounce, chain, hand, peck, grain, fathom, link, knot.*

**Appropriate Anagrams & Antigrams**

Athletics - Lithe art
A bartender - Beer and art
Desperation - A rope ends it
Gold and silver - Grand old evils
Honesty - On the sly
Melodramatic - A more mild act

Suggestion - It eggs us on
A decimal point - I'm a dot in place
Eleven + two = Twelve + one
No trespassing - Stop an ingress
A stitch in time saves nine - This is meant as an incentive

Adversaries - Are advisers
Desecration - Care is noted
Evangelists - Evil's agents
Honestly - On the sly
Melodramatic - A more mild act

Antagonist - Not against
Diplomacy - Mad policy
Forty-five - Over fifty
Maidenly - Men? Daily!
Within earshot - I won't hear this

**Lost extract from the Periodic Table**

**Element:** Woman
**Symbol:** Wo
**Discoverer:** Adam
**Atomic Weight:** Accepted as 118, but is known to vary from 100 to 160
**Occurrence:** Surplus quantities in all urban areas
**Physical properties:** Surface usually covered in painted film
Boils at nothing and freezes without reason
Melts if given proper treatment
Bitter if used incorrectly
Found in various states ranging from virgin metal to common ore

**Chemical properties:** Possesses great affinity to Au, Ag, Pt and precious stones
Able to absorb great quantities of expensive substances
May explode spontaneously if left alone with male
Insoluble in liquids, but activity increased by saturation in alcohol
Yields to pressure applied to correct parts

**Uses:** Highly ornamental, especially in sports cars
Most powerful money-reducing agent known to science
Can be great aid to relaxation
Tests: Pure specimens turn a rosy tint if discovered in natural state
Turns green if placed beside a better specimen
Caution: Highly dangerous except in experienced hands
Illegal to possess more than one permanent specimen, although a certain amount of exchange is permitted.

**Glossary of Commercialese**

Activate - To make carbons and add more names to the memo
Advanced design - Beyond the comprehension of the ad agency's copywriters
All new - Parts not interchangeable with existing models
Approved, subject to comment - Redraft the damn thing
Automatic - That which you cannot repair yourself
Channels - The trail left by inter-office memos
Clarify - To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground
Confidential memo - No time to photocopy for the whole office
Consultant - Someone who borrows your watch to tell you what time it is, then walks off with it
Coordinator - The person who has a desk between two expediters (see expedite)
Developed after years of intensive research - Discovered by accident
 Expedite - To confound confusion with commotion
Forwarded for your consideration - You hold the bag for a while
Give someone the picture - Make a long, confused, and inaccurate statement to a newcomer
In conference - Nobody can find him/her
In due course - Never
It is in process - So wrapped up in red tape that the situation is almost hopeless
Let's get together on this - I'm assuming you're as confused as I am
Note and initial - Let's spread the responsibility for this
Policy - We can hide behind this
See me - Come down to my office, I'm lonely
Source, reliable - The person you just met
Source, informed - The person who told the person you just met
Source, unimpeachable - The person who started the rumour originally
Top priority - It may be idiotic, but the boss wants it
Under active consideration - We're looking in the files for it
We are making a survey - We need more time to think of an answer
We will look into it - By the time the wheel comes round we hope you will have forgotten about it

**Laws of Cartoon Motion**

I Any body suspended in space will remain in space until made aware of its situation
II Any body in motion will tend to remain in motion until solid matter intervenes suddenly
III Any body passing through solid matter will leave a perforation conforming to its perimeter
IV The time required for an object to fall twenty stories is greater than or equal to the time it takes for whoever knocked it off the ledge to spiral down twenty flights to attempt to capture it unbroken
V All principles of gravity are negated by fear
VI As speed increases, objects can be in several places at once
VII Certain bodies can pass through solid walls painted to resemble tunnel entrances, others cannot
VIII Any violent rearrangement of feline matter is impermanent
IX For every vengeance there is an equal and opposite revengeance
X Everything falls faster than an anvil
The Theory of Big Game Hunting

- The following methods (a small selection from about 70 known) are restricted to the species *Felix leo*, in the domain bounded by the Sahara Desert. However they may be extended to encompass other locations and carnivores.
- The method of inversive geometry - We place a spherical cage in the desert, enter it and lock it. We perform an inversion with respect to the cage. The lion is then in the interior of the cage, and we are outside.
- The topological method - We observe that a lion has at least the connectivity of a torus. We transport the desert into four-space. It is then possible to carry out such a deformation that the lion can be returned to three-space in a knotted condition. He is then helpless.
- The Dirac method - We observe that wild lions are, ipso facto, not observable in the Sahara Desert. Consequently, if there are any lions in the Sahara, they are tame. The capture of a tame lion may be left as an exercise for the reader.
- The Schrodinger method - at any given moment there is a positive possibility that there is a lion in the cage. Sit down and wait.
- The thermodynamical method - We construct a semi-permeable membrane, permeable to everything except lions, and sweep it across the desert.
- Game theoretic method - A lion is big game. Thus a fortiori, he is a game. Therefore there exists an optimal strategy. Follow it.
- Method of analytical mechanics - Since the lion has non-zero mass, it has moments of inertia. Grab it during one of them.
- Method of natural functions - The lion, having spent his life under the Sahara sun, will surely have a tan. Induce him to lie on his back; he can then, by virtue of his reciprocal tan, be cot.
- Method of moral philosophy - Construct a corral in the Sahara and wait until autumn. At that time the corral will contain a large number of lions, for it is well known that a pride cometh before the fall.
- Cost-benefit method - For some lions the cost of avoiding capture (all that running, dodging spears etc.) is greater than the benefits of remaining free. These lions will surrender voluntarily.
- Method of international diplomacy - I would explain this, but it never works anyway.

Explanation of foreign phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coup de grace</th>
<th>Dejeuner sur l'herbe</th>
<th>Non sequitur</th>
<th>Avoirdupois</th>
<th>Sangfroid</th>
<th>Menage à trois</th>
<th>In camera</th>
<th>Literati</th>
<th>Via dolorosa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coup de grace</td>
<td>Dejeuner sur l'herbe</td>
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<td>Menage à trois</td>
<td>In camera</td>
<td>Literati</td>
<td>Via dolorosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hommes des lettres</td>
<td>Aide de camp</td>
<td>La vice Anglaise</td>
<td>Pommes-frites</td>
<td>Soixante-neuf</td>
<td>Après mois le deluge</td>
<td>Petits fours</td>
<td>Film noir</td>
<td>M25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The postman</td>
<td>Tent peg</td>
<td>Black &amp; Decker Workmate</td>
<td>Cowardly Brits</td>
<td>Head over heels in love</td>
<td>Bags I first in the shower</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>You left the lens-cap on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Novel Inn Signs - AP Herbert

Eminent Physicists

Nature, and Nature's laws, lay hid in night:
God said "Let Newton be!" and all was light.
It did not last: the Devil, howling "Ho!
Let Einstein be!" restored the status quo.

Some (real) dictionary definitions:

Baffona, f. Woman with not unpleasing moustache (Hoare's Short Italian Dictionary)
Carphology Delirious fumbling with the bedclothes etc. (Concise Oxford)
Rajanidow To thrust a radish up the fundament; a punishment for adulterers in Athens
(Greek-English Lexicon)
(Arabic-English Dictionary)

The Alphabet

A is for Team seen on children's TV
B is for Film with second rate crew
C is for Major, the easiest key
D is for Notice which silences you
E is for Numbers of additives (food)
F is for Plan which means bran is your chow
G is for String (on a woman it's rude)
H is for Bone by the rump of a cow
I is for Ching which divines what to do
J is for Cloth which wipes saucers and knives
K is for Rations a soldier may chew
L is for Plate, when a new driver drives
M is for Way where the speeders are caught
N is for Bomb which has neutrons for force
O is for Level, which used to be taught
P's 45, when your job's run its course
Q is for Ship, when its guns are hush-hush
R is the Month when there's oysters to eat
S is for Bend when you're ready to flush
T is for Shirt that you wear in the heat
U is the Boat of submariner Boche
V is the sign Harvey Smith made his own
W's 1, where the capital's posh
X is the Ray which can squint at a bone
Y is for Fronts on the underwear stall
Z is for Car that the constables call

Self-referential words

Mispelling Decembrrr twogether
HUMiLiTY neverendin oreshortened
truncc vwlss cndnsd
c@atact [bracketed] qqqqqueue
-ated p,u:n:c!t"u'a.t-e?d :ic
stststutter ddoouubbbleetss d1g1tal
sur+++ exxxxcess s**a*r*r*i*n*g

Homophonic Little Red Riding Hood

Wants pawn term dare worsted ladle gull hoe lift wetter murder inner ladle cordage honor itch offer lodge dock florist. Disc ladle gull orphan worry ladle cluck wetter putty ladle rat hut, end fur disc raisin pimple cauldler ladle rat rotten hut. Wan moaning ladle rat rotten hut's murder colder inset, "Ladle rat rotten hut, heresy ladle basking winsome burden barter on shirker cockles. Tick disc ladle basking tudor cordage offer groin murder hoe lifts honor udder site offer florist. Shaker lake, dun stopper laundry wrote, end yonder nor sorghum stenches dun stopper torque wet strainers."
"Hoe cake, murder", resplendent ladle rat rotten hut, end tickle ladle basking an stirred oft. Honor wrote tudor cordage offer groin murder, ladle rat rotten hut mitten anomalous woof. "Wail, wail, wail", set disc wicket woof, "evanescent ladle rat rotten hut! Wares or putty gull goring wizard ladle basking?


**Synonym Chains**

A foray through Roget's Thesaurus, or similar volume will enable you to turn a word into its opposite by the appropriate choice of sequential synonyms for each step on the way:

Black-Dark-Obscure-Hidden-Concealed-Snug-Comfortable-Easy-Simple-Pure-White
Ugly-Offensive-Insulting-Insolent-Proud-Lordly-Stately-Grand-Gorgeous-Beautiful
Bad-Poor-Mean-Penurious-Stingy-Close-Secret-Furtive-Sly-Cunning-Clever-Good
Dark-Obscure-Vague-Vacant-Empty-Foolish-Simple-Easy-Light
True-Just-Fair-Beautiful-Pretty-Artful-Artificial-Sham-False

**Lessons in Address**

This jingle might have been stretched out by including, among others, Mr. E., Aunty Quated, and Burl Esq., but it is tidier as it is.

Three pretty misses, partying they go: Flirting with the gentry, fluttering their eyes,
Miss Creant, Sir Cumvent,
Miss Anthrope, Sir Cumspect,
Miss L. Toe. Sir Cumcise

**A selection of curious British place names**

Ampney Crucis Near Oxenhope
Burstwick cum Skeckling Over Peover
Cadoxton-juxta-Neath Pennycumquick
Deaf Hill cum Langdale Queen Camel
Edenordinary Readymoney
Freezywater Stamford Baron St Martin Without
Germansweek Tolleshunt Knights
Hanging Walls of Mark Anthony Up Ottery
Irlams o' the Height  Ventongimps  
Jericho  Wendens Ambo  
Kill St Nicholas  Yatton Keynell  
London Apprentice  Zeal Monachorum  
Middle Wallop

The Oise Salon

Over a hundred years ago, a small band of writers from the département of Oise in France formed a literary salon in Paris. Led by Guillaume Chèquespierre, their number included Jean Quitte, Henri Longuevélo, A. Lefrette d'Enisone, Robert Brunenc, Guillaume Veuseveute, the mysterious A. Nonimousse and others. A brief extract from one of their works, which typifies the school, is given below:

Ail où on d'air de l’aune, liasse à clou de.  
Date flot s'en aille or vèle sénile ce.  
Où en haut la douane saillit sauré croûte  
À hausse t'oeuf gaule; d'haine d'affût d'île ce.

G. Veuseveute

Beasts and Birds - a schoolboy's essay

The Bird I am going to write about is Owl. The Owl cannot see at all in the daytime, and at night it is as blind as a bat. I do not know much about the Owl, so I will go on to the Beast, which I am going to choose. It is the Cow. The Cow is a mammal, and it is tame. It has six sides, right, left, fore, back, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away, so that they will not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns, and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with. The mouth is to Moo with. Under the Cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milk-ing. When people milk the milk comes, and there is never an end to the supply. How the Cow does it, I have not yet realized, but it makes more and more. The Cow has a fine sense of smell. One can smell it far away. This is the reason for fresh air in the country. The man cow is called an Ox, it is not a mammal. The Cow does not eat much, but what it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it Moos, and when it says nothing it is because its inside is full up of grass.

A Selection from the Bestiary of Ogden Nash

The one-l lama, he's a priest.  
The two-l llama, he's a beast.  
And I will bet a silk pajama,  
There isn't any three-l llama

The oyster's a confusing suitor;  
It's masc., and fem., and even neuter.  
At times it wonders, may what come,  
Am I husband, wife or chum.

Tell me, O Octopus, I begs,  
Is those things arms, or is they legs?  
I marvel at thee, Octopus;  
If I were thou I’d call me Us.

The Lord in His wisdom made the fly,  
And then forgot to tell us why.  

The cow is of the bovine ilk;  
One end is moo, the other, milk.

The trouble with a kitten is THAT  
Eventually it becomes a CAT.  

O Kangaroo, O Kangaroo  
Be grateful that you’re in the zoo,  
And not transmuted by a boomerang  
To a zestful tangy Kangaroo meringue.
Oh weep for Mr. and Mrs. Bryan!
He was eaten by a lion;
Following which, the lion's lioness
Up and swallowed Bryan's Bryaness.

The ostrich roams the great Sahara.
Its mouth is wide, its neck is narra.

It has such long and lofty legs,
I'm glad it sits to lay its eggs.
The truth I do not stretch or shove
When I state the dog is full of love.
I've also proved, by actual test,
A wet dog is the lovingest.

**Bizarre Books**

Since 1978 the Bookseller has run an annual competition to find the book title that "most outrageously exceeds all bounds of credibility". Some winners include:

- Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice
- The Madam as Entrepreneur: Career Management in House Prostitution
- The Joy of Chickens
- Last Chance at Love: Terminal Romances
- Brace Owner's Manual
- The Theory of Lengthwise Rolling
- The Book of Marmalade: Its Antecedents, Its History and Its Role in the World Today

Some possible contenders in a scientific vein:

- How to Draw a Straight Line
- The Romance of the Holes in Bread
- The Biochemist's Songbook
- Fuzzy Reasoning and its Applications
- Seven Years of "Manifold": 1968-1980
- A Study of Splashes

And finally, some titles that have not yet been corroborated:

- Be Bold with Bananas
- The True Inwardness of the Oyster
- Flashes from the Welsh Pulpit
- Reminiscences of a Clachnacuddin Nonagenarian
- Snoring as a Fine Art
- Why Flies Buzz
- Who's Who in Australian Embroidery
PC (politically correct) Lord's Prayer

Our universal chairperson in outer space, your identity enjoys the highest rating on a prioritised selectivity scale. May your sphere of influence take on reality parameters; may your mindset be implemented on this planet as in outer space. Allot to us, at this point in time and on a per diem basis, a sufficient and balanced dietary food intake, and rationalise a disclaimer against our negative feedback as we rationalise a disclaimer against the negative feedback of others. And deprogram our negative potentialities, but desensitise the impact of the counter-productive force. For yours is the dominant sphere of influence, the ultimate capability, and the highest qualitative analysis rating, at this point in time, and extending beyond a limited time frame. End of message.

How to handle stress

- Jam 39 tiny marshmallows up your nose and try to sneeze them out.
- Use your Access to pay your Visa.
- Find out what a frog in a blender really looks like.
- Make a list of things to do that you’ve already done.
- Dance naked in front of your pets.
- Put your toddler’s clothes on backwards and send him off to pre-school as if nothing’s wrong.
- Retaliate for tax problems by filling out your tax forms with Roman Numerals.
- Tattoo "Out to Lunch" on your forehead.
- Tape pictures of your boss on watermelons and launch them from high places.
- Buy a subscription to Sleezoid Weekly and send it to your boss’ wife.
- Pay your electric bill in pennies.
- Drive to work in reverse.
- Sit naked on a hard boiled egg.
- Refresh yourself: put your tongue on a cold steel guardrail.
- Tell your boss to blow it out his mule and let him figure it out.
- Read the dictionary upside down and look for secret messages.
- Start a nasty rumor and see if you recognize it when it comes back to you.
- Write a short story, using Alphabet Soup.
- Lie on your back eating celery, using your navel as a salt dipper.
- Stare at people through the tines of a fork and pretend they’re in jail.
- Make up a language and ask for directions.
Emoticons - Smiley Definitions - shorthand for use on computer networks. Should be viewed by turning paper 90° clockwise

::) Your basic smilie. This smilie is used to inflect a sarcastic or joking statement since we can't hear voice inflection over the networks.

;-) Winky smilie. User just made a flirtatious and/or sarcastic remark. More of a "don't hit me for what I just said" smilie.

::( Frowning smilie. User did not like that last statement or is upset or depressed about something.

:-I Indifferent smilie. Better than a Frowning smilie but not quite as good as a happy smilie.

>:: User just made a really biting sarcastic remark. Worse than ::-).

>::> User just made a really devilish remark.

>:: Winky and devil combined. A very lewd remark was just made.

Those are the basic ones...Here are some somewhat less common ones:

(:- User is left handed :*) User is drunk

[:] User is a robot 8-) User is wearing sunglasses

B:-) Sunglasses on head ::-) User wears normal glasses

B-) User wears horn-rimmed glasses 8:-) User is a little girl

::8 User is a Big girl 8:-} User has a mustache

::} User wears lipstick {:-) User wears a toupee

}{: Toupee in an updraft [:- User is a Vampire

::7 User just made a wry statement ::* User just ate something sour

::~ User drools ::~) User has a cold

:'-( User is crying ::@ User is screaming

::&) User has a broken nose ::=& User is tongue tied.

':: User is a punk rocker `:: User is missing an eyebrow

|:- User is asleep |-O User is yawning/snoring

::Q User is a smoker :-? User smokes a pipe

O :-) User is an angel (at heart, at least) :-D User is laughing

::/ User is skeptical *:o) And Bozo the Clown!

Although the above list is extensive, there are many more and other lists differ. This following list of emoticons is compiled from an article in The Wall Street Journal:

7:) I resemble Ronald Reagan B-) I'm cool

*: I'm drunk {(:-) I have a toupee

)!(: I have a toupee and it's windy =l:-)= I'm Uncle Sam

:'( I'm crying %-) I'm cross-eyed

(-) I need a haircut *<l:-) I'm Santa Claus

::)) I'm overweight :-J I'm being tongue in cheek

3:-O I'm a cow :-{) I have heavy lipstick

<<<(:-) I'm a hat salesperson

GHEAUGHTEIGHPTOUGH (or contorted spelling)

GH is P as in hiccough EIGH is A as in neigh
EAU is O as in beau PT is T as in pterodactyl
GHT is T as in naught OUGH is O as in though
**Bouts Rimés (or punctured poems)**

*Take an existing line, or stanza from a poem and add a new conclusion.....*

Full fathom five thy father lies  
*I pushed him. I apologise*  
That's why I keep a flute tucked in my vest

I think that I shall never see  
*I'll take you home again, Kathleen*  
That last martini turned you green

Was this the face that launched a thousand ships?  
*No wonder there are keel marks on her lips*

**Tom Swifties**

"The chimney is clogged," he said fluently  
"I just ran over my father," he said transparently"  
"Don't you love sleeping outdoors?" he said intently  
"Let's catch that sick bird," he said illegally  
"This boat leaks," he said balefully  
"Welcome to my tomb," he said cryptically  
"I've just returned from Japan," he said disorientedly  
"I'll never stick my fist in the lion's cage again," he said offhandedly  
"I can't find the oranges," he said fruitlessly

**One Letter Changed....**

Why can't a woman be more like a mat  
Wish you were her  
I've got you under my ski  
Small appartment for runt  
Don't feel the animals  
God help those who help themselves  
A rabbi's foot brings luck  
I hate to see a grown man dry  
Rome wasn't built in a bay  
Unsafe at ant speed

**Equivalences** *(word pairs that seem to mean the same at second glance)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aside</th>
<th>Aversion</th>
<th>Antistatic</th>
<th>Promotional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anode</td>
<td>Averse</td>
<td>Irony</td>
<td>Steely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscribe</td>
<td>Underwriter</td>
<td>Ultramundane</td>
<td>Extraordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Underworld</td>
<td>Nightmare</td>
<td>Dark horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamster</td>
<td>Gangster</td>
<td>Flyboy</td>
<td>Spiderman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods</td>
<td>Fines</td>
<td>Fireplace</td>
<td>Hothouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pseudo-opposites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Night hawk</th>
<th>Mourning dove</th>
<th>Catwalk</th>
<th>Dog trot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternity dress</td>
<td>Paternity suit</td>
<td>Birth rates</td>
<td>Death duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermark</td>
<td>Fire brand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Some proverbs for today**

It's a crooked satellite dish that receives no pictures  
Lock before you leave  
Don't put all your data on one disk  
Still waters are almost certainly polluted
The other man’s grass is always free of dog****
Many hands would like work
A woman’s work is never fun
If you want a job well done, get an expert
Two’s company three’s perverted
There are more kinds of snow than the train knows of
Necessity is the mother of theft
When in Rome, don’t carry a handbag
Jehovah’s Witnesses knock once on every man’s door
People in glass houses should wear clothes
A bird in the hand is in contravention of the 1991 Wildlife Preservation Act
Political correctness means never having to say you’re sorry

**OXYMORONS** (paradoxical phrases)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noun</th>
<th>adjective noun</th>
<th>adjective noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a twin</td>
<td>advanced cobol</td>
<td>almost perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alone together</td>
<td>arbitrary fixed constant</td>
<td>astrological forecast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>awful pretty</td>
<td>business ethics</td>
<td>buy now and save</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c program</td>
<td>civil servant</td>
<td>classical novel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>computer security</td>
<td>death benefits</td>
<td>duplicate original</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excess profit</td>
<td>extreme moderation</td>
<td>final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fresh frozen</td>
<td>genuine imitation</td>
<td>happily married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>idle gossip</td>
<td>live recording</td>
<td>military intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minor disaster</td>
<td>negative feedback</td>
<td>peace offensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postal service</td>
<td>pretty ugly</td>
<td>proposed standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quite a few</td>
<td>real numbers</td>
<td>reputable salesman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>software reliability</td>
<td>thunderous silence</td>
<td>unacceptable solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unix performance</td>
<td>vacuum filled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Apocryphal Antitheses** - Underlying the superficial oppositeness in these word pairs is a fundamental identity in meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best</th>
<th>Worst</th>
<th>to get the better of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ravel</td>
<td>Unravel</td>
<td>to disentangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp</td>
<td>Blunt</td>
<td>abrupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk up</td>
<td>Walk down</td>
<td>to proceed along a street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Cool</td>
<td>eliciting excitement (slang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly</td>
<td>Deeply</td>
<td>very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flammable</td>
<td>Inflammable</td>
<td>easily combustible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow up</td>
<td>Slow down</td>
<td>slacken speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restive</td>
<td>Restless</td>
<td>uneasy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill in</td>
<td>Fill out</td>
<td>make entries on a form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebriate</td>
<td>Inebriate</td>
<td>intoxicated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel</td>
<td>Unpeel</td>
<td>remove the peel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Autoantonyms** - Single words/phrases with two opposite meanings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noun</th>
<th>phrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>a fast horse runs, a fast colour doesn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dust</td>
<td>remove the same from a shelf, add same to a field of crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim</td>
<td>embellish a Christmas tree, disembellish a fat cut of meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip</td>
<td>move nimbly, stumble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortal</td>
<td>death-dealing, death prone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>wear well, wear out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlook</td>
<td>inspect, neglect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cavalier gallant and gentlemanly, haughty and ungentlemanly
Think better of (a man) to admire more, (a plan) to like it less

A Mnemonic for $\pi$ (to 30 decimal places - 3.141592653589793238462643383279)

Now I will a rhyme construct
By chosen words the young instruct.
Cunningly devised endeavour:
See it, and remember ever.
Widths in circle here you see,
Sketched out in strange obscurity.

Dictionary Definitions

Not all dictionary definitions are as clear, as explanatory, as helpful as the dictionary user would want them to be. Consequently, it is with a feeling of genuine pleasure that I point to the following definitions as examples of the ultimate in lucidity leaving nothing unsaid:

CACTOLITH. n. A quasi-horizontal chonolith composed of anastomosing ductoliths, whose distal ends curl like a harpolith, thin like a sphenolith, or bulge discordantly like an akmolith or ethmolith.

KOPHOBELEMNONIDAE n. A family of stelechotokean anthozoons, belonging to the alcyonarians, with a rachis longer than peduncle, cylindrical and with pararachides provided with retractive autozooids in indefinite rows.

Words for those things that have not had words before.....

Aquadextrous - adj. Possessing the ability to turn the bath tap on and off with your toes.
Blithwapping - v. Using anything BUT a hammer to hammer a nail into the wall, such as shoes, lamp bases, doorstops, etc.
Burbulation - n. The obsessive act of opening and closing a refrigerator door in an attempt to catch it before the automatic light comes on.
Carperpetuation - n. The act, when vacuuming, of running over a string at least a dozen times, reaching over and picking it up, examining it, then putting it back down to give the vacuum one more chance.
Flannister - n. The plastic yoke that holds a four-pack of beer together.
Furbling - v. Having to wander through a maze of ropes at an airport or bank even when you are the only person in line.
Genderplex - n. The predicament of a person in a restaurant who is unable to determine his or her designated toilet (e.g. turtles and tortoises).
Gleemites - n. Petrified deposits of toothpaste found in sinks.
Idiot Box - n. The part of the envelope that tells a person where to place the stamp when they can't quite figure it out for themselves.
Krogt - n. (chemical symbol: Kr) The metallic silver coating found on scratch-off game cards.
Lactomangulation - n. Manhandling the "open here" spout on a milk carton so badly that one has to resort to using the "illegal" side.
Magnocartic - n. Any car that, left unattended in a supermarket car park, attracts shopping trolleys.
Mustgo - n. Any food that has been sitting in the fridge so long it has become a science project.
Narcolepulacy - n. The contagious action of yawning, causing everyone in sight to also yawn.
Nugloo - n. A single continuous eyebrow that covers the entire forehead.
**Phosflink** - v. To flick a bulb on and off when it burns out (as if, somehow, that will bring it back to life).

**Purpitation** - v. To take something off the supermarket shelf, decide you don't want it, and then put it in another section.

**Scribline** - n. The blank area on the back of credit cards where one's signature goes.

**Slurm** - n. The slime that accumulates on the underside of a soap bar when it sits in the dish too long.

**Snacktrek** - n. The peculiar habit, when searching for a snack, of constantly returning to the refrigerator in hopes that something new will have materialized.

**Spagmumps** - n. Any of the millions of polystyrene shapes that are used in packing irregularly shaped, fragile objects in regularly shaped boxes.

**Spirobits** - n. The frayed bits of left-behind paper in a spiral notebook.

**Yinkel** - n. A person who combs his hair over his bald spot, hoping no one will notice.

---

**Celebrate Halloween at Christmas**

These festive dates are in fact one and the same. Halloween is celebrated on the 31st of October, Christmas on the 25th of December. So,

\[
\text{Halloween} = \text{Oct 31} \quad \text{Christmas} = \text{Dec 25}
\]

In the octal system of notation (base 8) the number 31 is $3 \times 8 + 1$ which equals 25. This is equal to 25 in decimal notation (base 10), thus the two dates are equivalent, since Oct 31 = Dec 25!

---

**A Rhyming Calendar** *(Anon. and very old)*

JANet was quite ill one day, FEBrile troubles came her way.
MARtyr-like she lay in bed; APRoned nurses softly sped,
MAYbe, said the leech judicial, JUNket would be beneficial.
JULeps too, though freely tried, AUGured ill, for Janet died.
SEPulchre was sadly made, OCTaves pealed and prayers were said.
NOVices with many a tear DECorated Janet’s bier.

---

**Self Referentialism**

Did you know that the word "gullible" does not appear in the Oxford English Dictionary? This is a bad week to be superstitious
If "if" statements never contained "then" clauses........
Complete this sentence: Complete........
By accident I learned the meaning of the word "serendipity" three days before I heard it used
If creativity didn't exist we would have to invent it
I suffer from unrequited narcissism.

---

**Sports definitions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table tennis</td>
<td>the sport of pings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sand yachting</td>
<td>keels on wheels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock car racing</td>
<td>bangers and smash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>a pitch 'n' sink drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight lifting</td>
<td>carelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billiards</td>
<td>pot luck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>the sport of dukes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursing</td>
<td>splitting hares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>the art of missing the point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curling</td>
<td>rolling stones on ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean ballooning</td>
<td>passing water with a full bladder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>taking steps to putt things right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>making the best of a bid job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot putt</td>
<td>steroids shoving spheroids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whippet racing</td>
<td>the curs of the working classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drag racing</td>
<td>the sport of queens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pithy reviews of books, plays & films

Citizen Kane - Welles farago
Swan Lake - Tutu awful
8½ - Nein!
The Sting - Just a B picture
Carrie - on avoiding
Lawrence of Arabia - Just deserts
The Boy Friend - Definitely dated
'Tis Pity She's a Whore - Gold, frack incest and murder

Numerical cadences - Replacements for 1-10 that echo similar mellifluous sounds

Ounce  Instant  Archery  Acreage
Dice    Distant  Butchery  Brokerage
Trice   Tryst    Treachery  Cribbage
Quartz  Catalyst Taproom  Carthage
Quince  Quest    Tomb     Cage
Sago    Sycamore Sermon   Sink
Serpent Sophomore Cinnamon Sentiment
Oxygen  Oculist  Apron    Ointment
Nitrogen Novelist Nunnery  Nutmeg
Denim   Dentist  Density  Doom
Opening first sentences to guarantee you will never read the second.

- Believe me, this book is going to change your life.
- However long I live, I will never forget that blissful time I spent in Provence.
- My first incarnation was a hamster.
- I, the Justiciar of Woftong, hereby banish thee to the bloodlands beyond the Chantigule!
- "Pereunt et imputantur," said Basil, though what he really meant was tempora mutantur; nos et mutamur in illis.
- The unreality of written text, the devolution of sense from ritual signifier to increasingly institutionalised signified, was the basis on which Jacques constructed his life, although he would never use "constructed" in less than its technical sense.
- As Pandora gazed from the 14th floor of the executive office suite over the international fashion house she had established in New York, her mind drifted back to her humble beginnings as a bobbin ligger in a Lancashire cotton mill in the early, harsh, yet so vivid years of this century.
- "Miaou, miaou!"
- "A wee deoch an doris," said the bearded Highlander, raising his glass: "Many a mickle makes a muckle, and when all's said and done, one has tae dree one's weird."
- In the year 1897 Nikolai Aleksyevich Shagalotsky (known to his friends as Kolia and to his closest business acquaintances as Nikolasha) settled with his wife, Anna Nazarovna Zeenaeda, whom he always addressed as Ziuziushka, in the city of St Petersburg, where his maternal uncle, Matveyi Yevgheniy Bogev, and Ziuziushka's cousin, Marfa Yegorovna Voinitsjaiva, who insisted on being called Marfoosha, were already well established as manufacturers of fine samovars and balalaikas, in a firm originally owned by Dmitri Kruchich Bolokov, the paternal grandfather of Andrey Andryeevich Boozenbach, whom we shall meet later.

A long, long time

Far to the north, in the land called Svithjod, lies a black rock one hundred miles high and one hundred miles wide. Once every ten thousand years, a little bird flies to the rock and sharpens its beak. When all the rock has been worn away, one second of one day of eternity will have gone by.
Scientific amusements

A mosquito was heard to complain
"A chemist has poisoned my brain!"
The cause of his sorrow
Was paradichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane.

There are three types of scientists, those who can count and those who can't.

Exasperated user to computer: Sod Off!
Computer: Error, SOD is not ON.

A Very Brief History of Time
May all be compressed in this rhyme.
Fluctuation, inflation,
Quark soup, condensation
Then galaxies, stars, bioslime.

Two sodium atoms are walking along the street when one stops and says, "Oh my god, I think I've lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" asks her companion. "Yes," she replies, "I'm positive."

Altered proverbs (one letter changed, added or deleted)

The early bird catches the work
Every clod has a silver lining
Beware of stranglers
Gold is the roof of all evil
Cats have fine lives
Its bad luck to walk under a bladder
Put your money where your moth is
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of curse

Christmas presents for the famous

Erwin Schrödinger  a cat flap, a puppy, or a box saying "No peeking till Christmas"
Walter Heisenberg  mystery parcel
William of Ockham  aftershave lotion
Ivan Pavlov  a kitten
Lady Macbeth  Swarfega
Icarus  superglue
Richard III  trail bike
Alexander Fleming  bottle of disinfectant
Pierre de Fermat  large A4 notebooks
Sir Robert Peel  truncheon vouchers
The Trojans  airport luggage scanner
Hercules  a JCB
Stephen Hawking  mints with holes
Isaac Newton  cider press
Entries from The Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce

Auctioneer, n. The man who proclaims with a hammer that he has picked a pocket with his tongue.
Barometer, n. An ingenious instrument which indicates what kind of weather we are having.
Bride, n. A woman with a fine prospect of happiness behind her.
Die, n. The singular of "dice". Seldom heard due to the prohibitory proverb, "Never say die".
Envelope, n. The scabbard of a bill, the bed-gown of a love letter.
Female, n. One of the opposing, or unfair, sex.
Fiddle, n. An instrument to tickle human ears by friction of a horse's tail on the entrails of a cat.
Gout, n. A doctor's name for the rheumatism of a rich patient.
Kill, vb. To create a vacancy without nominating a successor.
Kleptomaniac, n. A rich thief.
Lap, n. One of the most important organs of the female system.
Life, n. A spiritual pickle preserving the body from decay.
Male, n. A member of the unconsidered, or negligible sex.
November, n. The eleventh twelfth of a weariness.
Painting, n. The art of protecting flat surfaces from the weather and exposing them to the critic.
Rum, n. Generically, fiery liquors that produce madness in total abstainers.
Twice, adv. Once too often.

French Revolutionary Calendar

Lasted thirteen years from 1792, invented by Fabre d'Eglantine, a friend of Danton

Vendémiaire vintage 22 Sep - 21 Oct
Brumaire foggy 22 Oct - 20 Nov
Frimaire frost 21 Nov - 20 Dec
Nivôse snow 21 Dec - 19 Jan
Pluviôse rain 20 Jan - 18 Feb
Ventôse wind 19 Feb - 20 Mar
Germinal sprouting 21 Mar - 19 Apr
Floréal flower 20 Apr - 19 May
Prairial pasture 20 May - 18 Jun
Messidor harvest 19 Jun - 18 Jul
Thermidor hot 19 Jul - 17 Aug
Fructidor fruit 18 Aug - 16 Sep

Pronounciations of OUGH - are there any others you know of?

ought awe tough uff
though oh through oo
thorough ur plough oow
cough off hiccough up
lough och

Musical terms

ff play softly
p hold the bow one inch above string
pp place instrument in case and think softly of the notes while playing on the case.
p subito opportunity for some obscure orchestra player to become a soloist.
lento molto e sostenuto prop arms up on music stand
con sordino go ahead and play without mutes, as there isn’t time to put them on anyway
senza sordino term to remind the player that he forgot to put his mute on, a few bars back
deciso make up your mind (a term frequently used during rehearsals)
lamentoso with handkerchiefs
espressivo sway gently from side to side
agitato sway violently from side to side
appassionato jump up and down
risoluto stubbornly maintain the correct tempo no matter what the conductor does
tacet time for a quick beer (or malt), same as pp
tenuto hang on until singer runs out of breath, (or, if in last act), dies.
prima donna the lady in an opera who generally dies in the last act of consumption (obviously over-consumption)
coloratura soprano one who cannot find the note but who has a wild time hunting for it
dramatic soprano one who has found the note and won’t let go
heroic tenor one who gets by on sheer nerve
bravo lit., "what nerve!"
dim. descriptive term applied to orchestra lights
lunga a useful device for playing trombones and tubas
piu a descriptive slang term
tutti a kind of fruit used in ice cream

Backronyms

BNFL Buy no fish locally
CD-ROM Compatible? Doesn’t run on mine
H₂SO₄ Help, help, searing! Ouch! Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!
USAF Usually shooting at friends
ASCII Another system crash is imminent
CAD Can’t anyone draw?
CERN Could eventually reveal nothing

Contemporary definitions

Blair, n. the ability to put Conservative ideas into Labour-speak.
Black, adj. any colour you like except white.
Major, 1. vb. to take over a going concern and run it into the ground. 2. adj. minor, ineffectual
Problem, n. something completely non-existent
Ceasefire, n. continuation of hostilities
Debate, n. exchange of insults
Gummerism, n. a belief in resistance to disease

Retro-breakthroughs

Privacy screen. Adjusts to block out summer glare or allow full benefit of winter sunlight. Complements any decor.

Graphic media emulator. High resolution, thin-screen monitor produces near-perfect emulations of all graphic media. Use as security monitor or cosmetic analyser.
Virtual reality device/entertainment centre. Touch sensitive interface allows users to explore other worlds, civilisations and times. User-friendly with random access. Store below 451º F.

Biocar® All-Terrain Vehicle. Quick acceleration, strong four-point suspension. Unique Quaddra-Ped drive is perfect for off-road. Voice-activated or touch-control command operation. Genuine leather seating area. Renewable biofuel produces exhaust emissions that improve fuel production.

Alphabets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bouquet</th>
<th>Toast</th>
<th>'orses</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Centre stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peiping</td>
<td>Doubt</td>
<td>Christ</td>
<td>Crabcake</td>
<td>Ballpoint</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sealing</td>
<td>Indict</td>
<td>Yourself</td>
<td>Macdonald</td>
<td>Lunatic fringe</td>
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<td>Taoism</td>
<td>Handsome</td>
<td>Payment</td>
<td>Made</td>
<td>Rearguard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quay</td>
<td>Twitched</td>
<td>Perón</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Right face</td>
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<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Half-penny</td>
<td>Vescence</td>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>Finger tip</td>
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<td>Janitor</td>
<td>Gnome</td>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Enough</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navajo</td>
<td>Rhyme</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>Ship</td>
<td>Beethoven's Fifth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>Heifer</td>
<td>An eye</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>West Indies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gesture</td>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>E. Chaucer</td>
<td>Joke</td>
<td>January First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chorus</td>
<td>Know</td>
<td>Sutherland</td>
<td>Folklore</td>
<td>Rock bottom</td>
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<tr>
<td>W-shaped</td>
<td>Folk</td>
<td>Leather</td>
<td>Palm</td>
<td>Loss leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandpa</td>
<td>Mnemonic</td>
<td>Sis</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
<td>Inside information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comptroller</td>
<td>Hymn</td>
<td>Sir</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
<td>Head nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tableau</td>
<td>Leopard</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
<td>Photo finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiccough</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Relief</td>
<td>Parquetry</td>
<td>Peak performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cue</td>
<td>Cin-cents</td>
<td>Tickets</td>
<td>Quart</td>
<td>Open quotes</td>
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<td>Colonel</td>
<td>Forecastle</td>
<td>Ashe</td>
<td>Cars</td>
<td>Never-ending</td>
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<td>Centurion</td>
<td>Island</td>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>Foresight</td>
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<td>Passed</td>
<td>Often</td>
<td>Mation</td>
<td>Estuary</td>
<td>Central heating</td>
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<td>Ewe</td>
<td>Build</td>
<td>Ia</td>
<td>Ultraviolet</td>
<td>Halfway house</td>
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<td>Thereof</td>
<td>Fivepence</td>
<td>La France</td>
<td>Vow</td>
<td>Preview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>A match?</td>
<td>Wax</td>
<td>Waterfront</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrecks</td>
<td>Tableaux</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Foxy</td>
<td>The heart of Dixie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise</td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Mistress</td>
<td>Analyze</td>
<td>Journey's end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XYLOPHONE</td>
<td>Rendezvous</td>
<td>The doctor</td>
<td>Pizza</td>
<td>Middle-sized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 - invisible alphabet, letters represented only by their sounds
2 - silent alphabet, letters are not pronounced
3 - "comic" alphabet e.g. A for ..... B for ..... etc.
4 - consecutive letters appear in each word, in order though not necessarily adjacent
5 - cryptic clues for the letters

Tongue twisters

A tall girl name Short long loved a big Mr Little. But Little, thinking little of Short, loved a little lass named Long. To belittle Long, Short announced she would marry Little before long. This caused Little to shortly marry Long. To make a long story short, did tall Short love big Little less because Little loved little Long more?

This one appeared in Grammatica Linguae Anglicanae in 1674:

When a Twister, a-twisting, will twist him a twist,
For the twisting of his twist, he three times doth intwist;
But, if one of the twists of the twist do untwist,
The twine that untwisteth, untwisteth the twist.
Untwirling the twine that untwisteth the twist between,
He twirls, with his twister, the two in a twine;
Then, twice having twisted the twines of the twine,
He twisteth, the twine he has twine, in twain.
The twain that, in twining, before in the twine;
As twins were untwisted, he now doth untwine;
Twixt the twain intertwisting a twine more between,
He, twirling his twister, makes a twist of the twine.

A pamphlet from around 1830, of some two dozen rhymes, uses the much earlier *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper* as the basis for an alphabetic collection of characters from Andrew Airpump to Walter Waddle, each twister following a similar pattern. e.g.

> Questing Quidnunc quizzed a queerish question.
> Did Questing Quidnunc quiz a queerish question?
> If Questing Quidnunc quizzed a queerish question,
> What's the queerish question Questing Quidnunc quizzed?

Finally, are these two of the worst?

> Red lorry, yellow lorry.
> The sixth sick sheik's sixth sick sheep is sick.

**Just a moment....**

I'll be with you -
- in two sex, said the hermaphrodite,
- in two shakes, said the freemason,
- in a trice, said the Third Man,
- in a flash, said the magician,
- in a twinkling, eye said.

**English is a crazy language**

Scratch here to smell the characteristic fragrance of the new perfume H₂O from Yves Y'Ouattre.

In the English language no ham in hamburger, no cottages in cottage cheese. Blackboards can be green, hot dogs can be cold, darkrooms can be lit, and silverware can be plastic! A titmouse is not a mouse, wormwood contains neither worms nor wood, and bathrooms often don't have any baths in them. In fact, a bathroom isn't always a room since a dog can go to the bathroom under a tree. A woman can man a station, but a man can't woman one. A man can father a movement, but a woman can't mother one. A king rules a kingdom, but a queen can't rule a queendom. A writer is someone who writes, and a stinger is something that stings. But fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, hammers don't ham and humdingers don't humding. If you rang a bell yesterday, why can't we say you also flang a ball? If you wrote a letter, why can't we say that you also bote your tongue? "I could care less" really means "I couldn't care less", "I literally fell over with surprise" means "I figuratively fell over with surprise". A near miss is really a near hit, to put on one's shoes and socks really means to put on one's socks and shoes. To be head over heels in love
means to be heels over head in love, to go back and forth means to go forth and back. In what other language can a boxing ring be square, and a young Communist be called a green Red? Where else is a man with hairs on his head probably balder than a man with hair on his head? The weather can be hotter than hell one day and colder than hell the next! If a cavalier acts in a cavalier manner, he isn't being a good cavalier. If you decide to be evil forever, you have chosen to be bad for good. If you are wearing your left shoe only, then your right shoe is left. Right? Loosen and unloosen and ravel and unravel mean the same thing. "I want a piece of cloth that will wear" means the same as "I want a piece of cloth that won't wear". When the stars are out, they are visible, but when lights are out they are invisible. When we wind up a watch we start it up, but when we wind up a conference we stop it. When we trim a tree we can be either embellishing it or pruning it! You can make amends, but never just one amend. There are annals of history but never a single annal. You can never contract a measles or a heebie jeebie. Why in English aren't there any horseful carriages, or strapful gowns, healthless junk foods or beautiless paintings? Why don't we ever meet people who are spring chickens instead of meeting people who are no spring chickens? And why don't we run into people who are gainly or combobulated or chalant? Finally, your house can burn up and burn down at the same time, you fill in a form by filling it out, you add up a column of figures by adding them down, you first chop down a tree and then chop it up, to walk down a street is to walk up it, shameless behaviour is shameful, a slim chance is the same as a fat chance, and to drink up you down your drink.

**Some canonical fuldeckisms - expressions for those of us that are not quite as tightly connected as we ought to be!**

A 10K brain attached to a 9600 baud mouth.
A few tiles short of a successful re-entry.
A kangaroo loose in her top paddock.
A one-bit brain with a parity error.
A photographic memory, but the lens cover is glued on.
A return with no gosub.
A room temperature IQ.
Always in the right place, but at the wrong time.
Born a day late and like that ever since.
Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel.
Echoes between the ears.
Goalie for the dart team.
Having a party in his head, but no one else is invited.
If he had another brain, it would be lonely.
In need of a ROM upgrade.
Mind like a steel sieve.
One hot pepper short of an enchilada.
Only one oar in the water.
Pins 2 and 3 permanently connected to ground.
Skating on the wrong side of the ice.
Two inches taller than spherical.
With one more neuron he'd have a synapse.
Would make an excellent illustration in a proctology textbook.

**Multi-syllabic sayings - impressive, but essentially useless**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A medical diurnal pomiance</th>
<th>An apple a day keeps the doctor away</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amorous terricircumflexion</td>
<td>Love makes the world go round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anal craniopenetration</td>
<td>Having one's head up one's ass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronocide</td>
<td>Killing time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronopantraumatherapy</td>
<td>Time heals all wounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dorsal mordancy  
Dorsal reciprocal abrasion  
Equine chromatic disparity  
Excavillary homolavation  
Felinolingual seizure  
Fumoincendiary juxtaposition  
Horticultural circumflagellation  
Hyperculinary putrefaction  
Hypoclimatosis  
Pedal endojugulepsy  
Proctolgia  
Scapular frigidity  
Ultimoglobular succulence  
Uniphysignomial millenavicular ejaculation

Backbiting  
You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours  
A horse of a different colour  
I'm gonna wash that man right out of my hair  
Cat got your tongue  
Where there's smoke there's fire  
Beating about the bush  
Too many cooks spoil the broth  
Under the weather  
Putting your foot in your mouth  
A pain in the ass  
Cold shoulder  
Good to the last drop  
The face that launched a thousand ships
Words that never stray

These are words that are monogamous, that are almost exclusively yoked to one other word or phrase and are used only in that context. See if you can identify the word or expression that completes the idiom.


Others, (without answers!) include: roughshod, smithereens, aback, tizzy, haywire, cahoots, immemorial, wroth, throes, loggerheads, trice, druthers, daylights, dint, offing, behest, wishful, wend, one fell, spick, vim, betwixt, tucker, wherefores, thither, from, abet.


What is Two + Two = ?

To a mathematician it's 4.
To a physicist it's somewhere between 3.5 and 4.5.
To a programmer it's 3.9999999.
To a statistician it's about 4, with a probability greater than 90%.
To an engineer it's 5, but we'd better call it 8 to be on the safe side.
To a test engineer, "0.25, but that's close enough".
To the ICL service department, "We're not telling you".
To a trainee accountant, "Four".
To a qualified accountant, "Approximately four".
To a consultant accountant, "As an initial estimate I’d suggest somewhere between three and five".
To a senior consultant accountant, "Hmmm, a very good question. Tell me, what sort of figure did you have in mind?".

**Fabricated names**

Many fabrics take their names from the places where they were made or exported from. However, naturalization of exotic place names often hides the original location. What are the places for which these fabrics are named?

buckram, calico, cambric, cashmere, chambray, damask, denim, fustian, jean, lawn, lisle, muslin, satin, shaloon, spandex, worsted.

*Bukhara (Uzbekistan), Calicut (India), Cambrai (France), Kashmir (India), Cambrai (France), Damascus (Syria), Nimes (France), Fostat (Egypt), Genoa (Italy), Laon (France), Lille (France), Mosul (Iraq), Zaitun (China), Chalons-sur-Marne (France), just kidding, Worsted (England).*

**An Etymologist's Bestiary**

Fraca - a sweet and gentle animal by itself, but more than one means trouble!
Ir - causes great mischief but always looks innocent - no one thinks the fault is the irs.
Thog - a usually docile pig-like animal, but the war thog is belligerent.
X - a long legged dog used to guard treasures - invariably on maps an X marks the spot.
Ot - a jackal-like creature (friendly when small, but big ots take an irrational dislike to people).
Ety - a family of bird (the gay ety is carefree and has an alternative lifestyle; the notori ety and propri ety are antagonistic).
Flamboy - a tropical region where the ants are brightly coloured and extroverted (similar ants are found in the neighbouring regions of Brilli, Exuber, Jubil and Nonchal - however those from Eleph are grey and plodding).
Minton - a racing pigeon (bad mintons have their feathers plucked to make shuttlecocks).
Qualm - a small nervous rodent, often domesticated (many people have qualms).
Und - a social insect noted for over staffing (the red und ant colony has many unnecessary workers).
Va - a large hoofed mammal, related to the deer, that departs quickly when people are around.

The above list can be expanded with such notorious animals as the Bureau Crat, the Acro Bat, the Brie Fly, the Gist, the Red Ecorate, the Embarr Ass, and the Washb Owl to name but a few.

**Suggested Scientific Reading**

The Big Bang - My Theory (by God)
Where They Stand: Television Weather Presenters - *an analysis of their stances, gestures, happy dispositions.*
The Cat Speaks - *Erwin, Schrodinger's genetically modified cat, gives his own account of what really happened in that box when one of his nine wave functions collapsed.*
A Brief History Of Time - The English Translation
Pi: The First Ten Revised Digits - *full of surprises for engineers and scientists alike.*
The Influence Of Scientific Thought On Public Policy - *This slim volume........*
Black Holes - A New Idea In Penal Reform
Unbreakable Coding Techniques - *$FhJ^*\mid Ttpzx<..('(@~@~LSk9w3.;s;fkæ(UOAAA=~.*
The Lighter Side Of Dark Matter - *101 new jokes to start a conference.*
Putting An End To Chaos: Let's Kill All The Butterflies
Universe Soup, by Delia Smith - *Peeling back the pastry layers of Universal Cosmology to learn the link between yeast rising and the Hubble constant.*

How To Learn Your First Language

**Administratium**

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered at one of the national laboratories. The element, tentatively named administratium (Ad), has no electrons or protons, thus having atomic number zero. It does, however, have one neutron, 75 associate neutrons, 125 deputy associate neutrons, and 111 assistant deputy associate neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass of 312. The 312 particles are held together in the nucleus by a force that invokes the continuous exchange of mesonlike particles called memoons.

Since it has no electrons, administratium is inert. Nevertheless, it can be detected chemically because it seems to impede every reaction in which it takes part. According to one of the discoverers of the element, a very small amount of administratium caused one reaction that normally occurs in less than a second to require over four days to go to completion.

Administratium has a half-life of approximately 3 years, at which time it does not actually decay. Instead, it undergoes an internal reorganization in which associates to the neutron, deputy associates to the neutron, and the assistant deputy associates to the neutron all exchange places. A tendency has been observed for the atomic mass to actually increase during each reorganization.

**Relatively Speaking**

Many, many years ago when I was twenty three,
I was married to a widow who was pretty as could be.
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her and soon they too were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life,
For my daughter was my mother, 'cause she was my father's wife.
To complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy,
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad,
And so became my uncle though it made me very sad.
For if he was my uncle then that also made him brother,
Of the widow's grown-up daughter who, of course, was my stepmother.

Father's wife then had a son who kept them on the run,
And he became my grandchild for he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes me blue,
Because although she is my wife she's my grandmother too.

If my wife is my grandmother then I'm her grandchild,
And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild.
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw,
As husband of my grandmother I am my own grandpaw.
Modern Collective Terms

A condescension of actors.  An expectation of heirs.
A hive of allergists.  A wheeze of joggers.
An obsolescence of appliances.  A cc of Mexicans.
A score of bachelors.  A mutter of mothers-in-law.
An aroma of bakers.  A brace of orthopaedists.
A bellyful of bores.  A iamb of poets.
A lurch of buses.  A spite of prima donnas.
A sneer of butlers.  A pile of proctologists.
A brood of chessplayers.  A piddle of puppies.
A kettle of fish.  A wiggle of starlets.
A tower of giraffes.  A flourish of strumpets.
An implausibility of gnus.  A flight of yesterdays.

Logomotives


Rhetorical Ironies

Do harts have hindquarters? Can a bride groom herself? Can cats dog one's footsteps? What deer does it? Do soldiers arm their legs? Can you hand your foot to someone?

Spoonerism Varieties

Switched initial consonants:
One blackbird to another - bred any good rooks lately?
Trashy paperbacks come from the trite side of the racks.
Combine charity puts all the begs in one ask-it

Syllable reversal:
A good masseur leaves no stern untomed
The time-saving baker invented a four-loaf cleaver
I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy

Whole word transposals:
Hangover - the wrath of grapes
Alimony - the bounty of mutiny
Work is the curse of the drinking classes

Proverbs For The Computer Age

Life begins at Qwerty.
An Apple a day would soon clutter the study.
It's a foolish child that can't teach its father.
A watched fax machine never transmits.
He who laughs loudest is using a mobile phone.
If at first you don't succeed, phone the helpdesk.
When the mat's away the mouse will be an utter drag.
Virtuality is its own reward.
All work and no play gives Jack Repetitive Strain Injury.
A bad workman is always about to update his technology.
A good word processor justifies every line.
Don't put all your files on one floppy.
Power surges corrupt; a virus corrupts absolutely.

The Fish & Chips Sign

Wouldn't the sentence "I want to put a hyphen between the words Fish and And and And and
Chips in my Fish-And-Chips sign" have been clearer if quotation marks had been placed before
Fish, and between Fish and, and and and And, and And and and, and and and And, and And
and and, and and and Chips, as well as after Chips?

Designer animals - Some more to add to the camel (that horse designed by a committee):

Rhino - a gazelle designed by the MoD.
Manatee - a mermaid designed by feminists
Bat - a mouse designed by the Wright brothers
Penguin - a sparrow designed by Atlantis pessimists
Snail - a worm designed by the Caravan Club
Alligator - a pussy cat designed by the Klu Klux Klan
Giraffe - a horse designed by a peeping Tom.

Rhodes' Law

When any principle, law, tenet, probability, happening, circumstance, or result can in no way be
directly, indirectly, empirically, or circuitously proven, derived, implied, inferred, induced,
deducted, estimated, or scientifically guessed, it will always for the purpose of convenience,
expediency, political advantage, material gain, or personal comfort, or any combination of the
above, or none of the above, be unilaterally and unequivocally assumed, proclaimed, and adhered
to as absolute truth to be undeniably, universally, immutably, and infinitely so, until such time as
it becomes advantageous to assume otherwise, maybe.

The Old Ones Are The Best - Modern invective pales in comparison to that of the past:

Away you scullion! you rampallion! you fustilarion! I'll tickle your catastrophe! Shakespeare
(Henry IV pt 2)

Why dost thou converse with that trunk of humours, that boiling-hutch of beastliness, that swoln
parcel of dropsies, that huge bombard of sack, that stuffed cloakbag of guts, that roasted
Manningtree ox with the pudding in his belly, that reverend vice, that grey iniquity, that father
ruffian, that vanity in years? Shakespeare (Henry IV pt 2)

Calling them slubberdegullion druggles ... ninny lobcocks, scurvy sneaksbies ... noddy meacocks,
blockish grutnols, doddi-pol jolt-heads, jobbernol goosecaps, flutch calf-lollies, grout-head
gnatsnappers, lob-dotterels, codhead loobies, ninnie-hammer fly-catchers ... and other such like
defamatory epithets. Rabelais c. 1540
Mörder Guss Reims

Extracts from the manuscripts of Dr. Gustav Leberwurst

Hol’ mir der Hubert! Wenn Tudor kaputt,
Zu Gitter ... Porto Gabun?
Bat wenn sie Gott da, der kaputt Waschbär ...
An Zoo-Depot doch hat Nonn'.

1 Patron saint of hunters (Feast Day 3 November). According to popular legend he was converted after seeing a stag with a golden cross between the antlers, became Bishop of Liège (German, Lüttich) and died in 727. The saying "May Hubert fetch me (a set of antlers and a kilo of snuff)" used to be a familiar expression among the peasants of the Lower Rhine.

2 A rope for tethering cattle and other livestock. When it breaks, the farmer's wife goes to the post office grille and asks the postage to Gabon so that she can order a new piece direct from the native suppliers.

3 In spite of her prayers, however, she receives only a broken racoon.

4 She deposits the creature at the Zoo and goes into a convent.

Griessmuss iss’ Kamin
Der Giesser geht in fad' ...
Pliess' Puter Penne!
Inder hohl Mann satt.

1 In this scene, which bears the stamp of the Industrial Revolution, a foundry worker is eating mashed gruel up a chimney.

2 He complains that he - or possibly the gruel - is going stale and calls on someone to polish the turkey in the doss-house.

Extracts from “The Meaning of Liff” - The real meaning of place names

Blean (n.) - Scientific measure of luminosity: 1 glimmer = 100,000 bleans. Usherettes’ torches are designed to produce between 2.5 and 4 bleans, enabling them to assist you in falling downstairs, treading on people or putting your hand into a Neapolitan tub when reaching for change.

Beccles (pl. n.) - The small bone buttons placed in bacon sandwiches by unemployed guerrilla dentists.

Bolsover (n.) - One of those brown plastic trays with bumps on, placed upside down in boxes of chocolates to make you think you’re getting two layers.

Clun (n.) - A leg which has gone to sleep and has to be hauled around after you.

Didcot (n.) - The tiny oddly-shaped bit of card which a ticket inspector cuts out of a ticket with his clipper for no apparent reason. It is a little-known fact that the confetti at Princess Margaret’s wedding was made up of thousands of didcots collected by inspectors on the Royal Train.

Ely (n.) - The first, tiniest inkling you get that something, somewhere, has gone terribly wrong.

Fring (n.) - The noise made by a light bulb which has just shone its last.

Grimsby (n.) - A lump of something gristly and foul-tasting concealed in a mouthful of stew or pie.

Lindisfarne (adj.) - Descriptive of the pleasant smell of an empty biscuit tin.

Pudsey (n.) - The curious-shaped flat wads of dough left on a kitchen table after someone has been cutting scones out of it.

Spofforth (vb.) - To tidy up a room before the cleaning lady arrives.
A Hitherto Undiscovered Letter

Prof. Rutherford
Cavendish Laboratory
Cambridge

Dear Ernest,

About that formula of mine, E=MC2. I'm sorry to tell you I made a mistake. It is wrong. It should be E=R3 +2/5(x2-y)+1. If you use the old formula it blows up. I know. I tried it. Sorry about this. Hope you haven't used too much time on the research.

Sincerely,
Albert Einstein.

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Thingamabobs

Ever since Adam assigned names to all the animals, we human beings have come up with labels for almost everything on this planet - and beyond. Many of those names are so obscure that only dictionary editors know them, The rest of us are reduced to referring to them with words that mean "that object I don’t know the name for". There are at least thirty ways of doing this:

- dingus
- dofunny
- dohickey
- dojigger
- dojiggy
- domajig
- domajigger
- doodad
- dowhackey
- flumadiddle
- gigamaree
- gizmo
- hootenanny
- hootmalalie
- jigger
- such-and-such
- thingum
- thingamabob
- thingumabob
- thingamajig
- thingammaree
- thingammy
- whatchy
- whatchamacallit
- whatzit
- widget

Here are some dohickeys that you may or may not know:

- Aglet - the little plastic tip of a shoelace
- Bail - the wire handle of a bucket
- Bobeche - the circular wax catcher that fits over a candle
- Chimb - the rim of a barrel
- Escutcheon - the decorative plate around a keyhole or doorknob
- Ferrule - the shaft on the top of an umbrella
- Forel - the open-sided box in which a book is kept
- Harp - the metal hoop that supports a lampshade
- Keeper - the loop on a belt that secures the tip
- Muntins - the frames for holding windowpanes
- Neb - the pointy, curved end of a wooden knife handle
- Pintle - the vertical post that runs through a door hinge
- Tang - the thin end of a knife blade that fits into the handle
- Waist - the narrowest part of an hourglass
Highly Irregular Verbs

I am firm You are obstinate He is a pig-headed fool
I am a concerned parent You tend to interfere She writes in her daughter's diary
I am beautiful You are pretty She has a good personality
I have a dream You are a dreamer He lives in a dreamworld
I am affectionate You are libidinous She has hinges on her heels
I can eat off the floor You do your best to be clean She can eat off the floor because her floor is covered with food

Wifespeak - English translation guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wifespeak</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You want</td>
<td>You want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We need</td>
<td>I want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's your decision</td>
<td>The correct decision should be obvious by now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do what you want</td>
<td>You'll pay for this later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We need to talk</td>
<td>I need to complain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sure...go ahead</td>
<td>I don't want you to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm not upset</td>
<td>Of course I'm upset, you moron.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You're...so manly</td>
<td>You need a shave and you sweat a lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You're certainly attentive tonight.</td>
<td>Is sex all you ever think about?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be romantic, turn out the lights.</td>
<td>I have flabby thighs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This kitchen is so inconvenient.</td>
<td>I want a new house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want new curtains</td>
<td>and carpeting, furniture, wallpaper...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need wedding shoes</td>
<td>the other 40 pairs are the wrong shade of white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang the picture there</td>
<td>No, I mean hang it there!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I heard a noise</td>
<td>I noticed you were almost asleep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you love me?</td>
<td>I'm going to ask for something expensive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much do you love me?</td>
<td>I did something today you're really not going to like.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'll be ready in a minute.</td>
<td>Kick off your shoes and find a good game on T.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am I getting fat?</td>
<td>Tell me I'm beautiful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have to learn to communicate.</td>
<td>Just agree with me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you listening to me!?!</td>
<td>[Too late, you're dead.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm sorry.</td>
<td>You'll be sorry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you like this recipe?</td>
<td>It's easy to fix, so you'd better get used to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm not yelling!</td>
<td>Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wanted

Wanted - £10,000 Reward: Schrödinger's Cat, Dead or Alive!

Books

Books are immensely powerful vessels of knowledge and emotion that have shaped men and women for a thousand years. The following are but a few of the words penned to describe them.

- Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house.
- Of many books it is said that they are nothing but the echoes of echoing echoes.
It is with books as it is with men - it is easiest to acquaint oneself with those least worth
knowing.

Books are delightful society. If you go into a room filled with books, even without taking
them down from their shelves, they seem to speak to you, to welcome you.

Finishing a good book is like leaving a good friend.

Reading begets Reading

There is no such thing as a moral or immoral book. Books are well written or badly written.

Some books are to tasted; others are to swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested.

Read a book - You can become friendly at least with the author. Write a book if you want to
get instant enemies.

Life is a mystery novel where the last few pages are torn.

A good book steals the mind from vain pretences,
From wicked cogitations and offences,
It makes us know the world's deceiving pleasures,
And set our hearts on never-ending treasures.
Men know not thieves from true men by their looks,
Nor by their outside, no man can know books;
Both are to be suspected, all can tell,
And wise men ere they trust will try them well.

The impact of books on people is unique to the individual and some books have a profound effect
on the reader - this is Keats' response to being introduced to Homer.

Then I felt like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez - when with eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific - and with all his men
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise -
Silent, on a peak in Darien.

**Place Names Turned Words**

bedlam from Bethlehem - the Hospital of St Mary at Bethlehem was converted into a
lunatic asylum in 1547
bungalow a building characteristic of Bengal (Hindu: *bangla*)
canter pilgrims visiting the shrine of St Thomas à Becket at Canterbury would go at a
"Canterbury pace", which was shortened to "canter".
copper originally the metal of Cyprus
currant a corruption of the name of Corinth
damson from damascene (of Damascus)
gauze from Gaza ("*strong*") in Palestine
limousine early closed motor cars resembled the hoods worn by the inhabitants of the French
province of Limousin
magnet from Magnesia in Thessaly
mayonnaise from Port Mahon in Minorca
meander from a winding river in Turkey, the Menderes
peach from Persia (via the French form *pêche*)
sardine found off the coast of Sardinia
sherry from the Spanish town of Jerez
The Price of True Love

The price of giving all the items in the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" went up less than 2 percent in 1996, under the current annual rate of inflation of 2.6 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partridge in a pear tree</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>Swans-a-swimming</td>
<td>£3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle doves</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td>Maids-a-milking</td>
<td>£550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French hens</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>Pipers piping</td>
<td>£2,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calling birds</td>
<td>£280</td>
<td>Ladies dancing</td>
<td>£3,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold rings</td>
<td>£450</td>
<td>Lords-a-leaping</td>
<td>£1,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geese-a-laying</td>
<td>£150</td>
<td>Drummers drumming</td>
<td>£1,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total to give gifts once:</td>
<td>£12,960</td>
<td>Total to give as in song*:</td>
<td>£54,926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Singing the song in its entirety results in 364 presents: 12 partridges, 36 calling birds, 40 maids, etc.

Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road?

Plato For the greater good.
Torquemada Give me ten minutes with the chicken and I’ll find out.
Douglas Adams Forty-two.
Nietzsche If you gaze too long across the road, the road gazes also across you.
Albert Einstein Whether the chicken crossed the road or the road crossed the chicken depends upon your frame of reference.
Aristotle To actualize its potential.
Buddha If you ask this question, you deny your own chicken-nature.
Salvador Dali The Fish.
Darwin It was the logical next step after coming down from the trees.
Epicurus For fun.
Ralph Waldo Emerson It didn’t cross the road; it transcended it.
Ernest Hemingway To die. In the rain.
Werner Heisenberg I am not sure which side of the road it was on, but it was moving very fast.
Ronald Reagan I forget.
The Sphinx You tell me.
Mark Twain The news of its crossing has been greatly exaggerated.

Some intriguing (real) names of people

Cyretha Adshade Bess Goodykoontz Bent Korner
Oscar Asparagus Ima Hogg Joseph Wood Krutch
Ilse Boos Rutgers I Hurry Joan Longnecker
Duckworth Byrd Mel Manny Immergut Bernard Darling Love
Dina Chill Melvin Intriligator Sistine Madonna McClung
Columbus Cohen Frank Ix Pictorial McEvoy
Upson Downs Lizzie Izabiche Harriet Bigelow Neithercut
Luscious Easter Watermelon Johnson Savage Nettles
Ophelia Egypt Amazing Grace Jones Olney W Nicewonger
Wanda Farr Maude Kissin Belle Nuddle
Yetta Gang Rosella Kellyhouse Klink Fluid Nunn
Thaddeus Figlock Royal Knights Ichabod Onion
**Zoltan Ovary**  
**Sirjohn Papageorge**  
**Alto Quack**  
**Nellie Quartermouth**  
**Flora Rose Quick**  
**Juanita Rape**  
**Veasy Rainwater**  
**Pius Riffle**  
**Frederick Silence**  
**Adelina Sloop**  
**Daily Swindle**  
**Milton Trueheart**  
**Albertina Unsold**  
**Viola Unstrung**  
**Melvin Vowels**  
**Thereon Yawn**  
**Romeo Yench**  
**April Zipes**

**Why is it that .......?**

An orange is orange, but an apple is not a red or a green<br>Bananas grow upward and all other fruits grow downward?<br>Buildings are called 'buildings' even when they are already built?<br>Cargo always goes in ships and shipment always goes by road.<br>Cornflakes and Sugar Frosted Flakes have the same calories per serving?<br>If gaol and prison are synonymous, why aren't gaoler and prisoner?<br>If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?<br>It's a penny for your thoughts, yet everyone puts in their two pennyworth?<br>Men have nipples?<br>People have noses that run and feet that smell?<br>There are floatation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?<br>There is an expiry date on sour cream?<br>Two wrongs don't make a right, but three rights make a left?<br>We play at a recital and recite at a play?<br>When an alarm sounds, they say that "the alarm is going off"?<br>Wise guy and wise man mean entirely different things?<br>Women call it a "permanent"?<br>You wear a pair of panties, but only one bra?

**Operas that never made it**


**Sniglets**

Words that don't appear in the dictionary, but should.

**BARGARCS n.** The streaks on a car's windshield from faulty wipers.

**BATHQUAKE n.** The violent quake that rattles the entire house when the water tap is turned to a certain point.

**BEAVO n.** A pencil with teeth marks all over it.

**BLIBULA n.** The spot on a dog's stomach which, when rubbed, causes his leg to rotate wildly.

**BUBBLIC adj.** Addicted to the systematic popping of the bubbles in packing material.

**CHUBBLE n.** The aerobic movement combining deep-knee bends and sideward hops used when trying to fit into tights.

**CLUMFERT n.** The invisible extra step at the top and bottom of a staircase. Usually materializes when one is carrying a large bag of groceries.

**DOWNPAUSE n.** The split second of dry weather experienced when driving under an bridge during a storm.
FICTATE v. To inform a television or screen character of impending danger under the assumption they can hear you.
FLUGGLING v. The dangerous practice, in a darkened room, of using one's finger to guide the end of an electrical plug into a wall socket.
GLACKETT n. The noisy ball inside a spray-paint can.
GRINION n. The unsightly indentation in the middle of a belt when it has been worn too long.
MUMPHREYS n. Those strange extra digits you find on push-button phones.
NAPJERK n. The sudden convulsion of the body just as one is about to doze off.
NEVITTS n. The sandpaper-like deposits on a cat's tongue.
NURGE v. To inch closer to a traffic light thinking that will cause it to change quicker.
OPUP v. To push one's glasses back on the nose.
PELP n. The crumbs and food particles that accumulate in the cracks of dining tables.
RIGNITION n. The action of trying to start one's car with the engine already running.
RUBBAGE n. Large pieces of truck tyres found on the side of the road.
SCHWIGGLE n. The amusing rotation of one's bottom while sharpening a pencil.
SLURM n. The slime that accumulates under a bar of soap when it sits in the dish too long.
SNARGLE v. To lessen the visual impact of a horror movie by filtering it through one's fingers.
UHFAGE n. The unit for determining a television's age, that is, the amount of time it takes for the picture to appear once the set has been turned on.
XEROXPOX n. Skin disease of copier paper, characterized by the appearance of large black powdery blotches.
YINKEL n. A person who combs his hair over his bald spot, hoping no one will notice.
ZEBRALANE n. The striped area between the motorway and the sliproad where cars go when drivers can't decide what to do next.

Operas as reported by the tabloid press

Roll-Your-Own Fags Girl In Stadium Stabbing (Carmen)
Surprise Winner Of The Eurovision Song Contest (Die Meistersinger)
Oriental Child Bride In Tug-Of-Love Suicide (Madame Butterfly)
Trainee Shortage Threatens East Coast Fishing Industry (Peter Grimes)
Former Callgirl Dies In Love Nest (La Traviata)
Police Slayer In Prison Roof Death Plunge (Tosca)
Cadet Officer In Country House Bedroom Sex Change Frolic (Marriage of Figaro)
Good Neighbour Policy Fails To Save Paris TB Victim (La Boheme)
Three Die In Mixed Marriage Handkerchief Muddle (Otello)
Incest Offspring To Marry Aunt (Siegfried)

Phobias - some more obscure ones (or are they?)

Arachibutyrophobia - Peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth
Cyprianophobia - “Ladies of the night”
Friendorphobia - Forgetting one's password
Kedophobia - Having your shoes eaten by the teeth on an escalator
Luposlipaphobia - Being pursued by wolves round a kitchen table while wearing socks on a newly waxed floor.
Pteronophobia - Being tickled with feathers
Rhytiphobia - Having wrinkles
Syngenesophobia - Relatives who call unexpectedly, especially those you dislike
Wambamophobia - Not getting enough foreplay
Rules in effect in every relationship

1. The female always makes the rules.
2. These rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.
3. No male can possibly know all the rules.
4. If the female suspects that the male knows all the rules, she must immediately change some or all of the rules.
5. The female is never wrong.
6. If the female is wrong, it is because of a vagrant misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the male said or did wrong.
7. If rule number 6 applies, the male must immediately apologize for causing the misunderstanding.
8. The female can change her mind at any given point in time.
9. The male must never change his mind without express written consent of the female.
10. The female has every right to be angry or upset at any time.
11. The male must remain calm at all times, unless the female wants him to be angry or upset.
12. The female must under no circumstances let the male know whether she wants him to be calm, angry or upset.
13. Any attempt to document these rules could result in bodily harm.
14. The female always has the last word.

IT Terminology

EXTENSIVE REPORT IS BEING PREPARED ON A NEW APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM -
We just hired three kids straight out of college.
CLOSE PROJECT COORDINATION - We know who to blame.
MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH - It works OK, but looks very hi-tech.
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS DELIVERED ASSURED - We are so far behind schedule the customer is happy to get it delivered.
PRELIMINARY OPERATIONAL TESTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE - The darn thing blew up when we threw the switch.
TEST RESULTS WERE EXTREMELY GRATIFYING - We are so surprised that the stupid thing works.
IT IS IN THE PROCESS - It is so wrapped up in red tape that the situation is about hopeless.
WE WILL LOOK INTO IT - Forget it! We have enough problems for now.
PLEASE NOTE AND INITIAL - Let's spread the responsibility for the screw up.
GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR THINKING - We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we've already done.
SEE ME or LET'S DISCUSS - Come into my office, I'm lonely.
ALL NEW - Code not interchangeable with the previous design.
YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT - It finally worked!
LOW MAINTENANCE - Impossible to fix if broken.

Explanation of some politically correct terms

- aesthetically challenged: ugly
- chronologically gifted: old
- creatively re-dyed: stained
- differently organized: messy
- domestic engineer: housewife
- energy-efficient: off
- factually unencumbered: ignorant
- financially inept: poor
- horizontally gifted: fat
- maintenance receptacle: man-hole
- melanin-impoverished: white
- metabolically challenged: dead
- motivationally dispossessed: lazy
- musically delayed: tone deaf
- people of height: too tall
- photonically non-receptive: blind
- residentially flexible: homeless
selectively perceptive  insane  street activity index  crime rate
socially separated  convict  target equity group  vocal minority
spacially perplexed  drunk  uniquely coordinated  clumsy

**Risk**

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out to another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.
To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to risk loss.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying.
To hope is to risk despair.
To try at all is to risk failure.
But risk we must.
Because the greatest hazard to life is to risk nothing.
The man who risks nothing does nothing... has nothing.... is nothing.....
He may avoid suffering but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love or live.
Chained by his certitudes, he is a slave.
He has fortified freedom.
Only the person who risks can be called free.

**Finally, some complex statements for the simple-minded**

Some people say that I'm superficial, but that's just on the surface.
Perspective is in the eye of the beholder.
What is the probability that something will happen according to the odds?
There's no such thing as nonexistence.
I always try to do things in chronological order.
A plateau is the highest form of flattery.
I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous!
Free advice is worth what you paid for it.
Biblical Headlines in Today's Papers

Day Six – We've Arrived!
Jericho to Review Building Regs
Nutter Claims Houseboat Will Beat Floods
Burning Bush Riddle: It Was the Sun Wot Done It
First Couple Lose Paradise Home
Bullrush Tot Taken into Care
Paralysed Man Walks: Hospital Demands Bed Back
Noah Deaf to Pleas from Unicorns
Scumpers Deported
New Testament, New Danger
Madonna in Surrogate Mum Shock
Local Tar Makes Whale Sick
Jesus, Judas and THAT Kiss
Meek Tipped to Inherit Earth
Executed Cult Leader Wins Late Reprieve
Elderly Cleric Abducted by Aliens
“I Want to Get Ahead” Says Salome
David Dots Goliath's Eye
Record Low Tide in Red Sea

Uses for genetic engineering

Woolly babies who moult at about three, when they learn to dress themselves.
More elastic bladder walls to minimise trips to the pub toilet.
A scent-free fox, rendering fox hunting impossible.
A womb with a zip for simplified and pain-free childbirth.
A St Bernard whose kidneys produce Hennessey VSOP, thus eliminating the need for those tiresome barrels.
A mechanism to arrest development at about age 15 – then throughout life, like teenagers, we would know everything.
Hamsters which are awake during the day, making them less pointless as pets.
Ears that could be switched off at will.
Snails that produce car wax instead of slime, that can be let loose on the car after a good downpour.
DIY shop staff with a gene that endows them with at least one piece of useful DIY knowledge. A correction for one’s husband’s apparent congenital domestic blindness, so you never have to answer that “Where’s the…..” question ever again.

**Camouflage** - from "Masquerade: The Amazing Camouflage Deceptions of World War II", by Seymour Reit

...Another enemy decoy, built in occupied Holland, led to a tale that has been told and retold ever since by veteran Allied pilots. The German "airfield," constructed with meticulous care, was made almost entirely of wood. There were wooden hangars, oil tanks, gun emplacements, trucks, and aircraft. The Germans took so long in building their wooden decoy that Allied photo experts had more than enough time to observe and report it. The day finally came when the decoy was finished, down to the last wooden plank. And early the following morning, a lone RAF plane crossed the Channel, came in low, circled the field once, and dropped a large wooden bomb.

**Department of Tourism**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It is very necessary</th>
<th>Which are not imaginary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That you be extremely wary</td>
<td>Cause upheavals that are scary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the products of the dairy</td>
<td>As a rule, involuntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In this land of dysentery</td>
<td>At which time it’s customary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And your hotel commissary</td>
<td>To see an apothecary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ought to give you cause to worry</td>
<td>But the situation’s hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For their food’s incendiary</td>
<td>For it’s not just mal-de-mer-y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And in items culinary</td>
<td>And relief is temporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little microbes tend to scurry</td>
<td>So without a guardian fairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down your gullet in a hurry</td>
<td>You’ll wind up if you’re not chary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And soon symptoms sanguinary</td>
<td>At a nearby mortuary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**One Letter Changed in Foreign Phrases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rigor morris:</strong> The car will not start</th>
<th><strong>Angus horribilis:</strong> Mad cow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temper fidelis:</strong> Castro is angry</td>
<td><strong>Bog voyage:</strong> Tour through Western Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pause célèbre:</strong> Composition by John Cage</td>
<td><strong>Less majesté:</strong> Down with the royals!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mal de her:</strong> PMT</td>
<td><strong>Lait accompli:</strong> I’ve finished breast-feeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habeas corpus:</strong> I’ve run over the cat</td>
<td><strong>Pro patric mori:</strong> In favour of astronomers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soup d’état:</strong> Brown Windsor</td>
<td><strong>Wine qua non:</strong> Grape juice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Après mai le déluge:</strong> June’ll be a washout</td>
<td><strong>Rut in urbe:</strong> Cable TV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farce majeur:</strong> Cones Hotline</td>
<td><strong>Sturm und Prang:</strong> Result of road rage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non compos mantis:</strong> Lunatic insect</td>
<td><strong>Alter egg:</strong> A second breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>La Belle Spoque:</strong> Attractive Vulcan female</td>
<td><strong>Ipse fixit:</strong> DIY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cui bozo?:</strong> Who are you calling a fool?</td>
<td><strong>Dinner und Blitzen:</strong> Fast food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tête à Tate:</strong> Sheep’s head in formaldehyde</td>
<td><strong>Menace à trois:</strong> Expecting triplets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chez nobs:</strong> Stately home</td>
<td><strong>Deductio ad nauseam:</strong> Pitiful take-home pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Corns de ballet:</strong> Occupational hazard</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Airline Inertial Guidance Systems**

The aircraft knows where it is at all times. It knows this because it knows where it isn’t. By subtracting where it is from where it isn’t, or where it isn’t from where it is (whichever is the greater), it obtains a difference, or deviation. The Inertial Guidance System uses deviations to generate error signal commands which instruct the aircraft to move from a position where it is to
a position where it isn't, arriving at a position where it wasn't, or now is. Consequently, the position where it is, is now the position where it wasn't; thus, it follows logically that the position where it was is the position where it isn't. In the event that the position where the aircraft now is, is not the position where it wasn't, the Inertial Guidance System has acquired a variation. Variations are caused by external factors, the discussions of which are beyond the scope of this report. A variation is the difference between where the aircraft is and where the aircraft wasn't. If the variation is considered to be a factor of significant magnitude, a correction may be applied by the use of the autopilot system. However, use of this correction requires that the aircraft now knows where it was because the variation has modified some of the information which the aircraft has, so it is sure where it isn't. Nevertheless, the aircraft is sure where it isn't (within reason) and it knows where it was. It now subtracts where it should be from where it isn't, where it ought to be from where it wasn't (or vice versa) and integrates the difference with the product of where it shouldn't be and where it was; thus obtaining the difference between its deviation and its variation, which is variable constant called "error". So now you know!

The Army's Definition of a Cow

- A cow is a completely automated milk-manufacturing machine.
- It's encased in untanned leather and mounted on four vertical moveable supports, one on each corner.
- The front end contains: the cutting and grinding mechanism, as well as, light sensors, air inlet and exhaust, bumper and a fog horn.
- The rear end contains: the dispensing apparatus and automatic fly swatter.
- The central section houses a hydro-chemical conversion plant. This consists of four fermentation and storage tanks, an integrated network, which is connected to the rear-dispensing unit.
- In brief the extremely visible features are: 2 lookers, 2 hookers, 4 stander-uppers, 4 hanger-downers and a swissy-wissy.

The Shires - a 15th century verse

Hervordshir, shild\(^1\) and spere;  
Wosetershir, wringe pere.\(^2\)  
Glowsetershir, shoo and naile;  
Bristowshir,\(^3\) shippe and saile.  
Oxofordshir, girde\(^4\) mare;  
Warwikshir, binde beare.\(^5\)  
London, globber;\(^6\)  
Sothery,\(^7\) great bragger.  
Shropshir, my shines been sharpe,  
Lay wood to the fire, and yef\(^8\) me my harpe.  
Lankashire, a fair archer;  
Cheshire, thacker.\(^9\)  
Northumberland, hasty and hot;  
Westmerland, tot for sote.\(^10\)  
Yorkshir, full of knightes;  
Lincolnshir, men full of mightes.  
Cambridgshir, full of pikes;  

Holland, full of dikes.  
Suffolk, full of wiles;  
Norfolk, full of giles.  
Essex, good houswives;  
Middlesex, full of strives.\(^11\)  
Kent, as hot as fire;  
Sussex, full of mire.  
Southampton, drie and wete;  
Somersetshir, good for whete.  
Devonshir, wight\(^12\) and strong;  
Dorcetshir will have no wrong.  
Willshir, fair and plaine;\(^13\)  
Barkshir, fill vaine.\(^14\)  
Havshir, full of wood;  
Huntingdonshir, corne full good.  
Bedfordshir is not to lack;\(^15\)  
Buckinghamshir is his mak.\(^16\)  
Northampton, full of love  
Beneath the girdel and not above.
Nottinghamshir, full of hogges; Darbyshir, full of dogges.
Leicestershir, full of benes; Staffordshir, full of shrewd quenes.17
Cornwall, full of tinne;
Wales, full of gentlemen.

1 shield, 2 press pear, 3 Bristol, 4 saddle, 5 [arms of Earl of Warwick], 6 glutton, 7 Surrey, 8 give, 9 thatcher, 10 fool for fool, 11 contention, 12 bold, 13 open, 14 ditch, 15 not to be despised, 16 equal, 17 scolding women.

More Collective Nouns

A surplice of vicars
A set of hairdressers
A cavity of dentists
A deluge of weathermen
A rash of train-spotters
A salvation of gurus
A portillo of sharks
A caution of constables

A clutch of beggars
A goggle of couch potatoes
A bay of pigs
A cahoot of owls
An approval of seals
A stand of waiters
An amalgam of dentists

A giggle of schoolgirls
An intimidation of bouncers
A press of journalists
A knot of grannies
A tirade of butterflies
A diatribe of prawns
A whatsit of amnesiacs

What you see is NOT what you get - words that should be defined otherwise

Knavery – fooling around in church
Exquisite – a former TV show contestant
Condescending – a prisoner escaping over the wall
Ambiguous – we’re all too fat, or are we?
Anecdote – affectionate nape kissing
Sanctimony – holy cash
Presentiment – bonbons anyone?
Insinuate – you wolfed down that food, you glutton!
Pilgrim – taking medicine is no fun
Basketry – the art of lying in the sun
Dilator – everybody's future
Cashew – a nutty way to sneeze
Untutored – not serenaded with a horn
Gruesome – what your nephew did since you last saw him

Some thoughts to ponder on

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm
Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines
Early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese
I intend to live forever - so far, so good
I love defenceless animals, especially in a good gravy
Quantum Mechanics: The dreams stuff is made of
The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.
When everything’s coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.
Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
Many people quit looking for work when they find a job.
Dancing is a perpendicular expression of a horizontal desire.
When I’m not in my right mind, my left mind gets pretty crowded.
Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don’t have film.
How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?
OK, so what's the speed of dark?
Black holes are where God divided by zero.
The 2 most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.
If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
It has recently been discovered that research causes cancer in rats.
The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.
It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
I just got lost in thought -- it was unfamiliar territory.
Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
On the other hand, you have different fingers.
Change is inevitable. Except from a vending machine.

**The Turkey**

The turkey shot out of the oven  
And rocketed into the air,  
It knocked every plate off the table  
And partly demolished a chair.  
It ricocheted into a corner  
And burst with a deafening boom,  
Then splattered all over the kitchen,  
Completely obscuring the room.  
It stuck to the walls and the windows,  
It totally coated the floor,  
There was turkey attached to the ceiling,  
Where there’d never been turkey before.  
It blanketed every appliance,  
It smeared every saucer and bowl,  
There wasn’t a way I could stop it,  
That turkey was out of control.  
I scraped and I scrubbed with displeasure,  
And thought with chagrin as I mopped,  
That I’d never again stuff a turkey  
With popcorn that hadn’t been popped.

**Signs of life**

On Maternity Room Door: "Push,Push,Push"
Optician’s Office: If you don’t see what you’re looking for, you’ve come to the right place
Scientist’s Door: Gone Fission
Taxidermist Window: We really know our stuff
Sign on Fence: "Salesmen welcome. Dog food is expensive"
Car Dealership: The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment
Hotel: "Help!" We need inn - experienced people
Auto Body Shop: May we have the next dents?
Sign in an office: We shoot every 3rd salesman, and the 2nd one just left
Veterinarians Waiting Room: Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!
Electric Co. "We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be"
Refuse Lorry: We’ve got what it takes to take what you’ve got
Restaurant Window: Don’t stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up
Bowling Alley: Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop
Music Library: Bach in a minuet
Funeral Home: Drive carefully, we’ll wait
Non-smoking area: If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action

**The Geographical Meal**

Waitress: Hawaii, Mister? You must be Hungary.
Gent: Yes, Siam. And I can't Rumania long, either. Venice lunch ready?
Waitress: I’ll Russia table. What are you Ghana Havre? Aix?
Gent: You want Tibet? I prefer Turkey. Can Jamaica cook step on the Gaza bit?
Waitress: Odessa laugh! Alaska, but listen for her Wales.
Gent: I'm not Balkan. Just put a Cuba sugar in my Java.
Waitress: Don't you be Sicily, big boy. Sweden it yourself. I'm only here to Serbia.
Gent: Denmark my check and call the Bosphorus, Egypt me. There's an Eire. I hope he'll Kenya.
I don't Bolivia know who I am!
Waitress: Canada noise! I don't Caribean. You sure Ararat!
Gent: Samoa your wisecracks? What's got India? D'you think this arguing Alps business? Why be so Chile? Be Nice!
Waitress: Don't Kiev me that Boulogne! Alemain do! Spain in the neck. Pay your Czech and don't Kuwait. Ayssinia!
Gent (to himself): I'll come back with my France and Taiwan on Zanzibar is open.

Reworked sayings

Schoolchildren were given the beginning of a list of famous sayings and asked to provide original endings for each one.

- A rolling stone plays the guitar.
- The grass is always greener when you remember to water it.
- A bird in the hand is a real mess.
- No news is no newspaper.
- It's always darkest just before I open my eyes.
- Never put off till tomorrow what you should have done yesterday.
- A penny saved is nothing in the real world.
- The squeaking wheel gets annoying.
- We have nothing to fear but our principle.
- I think, therefore I get a headache.
- Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry, and someone yells, "Shut up!"
- Better to light a candle than to light an explosive.
- Early to bed and early to rise is first in the bathroom.
- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a blister.
- There is nothing new under the bed.
- Don't count your chickens - it takes too long.

No Positives

It had been a rough day, so when I walked into the party I was very chalant, despite my efforts to appear gruntled and consolate.

I was furling my wieldy umbrella for the coat check when I saw her standing alone in a corner. She was a descript person, a woman in a state of total array. Her hair was kempt, her clothing shevelled, and she moved in a gainly way.

I wanted desperately to meet her, but I knew I'd have to make bones about it since I was travelling cognito. Beknownst to me, the hostess, whom I could see both hide and hair of, was very proper, so it would be skin off my nose if anything bad happened. And even though I had only swerving loyalty to her, my manners couldn't be peccable. Only toward and heard-of behavior would do.

Fortunately, the embarrassment that my maculate appearance might cause was evitable. There were two ways about it, but the chances that someone as flappable as I would be ept enough to
become persona grata or a sung hero were slim. I was, after all, something to sneeze at, someone you could easily hold a candle to, someone who usually aroused bridled passion.

So I decided not to risk it. But then, all at once, for some apparent reason, she looked in my direction and smiled in a way that I could make heads or tails of.

I was plussed. It was concerting to see that she was communicado, and it nerved me that she was interested in a pareil like me, sight seen. Normally, I had a domitable spirit, but, being corrigible, I felt capacitated -- as if this were something I was great shakes at -- and forgot that I had succeeded in situations like this only a told number of times. So, after a terminable delay, I acted with mitigated gall and made my way through the ruly crowd with strong givings.

Nevertheless, since this was all new hat to me and I had no time to prepare a promptu speech, I was petuous. Wanting to make only called-for remarks, I started talking about the hors d'oeuvres, trying to abuse her of the notion that I was sipid, and perhaps even bunk a few myths about myself.

She responded well, and I was mayed that she considered me a savory character who was up to some good. She told me who she was. "What a perfect nomer," I said, advertently. The conversation become more and more choate, and we spoke at length to much avail. But I was defatigable, so I had to leave at a godly hour. I asked if she wanted to come with me. To my delight, she was committal. We left the party together and have been together ever since. I have given her my love, and she has requited it.

**Foreign Menus**

The following are actual menu items in which people have made incorrect use of English words and created some rather bizarre dishes:

- Beef rashers beaten up in the country peoples fashion (Poland)
- Boiled Frogfish (Europe)
- Buttered saucepans and fried hormones (Japan)
- Cold shredded children and sea blubber in spicy sauce (China)
- Dreaded veal cutlet with potatoes in cream (China)
- French Creeps (L.A.)
- French fried ships (Cairo)
- Fried fishermen (Japan)
- Fried friendship (Nepal)
- Garlic Coffee (Europe)
- Goose Barnacles (Spain)
- Indonesian Nazi Goreng (Hong Kong)
- Muscles Of Marines/Lobster Thermos (Cairo)
- Pork with fresh garbage (Vietnam)
- Prawn cock and tail (Cairo)
- Rainbow Trout, Fillet Streak, Popotoes, Chocolate Mouse (Hong Kong)
- Roasted duck let loose (Poland)
- Sole Bonne Femme (Fish Landlady style) (Europe)
- Sweat from the trolley (Europe)
- Teppan Yaki, Before Your Cooked Right Eyes (Japan)
- Toes with butter and jam (Bali)

**Distaff Quotes**

- Any girl can be glamorous. All you have to do is stand still and look stupid.
- When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country.
• I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn’t itch.
• Behind every successful man is a surprised woman.
• Our struggle today is not to have a female Einstein get appointed as an assistant professor. It is for a woman shlemiel to get as promoted as quickly as a male shlemiel.
• In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman.
• If I were going to convert to any religion I would probably choose Catholicism because it at least has female saints and the Virgin Mary.
• I have yet to hear a man ask for advice on how to combine marriage and a career.
• Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then.
• I never married because there was no need. I have three pets at home which answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog which growls every morning, a parrot which swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late at night.
• Nagging is the repetition of unpalatable truths.
• I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I keep his house.

**Bit Creation**

In the beginning, God created the bit. And the bit was a zero.

On the first day, he toggled the 0 to 1, and the Universe was. (In those days, bootstrap loaders were simple, and "active low" signals didn't yet exist.)

On the second day, God's boss wanted a demo, and tried to read the bit. This being volatile memory, the bit reverted to a 0. And the universe wasn't. God learned the importance of backups and memory refresh, and spent the rest of the day (and his first all-nighter) reinstalling the universe.

On the third day, the bit cried "Oh, Lord! If you exist, give me a sign!" And God created rev 2.0 of the bit, even better than the original prototype. Those in Universe Marketing immediately realized that "new and improved" wouldn't do justice to such a grand and glorious creation. And so it was dubbed the Most Significant Bit. Many bits followed, but only one was so honored.

On the fourth day, God created a simple ALU with 'add' and 'logical shift' instructions. And the original bit discovered that -- by performing a single shift instruction -- it could become the Most Significant Bit. And God realized the importance of computer security.

On the fifth day, God created the first mid-life kicker, rev 2.0 of the ALU, with wonderful features, and said "Forget that add and shift stuff. Go forth and multiply." And God saw that it was good.

On the sixth day, God got a bit overconfident, and invented pipelines, register hazards, optimizing compilers, crosstalk, restartable instructions, micro interrupts, race conditions, and propagation delays. Historians have used this to convincingly argue that the sixth day must have been a Monday.

On the seventh day, an engineering change introduced Windows into the Universe, and it hasn't worked right since.
Parental Observations

- A child will not spill on a dirty floor.
- A young child is a noise with dirt on it.
- A youth becomes a man when the marks he wants to leave on the world have nothing to do with tires.
- An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- Avenge yourself; live long enough to be a problem to your children.
- Be nice to your kids, for it is they who will choose your nursing home.
- For adult education, nothing beats children.
- God invented mothers because he couldn’t be everywhere at once.
- If a child looks like his father, that’s heredity; if he looks like a neighbor, that’s environment.
- If you have trouble getting your children’s attention, just sit down and look comfortable.
- Ill-bred children always display their pest manners.
- Insanity is inherited; you get it from your kids.
- It now costs more to amuse a child than it once did to educate his father.
- It rarely occurs to teenagers that the day will come when they’ll know as little as their parents.
- Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.
- Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth.
- One child is often not enough, but two children can be far too many.
- You can learn many things from children... like how much patience you have.
- Summer vacation is a time when parents realize that teachers are grossly underpaid.
- The first sign of maturity is the discovery that the volume knob also turns to the left.
- There are three ways to get things done: 1) do it yourself 2) hire someone to do it 3) forbid your kids to do it
- Those who say they "sleep like a baby" haven't got one.
- The best thing to spend on your children is time.

Einstein's Cat Analogy

You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat.

*Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio.*

Quotes from Groucho Marx (1890-1977)

- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- Room service? Send up a larger room.
- Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?
- Those are my principles. If you don’t like them I have others.
- He may look like an idiot and talk like an idiot but don’t let that fool you. He really is an idiot.
- I never forget a face, but in your case I’ll be glad to make an exception.
• A child of five could understand this. Fetch me a child of five.
• From the moment I picked your book up until I laid it down I was convulsed with laughter. Someday I intend reading it.
• Ice Water? Get some Onions - that'll make your eyes water!
• You've got the brain of a four-year-old boy, and I'll bet he was glad to get rid of it.
• A man's only as old as the woman he feels.
• Why should I care about posterity? What's posterity ever done for me?
• Military justice is to justice what military music is to music.
• One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got into my pajamas I'll never know.
• There is no sweeter sound than the crumbling of your fellow man.
• I must say that I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a book.
• I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it.
• If I held you any closer I would be on the other side of you.
• I must confess, I was born at a very early age.
• I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members.
• I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.
• Either he's dead or my watch has stopped.
• Remember men, we're fighting for this woman's honour; which is probably more than she ever did.
• Women should be obscene and not heard.
• Do you think I could buy back my introduction to you?
• Time wounds all heels.
• Behind every successful man is a woman, behind her is his wife.
• As soon as I get through with you, you'll have a clear case for divorce and so will my wife.
• Marry me and I'll never look at another horse!
• I married your mother because I wanted children, imagine my disappointment when you came along.
• A woman is an occasional pleasure but a cigar is always a smoke.
• Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
• Quote me as saying I was mis-quoted.

If's You Need to Know to Get Along at Work

• If it rings, put it on hold.
• If it clunks, call the repairman.
• If it whistles, ignore it.
• If it's a friend, stop work and chat.
• If it's the Boss, look busy.
• If it talks, take notes.
• If it's handwritten, type it.
• If it's typed, copy it.
• If it's copied, file it.
• If it's Friday, FORGET IT!!!
Proper Fits

What is a human resource? Here is a handy hint for ensuring success in job placement. Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

- If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.
- If they are counting the cigarette butts in the ashtray, assign them to Finance.
- If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them off to Manufacturing.
- If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good spot for them.
- If they are sleeping, they are Management material.
- If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security
- And if they've left early, put them in Sales.

New Oxymorons - Figures of speech which combine two contradictory terms

Healthy tan  Microsoft Works  Original copy
Liverpool poet  Strike action  Fashion sense
Computer error  Meteoric rise  Listening bank
Peace force  Sun reader  One choice
Random order  Living fossil  Wildlife park
Childhood innocence  Fighting talk  Soft rock

Scientific headlines that should appear

Statisticians show that 80% of all damned lies are true
Time travel to be discovered next year
Water into wine – ancient catalyst rediscovered
Half-dead cat found in box – RSPCA seeks Austrian scientist
The Universe stops expanding this week – keew siht gnidnapxe spots esrevinU ehT
Meteorite hits Lottery winner
Immune system boosted by real ale
Microsoft help helps
Intelligent life found on Earth
“Dolly” Thatcher wins 10 seats in Parliament

How to Lose Weight at Work Without Doing Much

Here's the guide to calorie-burning activities and the number of calories per hour they consume.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Calories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beating around the bush</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumping to conclusions</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing the walls</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swallowing your pride</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing the buck</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throwing your weight around</td>
<td>50-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragging your heels</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pushing your luck</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitting the nail on the head</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading through paperwork</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bending over backwards</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumping on the bandwagon</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balancing the books</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running around in circles</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating crow</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooting your own horn</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing the ladder of success</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulling out the stops</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding fuel to the fire</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrapping it up at the day's end</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making mountains out of molehills</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To which you may want to add your own favorite activities, including:

- Opening a can of worms 50
- Putting your foot in your mouth 300
- Starting the ball rolling 90
- Going over the edge 25
- Picking up the pieces after 350
- Counting eggs before they hatch 6
- Calling it quits 2