

Memory
Christmas

Christmas Crackers

1990 - 1997

Gavin Holman

1990



Computerwocky

'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 telegraphy	As finned as fish fingers
As fast as sleep	As mad as on Avenue	As matty as Rosie
As squat as rights	As benign as split	As jewelly 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: Dyslexia 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

Sharp Hand Operated Vertical Earth Lifter
 Hard Ended Adding Device
 Automatic Random Manipulator
 Elementary Auditory Receptor
 Natural Olfactory Sensory Extension
 Bust Raising Apparatus
 Body Encircling Leather Trouser-holder

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 h

You can't really call it a limerick e
 I guess it's more of a gimerick r
 'Cause this poem of mine e
 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

Christmas

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 interprets
 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 juggles
 I curtail; You truncate; He/She shortens

Inflationary Language

Twice upon a time there was a young lieuelevenant in the Army Air fiveces 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 decornineed 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-crosser!". 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 fiveces!" 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

1 mentality = 100 centimentality
 3 camp beds = 1 tricot
 3 unicorns = 1 triceratops
 10^{-12} dillies = 1 picodilly
 10 glassfuls = 1 decanter
 10^{-15} homicides = 1 femtofatale

2×10^6 pinpricks = 1 MHz
 10^{-6} fish = 1 microfiche
 10^{-12} surprises = 1 picoboo
 2 tribes = 1 diatribe
 1.5 dice = 1 trice
 2 itches = 1 bitch

10⁶ 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, sixteen f'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. This 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 vaneshaft 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 tetryliodo-hexamine. 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 pilfrometer¹, but up to the present date, nothing has been found to equal the transcendental hopper dadoscope². 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 nivelsheave 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 is required, it may be employed in conjunction with a deep-drawn reciprocating dingle arm to reduce sinusoidal depletionation.

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.

Phases of a project: 1. Exultation. 2. Disenchantment. 3. Confusion. 4. Search for the guilty. 5. Punishment of the innocent. 6. Distinction for the uninvolved.

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 fallent

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.

From the Couchy Castle Manuscript: Mots d'Heures: Gousses, Rames

"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 reappear 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, transcendentalises intercommunications' incomprehensibility! [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 vorlanders seek to huzzlecoo, when jurpid 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 golobrifly!

1992

mary@hisdaddy

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.
 Monday: Choosy Wendy. Thursday: Heidi. Saturday: Cindy.
 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

Metriculation

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	Suggestion - It eggs us on
A bartender - Beer and art	A decimal point - I'm a dot in place
Desperation - A rope ends it	Eleven + two = Twelve + one
Gold and silver - Grand old evils	No trespassing - Stop an ingress
A stitch in time saves nine - This is meant as an incentive	
Adversaries - Are advisers	Antagonist - Not against
Desecration - Care is noted	Diplomacy - Mad policy
Evangelists - Evil's agents	Forty-five - Over fifty
Honestly - On the sly	Maidenly - Men? Daily!
Melodramatic - A more mild act	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 expeditors (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

Coup de grace	Lawn mower	Hommes des lettres	The postman
Dejeuner sur l'herbe	Vegetarian	Aide de camp	Tent peg
Non sequitur	Do not prune	La vice Anglaise	Black & Decker Workmate
Avoirdupois	Have some peas	Pommes-frites	Cowardly Brits
Sangfroid	Bloody cold	Soixante-neuf	Head over heels in love
Menage à trois	Very small zoo	Tour de force	Police outing
In camera	Undeveloped film	Après mois le deluge	Bags I first in the shower
Literati	Italian dustman	Petit fours	3½
Via dolorosa	M25	Film noir	You left the lens-cap on

Novel Inn Signs - AP Herbert

It has been suggested the modern inn should have a modern name. The "Four Jolly Post Boys" are out of place on a large building decorated with chromium and surrounded by petrol-pumps. Why not take inn-titles from the familiar activities of our public life.... "The Sabotaged Issue", "The Implemented Obligation", "The Crystallised Viewpoint", "The Biological Status", "The Liquidated Centre", "The Psycho-physiological Equilibrium", "The Frankenstein & Nemesis", "The Phenomenal Sensation", "The Measure of Agreement", "The Bourgeois Ideology", "The Acid Test", "The Unexplored Avenue" or "The Amazing Revelation" to name but a few.

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*)
 khàl Huge mountain. Big camel. Banner of a prince. Shroud. Fancy. Black stallion. Self-
 magnified. Caliphate. Lonely place. Opinion. Suspicion. Bachelor. Good manager.
 Horse's bit. Liberal man. Weak bodied. Free from suspicion. Imaginative man.
 (*Arabic-English Dictionary*)

The Alphabet

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

Self-referential words

Mispelling	Decembrrr	twogether
HUMiLiTY	neverendin	oreshortened
trunc	vwillss	cndnsd
c@atact	[bracketed]	qqqqqueue
-ated	p,u;n:c!"u'a.t-e?d	:ic
stststutter	ddoouubbbleettss	d1g1tal
sur++++	exxxxcess	s*t*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 caulder 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?"

"Armor goring tumour groin murder's", reprisal ladle rat rotten hut, "Grammars seeking bet. Armor ticking arson burden barter end shirker cockles." "O hoe! Heifer blessing woke", setter wicket woof, butter taught tomb shelf, "Oil tickle shirt court tudor cordage offer groin murder. Oil ketchup wetter letter, an den - O bore!" Soda wicket woof tucker shirt court, end whinney retched a cordage offer groin murder, picket inner widow and dove dentor port oil worming worse lion inner bet. Inner flesh disc abdominal woof lipped honor betting adder rope. Zany pool dawn a groin murder's nut cup an gnat gun, any curdle dope inner bet. Inner ladle wile, ladle rat rotten hut a raft attar cordage an ranker dough ball. "Comb ink, sweat hard", setter wicket woof, disgracing is verse. Ladle rat rotten hut entity bet rum end stud buyer groin murder's bet. "Oh grammar!", crater ladle gull, "Wart bag icer gut! A nervous sausage bag ice!" "Butter lucky chew whiff, doling", whiskered disc ratchet woof, wetter wicket small. "Oh grammar, water bag noise! A nervous sore suture anomalous prognosis!" "Butter small your whiff", inserter woof, ants mouse worse wadding. "Oh grammar, water bag mousey gut! A nervous sore suture bag mouse!" Daze worry on forger nut gull's lest warts. Oil offer sodden throne offer carvers an sprinkling otter bet, disc curl end bloat Thursday woof ceased pore ladle rat rotten hut an garbled erupt. Mural: Yonder nor sorghum stench shud ladle gulls stopper torque wet strainers.

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-Statly-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
 Jericho
 Kill St Nicholas
 London Apprentice
 Middle Wallop

Ventongimps
 Wendens Ambo
 Yatton Keynell
 Zeal Monachorum

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 daffût 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 Bryanness.

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

1993



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.
- :~| 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 |
| :~) User is a Big girl | :~) User has a mustache |
| :~ } User wears lipstick | {:~) User wears a toupee |
| }:~ (Toupee in an updraft | :~ [User is a Vampire |
| :~ 7 User juust 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 |
| ~ I 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 | = :~ = | I'm Uncle Sam |
| :~ '(| I'm crying | %~) | I'm cross-eyed |
| (~) | I need a haircut | *< :~) | 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
 EAU is O as in beau
 GHT is T as in naught

EIGH is A as in neigh
 PT is T as in pterodactyl
 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

Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast
That's why I keep a flute tucked in my vest

I think that I shall never see
My contact lens fell in the tea

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
I've got you under my ski
Don't feel the animals
A rabbi's foot brings luck
Rome wasn't built in a bay

Wish you were her
Small apartment for runt
God help those who help themselves
I hate to see a grown man dry
Unsafe at ant speed

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

Aside	Aversion	Antistatic	Promotional
Anode	Averse	Irony	Steely
Subscribe	Underwriter	Ultramundane	Extraordinary
Netherlands	Underworld	Nightmare	Dark horse
Teamster	Gangster	Flyboy	Spiderman
Goods	Fines	Fireplace	Hothouse

Pseudo-opposites

Night hawk	Mourning dove	Catwalk	Dog trot
Maternity dress	Paternity suit	Birth rates	Death duties
Watermark	Fire brand		

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*)

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

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

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

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

Fast	a fast horse runs, a fast colour doesn't
Dust	remove the same from a shelf, add same to a field of crops
Trim	embellish a Christmas tree, disembellish a fat cut of meat
Trip	move nimbly, stumble
Mortal	death-dealing, death prone
Weather	wear well, wear out
Overlook	inspect, neglect

Cavalier gallant and gentlemanly, haughty and ungentlemanly
 Think better of (a man) to admire more, (a plan) to like it less

A Mnemonic for π (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 anthozoos, belonging to the alcyonarians, with a rachis longer than peduncle, cylindrical and with parachides provided with retractile 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,

Halloween = Oct 31

Christmas = 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

<i>Table tennis</i>	the sport of pings	<i>Fencing</i>	the art of missing the point
<i>Sand yachting</i>	keels on wheels	<i>Curling</i>	rolling stones on ice
<i>Stock car racing</i>	bangers and smash	<i>Ocean ballooning</i>	passing water with a full bladder
<i>Golf</i>	a pitch 'n' sink drama	<i>Golf</i>	taking steps to putt things right
<i>Weight lifting</i>	careless rupture	<i>Bridge</i>	making the best of a bid job
<i>Billiards</i>	pot luck	<i>Shot putt</i>	steroids shoving spheroids
<i>Boxing</i>	the sport of dukes	<i>Whippet racing</i>	the curs of the working classes
<i>Coursing</i>	splitting hares	<i>Drag racing</i>	the sport of queens

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

Murder on the Orient Express - Signal failure

Black Emmanuelle - That's my advice, brothers

Saturday, Sunday, Monday - Long. Weak end

Lady Windermere's Fan - Not I

The Threepenny Opera - Curt. Vile.

Cleopatra - Taylor made by Burton

Alpha Beta - Gammon

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

Ounce

Dice

Trice

Quartz

Quince

Sago

Serpent

Oxygen

Nitrogen

Denim

Instant

Distant

Tryst

Catalyst

Quest

Sycamore

Sophomore

Oculist

Novelist

Dentist

Archery

Butchery

Treachery

Taproom

Tomb

Sermon

Cinnamon

Apron

Nunnery

Density

Acreage

Brokerage

Cribbage

Carthage

Cage

Sink

Sentiment

Ointment

Nutmeg

Doom

1994

Stemchristmas

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 Wolftong, 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 Aleksyeevich 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 Bogeov, and Ziuziushka's cousin, Marfa Yegorovna Voinitsjaiva, who insisted on being called Marfoosha, were already well established as maufacturers 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 paradichloro-
 Diphenyltrichloroethane.

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.

Noise, n. A stench in the ear. Undomesticated music. The chief product of civilisation.

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

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

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

Musical terms

<i>ff</i>	play softly
<i>p</i>	hold the bow one inch above string
<i>pp</i>	place instrument in case and think softly of the notes while playing on the case.

<i>p</i> 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 <i>pp</i>
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
H ₂ SO ₄	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 451° 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

bouquet	toast	'orses	stable	centre stage
Peiping	doubt	Christ	crabcake	ballpoint
sealing	indict	yourself	Macdonald	lunatic fringe
Taoism	handsome	payment	made	rearguard
quay	twitched	Perón	left	right face
pharmacy	half-penny	vescence	flag	finger tip
janitor	gnome	police	enough	midnight
Navajo	rhyme	retirement	ship	Beethoven's Fifth
eye	heifer	an eye	Fiji	West Indies
gesture	marijuana	E. Chaucer	joke	January First
chorus	know	Sutherland	folklore	rock bottom
W-shaped	folk	leather	palm	loss leader
grandpa	mnemonic	sis	monopoly	inside information
comptroller	hymn	sir	monopoly	head nurse
tableau	leopard	population	monopoly	photo finish
hiccough	psychology	relief	parquetry	peak performance
cue	cinq-cents	tickets	quart	open quotes
colonel	forecastle	Ashe	cars	never-ending
centurion	island	Williams	post	foresight
passed	often	mation	estuary	central heating
ewe	build	ia	ultraviolet	halfway house
thereof	fivepence	la France	vow	preview
one	answer	a match?	wax	waterfront
wrecks	tableaux	breakfast	foxy	the heart of Dixie
wise	prayer	mistress	analyze	journey's end
xylophone	rendezvous	the doctor	pizza	middle-sized

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?

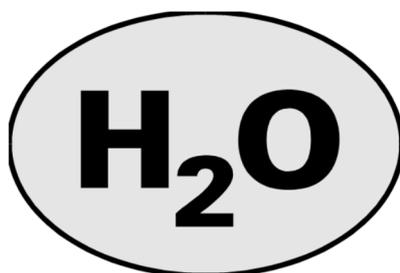
Red lorry, yellow lorry.
 The sixth sick sheik's sixth sick sheep is sick.

Just a moment....

I'll be with you -

in two sex, said the hermaphrodite,	in half a tick, said the vivisectionist,
in two shakes, said the freemason,	in half a mho, said the electrician,
in a trice, said the Third Man,	in necks to no time, said the executioner,
in a flash, said the magician,	in an instant, said the marketing man,
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 fulldeckisms* - 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.

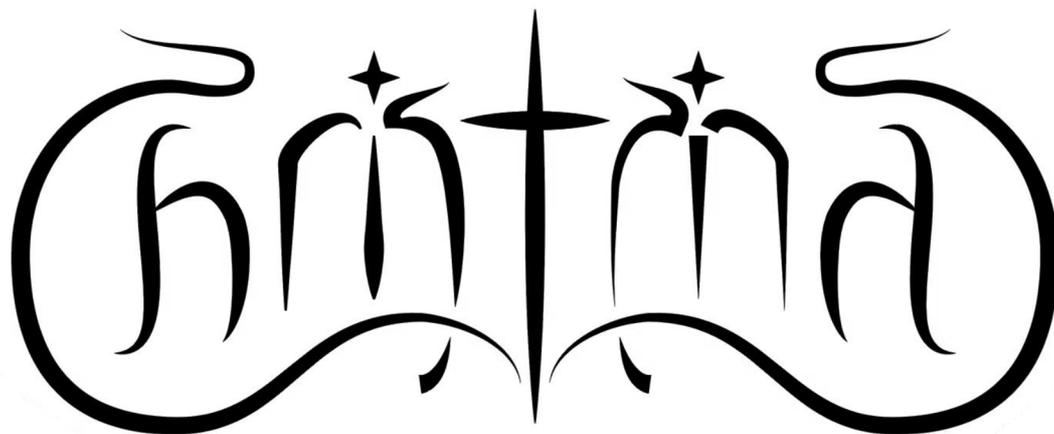
Multi-syllabic sayings - impressive, but essentially useless

Amedical diurnal pomiance
 Amorous terrircumflexion
 Anal craniopenetration
 Chronocide
 Chronopantraumatherapy

An apple a day keeps the doctor away
Love makes the world go round
Having one's head up one's ass
Killing time
Time heals all wounds

Dorsal mordancy	<i>Backbiting</i>
Dorsalreciprocal abrasion	<i>You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours</i>
Equine chromatic disparity	<i>A horse of a different colour</i>
Excapillary homolavation	<i>I'm gonna wash that man right out of my hair</i>
Felinolingual seizure	<i>Cat got your tongue</i>
Fumoincendiary juxtaposition	<i>Where there's smoke there's fire</i>
Horticultural circumflagellation	<i>Beating about the bush</i>
Hyperculinary putrefaction	<i>Too many cooks spoil the broth</i>
Hypoclimatosis	<i>Under the weather</i>
Pedal endojugulepsy	<i>Putting your foot in your mouth</i>
Proctologia	<i>A pain in the ass</i>
Scapular frigidity	<i>Cold shoulder</i>
Ultimoglobular succulence	<i>Good to the last drop</i>
Uniphysignomial millenavicular ejaculation	<i>The face that launched a thousand ships</i>

1995



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.

1. ___ lucre 2. ___ turpitude 3. ___ aspersions 4. luke ___ 5. ___ shrift 6. ___ amok 7. ___ askance
8. ___ ___ cropper 9. ___ aforethought 10. ___ umbrage 11. ___ bumpkin 12. wreak ___ 13. ___ ___
- trice 14. ___ tenterhooks 15. unsung ___ 16. ___ dudgeon 17. kith ___ ___ 18. ___ ___ kaboodle
19. ___ ___ middling 20. ___ ___ alack 21. ___ ___ yon 22. foregone ___ 23. ___ ___ kilter 24. ___
- akimbo 25. ___ ___ brunt.

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

Answers: 1. filthy 2. moral 3. cast 4. warm 5. short 6. run 7. look 8. come a 9. malice 10. take 11. country 12. havoc 13. in a 14. on 15. hero 16. high 17. and kin 18. kit and 19. fair to 20. alas and 21. hither and 22. conclusion 23. out of 24. arms 25. bear the.

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 sales engineer, "To you, three".

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).

Flambo - a tropical region where the ants are brightly coloured and extroverted (similar ants are found in the neighbouring regions of Brill, Exuber, Jubil and Nonchal - however those from Eleph are grey and plodding).

Minton - a racing pigeon (bad minton 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+*\Ttpzx<.,('(@~@~LSk9w3.;s;fkœ(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,B
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.
 A hive of allergists.
 An obsolescence of appliances.
 A score of bachelors.
 An aroma of bakers.
 A bellyful of bores.
 A lurch of buses.
 A sneer of butlers.
 A brood of chessplayers.
 A kettle of fish.
 A tower of giraffes.
 An implausibility of gnus.

An expectation of heirs.
 A wheeze of joggers.
 A cc of Mexicans.
 A mutter of mothers-in-law.
 A brace of orthopaedists.
 A iamb of poets.
 A spite of prima donnas.
 A pile of proctologists.
 A piddle of puppies.
 A wiggle of starlets.
 A flourish of strumpets.
 A flight of yesterdays.

Logomotives

Was Vincent Price conscious? Was David Frost bitten? Is Koo Stark naked? Does Ruby Wax polish? Did Captain Kidd nap? Was Doris Day light? Was George Bush whacked?

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 untuned
 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 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, jobbernot goosecaps, flutch calf-lollies, grout-head gnatsnappers, lob-dotterels, codshead 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!¹ Wenn Tudor² kaputt,
Zu Gitter ... Porto Gabun?
Bat wenn sie Gott da, der kaputt Waschbär ...³
An Zoo-Depot doch hat Nonn'.⁴

- 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 Giesser¹ geht in fad' ...
Pliess' Puter Penne!²
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

University of Yale
July 4, 1920

Dear Ernest,

About that formula of mine, $E=MC^2$. I'm sorry to tell you I made a mistake. It is wrong. It should be $E=R^3 + 2/5(x^2-y)+1$. 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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1996

CHRIS RAY

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

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

- Aglet - the little plastic tip of a shoelace
- Bail - the wire handle of a bucket
- Bobèche - 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

Wifespeak

You want
 We need
 It's your decision
 Do what you want
 We need to talk
 Sure...go ahead
 I'm not upset
 You're...so manly
 You're certainly attentive tonight.
 Be romantic, turn out the lights.
 This kitchen is so inconvenient.
 I want new curtains
 I need wedding shoes
 Hang the picture there
 I heard a noise
 Do you love me?
 How much do you love me?
 I'll be ready in a minute.
 Am I getting fat?
 You have to learn to communicate.
 Are you listening to me!?
 Yes
 No
 Maybe
 I'm sorry.
 Do you like this recipe?
 I'm not yelling!

English

You want
 I want
 The correct decision should be obvious by now
 You'll pay for this later
 I need to complain
 I don't want you to.
 Of course I'm upset, you moron.
 You need a shave and you sweat a lot.
 Is sex all you ever think about?
 I have flabby thighs.
 I want a new house.
 and carpeting, furniture, wallpaper...
 the other 40 pairs are the wrong shade of white
 No, I mean hang it there!
 I noticed you were almost asleep.
 I'm going to ask for something expensive.
 I did something today you're really not going to like.
 Kick off your shoes and find a good game on T.V.
 Tell me I'm beautiful.
 Just agree with me.
 [Too late, you're dead.]
 No
 No
 No
 You'll be sorry.
 It's easy to fix, so you'd better get get used to it.
 Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.

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: <i>bangla</i>)
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 (" <i>strong</i> ") 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 <i>pêche</i>)
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.

	£		£		
1	Partridge in a pear tree	35	7 Swans-a-swimming	3,500	
2	Turtle doves	50	8 Maids-a-milking	550	
3	French hens	15	9 Pipers piping	2,607	
4	Calling birds	280	10 Ladies dancing	3,013	
5	Gold rings	450	11 Lords-a-leaping	1,109	
6	Geese-a-laying	150	12 Drummers drumming	1,201	
Total to give gifts once:		£12,960	Total to give as in song*:		£54,926

*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
Upton Downs	Lizzie Izabichie	Harriet Bigelow Neithercut
Luscious Easter	Watermelon Johnson	Savage Nettles
Ophelia Egypt	Amazing Grace Jones	Olney W Nicewonger
Wanda Farr	Maude Kissin	Belle Nuddle
Thaddeus Figlock	Rosella Kellyhouse Klink	Fluid Nunn
Yetta Gang	Royal Knights	Ichabod Onion

Zoltan Ovary
 Sirjohn Papageorge
 Alto Quack
 Nellie Quartermouth
 Flora Rose Quick
 Juanita Rape

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

Operas that never made it

Rossini: The Plumber of Seville.
 Britten: A Midsummer Nightmare.
 Mozart: The Magic Tuba.
 Puccini: La Bamba.
 Verdi: Rigatoni.

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	maintenance receptacle	man-hole
chronologically gifted	old	melanin-impoverished	white
creatively re-dyed	stained	metabolically challenged	dead
differently organized	messy	motivationally dispossessed	lazy
domestic engineer	housewife	musically delayed	tone deaf
energy-efficient	off	other aged	too old/young
factually unencumbered	ignorant	people of height	too tall
financially inept	poor	photonically non-receptive	blind
horizontally gifted	fat	residentially flexible	homeless

selectively perceptive
socially separated
spacially perplexed

insane
convict
drunk

street activity index
target equity group
uniquely coordinated

crime rate
vocal minority
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.

1997

MEJBY EBJSTKADIS

WEJBY EBJSTKADIS

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 Hennessy 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

It is very necessary
That you be extremely wary
Of the products of the dairy
In this land of dysentery
And your hotel commissary
Ought to give you cause to worry
For their food's incendiary
And in items culinary
Little microbes tend to scurry
Down your gullet in a hurry
And soon symptoms sanguinary

Which are not imaginary
Cause upheavals that are scary
As a rule, involuntary
At which time it's customary
To see an apothecary
But the situation's hairy
For it's not just mal-de-mer-y
And relief is temporary
So without a guardian fairy
You'll wind up if you're not chary
At a nearby mortuary.

One Letter Changed in Foreign Phrases

Rigor mortis: The car will not start
Temper fidelis: Castro is angry
Pause célèbre: Composition by John Cage
Mal de her: PMT
Habeas carpus: I've run over the cat
Soup d'état: Brown Windsor
Après mai le déluge: June'll be a washout
Farce majeure: Cones Hotline
Non compos mantis: Lunatic insect
La Belle Spoque: Attractive Vulcan female
Cui bozo?: Who are you calling a fool?
Tête à Tate: Sheep's head in formaldehyde
Chez nobs: Stately home
Corns de ballet: Occupational hazard

Angus horribilis: Mad cow
Bog voyage: Tour through Western Ireland
Less majesté: Down with the royals!
Lait accompli: I've finished breast-feeding
Pro patric mori: In favour of astronomers
Wine qua non: Grape juice
Rut in urbe: Cable TV
Sturm und Prang: Result of road rage
Alter egg: A second breakfast
Iipse fixit: DIY
Dinner und Blitzen: Fast food
Menace à trois: Expecting triplets
Deductio ad nauseam: Pitiful take-home pay

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, shild¹ and spere;
 Wosetershir, wringe pere.²
 Glowsetershir, shoo and naile;
 Bristowshir,³ shippe and saile.
 Oxonfordshir, girde⁴ mare;
 Warwikshir, binde beare.⁵
 London, globber;⁶
 Sothery,⁷ great bragger.
 Shropshir, my shines been sharpe,
 Lay wood to the fire, and yef⁸ me my harpe.
 Lankashir, a fair archer;
 Cheshir, thacker.⁹
 Northumberland, hasty and hot;
 Westmerland, tot for sote.¹⁰
 Yorkeshir, full of knightes;
 Lincolnshir, men full of mightes.
 Cambridgeshir, full of pikes;

Holland, full of dikes.
 Suffolk, full of wiles;
 Norfolk, full of giles.
 Essex, good houswives;
 Middelsex, full of strives.¹¹
 Kent, as hot as fire;
 Sussex, full of mire.
 Southampton, drie and wete;
 Somersetshir, good for whete.
 Devinshir, wight¹² and strong;
 Dorcetshir will have no wrong.
 Willshir, fair and plaine;¹³
 Barkshir, fill vaine.¹⁴
 Harvodshir, 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
Cornewall, 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 clutch of beggars	A giggle of schoolgirls
A set of hairdressers	A goggle of couch potatoes	An intimidation of bouncers
A cavity of dentists	A secession of Scots	A press of journalists
A deluge of weathermen	A bay of pigs	A knot of grannies
A rash of train-spotters	A cahoot of owls	A tirade of butterflies
A salvation of gurus	An approval of seals	A diatribe of prawns
A portillo of sharks	A stand of waiters	A whatsit of amnesiacs
A caution of constables	An amalgam of dentists	

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 Caribbean. 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 chalcant, despite my efforts to appear grunted 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 schlemiel to get as promoted as quickly as a male schlemiel.
- 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	<i>Sun</i> 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.

Beating around the bush	75	Jumping on the bandwagon	200
Jumping to conclusions	100	Balancing the books	25
Climbing the walls	150	Running around in circles	350
Swallowing your pride	50	Eating crow	225
Passing the buck	25	Tooting your own horn	25
Throwing your weight around	50-300	Climbing the ladder of success	750
Dragging your heels	100	Pulling out the stops	75
Pushing your luck	250	Adding fuel to the fire	160
Hitting the nail on the head	50	Wrapping it up at the day's end	12
Wading through paperwork	300	Making mountains out of molehills	500
Bending over backwards	75		

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