

SATICHE



selections of logological diversions,
verbal amuses-bouche, and scientific recreations

Volume 1

Gavin Holman

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Oxymorons

Statements that are self-contradictory, self-referential or paradoxical

A little pain never hurt anyone
A Users Handbook of Hard-to-Remember Mnemonics
A verbal contract is not worth the paper it's written on
Act natural
Am I seeing things, or is that a mirage?
By definition, one divided by zero is undefined
Cliches are a dime a dozen - avoid them like the plague
Do I strike you as a violent person?
Don't let your willpower get the better of you
Dyslexics of the world, untie!
Each class of men is created equal
Ear-piercing while you wait
Eschew obfuscation
Everybody generalises
Eye abject two awl homonyms
He speaks Esperanto like a native
Hello, I must be going
I advocate furtherance of the status quo
I can resist everything but temptation
I can't remember having a more memorable time
I may be schizophrenic, but at least I'll always have each other
I started out with nothing, and still have most of it left
I told you a million times, don't exaggerate
I used to be an agnostic, but now I'm not so sure
I would have postponed this, but I never got around to it
I would not belong to a club that would have me as a member
I'm going to commit suicide or die trying
I'm not going to say "I told you so"
If ignorance isn't bliss, I don't know what it is
If you fall and break your legs, don't come running to me
Include me out
It goes without saying that

It's bad luck to be superstitious
It's not an optical illusion, it just looks like one
Jesus was born in 4 B.C.
Manners are the noises that you don't make when eating soup
May I ask a question?
Nepotism is OK as long as you keep it in the family
No one goes there anymore, it's too crowded
Patience will come to he who waits for it
Procrastination means never having to say you're sorry
Thank God I'm an atheist
The doctor told me to take something for my kleptomania
This report is filled with omissions
Those who forget this sentence are condemned to reread it

Well-preserved ruins
 Who can count the cost of innumeracy?
 You simply must stop taking advice from other people

Table of computing 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/They kludge
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

Suggested new BASIC functions

DIE	Unconditional machine stop, all registers lost
IF MOTIVATED	Case structure, where the case selected is purely dependent on the CPU's motivation and internal temperature, rather than on any currently executing code.
OBFUSCATE(str)	Translate the string str (maximum length 1.872 half-words) into Swahili, and display the translated message on the system operator's console.
OPTIONALLY(ff)	Quasi-conditional branch. Branch is only sometimes dependent on the floating point trinary variable ff. When executed, program branches to line number 11 in your source code.
SCRAMBLE(mat,m,n)	Rearrange the order of specified n-by-m matrix double precision matrix mat based on the system's time-of-day clock. Comparable to the old IBM JCL command "Drop the of of cards before sequencing them."
SAT(p1,p2,...)	Past tense of SET. Permits you to set those environment parameters that you forgot to set during your last job run, without having to re-run the job. This is the only function that is hardware-dependent. It requires the Apple II Time-Domain

	DeConvolver to be installed in your system, operating with DEC BASIC+2.
THRASH	Sets up a conditional test after every memory access. After each memory read cycle, the system's time-of-day clock is read. If the clock is still running, the time is written to the system error log. This is usually implemented by a non-maskable interrupt, and should efficiently emulate a paging system with a near-infinite paging rate.
TRASH(ii)	Wreaks havoc on the hardware. Integer parameter ii sets the level of damage. Negative values of ii cause reversible troubles and soft errors, positive values are irreparable hardware damage. Cost of damage is directly proportional to the anti-logarithm of ii.
UNCHECK	Adds a random number to the cyclic redundancy check word for all subsequent hard-disk writes. On a 32-bit machine it will force approximately 2,147,483,648 wasted read attempts to occur for every one proper read.
WHYCARE(str)	Where str is any string of any length. It doesn't care about what it is. The function often returns to the calling routine.
ZAP(ff)	Applies a DC voltage to the currently logged-in console equal to the floating-point parameter ff (where $0 < ff < 9.999$) Voltage is applied for 2,048 machine memory cycles.
WHAT IF OR ELSE	Branches before evaluating the test conditions Conditional threat, as in "Add these two numbers OR ELSE!"
WHY NOT WHO ELSE ELSEWHERE	Executes the code that follows in a devil-may-care fashion Used for polling during I/O operations This is where your program really is when you think it's here
GOING GOING GONE	For writing unstructured programs, takes a random branch to another part of the program. Does the work of ten GOTOs
DON'T DO WHILE NOT	This loop is not executed if the test condition is not false, or if it's Friday afternoon
DIDN'T DO CAN'T DO WON'T DO	The loop executes once and then hides all traces The loop is naffed The CPU halts because it doesn't like the code inside the loop. It can be

MIGHT DO	resumed by typing "MAY I" at the console Depends on how the CPU is feeling. The loop is executed if the CPU is "up", not executed if the CPU is "down" or its feelings have been hurt
DO UNTO OTHERS	Used to write the main loop for timesharing systems so that they will antagonize the users in a uniform manner
DO WAH DIDDY	Used to write timing loops for computer-generated music
JUST IN CASE	For handling afterthoughts and fudge factors. Allows you to multiply by zero to correct for accidentally dividing by zero.
BRIEF CASE	To encourage portable software
OPEN AND SHUT CASE	No proof of correctness is required with this statement
IN ANY CASE	This statement always works
HOPELESS CASE	This statement never works
BASKET CASE	This statement is a really hopeless case
<ALMOST EQUALS SIGN>	This operator compares two floating point numbers and takes the worry out of being close

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."
 Jackie Kennedy: "Duck!"
 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."

Final examination

Instructions: Read each question carefully. Answer all questions. Time limit: 4 hours. Begin immediately.

Biology	Create life. Estimate the differences in subsequent human culture if this form of life had developed 500 million years earlier, with special attention to its probable effect on the English parliamentary system. Prove your thesis.
Economics	Develop a realistic plan for refinancing the national debt. Trace the possible effects of your plan in the following areas: Cubism, the Donatist controversy, the wave theory of light. Outline a method from all possible points of view, as demonstrated in your answer to the last question.
Engineering	The disassembled parts of a high-powered rifle have been placed on your desk. You will also find an instruction manual, printed in Swahili. In 10 minutes, a hungry Bengal tiger will be admitted to the room. Take whatever action you feel appropriate. Be prepared to justify your decision.
Epistemology	Take a position for or against truth. Prove the validity of your stand.
General Knowledge	Describe in detail. Be objective and specific.
History	Describe the history of the papacy from its origins to the present day, concentrating especially, but not exclusively, on its social, political, economic, religious and philosophical impact on Europe, Asia, Africa and America. Be brief, concise and specific.
Medicine	You have been provided with a razor blade, a piece of gauze and a bottle of Scotch. Remove your own appendix. Do not suture until your work has been inspected. You have fifteen minutes.
Music	Write a piano concerto. Orchestrate and perform it with a flute and a drum. You will find a piano under your seat.
Philosophy	Sketch the development of human thought, estimate its significance. Compare with the development of any other kind of thought.
Physics	Explain the nature of matter. Include in your answer an evaluation of the impact of the development of mathematics on science.
Political Science	There is a red telephone on the desk beside you. Start World War III. Report at length on its socio-political effects if any.
Psychology	Based on your knowledge of their works, evaluate the emotional stability, degree of adjustment, and repressed frustrations of each of the following: Alexander of Aphrodisias, Rameses II, Gregory of Nica, Hammurabi. Support your evaluation with quotations from each man's work, making appropriate references. It is not necessary to translate.
Public Speaking	2500 riot-crazed aborigines are storming the classroom. Calm them. You may use any ancient language except Latin or Greek.
Sociology	Estimate the sociological problems which might accompany the end of the world. Construct an experiment to test your theory.

Declaration of particle power

- I All charges against particles should be dropped immediately.
- II Newton's First and Second Laws should be repealed, for the reason that they restrict the personal freedom of particles.
- III Newton's Third Law should be repealed since it is reactionary.
- IV Newton's demon should be arrested and held without bail, on charge of restricting the normal (and tangent) ingress and egress of particles from their private habitats.
- V The universal speed limit should be lowered, since travelling at such speeds invariably results in destructive collisions.

People

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

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."

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 3.99999

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 DEC service department, "We're not telling you"

To Sir Clive, "1,000,000,000,000"

To a trainee accountant, "Four"

To a qualified accountant, "Approximately four"

To a consultant accountant, "As an initial estimate I would suggest somewhere between three and five"

To a senior consultant, "Hmmm, a very good question. Tell me, what sort of figure did you have in mind?"

Character names

!	Excl, exclam, bang, shriek, wow
#	Hash mark, mesh, splat, crunch, pig-pen
\$	Dollar
&	Ampersand
'	Single quote, forward quote, spark
"	Rabbit ears
()	Parens
(Open, wax
)	Close, wane
*	Splat, star, gear
.	Period, dot, point, spot
:	Two-spot
,	Tail
/	Slash, forward slash, slat
;	Semi
[U-turn
]	U-turn back
<	Less than, left angle bracket, left broket, angle
=	Equals, half-mesh
>	Greater than, right angle bracket, right broket, right angle
?	Ques, query, what
@	At-sign, at, whirlpool
%	Double-oh-seven
\	Backslash, backslat
^	Caret, up-arrow, circumflex, shark-fin
←	Back-arrow, flatworm
-	Worm
+	Intersection
`	Backquote, backspark
{ }	Curly brackets, curly braces, squiggle brackets
{	Embrace
}	Bracelet
	Vertical bar, spike
~	Twiddle, squiggle, sqiggle

Rhode's 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.

Lesser-known programming languages

SIMPLE is an acronym for Sheer Idiot's Monopurpose Programming Language Environment. This language, developed at the Hanover College for Technological Misfits, was designed to make it impossible to write code with errors in it. The statements are, therefore, confined to BEGIN, END and STOP. No matter how you arrange the statements, you can't make a syntax error. Programs written in SIMPLE do nothing useful. Thus they achieve the results of programs written in other languages without the tedious, frustrating process of testing and debugging.

LITHP: This otherwise unremarkable language is distinguished by the absence of an "S" in its character set; users must substitute "TH". LITHP is said to be useful in protheththing lithth.

SLOBOL is best known for the speed, or lack of it, of its compiler. Although many compilers allow you to take a coffee break while they compile, SLOBOL compilers allow you to travel to Bolivia to pick the coffee. Forty-three programmers are known to have died of boredom sitting at their terminals while waiting for a SLOBOL program to compile. Weary SLOBOL programmers often turn to a related (but infinitely faster) language, COCAINE.

Named after the late existential philosopher, SARTRE is an extremely unstructured language. Statements in SARTRE have no purpose; they just are. Thus SARTRE programs are left to define their own functions. SARTRE programmers tend to be boring and depressed, and are no fun at parties.

C-: This language was named for the grade received by its creator when he submitted it as a class project in a graduate programming class. C- is best described as a "low-level" programming language. In fact, the language generally requires more C-statements than machine-code statements to execute a given task. In this respect, it is very similar to COBOL.

FIFTH is a precision mathematical language in which the data types refer to quantity. The data types range from CC, OUNCE, SHOT, and JIGGER to FIFTH (hence the name of the language), LITER, MAGNUM and BLOTTO. Commands refer to ingredients such as CHABLIS, CHARDONNAY, CABERNET, GIN, VERMOUTH, VODKA, SCOTCH, and WHATEVERSAROUND. The many versions of the FIFTH

language reflect the sophistication and financial status of its users. Commands in the ELITE dialect include VSOP and LAFITE, while commands in the GUTTER dialect include HOOTCH and RIPPLE. The latter is a favorite of frustrated FORTH programmers who end up using this language.

Rules for writers

Remember to never split an infinitive. The passive voice should never be used. Do not put statements in the negative form. Verbs have to agree with their subjects. Proofread carefully to see if you words out. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing. A writer must not shift your point of view. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction. (Remember, too, a preposition is a terrible word to end a sentence with.) Don't overuse exclamation marks!! Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents. Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided. If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is. Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors. Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky. Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing. Always pick on the correct idiom. The adverb always follows the verb. Last but not least, avoid cliches like the plague; seek viable alternatives.

Being downsized

People are no longer sacked - they are victims of "involuntary resignations" or "temporary cutbacks" or "job classification elimination" or any of a dozen other euphemisms for summary dismissal. Here are some more appropriate terms for various occupations - eg. a librarian could be "declassified"....

Jeweler	- de-iced, dependent
Ambassador	- delegated
Antique dealer	- derelict, disjunct
Electrician	- delighted, discharged
Lavatory attendant	- dethroned, discommoded
Politician	- devoted, denominated, disappointed
Model	- deposed, disfigured
Seamstress	- dispatched, depleted
Publican	- distended, disbarred, deported, dispirited
Freemason	- dislodged, dismembered
Tennis player	- disadvantaged, defaulted
Secretary	- dispelled, defiled
Musician	- diluted, disconcerted
Banker	- disinterested, distilled, discredited

Similarly, on reinstatement various descriptive words could be used....

Poet	- reversed
Lawyer	- retorted
Mortician	- rehearsed
Politician	- relied

Orphan	- rewarded
Knight	- requested
Chorister	- required
Campanologist	- repealed, rebelled
Detective	- resolved, retailed
Lion tamer	- remained
Seductress	- revamped
Exorcist	- repossessed
Electrician	- refused, revolted
Model	- renewed
Thespiian	- reacted
Policeman	- reinforced
Tennis player	- reserved
Prostitute	- relaid, rescind

What she really means

At long last... The Men's Guide to what a woman really means when she says something. Pay close attention (there might be a quiz later).

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

- Was that the baby? = Why don't you get out of bed and walk him until he goes to sleep.
- I'm not yelling! = Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.
- All we're going to buy is a soap dish = It goes without saying that we're stopping at the cosmetics department, the shoe department, I need to look at a few new pocket books, and OMIGOD those pink sheets would look great in the bedroom and did you bring your checkbook?

(The answer to "What's wrong?")

- The same old thing = Nothing
- Nothing = Everything
- Everything = My PMS is acting up
- Nothing, really = It's just that you're such an asshole
- I don't want to talk about it = Go away, I'm still building up steam

Why?

- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?
- How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work?
- If nothing ever sticks to TEFLON, how do they make TEFLON stick to the pan?
- Why is brassiere singular and panties plural?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called shipment but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo?
- You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes - why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?
- Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn the radio down?
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- What does Geronimo say when he jumps out of a plane?

The unofficial smilie dictionary

- :-) Your basic smilie. This smilie is used to inflect a sarcastic or joking statement since we can't hear voice inflection over Unix.
- ;-) Winky smilie. User just made a flirtatious and/or sarcastic remark. More of a "don't hit me for what I just said" smilie.
- :-(Frowning smilie. User did not like that last statement or is upset or depressed about something.
- :-I Indifferent smilie. Better than a Frowning smilie but not quite as good as a happy smilie
- :-> User just made a really biting sarcastic remark. Worse than a :-).
- >:-> 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:

:-[] Mick Jagger
(8-o It's Mr. Bill!
*:o) And Bozo the Clown!
(-: User is left handed.
%-) User has been staring at a green screen for 15 hours straight.
:*) User is drunk.
[:] User is a robot.
8-) User is wearing sunglasses.
B:-) Sunglasses on head.
::-) User wears normal glasses.
B-) User wears horn-rimmed glasses.
8:-) User is a little girl.
:-)-8 User is a Big girl.
:-{) User has a mustache.
:-}) User wears lipstick.
{:-) User wears a toupee.
}:-(Toupee in an updraft.
:-[User is a Vampire.
:-E Bucktoothed vampire.
:-F Bucktoothed vampire with one tooth missing.
:-7 User just made a wry statement.
:-* User just ate something sour.
:-)~ User drools
:-~) User has a cold
:'-(User is crying
:'-) User is so happy, s/he is crying
:-@ User is screaming
:-# User wears braces
:^) User has a broken nose
:v) User has a broken nose, but it's the other way
:_) User's nose is sliding off of his face
:<) User is from an Ivy League School
:-& User is tongue tied.
=:-) User is a hosehead
-:-) User is a punk rocker
-:-((real punk rockers don't smile)
:=) User has two noses
+:-:-) User is the Pope or holds some other religious office
`:-) User shaved one of his eyebrows off this morning
,:-) Same thing...other side
|-I User is asleep
|-O User is yawning/snoring
:-Q User is a smoker
:-? User smokes a pipe
O-) Megaton Man On Patrol! (or else, user is a scuba diver)

O :-) User is an angel (at heart, at least)
 :-P Nyahhhh!
 :-S User just made an incoherent statement
 :-D User is laughing (at you!)
 :-X User's lips are sealed
 :-C User is really bummed
 <|-) User is Chinese
 <|-(User is Chinese and doesn't like these kind of jokes
 :-/ User is skeptical
 C=-:-) User is a chef
 @= User is pro-nuclear war
 *<:-) User is wearing a Santa Claus Hat
 :-o Uh oh!
 3:] Pet smilie
 3:[Mean Pet smilie
 d8= Your pet beaver is wearing goggles and a hard hat.
 E-:-) User is a Ham radio operator
 :-9 User is licking his/her lips
 %-6 User is braindead
 [:-) User is wearing a walkman
 (:I User is an egghead
 <:-I User is a dunce
 K:P User is a little kid with a propeller beanie
 @:-) User is wearing a turban
 :-O No Yelling! (Quiet Lab)
 :-: Mutant Smilie
 The invisible smilie
 .-) User only has one eye
 ,-) Ditto...but he's winking
 X-(User just died
 8 :-) User is a wizard

Note: A lot of these can be typed without noses to make midget smilies.

:) Midget smilie
 :-` smiley spitting out its chewing tobacco
 :-1 smiley bland face
 :-! "
 :-@ smiley face screaming
 :-#| smiley face with bushy mustache
 :-\$ smiley face with it's mouth wired shut
 :-% smiley banker
 :-6 smiley after eating something sour
 :^) smiley with pointy nose (righty)
 :-7 smiley after a wry statement
 :-* smiley after eating something bitter
 :-& smiley which is tongue-tied
 :-O smiley orator
 (:-(unsmiley frowning

(:-) smiley big-face
):-) "
):-(unsmiley big-face
)8-) scuba smiley big-face
 =:-) smiley punk-rocker
 =:-((real punk rockers don't smile)
 +:-) smiley priest
 :-q smiley trying to touch its tongue to its nose
 :-e disappointed smiley
 :-t cross smiley
 :-i semi-smiley
 :-o smiley singing national anthem
 :-p smiley sticking its tongue out (at you!)
 :-[un-smiley blockhead
 :-] smiley blockhead
 :-{ smiley variation on a theme
 :-} ditto
 {:-) smiley with its hair parted in the middle
 }:-) above in an updraft
 :-a lefty smiley touching tongue to nose
 :-s smiley after a BIZARRE comment
 :-d lefty smiley razzing you
 g-) smiley with ponce-nez glasses
 :-j left smiling smiley
 :-k beats me, looks like something, tho.
 :-l y. a. s.
 :-: mutant smiley
 :-\ undecided smiley
 :-| "have an ordinary day" smiley
 ;-) winking smiley
 :-< real sad smiley
 :-> y.a.s.
 :-z y.a.c.s.
 :-x "my lips are sealed" smiley
 :-c bummed out smiley
 :-v talking head smiley
 :v) left-pointing nose smiley
 :-b left-pointing tongue smiley
 :-/ lefty undecided smiley
 :-? smiley smoking a pipe
 .-] one-eyed smiley
 ,-} wry and winking
 o-) smiley cyclops (scuba diver?)
 :-=) older smiley with mustache
 :u) smiley with funny-looking left nose
 :n) smiley with funny-looking right nose
 :< midget unsmiley
 :> midget smiley
 :-) ha ha

~~-:(net.flame
 |-) hee hee
 O |-) net.religion
 |-D ho ho
 :-> hey hey
 8 :-I net.unix-wizards
 :-(boo hoo
 X-(net.suicide
 :-I hmm
 E-:-I net.ham-radio
 :-O uh oh
 >:-I net.startrek
 :-P nyah nyah
 3:o[net.pets
 |-P yuk
 :-} beard
 :-{ mustache
 :-# braces
 :-X bow tie
 :-Q smoker
 <:I dunce
 (:I egghead
 @:I turban
 8-) glasses
 B-) horn-rims
 8:-) glasses on forehead
 :-8(condescending stare
 ;-) wink
 >:-< mad

Murphy's laws on sex

- The more beautiful the woman is who loves you, the easier it is to leave her with no hard feelings.
- Nothing improves with age.
- No matter how many times you've had it, if it's offered take it, because it'll never be quite the same again.
- Sex has no calories.
- Sex takes up the least amount of time and causes the most amount of trouble.
- There is no remedy for sex but more sex.
- Sex appeal is 50% what you've got and 50% what people think you've got.
- No sex with anyone in the same office.
- Sex is like snow; you never know how many inches you are going to get or how long it is going to last.
- A man in the house is worth two in the street.
- If you get them by the balls, their hearts and minds will follow.
- Virginity can be cured.

- When a man's wife learns to understand him, she usually stops listening to him.
- Never sleep with anyone crazier than yourself.
- The qualities that most attract a woman to a man are usually the same ones she can't stand years later.
- Sex is dirty only if it's done right.
- It is always the wrong time of month.
- The best way to hold a man is in your arms.
- When the lights are out, all women are beautiful.
- Sex is hereditary. If your parents never had it, chances are you won't either.
- Sow your wild oats on Saturday night -- Then on Sunday pray for crop failure.
- The younger the better.
- The game of love is never called off on account of darkness.
- It was not the apple on the tree but the pair on the ground that caused the trouble in the garden.
- Sex discriminates against the shy and the ugly.
- Before you find your handsome prince, you've got to kiss a lot of frogs.
- There may be some things better than sex, and some things worse than sex. But there is nothing exactly like it.
- Love your neighbor, but don't get caught.
- Love is a hole in the heart.
- If the effort that went in research on the female bosom had gone into our space program, we would now be running hot-dog stands on the moon.
- Love is a matter of chemistry, sex is a matter of physics.
- Sex is a three-letter word which needs some old-fashioned four-letter words to convey its full meaning.
- One good turn gets most of the blankets.
- You cannot produce a baby in one month by impregnating nine women.
- Love is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.
- It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.
- Thou shalt not commit adultery.....unless in the mood.
- Never lie down with a woman who's got more troubles than you.
- Abstain from wine, women, and song; mostly song.
- Never argue with a women when she's tired -- or rested.
- A woman never forgets the men she could have had; a man, the women he couldn't.
- What matters is not the length of the wand, but the magic in the stick.
- It is better to be looked over than overlooked.
- A man can be happy with any woman as long as he doesn't love her.
- Folks playing leapfrog must complete all jumps.
- Beauty is skin deep; ugly goes right to the bone.
- Never stand between a fire hydrant and a dog.
- A man is only a man, but a good bicycle is a ride.
- Love comes in spurts.
- The world does not revolve on an axis.
- Sex is one of the nine reasons for reincarnation; the other eight are unimportant.

- Smile, it makes people wonder what you are thinking.
- Don't do it if you can't keep it up.
- There is no difference between a wise man and a fool when they fall in love.
- Never go to bed mad, stay up and fight.
- Love is the delusion that one woman differs from another.
- This won't hurt, I promise.

Top 10 reasons computers must be male

10. They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
9. A better model is always just around the corner.
8. They look nice and shiny until you bring them home.
7. It is always necessary to have a backup.
6. They'll do whatever you say if you push the right buttons.
5. The best part of having either one is the games you can play.
4. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
3. The lights are on but nobody's home.
2. Big power surges knock them out for the night.
1. Size does matter

Top 10 reasons compilers must be female

10. Picky, picky, picky.
9. They hear what you say, but not what you mean.
8. Beauty is only shell deep.
7. When you ask what's wrong, they say "nothing".
6. Can produce incorrect results with alarming speed.
5. Always turning simple statements into big productions.
4. Smalltalk is important.
3. You do the same thing for years, and suddenly it's wrong.
2. They make you take the garbage out.
1. Miss a period and they go wild

12 days

On the 12th day of the Eurocentricly imposed midwinter festival, my potential-acquaintance-abuse-survivor gave to me,

TWELVE males reclaiming their inner warrior through ritual drumming.

ELEVEN pipers piping (plus the 18-member pit orchestra made up of members in good standing of the Musicians Union as called for in their union contract even though they will not be asked to play a note...)

TEN melanin-deprived testosterone-poisoned scions of the patriarchal ruling class system leaping,

NINE persons engaged in rhythmic self-expression,

EIGHT economically disadvantaged female persons stealing milk-products from enslaved Bovine-Britons,

SEVEN endangered swans swimming on federally protected wetlands,

SIX enslaved fowl-Britons producing stolen nonhuman animal products,

FIVE golden symbols of culturally sanctioned enforced domestic incarceration,

(NOTE: after a member of the Animal Liberation Front threatened to throw red paint at my computer, the calling birds, French hens and partridge have been reintroduced to their native habitat. To avoid further animal-Briton enslavement, the remaining gift package has been revised.)

FOUR hours of recorded whale songs,

THREE deconstructionist poets,

TWO Friends of the Earth calendars printed on recycled processed tree carcasses, and a Spotted Owl activist chained to an old-growth pear tree.

Seminars for males (given by women)

1. Combating Stupidity
2. You, too, can do housework
3. PMS -- Learn when to keep your mouth shut.
4. How to fill an ice tray
5. We do not want sleazy underthings for Christmas -- Give us money
6. Understanding the female response to your coming in drunk at 4:00am
7. Wonderful laundry techniques (formerly titled "Don't wash my silks")
8. Parenting -- No, it doesn't end with conception
9. Get a life -- learn to cook and then clean up the kitchen
10. How not to act like an asshole when you're obviously wrong
11. Spelling -- Even you can get it right
12. Understanding your financial incompetence
13. You -- The Weaker Sex
14. Reasons to give flowers
15. How to stay awake after sex
16. Why it is unacceptable to relieve yourself anywhere but the bathroom
17. Garbage -- Getting it to the curb
18. You can fall asleep without "it" if you really try
19. The morning dilemma: shower first, THEN breakfast
20. I'll wear it if I damn well please
21. How to put the toilet lid down (formerly "No, it's not a bidet")

22. "The weekend" and "sports" are not synonyms
23. Give me a break. Why we know your excuses are bullshit
24. How to go shopping with your mate and not get lost
25. The remote control -- Overcoming your dependency
26. Romanticism - Ideas other than sex
27. Helpful postural hints for couch potatoes
28. Mother-in-laws -- They are often people, too
29. Male bonding -- Leaving your friends at home
30. You too can be a designated driver
31. Seeing the true you (formerly "No, you don't look like Mel Gibson, especially when naked")
32. Changing your underwear -- It really works
33. The Attainable Goal -- Omitting "TITS" from your vocabulary
34. Techniques for calling home

Seminars for women (given by men)

1. "Are you ready to leave?" -- Definition of the word "yes"
2. Appropriate rhetorical questions (Formerly "Honey, do I look fat?")
3. Elementary Map Reading
4. Crying and law enforcement
5. Advanced Math Seminar -- Program your VCR
6. You can go shopping for less than 4 hours
7. Gaining five pounds v. the end of the world: a study in contrast
8. The Seven-Outfit Week v the Seven-Week Outfit
9. PMS -- It's YOUR Problem, Not Mine (was: It's Happened Monthly Since Puberty -- Deal With It)
10. Driving I: Getting past automatic transmission
11. Driving II: The meaning of blinking red lights
12. Driving III: Approximating a constant speed
13. Driving IV: Makeup and Driving--It's As Simple As Oil and Water
14. Cricket: Not a Game--A Sacrament
15. Telephone Translations (was: "Me too" equals "I Love You")
16. How to Earn Your Own Money instead of just Spending His
17. Giftgiving Fundamentals (was: Fabric Bad, Electronics Good)
18. Putting the Seat Down By Yourself: Potential Energy is on Your Side
19. Know When to Say When: The Limits of Makeup
20. Beyond "Clean and Dirty": The Nuances of Wearable Laundry
21. We forget birthdays, you forget sports stats: LET'S LET IT DROP
22. MYOB: Proper response to other couple's public arguments
23. Yes, You Can Buy Condoms (was: WE learned to deal with the embarrassment)
24. Joys of the Remote Control: Reaping the Benefits of 50+ Channels
25. What Goes Around Comes Around--Why His Credit Card is Not a Toy
26. The Penis: His Best Friend Can Be Yours, too
27. His Poker Games: Deal Yourself Out
28. Commitment Schmittment (was: Wedlock Schmedlock)
29. "To Honor and Obey:" Remembering the small print above "I Do"
30. Why Your Mother Is Unwelcome In The House

31. Your Mate: Selfish Bastard, or Victimized Sensitive Man-child Healing Wound by Expressing the Latent Wild Man Within?

Chemical analysis of Man

Element: Man

Symbol: Ah (short for a***h***, a common French root used to identify the element)

Discoverer: Eve

Atomic Mass: Accepted at 7 inches, wavy brown hair, 6' 0" in length, though some isotopes can be as short as 4 inches yet weigh 200+ Kg

Occurrences: Found following duel element Wo, often in high concentration near a perfect Wo specimen. (Experimental evidence: any beach on any coast)

Physical properties:

Obnoxious when mixed with C*H*-OH (any alcohol).

Tends to fall into very low energy state directly after reaction with Wo (Snore... zzzzz)

Gains considerable mass as specimen ages, loses reactive nature.

Rarely found in pure form after 14th year.

Often damaged as a direct result of unlucky reaction with polluted form of the Wo common ore.

Chemical properties:

All forms desire reaction with Wo, even when no further reaction is possible.

May react with several Wo isotopes in short period under extremely favourable conditions.

Usually willing to react with whatever is available.

Reaction Rates range from aborted/non-existent to Pre-interaction effects (which tend to turn the specimen bright red and send it to react with Sa, the sex analyst).

Reaction styles vary from extremely slow, calm and wet to violent/bloody.

Storage:

Best results apparently near 18 for high reaction rate, 25-35 for favourable reaction style.

Uses:

Heavy boxes, top shelves, long walks late at night, free dinners for Wo...

Tests:

Pure specimen will rarely reveal purity, while reacted specimens broadcast information on many wavelengths.

Caution:

Tends to react extremely violently when other Man interferes with reaction to a particular Wo specimen. Otherwise very malleable under correct conditions.

Are you a physicist?

You might be a Physicist

- if you have no life - and you can PROVE it mathematically.
- if you enjoy pain.
- if you know vector calculus but you can't remember how to do long division.
- if you chuckle whenever anyone says "centrifugal force."
- if you've actually used every single function on your graphing calculator.
- if when you look in a mirror, you see a physics student.
- if it is sunny and 70 degrees outside, and you are working on a computer.
- if you frequently whistle the theme song to "MacGyver."
- if you always do homework on Friday nights.
- if you know how to integrate a chicken and can take the derivative of water.
- if you think in "maths."
- if you've calculated that the World Series actually diverges.
- if you hesitate to look at something because you don't want to break down its wave function.
- if you have a pet named after a scientist.
- if you laugh at jokes about mathematicians.
- if the Humane Society has you arrested because you actually performed the Schrodinger's Cat experiment.
- if you can translate English into Binary.
- if you can't remember what's behind the door in the science building which says "Exit."
- if you have to bring a jacket with you, in the middle of summer, because there's a wind-chill factor in the lab.
- If you are completely addicted to caffeine.
- if you avoid doing anything because you don't want to contribute to the eventual heat-death of the universe.
- if you consider ANY non-science course "easy."
- if when your professor asks you where your homework is, you claim to have accidentally determined its momentum so precisely, that according to Heisenberg it could be anywhere in the universe.
- if the "fun" center of your brain has deteriorated from lack of use.
- if you'll assume that a "horse" is a "sphere" in order to make the maths easier.
- if you understood more than five of these indicators.
- if you make a hard copy of this list, and post it on your door.

Collective nouns

A grid of electrical engineers

A set of pure mathematicians

A field of theoretical physicists

An amalgamation of metallurgists

A galaxy of cosmologists
A cloud of theoretical meteorologists
A shower of applied meteorologists
An intrigue of council members
A stack of librarians
A complex of psychologists
A whinge of Poms (by an Australian I'm afraid)

Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide!

The Invisible Killer

Dihydrogen monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and kills uncounted thousands of people every year. Most of these deaths are caused by accidental inhalation of DHMO, but the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide do not end there. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of DHMO ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. For those who have become dependent, DHMO withdrawal means certain death.

Dihydrogen monoxide:

- is also known as hydroxyl acid, and is the major component of acid rain.
- contributes to the "greenhouse effect."
- may cause severe burns.
- contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
- accelerates corrosion and rusting of many metals.
- may cause electrical failures and decreased effectiveness of automobile brakes.
- has been found in excised tumors of terminal cancer patients.

Contamination Is Reaching Epidemic Proportions!

Quantities of dihydrogen monoxide have been found in almost every stream, lake, and reservoir in America today. But the pollution is global, and the contaminant has even been found in Antarctic ice. DHMO has caused millions of dollars of property damage in the midwest, and recently California.

Despite the danger, dihydrogen monoxide is often used:

- as an industrial solvent and coolant.
- in nuclear power plants.
- in the production of styrofoam.
- as a fire retardant.
- in many forms of cruel animal research.
- in the distribution of pesticides. Even after washing, produce remains contaminated by this chemical.
- as an additive in certain "junk-foods" and other food products.

Companies dump waste DHMO into rivers and the ocean, and nothing can be done to stop them because this practice is still legal. The impact on wildlife is extreme, and we cannot afford to ignore it any longer!

The Horror Must Be Stopped!

The American government has refused to ban the production, distribution, or use of this damaging chemical due to its "importance to the economic health of this nation." In fact, the navy and other military organizations are conducting experiments with DHMO, and designing multi-billion dollar devices to control and utilize it during warfare situations. Hundreds of military research facilities receive tons of it through a highly sophisticated underground distribution network. Many store large quantities for later use.

It's Not Too Late!

Act NOW to prevent further contamination. Find out more about this dangerous chemical. What you don't know can hurt you and others throughout the world.

How do you hunt elephants?

Mathematicians hunt elephants by going to Africa, throwing out everything that is not an elephant, and catching one of whatever is left. Experienced mathematicians will attempt to prove the existence of at least one unique elephant before proceeding to step 1 as a subordinate exercise. Professors of mathematics will prove the existence of at least one unique elephant and then leave the detection and capture of an actual elephant as an exercise for their graduate students.

Physicists hunt elephants by treating the elephant as a unstable W-Z particle and spend a fortune developing a Particle Accelerator large enough to detect one when a hippo and Rhino collide.

Computer Scientists hunt elephants by exercising Algorithm A:

- Go to Africa.
- Start at the Cape of Good Hope.
- Work northward in an orderly manner, traversing the continent alternately east and west.
- During each traverse pass,
 - ◊ Catch each animal seen.
 - ◊ Compare each animal caught to a known elephant.
 - ◊ Stop when a match is detected.

Experienced computer programmers modify Algorithm A by placing a known elephant in Cairo to ensure that the algorithm will terminate. Assembly language programmers prefer to execute Algorithm A on their hands and knees.

Engineers hunt elephants by going to Africa, catching grey animals at random, and stopping when any one of them weighs within plus or minus 15 percent of any previously observed elephant.

Economists don't hunt elephants, but they believe that if elephants are paid enough, they will hunt themselves.

Statisticians hunt the 1st animal they see N times & call it an elephant.

Consultants don't hunt elephants, and many have never hunted anything at all, but they can be hired by the hour to advise those people who do. Operations research consultants can also measure the correlation of hat size and bullet colour to the efficiency of elephant-hunting strategies, if someone else will only identify the elephants.

Politicians don't hunt elephants, but they will share the elephants you catch with the people who voted for them.

Lawyers don't hunt elephants, but they do follow the herds around arguing about who owns the droppings. Software lawyers will claim that they own an entire herd based on the look and feel of one dropping.

Vice Presidents of engineering, research, and development try hard to hunt elephants, but their staffs are designed to prevent it. When the vice president does get to hunt elephants, the staff will try to ensure that all possible elephants are completely prehunted before the vice president sees them. If the vice president does see a nonprehunted elephant, the staff will (1) compliment the vice president's keen eyesight and (2) enlarge itself to prevent any recurrence.

Senior managers set broad elephant-hunting policy based on the assumption that elephants are just like field mice, but with deeper voices.

Quality assurance inspectors ignore the elephants and look for mistakes the other hunters made when they were packing the jeep.

Salespeople don't hunt elephants but spend their time selling elephants they haven't caught, for delivery two days before the season opens. Software salespeople ship the first thing they catch and write up an invoice for an elephant. Hardware salespeople catch rabbits, paint them grey, and sell them as desktop elephants.

Librarians do an on-line search (k=elephant). Depending on the jungle, they may have to undertake a retrospective conversion project on all animals first. They have to look through their LC schedules to find the proper classification (Mammals get classified under M, reptiles under R, etc. An elephant would probably get an MP call number [P for pachyderm]). Then all the elephants would have to be tagged (100:00:Jumbo,[d]1945-) and given bar codes. The patron could then search for the desired elephant. If not found, the librarian would then put a tracer on it, or, if the patron is really desperate, they could put out a request on IJL (Inter-jungle loan). The patron would get the elephant for 6 months, and after a 9 day grace period would

accrue a fine of 10 bags of peanuts a day. If the elephant is still unreturned the patron's account would be flagged and a threat to revoke the patron's insurance policy would be made until said elephant was returned. This generally isn't a problem, since an elephant never forgets. The experienced animal librarian knows not to check out elephants to patrons wearing lots of ivory. Nevertheless, elephants in many jungles are being declared missing and in time may be withdrawn altogether.

Scientist jokes

A physicist and a mathematician are in the faculty lounge having a cup of coffee when, for no apparent reason, the coffee machine bursts into flames. The physicist rushes over to the wall, grabs a fire extinguisher, and fights the fire successfully. The same time next week, the same pair are there drinking coffee and talking shop when the new coffee machine goes on fire. The mathematician stands up, fetches the fire extinguisher, and hands it to the physicist, thereby reducing the problem to one already solved...

Similarly, a mathematician, a physicist and an engineer are each given 50 pounds to measure the height of a building. The mathematician buys a ruler and a sextant, and by determining the angle subtended by the building a certain distance away from the base, he establishes the height of the building. The physicist buys a heavy ball and a stopwatch, climbs to the top of the building and drops the ball. By measuring the time it takes to hit the bottom, he establishes the height of the building. The engineer puts forty pounds into his pocket. By slipping the doorman the other ten, he establishes the height of the building.

A Mathematician, a Biologist and a Physicist are sitting in a street cafe watching people going in and coming out of the house on the other side of the street. First they see two people going into the house. Time passes. After a while they notice three persons coming out of the house. The Physicist: "The measurement wasn't accurate." The Biologist: "They have reproduced". The Mathematician: "If now exactly one person enters the house then it will be empty again."

A physicist, an engineer and a mathematician were all in a hotel sleeping when a fire broke out in their respective rooms. The physicist woke up, saw the fire, ran over to his desk, pulled out his CRC, and began working out all sorts of fluid dynamics equations. After a couple minutes, he threw down his pencil, got a graduated cylinder out of his suitcase, and measured out a precise amount of water. He threw it on the fire, extinguishing it, with not a drop wasted, and went back to sleep. The engineer woke up, saw the fire, ran into the bathroom, turned on the taps full-blast, flooding out the entire apartment, which put out the fire, and went back to sleep. The mathematician woke up, saw the fire, ran over to his desk, began working through theorems, lemmas, hypotheses, you-name-it, and after a few minutes, put down his pencil triumphantly and exclaimed, "I have *proven* that I *can* put the fire out!" He then went back to sleep.

Four engineers were travelling by car to a seminar, when unfortunately, the vehicle broke down. The chemical engineer said "Obviously, some constituent of the fuel has

caused this failure to occur." The mechanical engineer replied "I disagree, I would surmise that an engine component has suffered a catastrophic structural failure." The electrical engineer also had a theory. "I believe an electrical component has ceased to function, thereby causing an ignition malfunction." The software engineer thought for some time. When at last he spoke he said "What would happen if we all got out and then got back in again?"

Einstein dies and goes to heaven only to be informed that his room is not yet ready. "I hope you will not mind waiting in a dormitory. We are very sorry, but it's the best we can do and you will have to share the room with others." he is told by the doorman (say his name is Pete). Einstein says that this is no problem at all and that there is no need to make such a great fuss. So Pete leads him to the dorm. They enter and Albert is introduced to all of the present inhabitants. "See, here is your first room mate. He has an IQ of 180!" "Why that's wonderful!" says Albert. "We can discuss literature!" "And here is your second room mate. His IQ is 150!" "Why that's wonderful!" says Albert. "We can discuss mathematics!" "And here is your third room mate. His IQ is 100!" "That's Wonderful! We can discuss the latest plays at the theatre!" Just then another man moves out to capture Albert's hand and shake it. "I'm your last room mate and I'm sorry, but my IQ is only 80." Albert smiles back at him and says, "So, where do you think interest rates are headed?"

When considering the behaviour of a howitzer: A mathematician will be able to calculate where the shell will land. A physicist will be able to explain how the shell gets there. An engineer will stand there and try to catch it.

A Programmer and an Engineer were sitting next to each other on an airplane. The Programmer leans over to the Engineer and asks if he wants to play a fun game. The Engineer just wants to sleep so he politely declines, turns away and tries to sleep. The Programmer persists and explains that it's a real easy game. He explains, "I ask a question and if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5. Then you ask a question and if I don't know the answer I'll pay you \$5." Again the Engineer politely declines and tries to sleep. The Programmer, now somewhat agitated, says, "O.K., if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5 and if I don't know the answer I pay you \$50!" Now, that got the Engineer's attention, so he agrees to the game. The Programmer asks the first question, "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" Then Engineer doesn't say a word and just hands the Programmer \$5. Now, it's the Engineer's turn. He asks the Programmer, "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down on four?" The Programmer looks at him with a puzzled look, takes out his laptop computer, looks through all his references and after about an hour wakes the Engineer and hands the Engineer \$50. The Engineer politely takes the \$50 turns away and tries to return to sleep. The Programmer, a little miffed, asks, "Well what's the answer to the question?" Without a word, the Engineer reaches into his wallet, hands \$5 to the Programmer, turns away and returns to sleep.

Applied mathematics kits

As a result of recent developments in Artificial Intelligence, the Society has a large amount of material for disposal at reduced prices, and offers to interested readers the following Superb Surplus Kits in Applied Mathematics.

Standard Kit includes:

- 1 uniform ladder, complete with rough ground and smooth wall
- 1 hemispherical bowl of radius a , supplied together with
- 1 uniform rod of length $2a \sin(\theta)$, with perfectly rough ends
- 2 particles, connected by a light inextensible string
- 2 rigid, smooth, incompressible and perfectly elastic spheres, of masses m and m (masses M and m can be supplied if preferred).
- 1 hank uniformly flexible string
- 1 set assorted frictionless massless pulleys, in uniform box, guaranteed not to influence acceleration.

Special de luxe Kit includes in addition:

- 1 rigid body, complete with axis, of moment of inertia I (moments of inertia A , B and C can be supplied at slight extra charge)
- 1 isosceles wedge with different coefficients of friction on all three faces, complete with pulley at apex (a connoisseur's item)
- 1 bottle of resisting medium, capable of extending to approximately 550gt / 2240 k feet
- $n+1$ bricks, ready stacked in a pile with uniform overlap

The whole ready packed in perfectly rough hollow sphere of radius r and negligible thickness. Price $a+bx$, where a and b are constants and x is the distance from the orchard at Woolsthorpe, Lincs.

STOP PRESS

For sale: Klein bottle. Enquire within.

Pipe specifications

- All pipe is to be made of a long hole, surrounded by metal or plastic, centred around the hole.
- All pipe is to be hollow throughout the entire length - do not use holes of different length than the pipe.
- The ID (Inside Diameter) of all pipe must not exceed their OD (Outside Diameter) - otherwise the hole will be on the outside.
- The pipe is supplied with nothing in the hole, so that water, steam or other stuff can be put inside at a later date.

- All pipe is to be supplied without rust; this can be more readily applied at the job site.

NOTE: Some vendors are now able to supply pre-rusted pipes. If available in your area, this product is recommended, as it will save a great deal of time at the job site.

- All pipe over 500ft (150m) in length should have the words "LONG PIPE" clearly painted on each side and end, so the contractor will know it's a long pipe.
- Pipe over 2 miles (3.2km) in length must also have the words "LONG PIPE" painted in the middle so the contractor will not have to walk the entire length of the pipe to determine whether it is a long or short pipe.
- All pipe over 6ft (1.83m) in diameter must have the words "LARGE PIPE" painted on it, so the contractor won't mistake it for a small pipe.
- Flanges must be used on all pipe. Flanges must have holes from bolts, quite separate from the big holes in the middle.
- When ordering 90 or 30 degree elbows, be sure to specify left-hand or right-hand, otherwise you will end up going the wrong way.
- Be sure to specify to your vendor whether you want level, uphill or downhill pipe. If you use downhill pipe for going uphill, the water will flow the wrong way.
- All couplings should have either right-hand or left-hand threads, but do not mix the threads, otherwise, as the coupling is being screwed on to one pipe, it is being unscrewed from the other.
- All pipes shorter than 1/8in (3mm) are very uneconomical in use, requiring many joints. They are generally known as washers.
- Joints in pipes for water must be water tight. those pipes for compressed air, however, need only be air tight.
- Lengths of pipes may be welded or soldered together. this method is not recommended for concrete or earthenware pipes.
- Other commodities are often confused with pipes. These include; Conduit, Tube, Tunnel, and Drain. Use only genuine pipes.

Real engineers...

- Real Engineers consider themselves well dressed if their socks match.
- Real Engineers buy their spouses a set of matched screwdrivers for their birthday.
- Real Engineers wear moustaches or beards for "efficiency". Not because they're lazy.
- Real engineers have a non-technical vocabulary of 800 words.
- Real Engineers think a "biting wit" is their fox terrier.
- Real Engineers know the second law of thermodynamics - but not their own shirt size.
- Real Engineers repair their own cameras, telephones, televisions, watches, and automatic transmissions.
- Real Engineers say "It's 70 degrees Fahrenheit, 25 degrees Celsius, and 298 degrees Kelvin" and all you say is "Isn't it a nice day"
- Real Engineers give you the feeling you're having a conversation with a dial tone or busy signal.

- Real Engineers wear badges so they don't forget who they are. Sometimes a note is attached saying "Don't offer me a ride today. I drove my own car".
- Real Engineers' politics run towards acquiring a parking space with their name on it and an office with a window.
- Real Engineers know the "ABC's of Infrared" from A to B.
- Real Engineers rotate their tyres for laughs.
- Real Engineers will make four sets of drawings (with seven revisions) before making a bird bath.
- Real Engineers' briefcases contain a Phillips screwdriver, a copy of "Quantum Physics", and a half of a peanut butter sandwich.
- Real Engineers don't find the above at all funny.

Is there a Santa Claus?

1. No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.
2. There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.
3. Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc.
4. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second; a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.
5. The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200

reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth.

6. tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion - If Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's dead now.

Is there a Santa Claus? – a rebuttal

Come on, ya gotta believe! I mean, if you can handle flying furry animals, then it's only a small step to the rest.

For example;

1. As admitted, it is possible that a flying reindeer can be found. I would agree that it would be quite an unusual find, but they might exist.
2. You've relied on cascading assumptions. For example, you have assumed a uniform distribution of children across homes. Toronto/Yorkville, or Toronto/Cabbagetown, or other yuppie neighbourhoods, have probably less than the average (and don't forget the DINK and SINK homes (Double Income No Kids, Single Income No Kids)), while the families with 748 starving children that they keep showing on Vision TV while trying to pick my pocket would skew that 15% of homes down a few percent.
3. You've also assumed that each home that has kids would have at least one good kid. What if anti-selection applies, and homes with good kids tend to have more than their share of good kids, and other homes have nothing except terrorists in diapers? Let's drop that number of homes down a few more percent.
4. Santa would have to FedEx a number of packages ahead of time, since he would not be able to fly into Air Force Bases, or into tower-controlled areas near airports. He's get shot at over certain sections of the Middle East, and the no-fly zones in Iraq, so he'd probably use DHL there. Subtract some more homes.
5. I just barely passed Physics and only read Stephen Hawking's book once, but I recall that there is some Einsteinian Theory that says time does strange things as you move faster. In fact, when you go faster than the speed of light time runs backward, if you do a straight line projection, connect the dots and just ignore any singularity you might find right at the speed of light. And don't say you can't go faster than the speed of light because I've seen it done on TV. Jean-Luc doesn't have reindeer but he does have matter-antimatter warp engines and a holodeck and that's good enough for me. So Santa could go faster than light, visit all the good children which

are not uniformly distributed by either concentration in each home or by number of children per household, and get home before he left so he can digest all those stale cookies and warm milk yech.

6. Aha, you say, Jean-Luc has matter-antimatter warp engines, Santa only has reindeer, where does he get the power to move that fast! You calculated the answer! The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy. Per second. Each. This is an ample supply of energy for the maneuvering, acceleration, etc, that would be required of the loaded sleigh. The reindeer don't evaporate or incinerate because of this energy, they accelerate. What do you think they have antlers for, fighting over females? Think of antlers as furry solar array panels.
7. If that's not enough, watch the news on the 24th at 11 o'clock. NORAD (which may be one of the few government agencies with more than 3 initials in it's name and therefore it must be more trustworthy than the rest) tracks Santa every year and I've seen the radar shots of him approaching my house from the direction of the North Pole. They haven't bombarded him yet, so they must believe too, right?

Yet another rebuttal to the rebuttal - Several key points are overlooked by this callous, amateurish "study."

1. Flying reindeer: As is widely known (due to the excellent historical documentary "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," the flying reindeer are not a previously unknown species of reindeer, but were in fact given the power of flight due to eating magic acorns. As is conclusively proven in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (a no punches pulled look at life in Santa's village), this ability has bred true in subsequent generations of reindeer, obviously the magic acorns imprinted their power on a dominant gene sequence within the reindeer DNA strand.
2. Number of households: This figure overlooks two key facts. First of all, the first major schism in the Church split the Eastern Churches, centered in Byzantium, from the Western, which remained centered in Rome. This occurred prior to the Gregorian correction to the Julian calendar. The Eastern churches (currently called Orthodox Churches) do not recognize the Gregorian correction for liturgical events, and their Christmas is as a result several days after the Western Churches'. Santa gets two shots at delivering toys. Secondly, the figure of 3.5 children per household is based on the gross demographic average, which includes households with no children at all. The number of children per household, when figured as an average for households with children, would therefore have to be adjusted upward. Also, the largest single Christian denomination is Roman Catholic, who, as we all know, breed like rabbits. If you don't believe me, ask my four brothers and two sisters, they'll back me up. Due to the predominance of Catholics within Christian households, the total number of households containing Christian children would have to be adjusted downward to reflect the overloading of Catholics beyond a standard deviation from the median.

Also, the assertion that each home would contain at least one good child would be reasonable enough if there were in fact an even 3.5 children per household. However, since the number of children per household is distributed integrally, there are a significant number (on the order of several million) of one child Christian households. Even though only children are notoriously spoiled and therefore disproportionately inclined towards being naughty, since it's the holidays we'll be generous and give them a fifty-fifty chance of being nice. This removes one half of

- the single child households from Santa's delivery schedule, which has already been reduced by the removal of the Orthodox households from the first delivery run.
3. Santa's delivery run (speed, payload, etc.): These all suffer from the dubious supposition that there is only one Santa Claus. The name "Santa" is obviously either Spanish or Italian, two ethnic groups which are both overwhelmingly Catholic. The last name Claus suggests a joint German/Italian background. His beginnings, battling the Burgermeister Meisterburger, suggest he grew up in Bavaria (also predominantly Catholic). The Kaiser style helmets of the Burgermeister's guards, coupled with the relative isolation of the village, suggest that his youth was at the very beginning of Prussian influence in Germany. Thus, Santa and Mrs. Claus have been together for well over one hundred years. If you think that after a hundred years of living at the North Pole with nights six months long that they remain childless, you either don't know Catholics or are unaware of the failure rate of the rhythm method. There have therefore been over five generations of Clauses, breeding like Catholics for over one hundred years. Since they are Catholic, their exponential population increase would obviously have a gain higher than the world population as a whole. There have therefore been more than enough new Santas to overcome the population increase of the world. So in fact, Santa has an easier time of it now than he did when he first started out. Santa dead, indeed; some people will twist any statistic to "prove" their cynical theory.

The science of shoes

Oh, wise all-knowing Oracle! Tell me.: Why can I only take very small steps, when I have bought a pair of shoes?

Truly, your question touches upon the deepest mysteries of the nature of the physical universe.

The process of shoe generation, like many events in physics, has about it a certain symmetry. Just as a passing gamma ray sometimes produces an electron and an anti-electron, the colossal cosmic energies which lead to shoe creation precipitate the formation of both a shoe and an anti-shoe. This fact explains why shoes nearly always occur in pairs, and why the two shoes in a pair are mirror images of each other.

Most pairs of shoes, once produced, quickly come together and annihilate in a burst of radiation. Indeed, in the early universe, shoes rarely if ever existed for more than a fraction of a second (which is why artists typically portray Adam and Eve as going barefoot). However, as the great physicist George Reebok suggested in the mid-1970's, shoe production occasionally occurred very near to the event horizon of a black hole. In these cases, one shoe would be sucked into the hole, while the other shoe would be spun out of the vicinity, to be thrown willy-nilly across the voids of space. These unmatched "cosmic shoes" sometimes enter the planet's atmosphere and fall to earth, where they are often seen on the sides of highways.

Although shoes have stabilized somewhat due to the cooling of the universe, there is still a strong attractive force between a shoe and its anti-shoe. This force is mediated by a spin-1 particle known as a futon (an English corruption of the original German

"fußon"). Futon exchange is readily observed among the bins of shoes found at K-Mart, which contain the raw by-products of high-energy boot collisions.

The force impeding your steps is due to the exchange of futons between the shoe and its anti-shoe. The exchange usually manifests itself as a stream of white plastic-like particles. The solution to your problem is to increase the potential energy between the shoes by pulling them apart; this will reduce the attraction and make walking easier. Since you must add a complete quantum of energy before the futon exchange slackens, do not be surprised if the shoes resist strongly, then "snap apart" all at once.

The manufacturers of more expensive shoes usually provide the necessary increase in potential energy before shipping. However, the Oracle has it on good authority that a few discount shoe manufacturers are instead breaking the shoe/anti-shoe symmetry by a dastardly and highly secretive method. When a pair of socks is raised to high energies (e.g. by being heated and tossed in the dryer), it is fairly easy to destroy one of the socks entirely; the energy released by breaking the sock-symmetry is enough to separate several shoe pairs. Hence, certain companies are quietly destroying socks in the world's dryers in order to support their shoe separation facilities. The result is a lot of missing socks and terrible consternation among sock owners, all for a few cents' reduction in the price of shoes. The Oracle is frankly disgusted.

We hope that our explanation has clarified your problem. You owe the Oracle a pair of Doc Martens - size 10D, please.

Schrödinger's cat

Schrödinger's cat's a mystery cat, he illustrates the laws;
The complicated things he does have no apparent cause;
He baffles the determinist, and drives him to despair
For when they try to pin him down--the quantum cat's not there!

Schrödinger's cat's a mystery cat, he's given to random decisions;
His mass is slightly altered by a cloud of virtual kittens;
The vacuum fluctuations print his traces in the air
But if you try to find him, the quantum cat's not there!

Schrödinger's cat's a mystery cat, he's very small and light,
And if you try to pen him in, he tunnels out of sight;
So when the cruel scientist confined him in a box
With poison-capsules, triggered by bizarre atomic clocks,
He wasn't alive, he wasn't dead, or half of each; I swear
That when they fixed his eigenstate--he simply wasn't there!

Möbius' mouse

Flappity, floppity, flip
The mouse on the Möbius strip;
 The strip revolved,
 The mouse dissolved
In a chronodimensional skip.

How the angel came to be on top of the Christmas tree

There had been no snow during the entire month of December. The elves in the bicycle department had been on strike since October, and now there was the possibility that the elves in the doll department might join them.

Daily life at the North Pole was not pleasant, and Santa Claus was in a pretty foul mood. Mrs. Claus was suffering from arthritis and was very mad over the fact that her red velvet cake had fallen in the oven. Santa had tried to round up some extra helpers, but with no snow, they weren't able to make it by sleigh to the workshop.

Rudolph had a bad cold, and his nose wouldn't light up. Comet and Prancer were fighting over Vixen, who had just come into heat. Blitzen's right foreleg was still in a cast, and the vet said that they would have to wait until 24 December to decide if Blitzen would be able to pull the sleigh.

The electricity went off, and all the power tools came to a stop. There was nothing going right in Santa's workshops. The helpers were about three weeks behind in their work, and it didn't look that all the toys would be ready by Christmas Eve. Santa's foul mood was exacerbated by a bad case of hemorrhoids, and he wasn't too happy about the possibility of having to ride so far on Christmas Eve.

Seeing the terrible state of affairs at the North Pole chez Santa, the angels took up an offering to buy a gift for the unhappy workers and the Clauses - something that would brighten their Christmas. They chose a Christmas tree, and they sent it down by an angel.

The angel burst into the workshop room and asked, "HEY, WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT THIS TREE?"

The 12 days of Christmas - deconstructed

On the 12th day of the Eurocentrically imposed midwinter festival, my potential-acquaintance-rape-survivor gave to me:

TWELVE males reclaiming their inner warrior through ritual drumming.

ELEVEN pipers piping (plus the 18-member pit orchestra made up of members in good standing of the Musicians Equity Union as called for in their union contract even though they will not be asked to play a note...)

TEN melanin-deprived testosterone-poisoned scions of the patriarchal ruling class system leaping,

NINE persons engaged in rhythmic self-expression,

EIGHT economically disadvantaged female persons stealing milk-products from enslaved Bovine-Europeans,

SEVEN endangered swans swimming on protected wetlands,

SIX enslaved fowl-Europeans producing stolen nonhuman animal products,

FIVE golden symbols of culturally sanctioned enforced domestic incarceration,

NOTE: after member of the Animal Liberation Front threatened to throw red paint at my computer, the calling birds, French hens and partridge have been reintroduced to their native habitat. To avoid further animal-European enslavement, the remaining gift package has been revised.

FOUR hours of recorded whale songs,

THREE deconstructionist poets,

TWO Sierra Club calendars printed on recycled processed tree carcasses

And an Animal Rights activist chained to an old-growth pear tree.

Christmas cutbacks

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole.

Streamlining was is due to the North Pole's loss of dominance of the season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels and mail order catalogues have diminished Santa's market share. He could not sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture.

The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model Japanese sled for the CEO's annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer, who summered at the Harvard Business School, is anticipated. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole has received unfavorable press.

I am pleased to inform you that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something at the North Pole. Management denies, in the strongest possible language, the earlier leak that Rudolph's nose got that way, not from the cold, but from substance abuse. Calling Rudolph "a lush who was into the sauce and never did pull his share of the load" was an unfortunate comment, made by one of Santa's helpers and taken out of context at a time of year when he is known to be under executive stress.

As a further restructuring, today's global challenges require the North Pole to continue to look for better, more competitive steps. Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary:

- The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance;
- The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated;
- The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French;
- The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked;
- The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks appear to be in order;
- The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of the decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that from now on every goose it gets will be a good one;
- The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes and therefore enhance their outplacement;
- As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching;
- Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps;

- Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressmen this year;
- Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music and no uniforms will produce savings which will drop right down to the bottom line;

We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and other expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved.

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing") action is pending.

Lastly, it is not beyond consideration that deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to stay competitive. Should that happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

The laws of physics for cartoons

1. **A body tends to remain in place or in motion in free space until it notices its situation.**
Daffy Duck steps off a cliff, expecting further pastureland. He loiters in mid-air, soliloquizing flippantly, until he chances to look down. At this point, the familiar principle of 32 feet per second per second takes over.
2. **Any body in motion will tend to remain in motion until solid matter intervenes suddenly.**
Whether shot from a cannon or in hot pursuit on foot, cartoon characters are so absolute in their momentum that only a telephone pole or an outsize boulder retards their forward motion absolutely. Sir Isaac Newton called this sudden termination of motion the stooge's surcease.
3. **Any body passing through solid matter will leave a perforation conforming to its perimeter.**
Also called the silhouette of passage, this phenomenon is the speciality of victims of directed-pressure explosions and of reckless cowards who are so eager to escape that they exit directly through the wall of a house, leaving a cookie-cutout-perfect hole. The threat of skunks or matrimony often catalyzes this reaction.

4. **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.**
Such an object is inevitably priceless, the attempt to capture it inevitably unsuccessful.
5. **All things fall faster than anvils and boulders.**
6. **All principles of gravity are negated by fear.**
Psychic forces are sufficient in most bodies for a shock to propel them directly away from the earth's surface. A spooky noise or an adversary's signature sound will induce motion upward, usually to the cradle of a chandelier, a treetop, or the crest of a flagpole. The feet of a character who is running or the wheels of a speeding auto need never touch the ground, especially when in flight.
7. **As speed increases, objects can be in several places at once.**
This is particularly true of tooth-and-claw fights, in which a character's head may be glimpsed emerging from the cloud of altercation at several places simultaneously. This effect is common as well among bodies that are spinning or being throttled. A 'wacky' character has the option of self-replication only at manic high speeds and may ricochet off walls to achieve the velocity required.
8. **Certain bodies can pass through solid walls painted to resemble tunnel entrances; others cannot.**
This trompe l'oeil inconsistency has baffled generations, but at least it is known that whoever paints an entrance on a wall's surface to trick an opponent will be unable to pursue him into this theoretical space. The painter is flattened against the wall when he attempts to follow into the painting. This is ultimately a problem of art, not of science.
9. **Any violent rearrangement of feline matter is impermanent.**
Cartoon cats possess even more deaths than the traditional nine lives might comfortably afford. They can be decimated, spliced, splayed, accordion-pleated, spindled, or disassembled, but they cannot be destroyed. After a few moments of blinking self pity, they re-inflate, elongate, snap back, or solidify. Corollary: A cat will assume the shape of its container.
10. **For every vengeance there is an equal and opposite revengeance.**
This is the one law of animated cartoon motion that also applies to the physical world at large. For that reason, we need the relief of watching it happen to a duck instead.
11. **Any alligator, when punched, will fly up in the air returning to the ground as a nice set of matched luggage or perhaps as a nifty pair of boots.**
12. **Objects launched into the air need not follow parabolic trajectories.**
13. **Intelligence is inversely proportional to body size.**

14. **Firearms are relatively ineffectual weapons (unless, of course, your intent is to blacken someone's face, make it difficult for them to drink, and hold, water, or remove bills or feathers).**
15. **Drawings are real as long as you're not aware they're drawings.**
16. **A 'toon's GI-tract will always expand linearly in proportion to the object being swallowed regardless of the object's size.**
17. **A vehicle's speed is limited only by the size of the numbers written on the speedometer.**
18. **Pretending one is stepping on brakes is as good as having them.**
19. **Holes are moveable.**
20. **Drawings and constructs warp reality so as to encompass them. This warping of reality often does not extend to the artist or builder.**

Amendments

- A sharp object will always propel a character upward. - When poked (usually in the buttocks) with a sharp object (usually a pin), a character will defy gravity by shooting straight up, with great velocity.
- The laws of object permanence are nullified for "cool" characters. - Characters who are intended to be "cool" can make previously non-existent objects appear from behind their backs at will. For instance, the Road Runner can materialize signs to express himself without speaking.
- Explosive weapons cannot cause fatal injuries. - They merely turn characters temporarily black and smoky.
- Gravity is transmitted by slow-moving waves of large wavelengths. - Their operation can be witnessed by observing the behaviour of a canine suspended over a large vertical drop. Its feet will begin to fall first, causing its legs to stretch. As the wave reaches its torso, that part will begin to fall, causing the neck to stretch. As the head begins to fall, tension is released and the canine will resume its regular proportions until such time as it strikes the ground.
- Dynamite is spontaneously generated in "C-spaces" (spaces in which cartoon laws hold). - The process is analogous to steady-state theories of the universe which postulated that the tensions involved in maintaining a space would cause the creation of hydrogen from nothing. Dynamite quanta are quite large (stick sized) and unstable (lit). Such quanta are attracted to psychic forces generated by feelings of distress in "cool" characters (see Amendment B, which may be a special case of this law), who are able to use said quanta to their advantage. One may imagine C-spaces where all matter and energy result from primal masses of dynamite exploding. A big bang indeed.

Coyote v. Acme

United States District Court - Southwestern District of Arizona

<p>WILE E. COYOTE Plaintiff</p> <p>v. ACME COMPANY Defendant</p> <p>CIVIL ACTION NO. B19294</p>

OPENING STATEMENT OF ARTHUR B. FUDDLE, ESQUIRE, COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

By Mr. Fuddle:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury: the opening statement you have just heard from Mr. Schoff on behalf of the plaintiff, Wile E. Coyote, paints an incomplete picture of what occurred on the occasions when Mr. Coyote claims he was injured by ACME products. The evidence will clearly show that my client, ACME Products Corp., a Division of Dangerously Innovative Products and Patents Incorporated (or "DIPPI") is not at fault in this matter, and that any injuries sustained by the plaintiff were clearly caused by his own negligence, assumption of the risk and/or misuse of the products.

Now, we have all seen the footage on television of the plaintiff withstanding various injuries which appear to be caused by ACME's products. You have seen over and over the tape of a hapless coyote being bludgeoned by a boulder as he is helplessly trapped by his ACME Spring Loaded Shoes. We have all seen the photographs taken at Warner Memorial Hospital of Mr. Coyote in a very small incubator, on life support, as his doctors attempt to straighten out the accordion-like folds from his body. We have all seen the gruesome images of the operation in which Dr. Tazmanian D. Devil whirls like a dervish, obscuring his features and creating a starry, "dust cloud" effect, while numerous limbs holding various surgical instruments swiftly repair the nerve damage to Mr. Coyote's extremities.

It is normal for any human being to feel pity, horror, and even anger at such images. I want you to put those images aside for the moment, because they paint an incomplete picture. What the media has not disclosed to you, and what you will see in this courtroom, are various attempts at murder committed by the plaintiff - attempts which, fortunately, failed - while using my client's products. As the plaintiff readily admits, he is a predator, and his sole function in life is to track down and kill an innocent, highway traversing ornithoid.

You see, ladies and gentlemen, while the plaintiff is a natural predator, he is not a very good one. His own skills were inadequate to complete the task at hand, so he chose to

seek the aid of various devices to effectuate his diabolical schemes. He looked in a catalogue, saw my client's products, and ordered them in the hope that they would assist him in killing his prey. But ladies and gentlemen, ACME's products are not meant to cause intentional harm to anyone. The plaintiff has taken what were designed as amusements, toys for the young and feeble-minded, and has twisted their use to his own purposes.

But I digress. Let us examine the plaintiff's claims and how the evidence clearly refutes the proposition that ACME is responsible for any harm sustained by the plaintiff.

Mr. Coyote states that on December 13 he received an ACME Rocket Sled, that he attempted to use said rocket sled to pursue his prey, and that, upon igniting the sled, it accelerated with "sudden and precipitate force as to stretch Mr. Coyote's forelimbs to a length of fifty feet."

There are several reasons why ACME cannot be held responsible for any injuries caused by this incident. First, the warning label attached conspicuously to the inside of the left front tire of the sled clearly stated, and I quote: "WARNING: IGNITION OF THIS DEVICE AT FULL THROTTLE MAY CAUSE SUDDEN AND PRECIPITATE FORCE AS TO STRETCH USER'S FORELIMBS TO A LENGTH OF UP TO SIXTY FEET, OR MAY CAUSE DEATH." That the plaintiff suffered so little as a result of his carelessness can be attributed only to Providence.

Second, Arizona law is clear on this point: a plaintiff who is found to be violating any law whose purpose is safety at the time of his injury is contributorily negligent *per se*. There is ample evidence that Mr. Coyote was violating both the laws of gravity and inertia at the time of this incident, and thus he is responsible for his own woes.

I could list many more examples of Mr. Coyote's negligent conduct in connection with his use of ACME's products, but you will hear all about them as the trial goes on. You will also hear the following evidence:

1. You will hear the plaintiff himself testify that, prior to the injuries complained of in this accident, he has suffered numerous injuries. As an example, on one occasion prior to the use of any ACME product, the plaintiff cornered his prey on the edge of a rather thin precipice. Taking an ordinary saw, the plaintiff began cutting away so that the edge of the cliff, with his prey on it, would drop some 1500 feet to a jagged, rocky destruction. Instead, by some inexplicable twist of fate the edge of the cliff remained standing while the whole mountain, on which the plaintiff was standing, plummeted to the bottom of the ravine, causing numerous injuries which affect the plaintiff to this day. On another occasion, Mr. Coyote was chasing his prey and followed it off of the edge of a cliff onto thin air, not realizing until too late that his prey, a bird, could remain in the air almost indefinitely while he, a canine, could not. As a result, he fell yet again, suffering even further severe and debilitating injuries which predate the injuries complained of in this action.
2. You will also hear the testimony of Mr. Road Runner, the plaintiff's prey and the true victim in this tragedy. Mr. Runner has been forced to live a nomadic lifestyle as a result of Mr. Coyote's unwanted attention, preventing him from forming any type of long term relationships. Numerous restraining orders had no effect. Mr.

- Runner has also suffered numerous psychological problems as a result of Mr. Coyote's actions, including but not limited to an inability to trust anyone who provides him with bird seed, a necessary ingredient in his daily nutritional schedule.
3. You will also hear from a witness to many of the incidents alleged in plaintiff's complaint, a colorful local prospector with red hair and moustache who has been known to proclaim: "No rootin' tootin' coyote can outsmart Yosemite Sam on any day of the week!" Don't be fooled by his gruff manner and twin pearl-handled six-shooters, he's a pussycat.
 4. Customer service records of defendant ACME, which we were forced to produce in this matter, clearly show that none of the complaints registered by ACME's customers nation-wide have ever resulted in criminal convictions of the officers of the corporation.
 5. Finally, videotape evidence will demonstrate that plaintiff faked many of his injuries, setting out to create performances especially for a jury such as yourself. On numerous occasions he would "mug" for the camera, as if he was well aware beforehand that he was being taped. For instance, during the "Rocket Sled" incident, as his forelimbs were stretched out ahead of him and his body remained behind, he looked straight into the camera with a forlorn, tired expression, as if to say: "look at how terrible my situation is, can you guess what's going to happen to me now." This jury is too smart to fall for such petty theatrics.

In summary, ladies and gentlemen, it will be clear to you from the evidence that ACME's products, if used properly, will cause only minimal injuries to a user and his loved ones. The plaintiff in this case has brought his troubles upon himself by adopting his carnivorous lifestyle. As others have so adequately uttered: "Live by the Super Slick Jet Propulsion Automated Explosive Metal-Shearing Heat-Seeking Laser-Guided Razor-Edged Boomerang, die by the Super Slick, etc."

I ask you, on behalf of my client, to dismiss the plaintiff's claims against it.

Musical definitions

- Accent: An unusual manner of pronunciation, eg: "Y'all sang that real good!"
- Accidentals: Wrong notes.
- Ad libitum: a premiere.
- Ad Libitum: A premiere.
- Agitato: A string player's state of mind when a peg slips in the middle of a piece.
- Agnus Dei: A woman composer famous for her church music.
- Altered Chord: A sonority that has been spayed.
- Attaca: "Fire at will!"
- Augmented Fifth: A 36-ounce bottle.
- Bar Line: A gathering of people, usually among which may be found a musician or two.
- Beat: What music students do each other with their musical instruments. The down beat is performed on the top of the head, while the up beat is struck under the chin.

- **Bravo:** Literally, How bold! or What nerve! This is a spontaneous expression of appreciation on the part of the concert goer after a particularly trying performance.
- **Breve:** The way a sustained note sounds when a violinist runs out of bow.
- **Cadence:** When everybody hopes you're going to stop, but you don't.
- **Cantus Firmus:** The part you get when you can only play four notes.
- **Chord:** Usually spelled with an "s" on the end, means a particular type of pants, eg: "He wears chords."
- **Chromatic Scale:** An instrument for weighing that indicates half-pounds.
- **Clef:** Something to jump from if you can't sing and you have to teach elementary school.
- **Coloratura Soprano:** A singer who has great trouble finding the proper note, but who has a wild time hunting for it.
- **Compound Meter:** A place to park your car that requires two dimes.
- **Conduct:** The type of air vents in a prison, especially designed to prevent escape. Could also be installed for effective use in a practice room.
- **Conductor:** A musician who is adept at following many people at the same time.
- **Counterpoint:** A favorite device of many Baroque composers, all of whom are dead, though no direct connection between these two facts has been established. Still taught in many schools, as a form of punishment.
- **Countertenor:** A singing waiter.
- **Crescendo:** A reminder to the performer that he has been playing too loudly.
- **Cut Time:** When you're going twice as fast as everyone else in the orchestra.
- **Detaché:** An indication that the trombones are to play with the slides removed.
- **Diatonic:** low-calorie Schweppes.
- **Discord:** Not to be confused with Daccord.
- **Dominant:** An adjective used to describe the voice of a child who sings off key.
- **Duple Meter:** May take any even number of coins.
- **Duration:** Can be used to describe how long a music teacher can exercise self-control.
- **English Horn:** Neither English nor a horn, not to be confused with the French Horn, which is German.
- **Espressivo:** Close eyes and play with a wide vibrato.
- **Fermata:** A brand of girdle made especially for opera singers.
- **Flat:** This is what happens to a tonic if it sits too long in the open air.
- **Flute:** A sophisticated pea shooter with a range of up to 500 yards, blown transversely to confuse the enemy.
- **Form:** The shape of a composition. OR The shape of the musician playing the composition. OR The piece of paper to be filled out in triplicate in order to get enough money from the Arts Council to play the composition.
- **Glissando:** The musical equivalent of slipping on a banana peel. OR A technique adopted by string players for difficult runs.
- **Half Step:** The pace used by a cellist when carrying his instrument.
- **Harmonic Minor:** A good music student.
- **Harmony:** A corn-like food eaten by people with accents (see above for definition of accent).
- **Hemiola:** A hereditary blood disease caused by chromatics.
- **Heroic Tenor:** A singer who gets by on sheer nerve and tight clothing.

- Lamentoso: With handkerchiefs.
- Major Triad: The name of the head of the Music Department.
- Mean-Tone Temperament: One's state of mind when everybody's trying to tune at the same time.
- Meter Signature: The name of the maid who writes you a ticket when you put an odd number of coins in a duple meter.
- Minor Triad: the name of the wife of the head of the Music Department.
- Modulation: "Nothing is bad in modulation."
- Music: a complex organizations of sounds that is set down by the composer, incorrectly interpreted by the conductor, who is ignored by the musicians, the result of which is ignored by the audience.
- Oboe: an ill wind that nobody blows good.
- Opera: when a guy gets stabbed in the back and instead of bleeding, he sings.
- Preparatory beat: a threat made to singers, i.e., sing, or else....
- Risoluto: indicates to orchestras that they are to stubbornly maintain the correct tempo no matter what the conductor tries to do.
- Senza sordino: a term used to remind the player that he forgot to put his mute on a few measures back.
- String quartet: a good violinist, a bad violinist, an ex-violinist, and someone who hates violinists, all getting together to complain about composers.
- Subito piano: indicates an opportunity for some obscure orchestra player to become a soloist.
- Tempo: This is where a headache begins.
- Tone Cluster: A chordal orgy first discovered by a well-endowed woman pianist leaning forward for a page turn.
- Tonic: Medicinal liquid to be consumed before, during, or after a performance. (Diatonic: This is what happens to some musicians.)
- Transposition: The act of moving the relative pitch of a piece of music that is too low for the basses to a point where it is too high for the sopranos.
- Trill: The musical equivalent of an epileptic seizure.
- Triple Meter: Only rich people should park by these.
- Triplet: One of three children, born to one mother very closely in time. If a composer uses a lot of triplets he has probably been taking a fertility drug.
- Vibrato: Used by singers to hide the fact that they are on the wrong pitch.
- Virtuoso: A musician with very high morals.

Preparation for parenthood

Preparation for parenthood is not just a matter of reading books and decorating the nursery. Here are 12 simple tests for expectant parents to take to prepare themselves for the real-life experience of being a mother or father.

1. Women: to prepare for maternity, put on a dressing gown and stick a beanbag down the front. Leave it there for 9 months. After 9 months, take out 10% of the beans. Men: to prepare for paternity, go to the local chemist, tip the contents of your wallet on the counter, and tell the pharmacist to help himself. Then go to the supermarket.

- Arrange to have your salary paid directly to their head office. Go home. Pick up the paper. Read it for the last time.
2. Before you finally go ahead and have children, Find a couple who are already parents and berate them about their methods of discipline, lack of patience, appallingly low tolerance levels, and how they have allowed their children to run riot. Suggest ways in which they might improve their child's sleeping habits, toilet training, table manners and overall behavior. Enjoy it - it'll be the last time in your life that you will have all the answers.
 3. To discover how the nights will feel, walk around the living room from 5pm to 10pm carrying a wet bag weighing approximately 8-12 lbs. At 10pm put the bag down, set the alarm for midnight, and go to sleep. Get up at 12 and walk around the living room again, with the bag, till 1am. Put the alarm on for 3am. As you can't get back to sleep get up at 2am and make a drink. Go to bed at 2.45am. Get up again at 3am when the alarm goes off. Sing songs in the dark until 4am. Put the alarm on for 5am. Get up. Make breakfast. Keep this up for 5 years. Look cheerful.
 4. Can you stand the mess children make? To find out, smear peanut butter onto the sofa and jam onto the curtains. Hide a fish finger behind the stereo and leave it there all summer. Stick your fingers in the flowerbeds then rub them on the clean walls. Cover the stains with crayons. How does that look?
 5. Dressing small children is not as easy as it seems: first buy an octopus and a string bag. Attempt to put the octopus into the string bag so that none of the arms hang out. Time allowed for this - all morning.
 6. Take an egg carton. Using a pair of scissors and a pot of paint turn it into an alligator. Now take a toilet tube. Using only scotch tape and a piece of foil, turn it into a Christmas cracker. Last, take a milk container, a ping pong ball, and an empty packet of Coco Pops and make an exact replica of the Eiffel Tower. Congratulations. You have just qualified for a place on the playgroup committee.
 7. Forget the hatchback and buy a big Volvo estate. And don't think you can leave it out in the driveway spotless and shining. Family cars don't look like that. Buy a chocolate ice cream bar and put it in the glove compartment. Leave it there. Get a quarter. Stick it in the cassette player. Take a family-size packet of chocolate cookies. Mash them down the back seats. Run a garden rake along both sides of the car. There. Perfect.
 8. Get ready to go out. Wait outside the toilet for half an hour. Go out the front door. Come in again. Go out. Come back in. Go out again. Walk down the front path. Walk back up it. Walk down it again. Walk very slowly down the road for 5 minutes. Stop to inspect minutely every cigarette end, piece of used chewing gum, dirty tissue and dead insect along the way. Retrace your steps. Scream that you've had as much as you can stand, until the neighbors come out and stare at you. Give up and go back into the house. You are now just about ready to try taking a small child for a walk.
 9. Always repeat everything you say at least five times.
 10. Go to your local supermarket. Take with you the nearest thing you can find to a preschool child - a fully grown goat is excellent. If you intend to have more than one child, take more than one goat. Buy your week's groceries without letting the goats out of your sight. Pay for everything the goats eat or destroy. Until you can easily accomplish this do not even contemplate having children.
 11. Hollow out a melon. Make a small hole in the side. Suspend it from the ceiling and swing it from side to side. Now get a bowl of soggy Weetabix and attempt to spoon it into the swaying melon by pretending to be an aeroplane. Continue until half the

Weetabix is gone. Tip the rest into your lap, making sure that a lot of it falls on the floor. You are now ready to feed a 12-month old baby.

12. Learn the names of every character from Postman Pat, Fireman Sam and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. When you find yourself singing "Postman Pat" at work, you finally qualify as a parent.

And remember: Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your children!

Pearls of wisdom

- Death is nature's way of telling you to slow down
- In theory, theory and practice are the same. In practice, they're not.
- The sum intelligence in the world is a constant. The population is growing.
- Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- What if there were no hypothetical questions?
- Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- Usenet is the delusion that all subjects can be classified in a neat hierarchy.
- Common sense and conscience are like a muscle. If you don't use a muscle it gets weaker and weaker.
- If the human brain was simple enough for us to understand, we would still be so stupid that we couldn't understand it.
- "As a matter of fact" is an expression that precedes many an expression that isn't.
- There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.
- The amount of sleep required by the average person is about five minutes more.
- Romance is like a game of chess - one false move and you're mated.
- If you have tried your hand at something and failed, the next best thing is to try your head.
- As you slide down the bannister of life, may the splinters never point your way.
- A racehorse is an animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.
- A good way to get your name in the newspaper is to cross the street reading one.
- They tell us courtesy is contagious. So why not start an epidemic.
- Good judgement comes from experience, experience comes from bad judgement!
- It's always easy to see both sides of an issue we are not particularly concerned about.
- Children disgrace us in public by behaving just like we do at home.
- Often the same thing that makes one person bitter makes another better.
- Love looks through a telescope; envy looks through a microscope.
- If pro is the opposite of con, is progress the opposite of congress?
- A real friend is a person who, when you've made a fool of yourself, lets you forget it.
- The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.
- A modern murderer is supposed to be innocent until he/she is proven insane.
- Science has found that insanity is hereditary...parents get it from their children.
- Lecturing has been described as the passing of information from the lecturer's notes to the students' notes without passing through the brain of either.

- Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.
- Mathematicians are a species of Frenchman: if you say something to them, they translate it into their own language and presto! it is something completely different.
- Scientists animated by the purpose of proving that they are purposeless are an interesting object of study.
- The worst thing about accidents in the kitchen is that you usually have to eat them.
- Don't be a carbon copy of something. Make your own impressions.
- To really know a man, observe his behaviour with a woman, a flat tyre, and a child.
- No matter what you do, someone always knew you would.
- Have you noticed that an optimist is always able to see the bright side of other people's troubles?
- Just why do men lie about each other when the plain truth would be bad enough?
- Ideas are like children: no matter how much you like other people's, you can't help thinking your own are the best.
- Intimacy has been defined as 'what you can scratch, in front of whom, and whose it is'.
- Human history is a drama in which the stories stay the same, the scripts of those stories change slowly with evolving cultures, and the stage settings change all the time.
- Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.
- Programming is like sex; one mistake and you support it for a lifetime
- It's easy to make a friend. What's hard is to make a stranger.
- A jury is a group of twelve men and women of average ignorance.
- A psychologist says kissing is where two people get so close together they can't see anything wrong with each other.
- Foreign dictators are difficult to understand. You can never tell whether they are smart men bluffing, or imbeciles who meant it.
- Summer has set in with its usual severity.
- Judge each day, not by the harvest, but by the seeds you plant.
- The trouble with getting to work on time is that it makes the day so long.
- If you have an unpleasant neighbour, the odds are that he does too.
- Hospitality meets its greatest test when a new idea drops by uninvited.
- Many a man's expenditure of speech exceeds his income of ideas.
- Envy provides the mud that failure throws at success.
- It's a well known fact that the older a man gets, the faster he could run as a boy.
- A man who goes out to meet trouble will have a short walk.
- Nothing depreciates a car faster than a neighbour buying a new one.
- The road to failure is greased with the slime of indifference.
- If it's true the world's getting smaller, why do they keep increasing the price of postage?
- Modesty is the art of enhancing your charm by pretending not to be aware of it.
- A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
- Why is it when two planes almost hit each other it is called a "near miss"? Shouldn't it be called a "near hit"?

- For every minute you're angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness.
- 'Anger' is just one letter short of danger.
- An angry man is seldom reasonable; a reasonable man is seldom angry.
- Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.
- Psychiatrists say that one of four people is mentally ill. Check three friends. If they're okay, you're it.
- The human brain is a wonderous instrument. It starts working the moment you wake up and doesn't stop until you get to the office.
- A neurotic builds castles in the air.
- A psychotic lives in castles in the air.
- And a psychiatrist is the guy who collects the rent.
- It takes very little to make a woman happy, and more than is contained in Heaven and Earth to keep her that way.
- Pessimists are the world's happiest people. Ninety percent of the time they are right, and the other ten percent they are pleasantly surprised.
- Is it bad luck for a black cat to walk behind you? That depends on whether you are a man or a mouse.
- A nurse is a girl who holds your hand and expects your temperature to go down.
- I think every girl should hold on to her youth, except when he's driving.
- If the doctor cures, the sun sees it; but if he kills, the earth hides it.
- Charity begins at home and generally dies from lack of out-of-door exercise; sympathy travels abroad extensively.
- A man is as old as he feels, but never as important.
- Enthusiasm breakfasts on obstacles, lunches on objections, and dines on competition.
- Life not only begins at forty - it begins to show.
- The best way to get rid of a hothead is to give him the cold shoulder.
- The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.
- Many a man creates his own lack of opportunity.
- If you don't enjoy what you have, how could you be happier with more?
- Compromise is always wrong when it means sacrificing a principle.
- A successful politician is one who can stay in the public eye without irritating it.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder...
- 3 kinds of people: those who can count & those who can't.
- Sign on baby's bib: SPIT HAPPENS.
- A flying saucer results when a nudist spills his coffee.
- For people who like peace and quiet: a phoneless cord.
- I can see clearly now, the brain is gone...
- The beatings will continue until morale improves.
- I used up all my sick days, so I'm calling in dead.
- Mental Floss prevents Moral Decay.
- Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.
- There cannot be a crisis today; my schedule is already full.
- I'd explain it to you, but your brain would explode.
- Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

- A conclusion is simply the place where you got tired of thinking.
- I don't have a solution but I admire the problem.
- Don't be so open-minded your brains fall out.
- If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished!
- Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice doggie!'... till you can find a rock.
- Diplomacy - the art of letting someone have your way.
- If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?
- If things get any worse, I'll have to ask you to stop helping me.
- If I want your opinion, I'll ask you to fill out the necessary forms.
- Don't look back, they might be gaining on you.
- It's not hard to meet expenses, they're everywhere.
- Help Wanted: Telepath. You know where to apply.
- Look out for #1. Don't step in #2 either.
- Budget: A method for going broke methodically.
- Car service: If it ain't broke, we'll break it.
- Shin: A device for finding furniture in the dark.
- Do witches run spell checkers?
- Demons are a Ghouls best Friend.
- Dain bramaged.
- Department of Redundancy Department
- Headline: Bear takes over Disneyland in Pooh D'Etat!
- What has four legs and an arm? A happy pit bull.
- 24 hours in a day...24 beers in a case...coincidence?
- Daddy, why doesn't this magnet pick up this floppy disk?
- Give me ambiguity or give me something else.
- I.R.S.: We've got what it takes to take what you've got!
- The secret of the universe is @*&^^^ NO CARRIER
- Did anyone see my lost carrier?
- Make it idiot proof and someone will make a better idiot.
- I'm not a complete idiot, some parts are missing!
- He who laughs last thinks slowest!
- Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.
- A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.
- Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at maths.
- There's too much blood in my caffeine system.
- Artificial Intelligence usually beats real stupidity.
- Learn from your parents' mistakes - use birth control!
- I won't rise to the occasion, but I'll slide over to it.
- Ever notice how fast Windows runs? Neither did I.
- Double your drive space - delete Windows!
- What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- "Very funny, Scotty. Now beam down my clothes."
- Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.
- I used to have a handle on life, then it broke.
- I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it.
- Better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot.

- The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
- We have enough youth, how about a fountain of SMART?
- All generalizations are false, including this one.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- C program run. C program crash. C programmer quit.
- "Criminal Lawyer" is a redundancy.
- The further an experiment is from theory, the closer it is to the Nobel prize.
- It is easier to get forgiveness than permission
- Never let anything mechanical know you are in a hurry.
- Liberty is fragile. If it is lost for one it is lost for all.
- It's amazing how many people use "you only live once" as an excuse to throw their life away.
- For sale: Klein bottle. Enquire within.
- God created man and learned from her mistake.
- What would have happened if Kuwait's main product was broccoli?
- What's a synonym for Thesaurus?
- What's brown and sticky? A stick.
- What's shorter than a weekend? A vacation!
- What's the speed of dark?
- When all else fails, call Bill Gates at home.
- When all else fails, read the manual.
- When all is said and done, more is said than done.
- When an old person dies, a library burns down.
- When I want your advice, I'll give it to you!
- When ideas fail, words come in very handy.
- When in doubt, mumble. When in trouble, delegate.
- When in doubt, tell the truth.
- When it comes to thought, some people stop at nothing.
- When liberals grow up they want to be conservatives.
- When money speaks, truth keeps silent.
- When puns are outlawed only outlaws will have puns.
- When the chips are down, the buffalo's empty.
- When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro.
- When vultures fly they're allowed carrion luggage.
- When you see a snake, never mind where it came from.
- When you wake up in the morning and nothing hurts you can be sure you're dead.
- When you're in it up to your ears, keep your mouth shut.
- When you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.
- When your dreams turn to dust, vacuum.
- When your IQ hits 28, sell!
- Whenever I feel like exercising I lie down until the feeling passes.
- Where can I find a synonym for thesaurus?
- Where does the fire go when the fire goes out?
- Where in the world does the guy who has everything put it?
- Where is everything? All I typed was format c:.
- Where law ends, tyranny begins.

- Where there's a will there's a beneficiary.
- Where there's a will there's an attorney.
- Where there's a will there's a wail.
- Where there's a will there's a won't.
- Where there's smoke, there's toast.
- Where you've been means much less than where you're going.
- Wherever you came from, you're not there now.
- Which is the non-smoking lifeboat?
- Which is worse, ignorance or apathy? (I don't know, and I don't care!)
- Which one is the fatherboard?
- Who puts those "Thin Ice" signs out there?
- Who should I call to exorcise software?
- Who wrote the rules on how to act your age?
- Why bother phoning a psychic? Let them phone you!
- Why buy shampoo when real poo is still free?
- Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- Let not the pot call the kettle an aardvark.
- I don't mean to be catty, but "miaow".
- What does occasional furniture do the rest of the time?
- Do the people in Tipperary realise they're a long way away?
- Why do clairvoyants have front door bells?
- Imitation is the sincerest form of blandish meat.
- The dog ate my car keys. I'll have to hitch-hike to the vet.
- My stigmata is playing up on me.
- I've used up all my sick days - so I'm calling in dead.
- Dolphins find people amusing, but they don't want to talk to them
- Table manners are for people who have nothing better to do.
- A polar bear is a rectangular bear after a coordinate transformation.
- When the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail.
- The cost of living had not affected its popularity.
- Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
- Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggy" until you can find a rock.
- Anything worth doing is worth doing slowly. - Mae West
- Deja moo: the strange feeling that you've milked this cow before.
- Idling is most fun when there is plenty of work to do.
- Politics consists of two sides and a fence.
- If money is the root of all evil, why has no student been canonised?
- eschew obfuscation
- Another Month Ends - All Targets Met - All Systems Working - All Customers Satisfied - All Staff Eager and Enthusiastic - All Pigs Fed and Ready to fly

Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalians

Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalians are really, really, REALLY long words. Here are some classics.

aequeosalinocalcalinosetaceoaluminosocupreovitriolic

(52 letters; a word coined by 16th century medical writer Edward Strother to describe the spa waters at Bath.)

chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

(45 letters long; America's longest place name, it refers to a lake near Webster, Massachusetts. Translation: "You fish on the left side, I'll fish on the right side, no one fishes in the middle.")

cholangiocholecystocholechoectomy

(34 letters; a cutting out of the hepatic duct, common bile duct, and gall bladder. Yummy.)

floccinaucinihilipilification

(29 letters, the categorizing of something as worthless trivia.)

gynotikolobomassophile

(22 letters; one who likes to nibble on a woman's earlobe)

llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch

(58 letters long; the place in Gwynedd, North Wales, famed for its railway ticket lengths--duh! Translation: "St. Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool of Llantysilio of the Red Cave.")

lopadotemachoselachogaleokraniroleipsanodrimhypotrimmatosilphioparaomelitokatakechymenokichlepikosyphophattoperisteralektryonoptek ephalliokigklopeleiolagoiosiraioabaphetraganopterygon

(189 letters; a ghoulish composed of all the leftovers from the meals of the leftovers from the meals of the last two weeks--from Aristophanes' The Ecclesiazusae)

pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis

(45 letters long; refers to a lung disease resulting from breathing very fine dust) .

pseudoantidisestablishmentarianism

(34 letters; refers to "false opposition to the withdrawal of state support from a Church.")

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

(34 letters; easily the most obscure word on this page, it means "atoning for extreme and delicate beauty while highly educable")

Oronyms

Oronyms are "strings of sound that can be carved into words in [at least] two different ways." Like these:

The good can decay many ways.
The stuffy nose can lead to problems.
Some others I've seen.
I scream,
It's a doggy-dog world.
He won a Pullet Surprise.

The good candy came anyways.
The stuff he knows can lead to problems.
Some mothers I've seen.
Ice cream.
It's a dog-eat-dog world.
He won a Pulitzer Prize.

Psalm 23 for mathematicians

The Lord is my thesis adviser; I shall not err.
He arranges for me to be published in the
respectable journals; he teaches me how
to use the *reductio* argument.
He enshores my validity; he leads me by
the classical logic, for the truth's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of
existence proofs, I will fear no contradiction:
for he edits my work.
The Axiom of Choice and Zorn's Lemma, they comfort me.

He invites a colloquium on classical analysis,
for my participation, in the absence of the constructivists;
He frequently and approvingly abstracts me
in *Mathematical Reviews*;
my reputation flourishes internationally.
Surely, honors and grants shall follow me
all the days of my career.
And I shall rise in the ranks of the Department,
to Emeritus.

Amen.

The twelve days of Christmas

December 14

Dear John,

I went to the door today and the postman delivered a partridge in a pear tree. What a thoroughly delightful gift. I couldn't have been more surprised.

With deepest love and devotion, Agnes

December 15

Dearest John,

Today the postman brought you very sweet gift. Just imagine two turtle doves. I'm just delighted at your very thoughtful gift. They are just adorable.

All my love, Agnes

December 16

Dear John,

Oh! Aren't you the extravagant one. Now I really must protest. I don't deserve such generosity three French hens! They are just darling but I must insist, you've been too kind.

Love, Agnes

December 17

Dear John,

Today the postman delivered four calling birds. Now really, they are beautiful, but don't you think enough is enough? You're being too romantic.

Affectionately, Agnes

December 18

Dearest John,

What a surprise. Today the postman delivered five golden rings, one for every finger. You're just impossible, but I love it. Frankly, all those birds squawking were beginning to get on my nerves.

All my love, Agnes

December 19

Dear John,

I opened my door today and there were actually six geese alaying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds again, huh? These geese are huge! Where will I keep them? The neighbours are complaining and I can't sleep through this racket! Please stop.

Cordially, Agnes

December 20

Dear John,

What's with you and these **** birds? Seven swans a-swimming! What kind of goddamn joke is this? There's bird **** all over the house and they never stop with the racket. I can't sleep at night and I'm a nervous wreck. It's not funny, so stop with those **** birds.

Sincerely, Agnes

December 21

OK, buster I think I prefer the birds. What the hell am I going to do with eight maids a-milking? It's not enough with all those birds and the maids, but they brought their damn cows. Lay off me, smartass!

Agnes

December 22

Hey, ****-head! What are you, some kind of sadist? Now there's nine pipers playing! And Christ do they play. They never stopped chasing those maids since they got here. The cows are upset and they're stepping all over the birds, and the neighbours have started a petition to evict me!

You'll get yours, Agnes

December 23

You rotten *****. Now there's ten ladies dancing! I don't know why I call those sluts ladies. They've been balling those pipers all night long. Now the cows can't sleep and they've got diarrhea. The commissioner of buildings has subpoenaed me to give cause why the building shouldn't be condemned. I'm siccing the police on you!

One who means it.

December 24

Listen, ****-head, what's with the eleven lords a-leaping on those maids and ladies? Some of those broads will neer walk again! The pipers ran through all the maids and have been committing sodomy with the cows. All twenty-three birds are dead. They got trampled in the orgy. I hope you're satisfied, you rotten, vicious swine!

Your sworn enemy, Agnes

December 25

Dear Sir,

This is to acknowledge your latest gift of twelve fiddlers fiddling which you have inflicted upon our client Agnes Mendolstein. The destruction was total. All future correspondence should come to our attention. If you should attempt to reach Miss Mendolstein at the Happy Dale Sanatarium, the attendants have instructions to shoot you on sight. Please find attached a warrant for your arrest.

Law Offices - Budger, Bender and Cahole.

Pangrams

Mr Jock, TV quiz PhD, bags few lynx
Few mock quartz glyph's bvd jinx
XV quick nymphs beg fjord waltz

Last words

Mouse	Precious dark, and smells of cheese
Hare	Over to you, tortoise
Dog	I have passed the last lamppost
Tarantula	Darling, this is the greatest moment of my life
Phoenix	May I trouble you for a match?
Dragon	Where's George?
Snail	This house to let
Camel	I feel the penultimate straw
Walrus	The time has come
Lobster	Why are you all blushing?
Swan	I think I'm going to sing
Weasel	Pop

Bouts rimés (or punctured poems)

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

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

Tom Swifties

"The thermostat is set too high," he said heatedly
"The chimney is clogged," he said fluently
"I can't make up my mind about homosexuality," he said half in earnest
"Necrophilia seems fine to me," he said in dead earnest
"Let's gather up the rope," he said coyly
"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

Spelling

Gheughteighthptough

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

Apt anagrams

Arguments	Must anger
Armageddon	Mad god near
Christianity	'Tis in charity
Diplomacy	Mad policy
HMS Pinafore	Name for ship
Moonlight	Thin gloom
Sexual intercourse	Relax, insure coitus
Weird nightmares	Withering dreams
The Morse Code	Here come dots

One letter changed...

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

I am

I
AM
THE
WELL
KNOWN
LEGEND
HAUNTED
WANDERER
ENDLESSLY
CELEBRATED
MASTERFULLY
IMMORTALIZED
TRADITIONALLY
UNDERSTANDABLE
NOTWITHSTANDING
INCOMPREHENSIBLE
QUASIOOTHERWORLDLY
MUMBOJUMBOINFESTED
CLOSETMACHIAVELLIAN
MACROCEPHALICULTURAL
PSEUDOANTHROPOLOGICAL
PSYCHOANALYTICORIENTED
ULTRAPATHOLOGICOCENTRIC
SUPERTERRESTRIALDEPENDENT
CRYPTOANTI HUMANITARIANIST
MYTHOGRAPHICOSCHOLASTICISM

Definitions

Moderate	A guy who makes enemies left and right
Sad case	A dozen empties
Texas	Miles and miles of nothing but miles and miles
Will	A dead giveaway
Knapsack	Sleeping bag
Perpetual motion	A cow drinking milk
Bigamist	Italian fog
Necrophilia	Esprit de corpse
Noose	Niece of a moose

Crazy English

To walk down a street is to walk up the street
Yesterday's tomorrow is tomorrow's yesterday
As a day consists of 24 hours, night time must be daytime
An inexperienced communist is a green red
To fill out a form is to fill it in
Shameless behaviour is shameful, and vice versa
A near miss is a near hit
A tree must be cut down before it is cut up
A slim chance is the same as a fat chance
To drink up, you down your drink
When a house burns up it burns down

Miss Erogenous Jones

Did you happen to know Miss Erogenous Jones,
Who is sadly no longer alive?
Her flesh was a series of sexual zones,
Each equipped with a separate drive.

Her toes were orgiastic, her ankles tumesced
At the breath of a breeze on the skin.
She swooned when the soles of her feet were caressed,
And climaxed when scratching her shin.

Each knee hollow offered a bower of love;
Her thighs melted down at a kiss;
And to list all the eager zones panting above
Would take a list longer than this.

When an amorous youth fell in love with Miss Jones,
She gladly consented to mate him,
But failed to remind him to switch on her zones
In sequence - i.e., *seriatim*

Alas! all those scores of susceptible zones
Concurrently faced his encounter!
The multiplied rapture imploded her bones;
She perished before he could mount her.

Dear Reader, a Moral infuses this rhyme-
A lesson all lovers should learn:
Don't tap those erogenous zones at one time-
They are meant to be turned on in turn.

Anagrams

The active volcanos	cones evict hot lava
Anagrams	ars magna
Astronomical observations	to scan a visible star or moon
Athletics	lithe art
A bartender	beer and art
The cardinals	in cathedrals
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
Orchestrate	score the art
Ronald Reagan	an oral danger
A stitch in time saves nine	this is meant as incentive
Suggestion	it eggs us on

Antigrams

Ailed	ideal
Adversaries	are advisers
Anarchists	arch saints
Antagonist	not against
Desecration	care is noted
Diplomacy	mad policy
Earliest	rise late
Evangelists	evil's agents
Filled	ill-fed
Forty-five	over fifty
Honestly	on the sly
Maidenly	men? daily!
Medicate	decimate
Melodramatic	a more mild act
Nominated	I not named
Persecuted	due respect
Saintliness	entails sins
Within earshot	I won't hear this

Metric prefixes

1 mentality = 100 centimentality
2 x 10⁶ pinpricks = 1 MHz
3 camp beds = 1 tricot
10⁻⁶ fish = 1 microfiche
3 unicorns = 1 triceratops

10^{-12} surprises = 1 picoboo
 10^{-12} dillies = 1 picodilly
 2 tribes = 1 diatribe
 10 glassfuls = 1 decanter
 1.5 dice = 1 trice
 10^{-15} homicides = 1 femtofatale
 2 itches = 1 bitch
 10^6 cops = 1 megapolis
 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds

Collective nouns

Field engineer	An Absence of field engineers
User	A bleat of users or A jury of users
Manufacturer	A dock of manufacturers
DPM	A panic of DPMs
Systems analyst	An expectation of systems analysts
Programmer	A detail of programmers
Operator	An indifference of operators
Salesperson	A trough of salespersons
Consultant	A retreat of consultants
Deadline	A sequence of deadlines
Connector	A conspiracy of connectors
Dump	A gloom of dumps
String	A vest of strings
Crash	A jangle of crashes
Datum	A loss of data
High-level language	A logomachy of high level languages
High-level language	A babol of high level languages
Competitor	A rafter of competitors
Senior COBOL programmers	A load of old Cobollers

Cocktails

.357 Magnum	Champagne & gun-powder
Absinthe of Malice	Pernod & bitters
Beam me up, Scotty	Jim Beam, 7-Up & scotch
Bloody Awful	Vodka & ketchup
Brouhaha	Beer & nitrous oxide
Cocoa Vin	Chocolate & Chablis
Fraternal Twins	Crown Royal & Royal Crown
Gin and Beer It	Beefeaters & Grizzly beer
Glow Worm	Lamp oil & mescal
Hickory Daiquiri Duck	Kentucky bourbon, rum, strawberries, ice, Cold Duck
Joan Collins	Gin, lemon juice, soda, mascara & wrinkle-cream
Little Dickens	Martini with an olive or twist
Manhattan Project	Bourbon, sweet vermouth & heavy water

Nutcracker Sweet	Hazelnut liquor, crushed nuts & sugar
Peppermint Paddy	Schnapps & rice wine
Phillips Screwdriver	Vodka, orange juice & milk of magnesia
Piltdown Comforter	Mead, goat's milk & Southern Comfort
Shirley Temple Black	Ginger ale, Grenadine & indian ink
Tired Bloody Mary	Geritol & tomato juice
Truth and Justice	Sodium Pentothal on the rocks

Binary table

Element 0	Element 1
True	False
Good	Cheap
Black	White
Pro	Con
Even	Odd
Flop	Flip
+	-
Batch	Waiting
Order	Cancellation
Up	Crashed
Me	You
West	North, South, and East
Here and there	Neither here nor there
One-liner	Shaggy-dog
Local	Informed
Error	Undetected error
FORTTRAN	Elegance
Structured	Wrong
Working	Promised
Published	Rejected
Prime	Old
Filed	Safe
Floppy disk	Storage
Big Bang	Steady squib
You name it	Null
This	That
This'n'that	Other
High level	FORTTRAN
FORTTRAN	Transportable
Science	Computer Science
On Sale	Marked down
Basic	Extended
Economical	Achievable
1	0

Graffiti

A chicken is an egg's way of producing more eggs.
A man's best friend is his dogma.
A man's house is his hassle.
A mouse is an elephant built by the Japanese.
A penny saved is ridiculous.
Alex Haley was adopted!
An engineer is someone who does list processing in Fortran.
Any IC protected by a fast acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
Be a better psychiatrist and the world will beat a psychopath to your door.
Biology grows on you.
Boycott meat - suck your thumb.
Breeding rabbits is a hare raising experience.
Chaste makes waste.
Chemistry professors never die, they just smell that way!
Digital circuits are made from analog parts.
Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
Everyone is entitled to my opinion.
Friction is a drag.
Go climb a gravity well.
Gravity brings me down.
He who always plows a straight furrow is in a rut.
He who laughs last didn't get the joke.
He who steps on others to reach the top has good balance.
Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
Help stamp out and abolish redundancy!
I disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to tell such LIES!
If it works, Don't fix it.
Insomnia isn't anything to lose sleep over.
Invest in physics - own a piece of Dirac!
Is a computer language with goto's totally Wirth-less?
Kiss me twice. I'm schizophrenic.
Neutrinos have bad breadth.
No problem is so formidable that you can't just walk away from it.
Old musicians never die, they just decompose.
People with narrow minds usually have broad tongues.
Pretend to spank me - I'm a pseudo-masochist!
Programmers get overlaid.
Reality is for people who can't face science fiction.
Santa's elves are just a bunch of subordinate Clauses.
Schizophrenia beats being alone.
The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
To err is human, to forgive is against company policy.
We have an equal opportunity Calculus class -- it's fully integrated.
Wernher von Braun settled for a V-2 when he coulda had a V-8.
While money can't buy happiness, it certainly lets you choose your own form of misery.

Hermans

"She's my woman", said Herman
"Can I touch you", said Ophelia
"Hello", said Hy
"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
"We like to go beachcombing", said Shelly and Sandy
"Who ate all the bacon", said Egbert
"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
"I've got to use the loo", said Lulu to Lou
"Yeah!", said Noah
"My legs hurt right here", said my niece
"What comes after H?", asked I, Jay, Kay, Ella and Emma
"Bottoms up!", said Fanny
"My cup's empty", said Phil
"Listen, I hear horses", said Winnie
"I don't have a dollar to my name", said Buck
"You certainly may", said April to June
"Over and out", said Roger
"Nobody ever remembers my name", said
"Step on it", said Matt
"On your knees", said Neil
"I'm no thief", said Rob
"I can count", said Owen
"I can also count", said Juan, too
"Violent? I wouldn't hurt a fly", said Mame
"My watch alarm is going off", said Elsie Dee
"Let's sing Christmas songs", said Carol
"I hvaen't a thing to wear", said Buff
"Pass me the binoculars, please", said Seymour

Old Moore's BLDSC predictions for 1988

[from the unofficial British Library staff handbook]

January - Unexpected heavy snow - the disaster officer is temporarily promoted to grade 5 (Director level) and put on snow watch. Requests reach an all time high in the third week - staff are unable to cope as management say that there is no precedent for this. The heating oil runs out. Wet books are discovered in the bar - a state of emergency is declared.

February - The staff inspectors' report on the three director posts arrives - no trace of work found at this level - management responds with 5 re-named SEO job descriptions and temporarily promotes two grade 7s (Principals). The Chief Executive dislikes the new house style - he authorizes £100,000 for a new study. There are rumours of Central Administration moving to Yorkshire. The last day for payment of invoices is set to 1st February 1988.

March - DSC has a massive underspend due to the non-arrival of new computers. ART processing ceases as the PDP-11/44 is consigned to the Science Museum. Central Administration admit to an error in all previous staff inspection reports and downgrade all posts by one grade. The BL Board discuss price rises, but fail to minute the decision. Logos are back in fashion - there is a massive competition to identify a forward- rearward-traditional-innovative design. Despite the cover of the 1986/87 Annual Report, DSC continues to prosper and is regarded as a fallen star.

April - The notices for annual price rise are reprinted twice as no one is informed of the correct charges. The pound, dollar and yen prices spiral - Japanese customers cease to use DSC - several deputy directors are sent to Tokyo. There is a massive increase in demand from Fair Isle, but no deputy directors volunteer to go. A post of retrospective justification (grade 6) is advertised in an office notice - no appointment is made because no one could justify their application. Central Administration issue an office notice on the pay rates for April 1988, and state they are in complete opposition to an enforced settlement.

May - The Russians renege on the translations deal - all directors make a dash for Siberia with a full clothing allowance. As part of the energy saving exercise staff are issued with torches, and all light bulbs are removed. There is unexpected hot weather - male management are unable to cope with females in T-shirts.

June - Senior staff are asked to decide on the Christmas arrangements - they cannot agree if it will happen this year. There is a possibility of a massive overspend due to the arrival of the new computers. All senior staff depart for their summer holidays until September.

July - An edict is issued restricting leave for junior staff as required to cover for senior staff on holiday with offspring - junior staff must not have children as they cannot take leave in the school holidays.

August - Staff complain that there is no one about to sign their updating slips. There is not enough work for staff as the customers are on holiday. The staff restaurant runs out of ice-cream. Senior Management Meeting held at the IFLA conference in Sydney - as justification for them all attending - all claim double time in lieu as they have to break their holidays.

September - The Chief Executive decides that the "flying book" logo is just what is needed. All staff below grade 7 (Principal) take their holidays - senior management are unable to understand why no one is around, or to cope with the influx of work. Another wet book is found in the bar.

October - The budget revisions are due - the Library is likely to overspend due to lack of income from declining form sales. An edict from above states that junior staff should cut down on both UK and overseas travel to reduce expenditure (edict written in Club Class on Concorde).

November - The heating system undergoes its annual re-build - parts are found to be unavailable. A massive underspend is predicted - £1,00,000 is given to SRIS before DSC staff get a chance to bid for special projects. The "Hare & Trumpet" opens as a

pub with a management buy-out. The computers fail due to mice eating the cables. Senior staff start holding their Christmas parties.

December - Some middle-management reports are still outstanding (they were due in May). The reason for the delay is attributed to either a) the reporting officer was too busy, or b) there was to be no promotion from these grades and therefore no need to complete the reports. Budget revisions are due again. Computing underspent by £1,000,000 but the rest of DSC is overspent. The Paternoster breaks down due to unaccustomed loading. SRIS unexpectedly fails to satisfy backup requests as the cat has fallen sick. All senior staff attend the pantomime and then issue their standard Senior Management Meeting minutes. The Christmas party is cancelled as the bar facilities have been privatised.

Guidelines for living in Yorkshire

[from the unofficial British Library staff handbook]

Staff Relocation Briefing Note #1, To all staff in London Divisions, 17 May 1989

GENERAL

A most convivial welcome to all staff considering whether to move to Yorkshire in the proposed British Library London relocation exercise. All your colleagues at the Document Supply Centre wish you a safe journey up the perilous Great North Road (latterly named the A1) and hope you avoid the occasional highwayman. We have a strong tradition of friendship here and we are all delighted to be able to have this opportunity of swelling the ranks of the "converted" here in Boston Spa (incidentally the Spa in Boston Spa is the Yorkshire equivalent of the southern "jacuzzi"). To help you in your transition to Yorkshire and perhaps even aid your decision process, we offer here a few guidelines to the life we lead.

FOOD

So that you do not find yourself a social outcast, there are a number of tips regarding food and its consumption that need to be given. Yorkshire Pudding with gravy must be consumed prior to the meat, as a separate course. Other local delicacies should be consumed with delight so as not to offend your hosts or the restaurantier - eg. tripe, black pudding, faggots, Pontefract cakes. It is recognised that certain people, having previously existed on fancy foreign southern food, may find traditional Yorkshire fare too rich to begin with. As a result, the staff restaurant at BLDC does cater for minority tastes with the occasional foreign offering.

DRINK

None of your gruel-like southern beers here. Yorkshire ale reigns supreme with only a few maverick national breweries daring to supply their dish-water varieties in selected inns. As a concession to our brethren north of the English border, a number of fine malt whiskies are also available in the county, but attempts to convert Yorkshire folk to other tastes such as, God forbid, lager, have met with little success.

TRAVEL

Yorkshire is blessed with a fine network of roads and railways based upon the magnificent Roman roads. Attempts to convert the precision engineering of the cobble surfaces to the new-fangled tarmac have sadly been all too successful so that much of the character of travelling through the county has been lost. It is sad to say that foreign conveyances just can't cope with our traditional surfaces. Local omnibus and charabanc services connect BLDSC with the major towns, but the superb steam railway links have been severed for a number of years now due to some doctor running amok during a tree-felling exercise. We have, however, managed to keep our engine shed at BLDSC should the railway ever make a come-back. Personal transport has increased a great deal recently, with many members of staff using horse-less carriages and half-penny-half-penny cycles. Due to financial constraints from central government, BLDSC cannot support a stable for the normal horse and carriage trade.

LANGUAGE

Spoken language should not be a problem for staff from London. All good Yorkshire folk understand the Queen's English, although their interpretation of it may differ considerably from the southern norm. Translation in the other direction may prove to be a hurdle for the first decade or two of life in Yorkshire, but do not be down-hearted, many immigrants do eventually learn to converse in the vernacular. A phrase-book for new staff will eventually be made available on induction courses to aid staff working in mixed dialectical sections.

SPORT

Depending on your point of view there is quite a lot of this available in the county. There are very good football (Association and Rugby Union/League) clubs and what was once (and should by all rights always be) the premier cricket club in the country. Participant sports are also available of various types from bed-racing, fell-running, ferret holding, lyke-wake-walking and dominoes to some of the more exotic recent imports such as tennis, squash and swimming. Horse-racing for those of a spendthrift nature is available at several courses in the county.

ACCOMMODATION

New staff can choose various levels of accommodation in the area. There are the traditional back-to-back (outside convenience) homes in the magnificent centres of the three major conurbations (Leeds, York and Harrogate) or the more gentle life afforded by a local stone cottage on the nearby moors (still unaffected by the expenses of gas, water or electricity charges). Some people, however, may wish to avail themselves of the housing in the local towns/villages which has been ruined by its location on estates with easy road access and nearby amenities. These properties have also the disadvantage of having such "extras" as double-glazing, interior plumbing, gas and electric services, more than one bedroom and even a garden. Unfortunately there seem to be many more of this type of house on the market than the more desirable aforementioned ones, so you may find you have to accept one of these.

PAY

Rates of pay are based on national scales and attract a Yorkshire weighting of 0%. Annual increments (payable on - Sir Geoffrey's birthday) are based on the performance

of Yorkshire County Cricket Club over the previous season. Pay packets may be made up in groats and farthings if desired, which are still legal tender in the Ridings.

CITIZENSHIP

As a new resident of Yorkshire, you will need to uphold the campaign to restore the boundaries to the original "Ridings", swear allegiance to the old County Councils and ensure that any male offspring is born within the county - otherwise he will forever be banned from playing for Yorkshire CCC. Social intercourse with Lancastrians is most frowned upon. A passport is not yet required for entry into the county, but a valid visa is advisable if you were born south of Watford.

APPAREL

Staff are advised that normal, informal dress is allowed at BLDSC. This consists of tweed jacket, flat cap and clogs. Headscarves for women are also preferred. Some staff wear more unconventional southern-style formal clothing, but this is only required when travelling on official business outside the county. White roses in the lapel are optional.

SHOPPING

There are many opportunities for purchasing goods of all types in the nearby conurbations of Leeds, Harrogate and York. Many fine woolen and cotton mills supply the best in coarse material. Handmade, adzed, furniture is readily available. Mechanical and even some new exciting electrically driven devices can be found in adventurous stores. Foods and provisions can be obtained from many outlets, although the deplorable practice of packaging the foodstuffs has reached the county so that, in most cases, one cannot see or sample what one is buying.

WILDLIFE

Yorkshire is famed for its wildlife, which is maintained through a superb veterinary service headed by one J. Herriott. At BLDSC we have a rapidly growing colony of rabbits and rare plants. Sheep-lovers will be in their element here - even the local town Wetherby is named after sheep.

WEATHER

There is plenty of weather in Yorkshire.

SOCIAL LIFE

Yorkshire has a wealth of opportunities for social life. Working men's clubs abound, it has the best brass bands in the world, and the latest in dramatic theatre presentations (eg. the new *Mysterie Playes* at York). A bunch of old Vikings has been dug up and put on display in Jorvik, where you can smell the ways things used to be in times gone by (why this is any different to the smells you get today in Yorkshire escapes me). The seaside is not far away, with resorts such as Scarborough, where sadly, there are no longer the numbers of bathing machines available - due mainly to the influx of foreign southern visitors with their promiscuous methods of bathing which have quite turned the heads of decent God-fearing Yorkshire folk.

Merry Christmas around the world

Armenia	Schenorthavor Dzenount
Belgium	Vrolijke Kerstmis
Brazil	Boas Festas
Bulgaria	Chestita Koleda
China	Kung Hsi Hsin Nien
Czechoslovakia	Vesele Vanoce
Denmark	Glaedelig Jul
Estonia	Roomsaid Joulu Phui
Finland	Hauskaa Joulua
France	Joyeux Noel
Germany	Froliche Weinachten
Greece	Kala Christougena
Holland	Zalig Kerstfeest
Hungary	Boldog Karacsony
Iraq	Ida Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
Ireland	Nodlaig Nait Cugat
Italy	Bono Natale
Japan	Meri Kurisumasu
Lithuania	Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus
Norway	Gledelig Jul
Poland	Wesolych Swiat
Portugal	Boas Festas
Rumania	Sarbatori Vesele
Russia	S Roshestvom Khrystovym
South Africa	Een Plesierige Kerfess
Switzerland	Glad Jul
Turkey	Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun
Ukraine	Chrystos Rozdzajetsia Slawyte Jeho
Venezuela	Feliz Navidad
Wales	Nadolig Llawn
Yugoslavia	Srecan Bozic

What if people bought cars like they buy computers?

HELPLINE	"General Motors HelpLine, how can I help you?"
CUSTOMER	"I got in my car and closed the door, and nothing happened!"
HELPLINE	"Did you put the key in the ignition slot and turn it?"
CUSTOMER	"What's an ignition?"
HELPLINE	"It's a starter motor that draws current from your battery and turns over the engine."
CUSTOMER	"Ignition? Motor? Battery? Engine? How come I have to know all of these technical terms just to use my car?"
HELPLINE	"General Motors HelpLine, how can I help you?"
CUSTOMER	"My car ran fine for a week, and now it won't go anywhere!"
HELPLINE	"Is the gas tank empty?"

CUSTOMER "Huh? How do I know!?"
HELPLINE "There's a little gauge on the front panel, with a needle, and markings from 'E' to 'F.' Where is the needle pointing?"
CUSTOMER "It's pointing to 'E.' What does that mean?"
HELPLINE "It means that you have to visit a gasoline vendor, and purchase some more gasoline. You can install it yourself, or pay the vendor to install it for you."
CUSTOMER "What!?" I paid \$12,000. for this car! Now you tell me that I have to keep buying more components? I want a car that comes with everything built in!"

HELPLINE "General Motors HelpLine, how can I help you?"
CUSTOMER "Your cars suck!"
HELPLINE "What's wrong?"
CUSTOMER "It crashed, that's what went wrong!"
HELPLINE "What were you doing?"
CUSTOMER "I wanted to run faster, so I pushed the accelerator pedal all the way to the floor. It worked for a while, and then it crashed -- and now it won't start!"
HELPLINE "It's your responsibility if you misuse the product. What do you expect us to do about it?"
CUSTOMER "I want you to send me one of the latest version that doesn't crash anymore!"

HELPLINE "General Motors HelpLine, how can I help you?"
CUSTOMER "Hi! I just bought my first car, and I chose your car because it has automatic transmission, cruise control, power steering, power brakes, and power door locks."
HELPLINE "Thanks for buying our car. How can I help you?"
CUSTOMER "How do I work it?"
HELPLINE "Do you know how to drive?"
CUSTOMER "Do I know how to what?"
HELPLINE "Do you know how to drive?"
CUSTOMER "I'm not a technical person! I just want to go places in my car!"

New software

Autoflush

Autoflush automatically flushes your toilet at definable intervals-- from every fifteen minutes to every twelve days! Can control up to two toilets at once! Requires ethernet connection and toilets supporting Swedish digital flushing standards.

Sandwich CAD - Sandwich Designer

Switch from wheat to rye faster than ever before! Design sandwiches, then make them in your own kitchen! Sandwich CAD allows manipulations impossible to duplicate in real life! Comes with cheese sandwich, and ham and cheese sandwich templates. Also includes four types of lettuce lattice: Romaine, Boston, Iceberg, and ZapfDingbats.

Expirience

The premier database for keeping track of your food's expiration dates. Review expiration dates of products bought weeks, even months ago. Switch to Visual Mode and watch Expirience graphically depict how rotten food would be by now. Extrapolation into future possible in Visual Mode for dates up to July 12, 2025.

Chef

Chef uses our patented Edibility Algorithm to create original recipes from any ingredients that you enter. The following example recipe was created from inputting the following ingredients: hamburger, eggs, orange juice, boullion cubes.

Egg-Orange Juice-Boullion Cube Surprise

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Baste egg in orange juice.

Add hamburger patty to egg-juice mixture.

Fry under low heat until brown.

Chill and serve.

Add boullion cubes to taste.

9 types of computer users

El Explicito:

I tried the thing, ya know, and it worked, ya know, but now it doesn't, ya know?"

Advantages: Provides interesting communication challanges.

Disadvantages: So do chimps.

Symptoms: Complete inability to use proper nouns

Real Case: One user walked up to a certain Armenian pod manager and said, "I can't get what I want!" The pod manager leaned back, put his hands on his belt-buckle, and said, "Well, ma'am, you've come to the right place."

Mad Bomber:

"Well, I hit Alt-f6, shift-f8, Cntrl-f10, f4, and f9, and now it looks all weird."

Advantages: Will try to find own solution to problems.

Disadvantages: User might have translated document to Navajo without meaning to.

Symptoms: More than six stopped jobs in UNIX, a 2:1 code-to-letter ratio in WordPerfect

Real Case: One user came in complaining that his WordPerfect document was underlined. When I used reveal codes on it, I found that he'd set and unset underline more than fifty times in his document.

Frying Pan/Fire Tactician:

"It didn't work with the data set we had, so I fed in my aunt's recipe for key lime pie."

Advantages: Will usually fix error.

Disadvantages: 'Fix' is defined VERY loosely here.

Symptoms: A tendancy to delete lines that get errors instead of fixing them.

Real Case: One user complained that their program executed, but didn't do anything. The scon looked at it for twenty minutes before realizing that they'd commented out EVERY LINE. The user said, "Well, that was the only way I could get it to compile."

Shaman:

"Last week, when the moon was full, the clouds were thick, and formahaut was above the horizon, I typed f77, and lo, it did compile."

Advantages: Gives insight into primitive mythology.

Disadvantages: Few scons are anthropology majors.

Symptoms: Frequent questions about irrelevant objects.

Real Case: One user complained that all information on one of their disks got erased (as Norton Utilities showed nothing but empty sectors, I suspect nothing had ever been on it). Reasoning that the deleted information went *somewhere*, they wouldn't shut up until the scon checked four different disks for the missing information.

X-user:

"Will you look at those...um, that resolution, quite impressive, really."

Advantages: Using the cutting-edge in graphics technology.

Disadvantages: Has little or no idea how to use the cutting-edge in graphics technology.

Symptoms: Fuzzy hands, blindness

Real Case: When I was off duty, two users sat down in front of me at DEC station 5000/200s that systems was reconfiguring. I suppressed my laughter while, for twenty minutes, they sat down and did their best to act like they were doing exactly what they wanted to do, even though they couldn't log in.

Miracle Worker:

"But it read a file from it yesterday!" "Sir, at a guess, this disk has been swallowed and regurgitated." "But I did that a month ago, and it read a file from it yesterday!"

Advantages: Apparently has remarkable luck when you aren't around.

Disadvantages: People complain when scons actually use the word "horse-puckey".

Symptoms: Loses all ability to do impossible when you're around. Must be the kryptonite in your pocket.

Real Case: At least three users have claimed that they've loaded IBM WordPerfect from Macintosh disks.

Taskmaster:

"Well, this is a file in MacWrite. Do you know how I can upload it to MUSIC, transfer it over to UNIX from there, download it onto an IBM, convert it to WordPerfect, and put it in three-column format?"

Advantages: Bold new challenges.

Disadvantages: Makes one wish to be a garbage collector.

Symptoms: An inability to keep quiet. Strong tendencies to make machines do things they don't want to do.

Real Case: One user tried to get a scon to find out what another person's E-mail address was even though the user didn't know his target's home system, account name, or real name.

Maestro:

"Well, first I sat down, like this. Then I logged on, like this, and after that, I typed in my password, like this, and after that I edited my file, like this, and after that I went to this line here, like this, and after that I picked my nose, like this..."

Advantages: Willing to show you exactly what they did to get an error.

Disadvantages: For as long as five or six hours.

Symptoms: Selective deafness to the phrases, "Right, right, okay, but what was the ERROR?", and a strong fondness for the phrase, "Well, I'm getting to that."

Real Case: I once had to spend half an hour looking over a user's shoulder while they continuously retrieved a document into itself and denied that they did it (the user was complaining that their document was 87 copies of the same thing).

Princess:

"I need a Mac, and someone's got the one I like reserved, would you please garrote him and put him in the paper recycling bin?"

Advantages: Flatters you with their high standards for your service.

Disadvantages: Impresses you with their obliviousness to other people on this planet.

Symptoms: Inability to communicate except by complaining.

Real Case: One asked a scon to remove the message of the day because he (the user) didn't like it.

49 ways to confuse, worry or just scare the people in IT

1. Log on, wait a sec, then get a frightened look on your face and scream "Oh my God! They've found me!" and bolt.
2. Laugh uncontrollably for about 3 minutes & then suddenly stop and look suspiciously at everyone who looks at you.
3. When your computer is turned off, complain to the monitor on duty that you can't get the damn thing to work. After he/she's turned it on, wait 5 minutes, turn it off again, & repeat the process for a good half hour.
4. Type frantically, often stopping to look at the person next to you evilly.
5. Before anyone else is in the lab, connect each computer to different screen than the one it's set up with.
6. Write a program that plays the "Smurfs" theme song and play it at the highest volume possible over & over again.
7. Work normally for a while. Suddenly look amazingly startled by something on the screen and crawl underneath the desk.
8. Ask the person next to you if they know how to tap into top-secret Pentagon files.
9. Use Interactive Send to make passes at people you don't know.
10. Make a small ritual sacrifice to the computer before you turn it on.
11. Bring a chainsaw, but don't use it. If anyone asks why you have it, say "Just in case..." mysteriously.
12. Type on VAX for a while. Suddenly start cursing for 3 minutes at everything bad about your life. Then stop and continue typing.
13. Enter the lab, undress, and start staring at other people as if they're crazy while typing.
14. Light candles in a pentagram around your terminal before starting.
15. Ask around for a spare disk. Offer \$2. Keep asking until someone agrees. Then, pull a disk out of your fly and say, "Oops, I forgot."
16. Every time you press Return and there is processing time required, pray "Ohpleaseohpleaseohpleaseohplease," and scream "YES!" when it finishes.
17. "DISK FIGHT!!!"

18. Start making out with the person at the terminal next to you (It helps if you know them, but this is also a great way to make new friends).
19. Put a straw in your mouth and put your hands in your pockets. Type by hitting the keys with the straw.
20. If you're sitting in a swivel chair, spin around singing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" whenever there is processing time required.
21. Draw a picture of a woman (or man) on a piece of paper, tape it to your monitor. Try to seduce it. Act like it hates you and then complain loudly that women (men) are worthless.
22. Try to stick a Nintendo cartridge into the 3 1/2 disc drive, when it doesn't work, get the supervisor.
23. When you are on an IBM, and when you turn it on, ask loudly where the smiling Apple face is when you turn on one of those.
24. Print out the complete works of Shakespeare, then when its all done (two days later) say that all you wanted was one line.
25. Sit and stare at the screen, biting your nails noisely. After doing this for a while, spit them out at the feet of the person next to you.
26. Stare at the screen, grind your teeth, stop, look at the person next to grinding. Repeat procedure, making sure you never provoke the person enough to let them blow up, as this releases tension, and it is far more effective to let them linger.
27. If you have long hair, take a typing break, look for split ends, cut them and deposit them on your neighbor's keyboard as you leave.
28. Put a large, gold-framed portrait of the British Royal Family on your desk and loudly proclaim that it inspires you.
29. Come to the lab wearing several layers of socks. Remove shoes and place them of top of the monitor. Remove socks layer by layer and drape them around the monitor. Exclaim sudden haiku about the aesthetic beauty of cotton on plastic.
30. Take the keyboard and sit under the computer. Then go to the supervisor and complain about the bad working conditions. Laugh hysterically, shout "You will all perish in flames!!!" and continue working.
31. Bring som dry ice & make it look like your computer is smoking.
32. Assign a musical note to every key (ie. the Delete key is A Flat, the B key is F sharp, etc.). Whenever you hit a key, hum its note loudly.
33. Attempt to eat your computer's mouse.
34. Borrow someone else's keyboard by reaching over, saying "Excuse me, mind if I borrow this for a sec?", unplugging the keyboard & taking it.
35. Bring in a bunch of magnets and have fun.
36. When doing calculations, pull out an abacus and say that sometimes the old ways are best.
37. Play Pong for hours on the most powerful computer in the lab.
38. Make a loud noise of hitting the same key over and over again until you see that your neighbor is noticing (You can hit the space bar so your fill isn't affected). Then look at your neighbor's keyboard. Hit his/her delete key several times, erasing an entire word. While you do this, ask: "Does *your* delete key work?" Shake your head, and resume hitting the space bar on your keyboard. Keep doing this until you've deleted about a page of your neighbor's document. Then, suddenly exclaim: "Well, whaddy know? I've been hitting the space bar this

- whole time. No wonder it wasn't deleting! Ha!" Print out your document and leave.
39. Remove your disk from the drive and hide it. Go to the lab monitor and complain that your computer ate your disk. (For special effects, put some Elmer's Glue on or around the disk drive. Claim that the computer is drooling.)
 40. Stare at the person's next to your's screen, look really puzzled, burst out laughing, and say "You did that?" loudly. Keep laughing, grab your stuff and leave, howling as you go.
 41. Point at the screen. Chant in a made up language while making elaborate hand gestures for a minute or two. Press return or the mouse, then leap back and yell "COVEEEEERRRRR!" peek up from under the table, walk back to the computer and say. "Oh, good. It worked this time," and calmly start to type again.
 42. Keep looking at invisible bugs and trying to swat them.
 43. See who's online. Send a total stranger a talk request. Talk to them like you've known them all your lives. Hangup before they get a chance to figure out you're a total stranger.
 44. Bring an small tape player with a tape of really absurd sound effects. Pretend it's the computer and look really lost.
 45. Pull out a pencil. Start writing on the screen. Complain that the lead doesn't work.
 46. Come into the computer lab wearing several endangered species of flowers in your hair. Smile incessantly. Type a sentence, then laugh happily, exclaim "You're such a marvel!!", and kiss the screen. Repeat this after every sentence. As your ecstasy mounts, also hug the keyboard. Finally, hug your neighbor, then the computer assistant, and walk out.
 47. Run into the computer lab, shout "Armageddon is here!!!!", then calmly sit down and begin to type.
 48. Quietly walk into the computer lab with a Black and Decker chainsaw, rev that baby up, and then walk up to the nearest person and say, "Give me that computer or you'll be feeding my pet crocodile for the next week".
 49. Two words: Tesla Coil.

Risks

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.

English is weird

In the rigid expressions that wear tonal grooves in the record of our language, beck can appear only with call, cranny with nook, hue with cry, main with might, fettle only with fine, aback with taken, caboodle with kit, and spic and span only with each other. Why must all shrifts be short, all lucre filthy, all bystanders innocent, and all bedfellows strange? I'm convinced that some shrifts are lengthy and that some lucre is squeaky clean, and I've certainly met guilty bystanders and perfectly normal bedfellows.

Why is it that only swoops are fell? Sure, the verbivorous William Shakespeare invented the expression "one fell swoop," but why can't strokes, swings, acts, and the like also be fell? Why are we allowed to vent our spleens but never our kidneys or livers? Why must it be only our minds that are boggled and never our eyes or our hearts? Why can't eyes and jars be ajar, as well as doors? Why must aspersions always be cast and never hurled or lobbed? Doesn't it seem just a little wifty that we can make amends but never just one amend; that no matter how carefully we comb through the annals of history, we can never discover just one annal; that we can never pull a shenanigan, be in a doldrum, eat an egg Benedict, or get a jitter, a willy, a delirium tremen, or a heebie-jeebie; and that, sifting through the wreckage of a disaster, we can never find just one smithereen?

Indeed, this whole business of plurals that don't have matching singulars reminds me to ask this burning question, one that has puzzled scholars for decades: If you have a bunch of odds and ends and you get rid of or sell off all but one of them, what do you call that doohickey with which you're left? What do you make of the fact that we can talk about certain things and ideas only when they are absent? Once they appear, our blessed English doesn't allow us to describe them. Have you ever seen a horseful carriage or a strapful gown? Have you ever run into someone who was combobulated, sheveled, grunted, chalant, plussed, ruly, gainly, maculate, pecunious, or peccable? Have you ever met a sung hero or experienced requited love? I know people who are no spring chickens, but where, pray tell, are the people who are spring chickens? Where are the people who actually would hurt a fly? All the time I meet people who are great shakes, who can cut the mustard, who can fight City Hall, who are my cup of tea, and whom I would touch with a ten-foot pole, but I can't talk about them in English -- and that is a laughing matter.

If the truth be told, all languages are a little crazy. As Walt Whitman might proclaim, they contradict themselves. That's because language is invented, not discovered, by boys and girls and men and women, not computers. As such, language reflects the creative and fearful asymmetry of the human race, which, of course, isn't really a race at all. That's why six, seven, eight, and nine change to sixty, seventy, eighty, and ninety, but two, three, four, and five do not become twoty, threety, fourty, and fivety. That's

why first degree murder is more serious than third degree murder but a third degree burn is more serious than a first degree burn. That's why we can turn lights off and on but not out and in. That's why we wear a pair of pants but, except on very cold days, not a pair of shirts. That's why we can open up the floor, climb the walls, raise the roof, pick up the house, and bring down the house.

Various phrases

- I could care less. I couldn't care less is the clearer, more accurate version. Why do so many people delete the negative from this statement? Because they are afraid that the n't . . . less combination will make a double negative, which is a no-no.
- I really miss not seeing you. Whenever people say this to me, I feel like responding, "All right, I'll leave!" Here speakers throw in a gratuitous negative, not, even though I really miss seeing you is what they want to say.
- The movie kept me literally glued to my seat. The chances of our buttocks being literally epoxied to a seat are about as small as the chances of our literally rolling in the aisles while watching a funny movie or literally drowning in tears while watching a sad one. We actually mean The movie kept me figuratively glued to my seat -- but who needs figuratively, anyway?
- A non-stop flight. Never get on one of these. You'll never get down.
- A near miss. A near miss is, in reality a collision. A close call is actually a near hit.
- My idea fell between the cracks. If something fell between the cracks, didn't it land smack on the planks or the concrete? Shouldn't that be my idea fell into the cracks [or between the boards]? I'll follow you to the ends of the earth.
- A hot water heater. Who heats hot water?
- A hot cup of coffee. Here again the English language gets us in hot water. Who cares if the cup is hot? Surely we mean a cup of hot coffee.
- Doughnut holes. Aren't those little treats really doughnut balls? The holes are what's left in the original doughnut. (And if a candy cane is shaped like a cane, why isn't a doughnut shaped like a nut?)
- I want to have my cake and eat it too. Shouldn't this timeworn cliché, be I want to eat my cake and have it too? Isn't the logical sequence that one hopes to eat the cake and then still possess it?
- A one-night stand. So who's standing? Similarly, to sleep with someone.
- The first century B.C. These hundred years occurred much longer ago than people imagined. What we call the first century B.C. was, in fact the last century B.C.
- Daylight saving time. Not a single second of daylight is saved by this ploy.
- The announcement was made by a nameless official. Just about everyone has a name, even officials. Surely what is meant is The announcement was made by an unnamed official.
- Preplan, preboard, preheat, and prerecord. Aren't people who do this simply planning, boarding, heating, and recording? Who needs the pre-tentious prefix?
- Put on your shoes and socks. This is an exceedingly difficult manoeuvre. Most of us put on our socks first, then our shoes.
- The bus goes back and forth between the terminal and the airport. Again we find mass confusion about the order of events. You have to go forth before you can go back.

- I got caught in one of the biggest traffic bottlenecks of the year. The bigger the bottleneck, the more freely the contents of the bottle flow through it. To be true to the metaphor, we should say, I got caught in one of the smallest traffic bottlenecks of the year.
- Underwater and Underground. Things that we claim are underwater and underground are obviously surrounded by, not under the water and ground.
- Because we speakers and writers of English seem to have our heads screwed on backwards, we constantly misperceive our bodies, often saying just the opposite of what we mean:
- Watch your head. I keep seeing this sign on low doorways, but I haven't figured out how to follow the instructions. Trying to watch your head is like trying to bite your teeth.
- They're head over heels in love. That's nice, but all of us do almost everything head over heels. If we are trying to create an image of people doing cartwheels and somersaults, why don't we say, They're heels over head in love?
- Put your best foot forward. Now let's see. . . . We have a good foot and a better foot -- but we don't have a third -- and best -- foot. It's our better foot we want to put forward. This grammar atrocity is akin to May the best team win. Usually there are only two teams in the contest.
- Keep a stiff upper lip. When we are disappointed or afraid, which lip do we try to control? The lower lip, of course, is the one we are trying to keep from quivering.
- I'm speaking tongue in cheek. So how can anyone understand you?
- They do things behind my back. You want they should do things in front of your back? They did it ass backwards. What's wrong with that? We do everything ass backwards.

Sometimes you have to believe that all English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what other language do people drive in a parkway and park in a driveway? In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? In what other language do privates eat in the general mess and generals eat in the private mess? In what other language do people ship by truck and send cargo by ship? In what other language can your nose run and your feet smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same and a bad licking and a good licking be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can sharp speech and blunt speech be the same and quite a lot and quite a few the same, while overlook and oversee are opposites? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell the next? How can the expressions "What's going on?" and "What's coming off?" means exactly the same thing?!?

If button and unbutton and tie and untie are opposites, why are loosen and unloosen and ravel and unravel the same? If bad is the opposite of good, hard the opposite of soft, and up the opposite of down, why are badly and goodly, hardly and softly, and upright and downright not opposing pairs? If harmless actions are the opposite of harmful nonactions, why are shameful and shameless behavior the same and pricey objects less expensive than priceless ones.

If appropriate and inappropriate remarks and passable and impassable mountain trails are opposites, why are flammable and inflammable materials, heritable and

inheritable property, and passive and impassive people the same and valuable objects less treasured than invaluable ones? If uplift is the same as lift up, why are upset and set up opposite in meaning? Why are pertinent and impertinent, canny and uncanny, and famous and infamous neither opposites nor the same? How can raise and raze and reckless and wreckless be opposites when each pair contains the same sound?

Why is it that when the sun or the moon or the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible; that when I clip a coupon from a newspaper I separate it, but when I clip a coupon to a newspaper, I fasten it; and that when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I shall end it?

Complex statements for the simple-minded

- Some people say that I'm superficial, but that's just on the surface.
- On one hand, I'm indecisive; but on the other, I'm not.
- If there's one thing I can't stand, it's intolerance.
- The world's full of apathy, but I don't care.
- Perspective is in the eye of the beholder.
- Prejudiced people are all alike.
- What is the probability that something will happen according to the odds?
- Those who judge others will burn in Hell!
- Exaggeration is not all it's cracked up to be.
- Evil is not all bad.
- I'm still not sure if I understand ambiguity.
- Always be on the lookout for conspicuousness (or, It's hard to tell if someone is inconspicuous).
- There's no such thing as non-existence.
- Cooperation can only be reached if we work together.
- As far as I'm concerned, treachery will sometimes bring loyalty into question.
- He doesn't have much of a reputation, or so I've heard.
- I disagree with unanimity.
- I have my doubts about disbelief.
- Avoid Alliteration. Always.
- Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
- One should never generalize.
- Avoid clichés like the plague.
- Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
- Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
- Profanity sucks.
- I always try to do things in chronological order.
- A Plateau is the highest form of flattery.
- I have a twin brother; he's identical, but I'm not.
- Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
- Death to all fanatics! If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving definitely isn't for you (or, ...then you didn't do it right!)
- If you believe in telekinesis, raise my hands.

- An oral contract isn't worth the paper its written on.
- Don't chew [or eat] with your mouth full.
- It's Deja Vu all over again.
- If we do not succeed, we run the risk of failure.
- I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous!
- I always wanted to be a procrastinator!
- To understand recursion, you must first understand recursion.
- If you want people to know where you stand, wear the same socks for two weeks.
- The shortest distance between two points is how far apart they are.
- Don't be redundant by repeating yourself.
- Grammar has got to be one of the most importantest things ever?
- Some people type so fast that forget to include
- When all is said and done, much more is said than done
- My identity lies in not knowing who I am
- I am becoming increasingly worried that there isn't enough anxiety in my life
- I have this nagging fear that everyone is out to make me paranoid
- Free advice is worth what you paid for it
- Entropy just isn't what it used to be
- I can't define irony; but, I know it when I see it
- I keep telling myself that I am a pathological liar, but I am not sure if I believe it
- Not only am I redundant & superfluous, but I also tend to use more words than necessary
- There are only three kinds of people; people who can count and people who can't
- "No, officer. I do not wish to give up my right to remain silent!!??"
- Reality is a big, nasty, vicious dragon, but I don't believe in dragons

The 12 bugs of Christmas

For the twelfth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me:

Tell them it's a feature
 Say it's not supported
 Change the documentation
 Blame it on the hardware
 Find a way around it
 Say they need an upgrade
 Reinstall the software
 Ask for a dump
 Run with the debugger
 Try to reproduce it
 Ask them how they did it and
 See if they can do it again.

Thoughts to get you through almost any crisis

- Indecision is the key to flexibility.
- There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.
- Happiness is merely the remission of pain.
- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- The facts, although interesting, are irrelevant.
- The careful application of terror is also a form of communication.
- Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
- Things are more like they are today than they have ever been before.
- Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting dirty for.
- Everything should be made as simple as possible but no simpler.
- Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- I have seen the truth and it makes no sense.
- Suicide is the most sincere form of self-criticism.
- If you think that there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.
- All things being equal, fat people use more soap.
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
- One-seventh of your life is spent on Monday.
- By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
- Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty and the pig likes it.

Canonical librarian

- Sleeping Aloud is not Allowed in this library!!
- A book in the hand is worth two on the shelf!
- A book a day keeps your Boss away!!
- Only a fool lends his book expecting it to be returned.
- The BOOK means BIBLE. So don't swear by the BOOK
- Don't write in a book Unless it is your cheque book!
- Reading begets Reading
- Books and the Librarian wait for All.
- The printed word is no guarantee of truth.
- While reading is good, understanding is better but teaching is best.
- Books are sources of substitutional pleasure.
- Better pay for a good book than to the consultant.
- Here is a puzzle: Can you give a word which contains unquestionably all the five vowels?
- R.L.Stevenson wrote "Travel with a Donkey" while he was on his honeymoon!
- If you are thin don't eat fast. If you are fat don't eat. Fast.
- The weaker sex is stronger because of the weakness of the stronger sex for the weaker sex!

- Louis the 14th invented High heel shoes when he found that his consort was too short to kiss!
- You may borrow a book and read it too!
- Books may be used for cooking facts.
- Too many authors spoil the book.
- Spare a book and spoil your mood.
- You can't remember what you never read.
- 'Never-read-books' do no harm.
- Don't be a book worm. Put ideas into practice.
- Books are silent teachers.
- A book and its readers go together.
- What is common between a woman and a book? You can take both of them to bed.
- Another name for a librarian: He is an information out-dater.
- Don't do all the talking in the library. Please reserve some for other places as well!
- Do you know that there are no words rhyming with "ORANGE" or for that matter with "MONTH"?
- There was an automobile accident in Kansas city in 1904 At that time there were only two cars registered!
- He was a beautiful lass and he, a loving male. He praised her figure in English, French and Braille!
- Better read it now than wish you would read it someday!
- Better late than never holds good for returning a borrowed book too!
- Books of a subject stock together.
- Good books need no push!
- First law of library science: Books are for use.
- Books concealed are books lost.
- Second Law of Library Science.: Every reader his book.
- There is no education without books.
- Third law of library science: Every book its reader.
- Write a book if you can't read a book!
- Fourth law of library Science: Save the time of the reader.
- Library is no place for romance.
- Fifth Law of library science: Library is a growing organism.
- Some are wise and some others are otherwise.
- Some book is better than no book on a rainy day.
- Some books promise much but offer little.
- Necessity is the mother of reading to most students.
- Lend your books and lose your friends.
- Library catalog proves that the librarian exists.
- The library is no place to sleep.
- Want to locate an address? Go to the library.
- A book misplaced is a book lost.
- Want to know about courses of study? Go to the library.
- A never read book is always new.
- Want to read newspapers? Go to the library.
- On the exam eve even notes will do.

- Want to know a phone number? Go to the library.
- A show of books is no proof of wisdom.
- The book that is misplaced is the book you need.
- A good book never lacks readers.
- Torn out books are most used books.
- Readers are the best publicity for a book.
- A torn book is better than a never touched book.
- Books beget books.
- Too many authors spoil a book.
- Oscar Wilde : There is no such thing as a moral or immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That's all
- Milton: A good book is a precious life-blood of a master-spirit embalmed and treasured upon purpose to a life beyond life.
- Melville: To produce a mighty book you must choose a mighty theme
- Bacon: Some books are to tasted; Others are to swallowed and Some few to be chewed and digested.
- Carlyle: The true university of these days is a collection of BOOKS.
- Read a book - You can become friendly at least with the author. Write a book if you want to get instant enemies.
- A book jacket promises to show interesting contents. So does a saree; But both dissappoint most of the times!
- Many books are written because they should not have been!
- Life is a mystery novel where the last few pages are torn.
- Read books : There is no tax on it as of now!
- Dog eared books are better than never read books.
- Books are good travel companions : They don't nag.
- Take to a book on a holiday.
- "Better Late than never " applies to returning books too.
- In this library readership is worshipped. Please be silent and let others concentrate on what they are reading.
- You may smoke any number of cigarettes once from this library you are out.
- That was a different type of a book : From the beginning to it was interesting to none!
- You might have about citation Index. Hace you heard of "uncitedness" as well?
- Nature is a book of which god is the author.
- A candle that lights another does not lose anything.
- You can borrow a book and return it too.
- A book (returned) in time saves time.
- Sleeping allowed. But not aloud!
- P Jisha : Library is the graveyard of the greatest minds where the students fear to tread!
- S Johnson : Your manuscript is both good and original; but what is good is not original and what is original is not good.

Ways to say “as much use as...”

antimatter suntan lotion	invisible traffic light
barbed wire harp	jam cardigan
blind lifeguard	knitted light bulb
braille speedometers	lead balloon
brake oil	licorice suspension bridge
bread boat	mesh umbrella
cellophane blindfold	metal parachute
chocolate staples	neon pink secret door
chocolate teapot	nonstick cellotape
concrete engine	pair of jelly wellingtons
concrete lifejacket	plate steel trampoline
cotton sandpaper	remote control for a Sony Watchman
cubic ball bearing	revolving basement restaurant
custard floorboards	roll-on hairspray
dark-emitting diode	see-through mirror
exploding bassoon	shortbread tires
fireproof matches	sign language alarm clock
flame retardant petrol	silent telephone
flammable fire extinguisher	solar powered foghorn
freeze dried water	solar powered nightlight
glass cricket bat	string hook
glow-in-the-dark sunglasses	sun roof on a motorcycle
granite sugar cubes	syrup underwear
gravy ceiling tiles	unscented perfume
helicopter ejection seat	waterproof sponge
ice cream saucepans	waterproof tea bag
inflatable anchor	waterproof toilet paper
inflatable dart board	wooden soap

Tongue-twisters

- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? A woodchuck would chuck as much wood as a woodchuck could chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood.
- How much net work could a network work, if a network could net work?
- I'm not a pheasant plucker, I'm a pheasant plucker's son, and I'm only plucking pheasants till the pheasant pluckin's done.
- Susie sits upon the sheets; the sheets she sits upon.
- The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.
- Le chasseur, sachant chasser, chassera sans son chien (The hunter, knowing how to hunt, will hunt without his dog)
- The seething sea ceaseth and thus the seething sea sufficeth us
- Betty Botter bought a bit of butter, "But," she said, "This butter's bitter. If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter. But a bit of better butter will make

my batter better." So Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter, and it made her batter better.

- Three gray geese in the gree grass grazing: Gray were the Geese and green was the grazing.
- Moses supposes his toeses are roses, but Moses supposes erroneously. For Moses he knowses his toeses aren't roses, as Moses Supposes his toeses to be.
- Amidst the mists and coldests frosts, with barest wrists and stoutest boasts, he thrusts his fist against the post, and still insists he sees the ghosts.
- Theophilus Thistle, the thistle-sifter, sifted a sieve of unsifted thistles. If Theophilus Thistle, the thistle-sifter, sifted a sieve of unsifted thistles, where is the sieve of unsifted thistles Theophilus Thistle, the thistle-sifter, sifted?
- Truly Rural.
- Preshrunk shirt.
- Peggy Babcock
- Sixty-six sick chicks.
- One smart fellow, he felt smart. Two smart fellows, they felt smart. Three smart fellows, they all felt smart.
- I split a sheet, a sheet I split, upon a splitted sheet I sit!
- The Leith police dismisseth us with six thick thistle sticks.
- Six swift wasps
- Say 'toyboat' 10 times as fast as you can.
- Red leather, yellow leather (repeat 5 times as fast as you can)
- Black bug's blood (repeat 5 times as fast as you can)
- The big black bug bled black blood.
- A tooter who tutored the flute tutored two tooters to toot. Asked a tooter to the tutor, "Is it easier to tutor to tooter to toot, or to toot?" Just tutor just told him to toot.
- A tooter who tutored the flute, tried to tutor two tooters to toot. Said the two to the tooter, "Is it harder to toot or to tutor two tooters to toot?"
- If two toucans can do the can-can, you can do the can-can too, can you?
- A tree toad loved a she-toad that lived up in a tree. She was a three-toed tree-toad, but a two-toad toad was he. The two-toed toad tried to win the she-toad's friendly nod, For the two-toed toad loved the ground on which the three-toed toad trod. But no matter how the two-toed tree toad tried, He could not please her whim. In her tree-toad bower, with her three-toed power, the she-toad vetoed him.
- Can you imagine an imaginary menagerie manager imagining managing an imaginary menagerie?

Politically correct terminology

aesthetically challenged
aquatically challenged
biologically challenged
certified astrological consultant
certified crystal therapist

ugly
drowning
dead
crackpot
crackpot

certified past-life regression	crackpot
hypnotist	drug addict
chemically challenged	old
chronologically gifted	prisoner
client of the correctional system	finger-pointer
codependent	stained
creatively re-dyed	having PMS
cyclically challenged	messy
differently organized	stupid
differently-brained	housewife
domestic engineer	poor
economically marginalized	off
energy-efficient	dead
environmentally correct human	impotent
erectionally challenged	ghetto
ethnically homogenous area	ugly
facially challenged	ignorant
factually unencumbered	poor
financially inept	stewardess
flight attendant	bald
folically independent	racist
genetically discriminating	earthquake
geological correction	old
gerontologically advanced	stupid
government employee	fat
gravitationally challenged	thin
horizontally challenged	fat
horizontally gifted	stupid
intellectually impaired	policeman
law enforcement officer	dead
living impaired	man-hole
maintenance hole	broken down
mechanically challenged	white
melanin-impoverished	dead
metabolically challenged	poor
monetarily challenged	a crook
morally (ethically) challenged	someone fit who parks in a handicapped
morally handicapped	zone
motivationally dispossessed	lazy
musically delayed	tone deaf
nasally disadvantaged	really BIG nose
nasally gifted	large nose
nitpicklike	humor challenged
ontologically challenged	fictional or mythological
osmotically challenged	Thirsty
other aged	too old/young (dual purpose)
outdoor urban dwellers	homeless
parking enforcement aduciator	meter maid

people of height
person of substance
persons living with entropy
petroleum transfer technician
photonicly non-receptive
residentially flexible
rhythmically challenged
romantically challenged
sanitation engineer
selectively perceptive
sexually focused chronologically
gifted individual
socially separated
spacially perplexed
street activity index
structurally challenged
target equity group
uniquely coordinated
verbally challenged
vertically challenged
visually challenged
youth group

too tall
fat
dead
gas station attendant
blind
homeless
white boy
not with somebody at the moment
garbage man
insane

dirty old man
convict
drunk
crime rate
broken
vocal minority
clumsy
mute, dumb
short
blind
gang

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.
I'm not emotional!
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.
Is my butt fat?

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'm on my period. And I'm not overreacting!
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.

You have to learn to communicate.	Just agree with me.
Are you listening to me!?	[Too late, your dead.]
Yes	No
No	No
Maybe	No
I'm sorry.	You'll be sorry.
Do you like this recipe?	It's easy to fix, so you'd better get used to it.
Was that the baby?	Why don't you get out of bed and walk him until he goes to sleep.
I'm not yelling!	Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.
All we're going to buy is a soap dish	It goes without saying that we're stopping at the cosmetics department, the shoe department, I need to look at a few new pocketbooks, and, ohmygod, there's a sale in lingerie, and wouldn't these pink sheets look great in the bedroom and did you bring your checkbook?

In answer to the question "What's wrong?"

The same old thing.	Nothing.
Nothing.	Everything.
Everything.	My PMS is acting up.
Nothing, really.	It's just that you're such an asshole.
I don't want to talk about it.	Go away, I'm still building up steam.

Why ask why

Why is it that...

- 7-11 stores are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but still have door locks?
- A commuter taking a pee doesn't turn into a computer?
- A keyboard is called a keyboard, but it only has little buttons?
- A pear called a pear when there is only one?
- An orange an orange, but an apple is not a red?
- Apartments are called 'apart-ments' when they are stuck together?
- Aspirin comes in a child-proof container and bullets come in a cardboard box?
- Bananas grow upward and all other fruits grow downward?
- Boxing rings are square?
- Buildings are called 'buildings' even when they are already built?
- Cargo always goes in ships and shipment always goes by road.
- Cigarettes are sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?
- Cornflakes and Sugar Frosted Flakes have the same calories per serving?
- Corn oil comes from corn, but baby oil doesn't come from babies?
- Fire fighters fight fire, crime fighters fight crime, but freedom fighters don't fight freedom?

- Football has such a name when you don't use your feet on the ball at all?
- Grass is always greener on the other side?
- How did the guy inventing cottage cheese know it was done?
- If a cow laughed, would milk come out of its nose?
- If a tin horn is made of tin, what is a foghorn made of?
- If jail and prison are synonymous, why aren't jailer and prisoner?
- If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?
- If people wait for the snowplow to come down the street before they can get to work every morning, how did the snowplough driver get to work?
- If pro is the opposite of con, is progress the opposite of Congress?
- If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?
- It's a penny for your thoughts, yet everyone puts in their two cents worth?
- Men have nipples?
- Mr. Mobius never seems to see more than one side to any question?
- People have noses that run and feet that smell?
- Sheep don't shrink when it rains?
- Teflon sticks to the pan if nothing is supposed to stick to Teflon?
- The word 'phonetic' is not spelled the way it sounds?
- There are floatation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- There are interstate highways in Hawaii?
- There are locks on the doors of 24-hour stores?
- There is an expiration date on sour cream?
- There is a Permanent Press setting on an iron if it does not work?
- They put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?
- Tiny-sized candy bars are called 'Fun Sized', when they aren't very fun at all.
- 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"?
- When a man talks dirty to a women, it's sexual harassment; but when a woman talks dirty to a man, it's \$3.95 a minute?
- Wise guy and wise man mean entirely different things.
- Women call it a "permanent"?
- You cannot find fresh sardines in a fish market?
- You first chop a tree down, and then chop it up?
- You drive on the parkway and park on the driveway?
- You have a hot-water heater when you don't need to heat hot water?
- You need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?
- You never see the headline... "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- You wear a pair of panties, but only one bra?

Integrated limerick

$$\int_1^{\sqrt[3]{3}} z^2 \cos(3\pi/9) = \ln(\sqrt[3]{e})$$

Which, of course, translates to:

Integral z-squared dz
from 1 to the cube root of 3
times the cosine
of three pi over 9
equals log of the cube root of 'e'.

Definitions of terms commonly used in higher math

CLEARLY
TRIVIAL

I don't want to write down all the "in between" steps. If I have to show you how to do this, you're in the wrong class.

OBVIOUSLY

I hope you weren't sleeping when we discussed this earlier, because I refuse to repeat it.

RECALL

I shouldn't have to tell you this, but for those of you who erase your memory tapes after every test...

WLOG (Without Loss
of Generality)

I'm not about to do all the possible cases, so I'll do one and let you figure out the rest.

IT CAN EASILY BE SHOWN

Even you, in your finite wisdom, should be able to prove this without me holding your hand.

CHECK or CHECK FOR
YOURSELF

This is the boring part of the proof, so you can do it on your own time.

SKETCH OF A PROOF

I couldn't verify all the details, so I'll break it down into the parts I couldn't prove.

HINT
BRUTE FORCE (AND
IGNORANCE)

The hardest of several possible ways to do a proof.

SOFT PROOF

Four special cases, three counting arguments, two long inductions, "and a partridge in a pear tree."

One third less filling (of the page) than your regular proof, but it requires two extra years of course work just to understand the terms.

ELEGANT PROOF

Requires no previous knowledge of the subject matter and is less than ten lines long.

SIMILARLY

At least one line of the proof of this case is the same as before.

CANONICAL FORM	4 out of 5 mathematicians surveyed recommended this as the final form for their students who choose to finish.
BY A PREVIOUS THEOREM	I don't remember how it goes (come to think of it I'm not really sure we did this at all), but if I stated it right (or at all), then the rest of this follows.
TWO LINE PROOF	I'll leave out everything but the conclusion, you can't question 'em if you can't see 'em.
BRIEFLY	I'm running out of time, so I'll just write and talk faster.
LET'S TALK THROUGH IT	I don't want to write it on the board lest I make a mistake.
PROCEED FORMALLY	Manipulate symbols by the rules without any hint of their true meaning (popular in pure math courses).
QUANTIFY	I can't find anything wrong with your proof except that it won't work if x is a moon of Jupiter (Popular in applied math courses).
PROOF OMITTED	Trust me, It's true.

What is your opera index?

- 0.0 You can't even sing along with the air-raid siren.
- 0.5 You think "pitch" is something you do to a baseball.
- 1.0 You can tell the difference between rest notes and Kanji.
- 1.5 You know that Albinoni isn't a sea mollusc.
- 2.0 You can't wait for Romeo and Juliet to take their story to its tragic and well deserved conclusion.
- 2.5 You actually bought a copy of K-tell's "Greatest Opera Hits"
- 3.0 Your parents love opera, you'll watch it only if it's on TV.
- 3.5 You've got tapes of complete operas hidden in your car.
- 4.0 You include quotes from operas in your Usenet postings.
- 4.5 You think Mario Lanza got a raw deal.
- 5.0 You have season tickets to the MET's Mostly Mozart Festival
- 5.5 You have a plaster bust of Verdi on your toy piano.
- 6.0 You've memorized the fake french dialogue in Die Fledermaus.
- 6.5 You cry every time Mimi hides her cough from Ruldolfo.
- 7.0 You'd watch Andrea Chenier again.
- 7.5 You actually like the Wagnerian style.
- 8.0 You actually believe in Turandot's beauty through her aria, despite visual evidence to the contrary.
- 8.5 You've got Wagner's Ring Cycle memorized...both versions.
- 9.0 You've developed a better filing system than Koechel's.
- 9.5 Kiri Te Kanawa thinks you're cute.
- 9.6 You think Dane Joan Sutherland is a sexy mama.
- 9.7 Pavarotti, Carrera and Domingo compete for your autograph.
- 10.0 Caruso does cameos at your seances.

World's great unsung operas

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)

Operas that never made it

Rossini: The Plumber of Seville.
Britten: A Midsummer Nightmare.
Mozart: The Magic Tuba.

Puccini: La Bamba.
Verdi: Rigatoni.

How to put an elephant in a refrigerator

Analysis:

- 1 Differentiate it and put into the refrigerator. Then integrate it in the refrigerator.
- 2 Redefine the measure on the refrigerator (or the elephant).
- 3 Apply the Banach-Tarski theorem.

Number theory:

- 1 First factorize, second multiply.
- 2 Use induction. You can always squeeze a bit more in.

Algebra:

- 1 Step 1. Show that the parts of it can be put into the refrigerator Step 2. Show that the refrigerator is closed under the addition.
- 2 Take the appropriate universal refrigerator and get a surjection from refrigerator to elephant.

Topology:

- 1 Have it swallow the refrigerator and turn inside out.
- 2 Make a refrigerator with the Klein bottle.
- 3 The elephant is homeomorphic to a smaller elephant.
- 4 The elephant is compact, so it can be put into a finite collection of refrigerators. That's usually good enough.
- 5 The property of being inside the refrigerator is hereditary. So, take the elephant's mother, cremate it, and show that the ashes fit inside the refrigerator.
- 6 For those who object to method 3 because it's cruel to animals. Put the elephant's BABY in the refrigerator.

Algebraic topology:

Replace the interior of the refrigerator by its universal cover, \mathbb{R}^3 .

Linear algebra:

- 1 Put just its basis and span it in the refrigerator

- 2 Show that 1% of the elephant will fit inside the refrigerator. By linearity, x% will fit for any x.

Affine geometry:

There is an affine transformation putting the elephant into the refrigerator.

Set theory:

- 1 It's very easy! refrigerator = { elephant }
- 2 The elephant and the interior of the refrigerator both have cardinality c.

Geometry:

Declare the following: Axiom 1. An elephant can be put into a refrigerator.

Complex analysis:

Put the refrigerator at the origin and the elephant outside the unit circle. Then get the image under the inversion.

Numerical analysis:

- 1 Put just its trunk and refer the rest to the error term.
- 2 Work it out using the Pentium.

Statistics:

- 1 bright statistician. Put its tail as a sample and say "Done."
- 2 dull statistician. Repeat the experiment pushing the elephant to the refrigerator
- 3 Our NEW study shows that you CAN'T put the elephant in the refrigerator.

Mathematical graffiti

The law of the excluded middle either rules or does not rule, O.K.?

Is the square root of ab absurd?

Algebra is x-sighting.

Vectors can be 'arrowing.

I'm partial to fractions.

I like angles ... to a degree.

I could go on and on about sequences.

Translations are shifty.

Complex numbers are unreal.

I feel positive about integers.

On average, people are mean.

Klein bottle for rent -- inquire within.

The history of $2 + 2 = 5$

Most mathematicians are familiar with -- or have at least seen references in the literature to -- the equation $2 + 2 = 4$. However, the less well known equation $2 + 2 = 5$ also has a rich, complex history behind it. Like any other complex quantity, this history has a real part and an imaginary part; we shall deal exclusively with the latter here.

Many cultures, in their early mathematical development, discovered the equation $2 + 2 = 5$. For example, consider the Bolb tribe, descended from the Incas of South America. The Bolbs counted by tying knots in ropes. They quickly realized that when a 2-knot rope is put together with another 2-knot rope, a 5-knot rope results. Recent

findings indicate that the Pythagorean Brotherhood discovered a proof that $2 + 2 = 5$, but the proof never got written up. Contrary to what one might expect, the proof's nonappearance was not caused by a cover-up such as the Pythagoreans attempted with the irrationality of the square root of two. Rather, they simply could not pay for the necessary scribe service. They had lost their grant money due to the protests of an oxen-rights activist who objected to the Brotherhood's method of celebrating the discovery of theorems. Thus it was that only the equation $2 + 2 = 4$ was used in Euclid's "Elements," and nothing more was heard of $2 + 2 = 5$ for several centuries.

Around A.D. 1200 Leonardo of Pisa (Fibonacci) discovered that a few weeks after putting 2 male rabbits plus 2 female rabbits in the same cage, he ended up with considerably more than 4 rabbits. Fearing that too strong a challenge to the value 4 given in Euclid would meet with opposition, Leonardo conservatively stated, " $2 + 2$ is more like 5 than 4." Even this cautious rendition of his data was roundly condemned and earned Leonardo the nickname "Blockhead." By the way, his practice of underestimating the number of rabbits persisted; his celebrated model of rabbit populations had each birth consisting of only two babies, a gross underestimate if ever there was one.

Some 400 years later, the thread was picked up once more, this time by the French mathematicians. Descartes announced, "I think $2 + 2 = 5$; therefore it does." However, others objected that his argument was somewhat less than totally rigorous. Apparently, Fermat had a more rigorous proof which was to appear as part of a book, but it and other material were cut by the editor so that the book could be printed with wider margins. Between the fact that no definitive proof of $2 + 2 = 5$ was available and the excitement of the development of calculus, by 1700 mathematicians had again lost interest in the equation. In fact, the only known 18th-century reference to $2 + 2 = 5$ is due to the philosopher Bishop Berkeley who, upon discovering it in an old manuscript, wryly commented, "Well, now I know where all the departed quantities went to -- the right-hand side of this equation." That witticism so impressed California intellectuals that they named a university town after him.

But in the early to middle 1800's, $2 + 2$ began to take on great significance. Riemann developed an arithmetic in which $2 + 2 = 5$, paralleling the Euclidean $2 + 2 = 4$ arithmetic. Moreover, during this period Gauss produced an arithmetic in which $2 + 2 = 3$. Naturally, there ensued decades of great confusion as to the actual value of $2 + 2$. Because of changing opinions on this topic, Kempe's proof in 1880 of the 4-color theorem was deemed 11 years later to yield, instead, the 5-color theorem. Dedekind entered the debate with an article entitled "Was ist und was soll $2 + 2$?" Frege thought he had settled the question while preparing a condensed version of his "Begriffsschrift." This condensation, entitled "Die Kleine Begriffsschrift (The Short Schrift)," contained what he considered to be a definitive proof of $2 + 2 = 5$. But then Frege received a letter from Bertrand Russell, reminding him that in "Grundbeefen der Mathematik" Frege had proved that $2 + 2 = 4$. This contradiction so discouraged Frege that he abandoned mathematics altogether and went into university administration.

Faced with this profound and bewildering foundational question of the value of $2 + 2$, mathematicians followed the reasonable course of action: they just ignored the whole

thing. And so everyone reverted to $2 + 2 = 4$ with nothing being done with its rival equation during the 20th century. There had been rumors that Bourbaki was planning to devote a volume to $2 + 2 = 5$ (the first forty pages taken up by the symbolic expression for the number five), but those rumors remained unconfirmed. Recently, though, there have been reported computer-assisted proofs that $2 + 2 = 5$, typically involving computers belonging to utility companies. Perhaps the 21st century will see yet another revival of this historic equation.

Proofs that P

Davidson's proof that p: Let us make the following bold conjecture: p

Wallace's proof that p: Davidson has made the following bold conjecture: p

Grunbaum: As I have asserted again and again in previous publications, p.

Morgenbesser: If not p, what? q maybe?

Putnam: Some philosophers have argued that not-p, on the grounds that q. It would be an interesting exercise to count all the fallacies in this "argument". (It's really awful, isn't it?) Therefore p.

Rawls: It would be a nice to have a deductive argument that p from self-evident premises. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide one. So I will have to rest content with the following intuitive considerations in its support: p.

Unger: Suppose it were the case that not-p. It would follow from this that someone knows that q. But on my view, no one knows anything whatsoever. Therefore p. (Unger believes that the louder you say this argument the more persuasive it becomes.)

Katz: I have seventeen arguments for the claim that p, and I know of only four for the claim that not-p. Therefore p.

Lewis: Most people find the claim that not p completely obvious and when I assert p they give me an incredulous stare. But the fact that they find not-p obvious is no argument that it is true; and I do not know how to refute an incredulous stare. Therefore p.

Fodor: My argument for p is based on three premises: (1) q (2) r and (3) p From these, the claim that p deductively follows. Some people may find the third premise controversial, but it is clear that if we replaced that premise by any other reasonable premise, the argument would go through just as well.

Sellars's proof that p: Unfortunately, limitations of space prevent it from being included here, but important parts of the proof can be found in each of the articles in the attached bibliography.

Earman: There are solutions to the field equations of general relativity in which space-time has the structure of a four-dimensional Klein bottle and in which there is no matter. In each such space-time, the claim that not-p is false. Therefore p.

Heaven is hotter than hell

The temperature of Heaven can be rather accurately computed. Our authority is Isaiah 30:26, "Moreover, the light of the Moon shall be as the light of the Sun and the light of the Sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days." Thus Heaven receives from the Moon as much radiation as we do from the Sun, and in addition 7^*7 (49) times as much

as the Earth does from the Sun, or 50 times in all. The light we receive from the Moon is one 1/10,000 of the light we receive from the Sun, so we can ignore that ... The radiation falling on Heaven will heat it to the point where the heat lost by radiation is just equal to the heat received by radiation, i.e., Heaven loses 50 times as much heat as the Earth by radiation. Using the Stefan-Boltzmann law for radiation, $(H/E)^4 = 50$, where E is the absolute temperature of the earth (300°K), gives H as 798°K (525°C). The exact temperature of Hell cannot be computed ... [However] Revelations 21:8 says "But the fearful, and unbelieving ... shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." A lake of molten brimstone means that its temperature must be at or below the boiling point, 444.6°C. We have, then, that Heaven, at 525°C is hotter than Hell at 445°C.

How to identify scientists

Chem Prof: Wears a white lab coat. This may actually be clean but does not have to be. P-chem profs have a brand new coat that has never been in the lab; polymer chem profs have strange glop on their coat, and intro chem profs have acid holes.

Physics Prof: Wears blue jeans and a flannel shirt. May sometimes forget to wear shirt altogether. If a professor is wearing blue jeans and suspenders, ten to one he is a physicist. Physics profs often have German accents, but this is not a distinguishing characteristic. Be wary of psychologists with fake Viennese accents which can sound similar to the unwary.

Bio Prof: Sometimes wears a lab coat, though usually this is the sign of a biochemist. Marine biologists walk around in hip boots for no explainable reason, even in the middle of winter. They are apt to wear grey slacks and smell like fish, as opposed to most biologists, who smell strongly of formalin. Microbiology instructors go around in spotless white coats, refuse to drink beer on tap, and wipe all their silverware before using it. Never loan money to a bio prof, no matter how much he asks.

Psych Prof: Psychologists are not real scientists, and can be easily identified by their screams of protest whenever anyone questions whether psychology is a science. Psych people have beady little eyes and don't laugh at jokes about psychology. If you are not sure whether a person is a scientist or a comparative religion instructor, he is probably a psychologist.

CS Prof: Most CS profs are from India or Pakistan. You can tell by the gestures and accents. This is not a bad thing, though many of the American CS professors tend to pick up Indian accents which confounds more specific identification. Like mushrooms, CS students only come out at night, and, if not Indian, tend to take on a pasty appearance. CS professors do not use computers and therefore can be easily identified by their comparative good health with respect to their students. Many CS professors do not even know how to use computers, and are actually mathematicians or psychologists in disguise. Avoid these people.

Math Prof: Math profs are like physics professors except without any practical bent. A math professor will have only books and pencils in his office, as opposed to the piles

of broken equipment that physicists keep. Mathematicians scorn the use of computers and calculators and often have difficulty splitting bills in restaurants. The easy way to identify a mathematician is by the common use of the phrases "It can be shown that..." and "Is left as an exercise to the student..."

Why God never received tenure from any university

- 1 He had only one major publication
- 2 It was in Hebrew
- 3 It had no references
- 4 It wasn't published in a referenced journal
- 5 Some doubt He wrote it Himself
- 6 He may have created the world, but what has he done since?
- 7 The scientific community can't replicate His results
- 8 He never got permission from the ethics board to use human subjects
- 9 When one experiment went awry, He tried to cover it up by drowning the subjects
- 10 He rarely came to class and just told students "Read the Book"
- 11 Some say He had His son teach the class
- 12 He expelled His first two students
- 13 His office hours were irregular and sometimes held on a mountaintop.
- 14 Although there were only 10 requirements, most students failed

Π mnemonic

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

Dictionary of performance evaluation comments

A keen analyst: Thoroughly confused.
Accepts new job assignments willingly: Never finishes a job.
Active socially: Drinks heavily.
Alert to company developments: An office gossip.
Approaches difficult problems with logic: Finds someone else to do the job.
Average: Not too bright.
Bridge builder: Likes to compromise.
Character above reproach: Still one step ahead of the law.
Charismatic: No interest in any opinion but his own.
Competent: Is still able to get work done if supervisor helps.
Conscientious and careful: Scared.
Consults with co-workers often: Indecisive, confused, and clueless.
Consults with supervisor often: Pain in the ass.

Delegates responsibility effectively: Passes the buck well.
Demonstrates qualities of leadership: Has a loud voice.
Deserves promotion: Create new title to make him/her feel appreciated.
Displays excellent intuitive judgement: Knows when to disappear.
Displays great dexterity and agility: Dodges and evades superiors well.
Doesn't suffer fools gladly: Rude and abrasive.
Enjoys job: Needs more to do.
Excels in sustaining concentration but avoids confrontations: Ignores everyone.
Excels in the effective application of skills: Makes a good cup of coffee.
Exceptionally well qualified: Has committed no major blunders to date.
Expresses self well: Can string two sentences together.
Gets along extremely well with superiors and subordinates alike: A coward.
Happy: Paid too much.
Hard worker: Usually does it the hard way.
Ideas don't last long in some heads because they can't stand solitary confinement.
Identifies major management problems: Complains a lot.
Indifferent to instruction: Knows more than superiors.
Internationally know: Likes to go to conferences and trade shows in Las Vegas.
Is well informed: Knows all office gossip and where all the skeletons are kept.
Inspires the cooperation of others: Gets everyone else to do the work.
Is unusually loyal: Wanted by no-one else.
Judgement is usually sound: Lucky.
Keen sense of humor: Knows lots of dirty jokes.
Keep stress out of your life. Give it to others instead.
Keeps informed on business issues: Subscribes to Playboy and Private Eye.
Listens well: Has no ideas of his own.
Maintains a high degree of participation: Comes to work on time.
Maintains professional attitude: A snob.
Meticulous in attention to detail: A nitpicker.
Mover and shaker: Favors steamroller tactics without regard for other opinions.
Not a desk person: Did not go to college.
Of great value to the organization: Turns in work on time.
Use all available resources: Takes office supplies home for personal use.
Quick thinking: Offers plausible excuses for errors.
Requires work-value attitudinal readjustment: Lazy and hard-headed.
Should go far: Please.
Slightly below average: Stupid.
Spends extra hours on the job: Miserable home life.
Stern disciplinarian: A real jerk.
Straightforward: Blunt and insensitive.
Strong adherence to principles: Stubborn.
Tactful in dealing with superiors: Knows when to keep mouth shut.
Takes advantage of every opportunity to progress: Buys drinks for superiors.
Takes pride in work: Conceited.
Unlimited potential: Will stick with us until retirement.
Uses resources well: Delegates everything.
Uses time effectively: Clock watcher.
Very creative: Finds 22 reasons to do anything except original work.
Visionary: Cannot handle paperwork or any project that lasts less than a week.

Well organized: Does too much busywork.
Will go far: Relative of management.
Willing to take calculated risks: Doesn't mind spending someone else's money.
Zealous attitude: Opinionated.

The saga of a management review of writing style

Question: How many feet do mice have?

Original Reply: Mice have four feet.

Management's Comment: Elaborate!

Revision 1: Mice have five appendages, and four of them are feet.

Management's Comment: No discussion of 5th appendage!

Revision 2: Mice have five appendages; four of them are feet; one is a tail.

Management's Comment: What? Feet with no legs?

Revision 3: Mice have four legs, four feet, and one tail per unit-mouse.

Management's Comment: Confusing. Is that a total of 9 appendages?

Revision 4: Mice have four leg-foot assemblies and one tail assembly per body.

Management's Comment: Does not fully discuss the issue!

Revision 5: Each mouse comes equipped with four legs and a tail. Each leg is equipped with a foot at the end opposite the body; the tail is not equipped with a foot.

Management's Comment: Descriptive? Yes. Forceful No!

Revision 6: Allotment of appendages for mice will be: Four foot-leg assemblies, one tail. Deviation from this policy is not permitted as it would constitute misapportionment of scarce appendage assets.

Management's Comment: Too authoritarian; stifles creativity!

Revision 7: Mice have four feet; each foot is attached to a small leg joined integrally with the overall mouse structural sub-system. Also attached to the mouse sub-system is a thin tail, non-functional and ornamental in nature.

Management's Comment: Too verbose/scientific. Answer the question!

Final Revision Approved By Management: Mice have four feet.

Employee professional improvement courses

E100 Molding Your Employee's Behavior Through Guilt & Fear
E103 Eye Avoidance Techniques
E104 The Primal Shrug
E110 Overcoming Peace of Mind
E155 Cross-Dressing for Success
E200 Career Opportunities in the Channel Islands

E309	Slide Rule Shortcuts
E404	Tax Shelters for the Indigent
E451	"I made £100 in Property!"
E520	Creative Suffering
EB42	Whine Your Way to Higher Pay
EB59	How to Profit From Your Own Body
EB94	Underachiever's Guide to Very Small Business Opportunities
EC13	Bonsai Your Pet
EC22	Communication Through Tap Dance
EC77	Sinus Drainage in the Office
EF69	Dealing With Post-Realization Depression
EC77	Ego Gratification Through Violence
EF93	How to Overcome Self-Doubt Through Pretense & Ostentation
EH99	Biofeedback & How to Stop
EH12	Suicide & Your Health
EH23	How to Convert Your Office into a Garage
EH41	Money Can Make You Rich
EH58	High Fibre Sex
EJ33	Creative Tooth Decay
EJ56	The Joys of Hypochondria
EJ78	Looter's Guide to American Cities
EH12	How to Draw Genitalia
EH12	The Repair & Maintenance of Your Virginity
EM19	Gifts for the Senile
EB42	Burglarproof Your Home in Concrete
EX14	Guilt Without Sex

Work and meetings

There are two major kinds of work in modern organizations:

1. Taking phone messages for people who are in meetings, and
2. Going to meetings.

Your ultimate career strategy will be to get to a job involving primarily #2, going to meetings, as soon as possible, because that's where the prestige is. It is all very well and good to be able to take phone messages, but you are never going to get a position of power, a position where you can cost thousands of people their jobs with a single bonehead decision, unless you learn how to attend meetings.

The first meeting ever held was in the Mezzanine Era. In those days, the job of humans was to slay prey, bring it home, and figure out how to cook it. The problem was humans were slow and basically naked, whereas the prey had warm fur and could run like an antelope; in fact, it was an antelope, only back then nobody knew this. At last, someone said, "Maybe if we just sat down and did some Brainstorming, we could come up with a better way to hunt our prey!" It went extremely well, plus it was much warmer sitting in a circle, so they agreed to meet again the next day, and the next.

But it was pointed out that, prey-wise, the humans had not produced anything, and the race was pretty much starving. This was a serious point so the humans put it right near the top of their Agenda! At which point, some of the people in the meeting, who were primitive but not stupid, started eating plants. Thus was born modern agriculture. It could never have happened without meetings.

The modern business meeting, however, might be better compared with a funeral, in the sense that you have a gathering of people who are wearing uncomfortable clothing and would rather be elsewhere. The major difference is that most funerals have a definite purpose. Also, nothing is ever really buried in a meeting.

An idea may look dead, but it will always reappear at another meeting later on. If you have ever seen the movie "Night of the Living Dead" you have a rough idea of how modern meetings operate, with projects and proposals that everybody thought were killed rising constantly from their graves to stagger back into meetings to eat the brains of the living.

There are two major kinds of meetings:

1. Meetings that are held for tradition. For example, a lot of managerial meetings fall into this category. You'll get used to this kind of meeting. You'd better, because this kind accounts for 83% of all meetings (based on a study in which I wrote down numbers until one of them looked about right). This type of meeting operates the way "Show and Tell" does in nursery school, with everybody getting to say something, the difference being that in nursery school kids actually have something new to say. When it's your turn, you should say you're still working on whatever it is you're supposed to be working on. This may seem dumb, since *obviously* you'd be working on whatever you're supposed to be working on, and even if you weren't, you'd claim you were, but this is the traditional thing for everyone to say. It would be a lot faster if the person running the meeting would just say, "Everybody who is still working on what he or she is supposed to be working on raise your hand!" You'd be out of there in five minutes, even allowing time for jokes. But this is not how we do it in America. My guess is, it's how they do it in Japan.

2. Meetings where there is some alleged purpose. These are trickier, because what you do depends on what the purpose is. Sometimes, the purpose is harmless, like somebody wants to show slides of pie charts and give everybody a copy of a big fat report. All you have to do in this kind of meeting is sit there and have elaborate fantasies, then take the report back to your office and throw it away, unless of course you're a vice president, in which case you write the name of a subordinate in the upper right hand corner, followed by a question mark, like this: "Pat?" Then you send it to Pat and forget all about it (although it will plague Pat throughout the following weeks and months).

But sometimes you go to meetings where the purpose is to get your "input" on something. This is serious, because what it means is they want to make sure that in case whatever it is turns out to be stupid or fatal, you'll get some of the blame. So you have to somehow escape from the meeting before they get around to asking you anything. One way is to set fire to your shoes.

Another is to have an accomplice interrupt the meeting and announce that you have a phone call from somebody very important, such as the president of the company, or the pope. It should be either one or the other. It would sound fishy if the accomplice said, "You have a call from the president of the company. Or the pope."

You should know how to take notes at a meeting. Use a yellow legal pad. At the top, write the date and underline it twice. Now wait until an important person such as your boss starts talking. When s/he does, assume an expression of rapt interest, as though the secrets of life itself were being revealed. Then draw interlocking rectangles on the legal pad. If it is an especially lengthy meeting, you may draw more elaborate doodles and a caricature of your boss.

If somebody falls asleep in a meeting, have everybody else leave the room. Then collect a group of total strangers right off the street and have them sit around the sleeping person until s/he awakens. Then have one of them say, in a very somber voice, "Terry, your plan is very, very risky. However, you've given us no choice but to try it. I only hope for your sake, that you know what you're getting yourself into." Then they should all file quietly from the room.

Fun things to do in a crowded elevator

- Make race car noises when anyone gets on or off.
- Blow your nose and offer to show the contents of your kleenex to the others.
- Grimace painfully while smacking your forehead and muttering, "Shut up, dammit, all of you just shut UP!"
- Whistle the first seven notes of "It's A Small World" incessantly.
- Sell Girl Scout cookies.
- On a long ride, sway side to side at the natural frequency of the elevator.
- Shave.
- Crack open your briefcase or purse, and while peering inside, ask, "Got enough air in there?"
- Offer name tags to everyone getting on the elevator. Wear yours upside-down.
- Stand silent and motionless in the corner, facing the wall, without getting off.
- When arriving at your floor, grunt and strain to yank the doors open, then act embarrassed when they open by themselves.
- Greet everyone getting on the elevator with a warm handshake and ask them to call you Admiral.
- Flatulence!
- On the highest floor, hold the door open and demand that it stay open until you hear the penny you dropped down the shaft go "plink" at the bottom.
- Do Tai Chi exercises.
- Stare, grinning, at another passenger for a while, and then announce, "I've got new socks on!"
- When at least 8 people have boarded, moan from the back, "Oh, not now, damn motion sickness!"
- Give religious tracts to each passenger.

- Meow occasionally.
- Bet the other passengers you can fit a quarter in your nose.
- Frown and mutter "gotta go, gotta go" then sigh and say "oops!"
- Show other passengers a wound and ask if it looks infected.
- Sing "Mary had a little lamb" while continually pushing buttons.
- Holler "Chutes away!" whenever the elevator descends.
- Walk on with a cooler that says "human head" on the side.
- Stare at another passenger for a while, then announce, "You're one of THEM!" and move to the far corner of the elevator.
- Burp, and then say, "Mmmm...tasty!"
- Leave a box between the doors.
- Ask each passenger getting on if you can push the button for them.
- Wear a puppet on your hand and talk to other passengers "through" it.
- Start a sing-along.
- When the elevator is silent, look around and ask, "Is that your beeper?"
- Play the harmonica.
- Shadow box.
- Say "Ding!" at each floor.
- Lean against the button panel.
- Say "I wonder what all these do" and push the red buttons.
- Listen to the elevator walls with a stethoscope.
- Draw a little square on the floor with chalk and announce to the other passengers that this is your "personal space."
- Bring a chair along.
- Blow spit bubbles.
- Pull your gum out of your mouth in long strings.
- Announce in a demonic voice, "I must find a more suitable host body."
- Carry a blanket and clutch it protectively.
- Make explosion noises when anyone presses a button.
- Wear "X-Ray Specs" and leer suggestively at other passengers.
- Stare at your thumb and say, "I think it's getting larger."

Procrastinator's creed

1. I believe that if anything is worth doing, it would have been done already.
2. I shall never move quickly, except to avoid more work or find excuses.
3. I will never rush into a job without a lifetime of consideration.
4. I shall meet all of my deadlines directly in proportion to the amount of bodily injury I could expect to receive from missing them.
5. I firmly believe that tomorrow holds the possibility for new technologies, astounding discoveries, and a reprieve from my obligations.
6. I truly believe that all deadlines are unreasonable regardless of the amount of time given.
7. I shall never forget that the probability of a miracle, though infinitesimally small, is not exactly zero.
8. If at first I don't succeed, there is always next year.

9. I shall always decide not to decide, unless of course I decide to change my mind.
10. I shall always begin, start, initiate, take the first step, and/or write the first word, when I get around to it.
11. I obey the law of inverse excuses which demands that the greater the task to be done, the more insignificant the work that must be done prior to beginning the greater task.
12. I know that the work cycle is not plan-start-finish, but is wait-plan-plan.
13. I will never put off until tomorrow, what I can forget about forever.
14. I will become a member of the ancient Order of Two-Headed Turtles (the Procrastinator's Society) if they ever get it organized.

Things to do if you are bored

abuse your patio furniture, again tell your dad the dog did it, annoy yourself, apologize to it, apply for a Unicorn Hunting License, argue with fundamentalists, ask stupid questions, avoid a sale that's too good to miss, balance a watermelon on your head, be a side effect, be a square root, be cherubic, be in the wrong place at the right time, be number six, be someone special, beg, belch, birdwatching, boil ice cream, boldly go where no man has gone before, bonsai grass, bonsai your neighbor's kids or pets, borrow pencils, braid your dog's hair, break other peoples things when they aren't looking, buff your cat, build a pyramid, butter someone up, buy Nelson's Column, call strangers and ask for advice, call strangers and give advice, calmly have a nervous breakdown, can some music, carry a lantern through the city searching for an honest man, carry a tune, carve your girl/boyfriends initials in a marshmallow, catch a falling star, cause a power failure, challenge the neighbor kid to duel, change a light bulb, change your mind, change your name...daily, chew every bite of food 100 times, clean and polish your belly button, climb a pavement, collect belly button lint, collect bibles from nuts, collect dust, collect sump nuts from cars, complain to God that Jupiter has more moons than we do, confess to a crime that you didn't commit, contemplate a cockroach, contribute to the population problem, converse with a flatworm, count all the sheets of toilet paper in a new roll to see if you got your money's worth, count all the words in the newspaper, count ants, count the cornflakes in a box, count to a million fast, crack your knuckles to music, crawl, crumble, crumple, cut the deck, debate politics with a fern, defend your neighborhood from roving Mongol hordes, develop a complex, dial 999 and then breath heavily, dial-a-Prayer and argue with it, dig up your roots, do a good job, do a taste comparison on insects, do aerobics in your head, don't toss and turn, donate organs, donate your brother's body to science, draw on the window with grape jelly, dress like your favorite Heavy Metal group and surprise your grandmother, drive the speed limit...in your garage, drool, drop everything, drop something to see if it breaks, drop your cat from a high place to see if it really does land on all four feet and repeat the procedure until failure, duck, dust a tree, eat grass, eat only chocolate-colored foods for a week, exercise a ghost, exorcise a ghost, exist...existentially of course, factor your social security number, fill your jean pockets with hamster treats and drop your pet hamster down in there, find a witch, find out how many ways there really are to skin a cat, find out where all these cylinders graduated from, find the heat capacity of your chemistry lecturer, find yourself, finger paint with your toes, flash your goldfish, flirt with an evergreen, fly a brick, fold marshmallows, form a political party, found a cockroach stable and stud farm, freeze

dry pets, get a dog to chase your car, get angry with yourself, get lost, giggle, give a lecture tour on the historical significance of cream cheese, give a Rorschach (ink blot) test to your gerbil, give your cat a mohawk, give your cat a suntan...in the microwave, give your goldfish a perm, give your grandmother a raise and another week paid vacation, go back to square one, go bowling for small game, go for a walk in the attic, go to a cemetery and verbally abuse dead people, go to a funeral and tell rude jokes, hard boil all the eggs, have a proton fight, have your car painted plaid, have your cat bronzed, have your first statement of bankruptcy framed, hit the deck, hop to class or work on one foot, hot wax the bottoms of your brother's dress shoes, imagine there's no heaven, interview a cloud, ionize your new chemistry lecturer (remember you took the heat capacity of the first one), jump back, keep track of an ant for the entire afternoon, kick a cabbage, kickstart your TV, kickstop your TV, kiss and make up, knight yourself and some close friends, learn everything there is to know about the Holy Roman Empire, learn Greek, learn to read Sanskrit, learn to type with your toes, learn to write Sanskrit, lie to yourself, listen for Satanic messages, listen to a painting, look for ticks on the living room carpet, look forward to something, look in all the gratings for coins, loosen the wheel nuts on your dad's new car, make a deal with the Devil...keep your fingers crossed, make a drive in window at your local bank, make a quilt out of used cocktail napkins, make a schematic drawing of a rock, make rude noises with your armpits, measure all the toothpaste in the tubes of two competing brands, mow your carpet, mow your lawn with a Hoover, mug a give way sign, organize a Twister or limbo stick game at the office, paint a smile, paint faces on your fingernails and talk to them, paint stripes on a lake, paint your home day-glo orange, paint your teeth, paint your windows, paint, park your car with a friend, park your car with a group of friends, pay a bill with pennies, pay off the national debt with a bad cheque, perfect the internal combustion telephone, pinstripe your drive, place your cat in hyper-space, plant a shoe, play an instrument you've never seen before, play cards in your swimming pool, play dead, play dead in swimming pools, play hockey with your little cousin as the puck, play Houdini with one of your siblings, play nuclear chicken with a small third world nation, play solitaire for cash, play tag on the nearest motorway, play tiddly-winks...go for blood, play to lose, play with matches, play with your food, plot the overthrow of your local school governors, pour instant concrete in your brothers waterbed, pretend to be an alien, pretend to be drunk or stoned, prove once and for all that a cow can jump over the moon, prove your own existence, purr, put legwarmers on all your furniture, put lighted Exit signs on all your closets, put out a fire, quiver, race turnips, raise professional racing ferrets, rake your carpet (to clean up the clippings), read every book in your local library, read Homer in the original Greek, read the entire phone book and check who in your area has a last name beginning with either "Aaaaa..." or "Zzzzz...", read the financial section of the newspaper to your plants, rearrange all the produce at the salad bar, rearrange political campaign signs, recite romantic poetry to your toaster, redecorate your garage, refuse to talk for three days, regress, revert, ride a loaf of bread, roll over, rotate your garden daily, run around in squares, run for Pope, sacrifice animals, sand a mushroom, scheme, search for buried treasure in Rutland, see how long you can hold your breath, see how many teaspoons of water your bath holds, see if you really can build a small nuclear device in your loft, send your goldfish to obedience school, set your hair on fire, shadow box with yourself until you win, sharpen your sleeping skills, sharpen your teeth, shave a shrub, shave your neighbor's children or pets, skydive to church, sleep on a bed of nails, smile, solve the population problem (i.e. $x + 2y - 16x =$

population; solve for x), speak in acronyms, speak nothing but three-letter words for a day, speak with a forked tongue, stand in front of a mirror and count your hair, stand on someone else's head, stand on the weight scale until you lose five pounds, stand on your head, staple, starch your shoes, start a cult, start an argument, steal hubcaps and put them on other cars, sterilize your stereo, stop speaking to yourself, subscribe people to magazines, sweat, take a picture, take apart all your major kitchen appliances, take your sofa for a walk, talk to homeless people, talk to yourself, taste household products and record toxicity, tell knock-knock jokes, test gravity, test thermodynamics, test thin ice with a pogo stick, think shallow thoughts, throw a political party, throw a tantrum, throw an armadillo, tickle a friend, tickle a policeman, tickle yourself, tie-dye a cat, translate Shakespeare into English, tree a goldfish, try homo/hetero-sexuality, turn your TV picture tube upside down, twitch, upholster a table, walk on water but DON'T get caught, walk under falling pianos, walk under ladders, wallpaper your bedroom with junk mail, wash a tree, watch a car rust, watch milk turn to yogurt, watch paint dry, watch the grass grow, watch the sun to see if it moves, water your dog to see if he grows, watch your toenails grow, wax the ceiling, wear a salad, wear your clothes inside out, whine, wonder, wriggle, write a book about a previous life, write a letter addressed to "Occupant" to every address your street, write a song for a push-button phone, write letters to all the political officials that are representing you and tell them what a good job they are doing...on April 1st, yodel on the bus.

Summer reading

How to Write Big Books	Warren Peace
The Art of Archery	Beau N. Arrow
Songs for Children	Barbara Blacksheep
Irish Heart Surgery	Angie O'Plasty
Split Personalities	Jacqueline Hyde
Under the Bleachers	Seymour Butts
Desert Crossing	I. Rhoda Camel
School Truancy	Marcus Absent
I Was a Cloakroom Attendant	Mahatma Coate
I Lost My Balance	Eileen Dover and Phil Down
Mystery in the Barnyard	Hu Flung Dung
Positive Reinforcement	Wade Ago
Shhh!	Danielle Soloud
The Philippine Post Office	Imelda Letter
Things to Do at a Party	Bob Frapples
Stop Arguing	Xavier Breath
Come on In!	Doris Open
The German Bank Robbery	Hans Zupp
I Hate the Sun	Gladys Knight
Prison Security	Barb Dweyer
Irish First Aid	R.U. O'Kaye
My Career As a Clown	Abe Ozo
The World's Deadliest Joke	Theophilus Punoval
Here's Pus in Your Eye	Lance Boyle

My Life on Skid Row	Titus A. Drum
I Didn't Do It!	Ivan Alibi
Why I Eat at McDonalds	Tommy Ayk
I Hit the Wall	Isadore There
The Bruce Lee Story	Marsha Larts
Take This Job and Shove It	Ike Witt
Rapunzel Rapunzel	Harris Long
Split Personalities	Jacqueline Hyde
How I Won the Marathon	Randy Hoelway
Songs from "South Pacific"	Sam and Janet Evening

Programmers' terminology

- EXTENSIVE REPORT IS BEING PREPARED ON A FRESH APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM - We just hired three kids fresh 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.
- THE ENTIRE CONCEPT WILL HAVE TO BE ABANDONED - The only person who understood it quit.
- 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.

Hacking through the jargon jungle

- Alpha. Software undergoes alpha testing as a first step in getting user feedback. Alpha is Latin for "doesn't work."
- Beta. Software undergoes beta testing shortly before it's released. Beta is Latin for "still doesn't work."
- Computer. Instrument of torture. The first computer was invented by Roger "Duffy" Billingsly, a British scientist. In a plot to overthrow Adolf Hitler, Duffy

disguised himself as a German ally and offered his invention as a gift to the surly dictator. The plot worked. On April 8, 1945, Adolf became so enraged at the "Incompatible File Format" error message that he shot himself. The war ended soon after Hitler's death, and Duffy began working for IBM.

- CPU. Central propulsion unit. The CPU is the computer's engine. It consists of a hard drive, an interface card and a tiny spinning wheel that's powered by a running rodent - a gerbil if the machine is a 286, a ferret if it's a 386 and a ferret on speed if it's a 486.
- Default Directory. Black hole. Default directory is where all files that you need disappear to.
- Error message. Terse, baffling remark used by programmers to place blame on users for the program's shortcomings.
- File. A document that has been saved with an unidentifiable name. It helps to think of a file as something stored in a file cabinet - except when you try to remove the file, the cabinet gives you an electric shock and tells you the file format is unknown.
- Hardware. Collective term for any computer-related object that can be kicked or battered.
- Help. The feature that assists in generating more questions. When the help feature is used correctly, users are able to navigate through a series of Help screens and end up where they started from without learning anything.
- Input/Output. Information is input from the keyboard as intelligible data and output to the printer as unrecognizable junk.
- Interim Release. A programmer's feeble attempt at repentance.
- Memory. Of computer components, the most generous in terms of variety, and the skimpiest in terms of quantity.
- Printer. A joke in poor taste. A printer consists of three main parts: the case, the jammed paper tray and the blinking red light.
- Programmers. Computer avengers. Once members of that group of high school nerds who wore tape on their glasses, played Dungeons and Dragons, and memorized Star Trek episodes; now millionaires who create "user-friendly" software to get revenge on whoever gave them noogies.
- Reference Manual. Object that raises the monitor to eye level. Also used to compensate for that short table leg.
- Scheduled Release Date. A carefully calculated date determined by estimating the actual shipping date and subtracting six months from it.
- User-Friendly. Of or pertaining to any feature, device or concept that makes perfect sense to a programmer.
- Users. Collective term for those who stare vacantly at a monitor. Users are divided into three types: novice, intermediate and expert.
 - Novice Users. People who are afraid that simply pressing a key might break their computer.
 - Intermediate Users. People who don't know how to fix their computer after they've just pressed a key that broke it.
 - Expert Users. People who break other people's computers.

Improve your computer vocabulary

Analog:	Hors d'oeuvre, usually made from cheese and covered with crushed nuts
Backup:	Opposite of go forward
Batch Processing:	Making a lot of cookies at once
Binary:	Possessing the ability to have friends of both sexes
Bit:	12 1/2 cents
Branch:	If watered, it will grow into a computer club (see computer club)
Buffer:	Programmer who works in the nude
Bug:	1. Programmer's term for a feature 2. An elusive creature living in a program which makes it incorrect. Note: the activity of "debugging" or removing bugs from a program ends when a programmer gets tired of doing it, not when all the bugs are removed
Character density:	The number of very weird people in the office, divided by the floor space
Computer:	A device designed to speed and automate errors
Computer Club:	Used to strike computer forcefully upon receiving error messages
Coding:	An addictive drug
Compile:	A heap of decomposing vegetable matter
Compiler:	Noah Webster (1758-1843)
Console:	What one does to a "down" computer
Cursor:	An expert in 4-letter words
Dump:	A system programmer's work area
Feature:	Hardware limitation as described by a marketing representative
Hardware:	The parts of a computer which can be kicked
Keyboard:	An instrument used for entering errors into a system
Language:	A system of organizing and defining error messages
Loop:	See loop
Machine-independent Program:	A program which will not run on any machine
Microcomputer:	One millionth of a computer
Null String:	The result of a 4-hour database search
On-line:	The idea that a human should always be accessible
Password:	The nonsense word taped to your terminal
Performance:	A statement of the speed at which a computer system works. Or rather, might work under certain circumstances. Or was rumored to be working about a month ago
Printer:	Johann Gutenberg (1400-1468)
Quality Control:	Ensuring that the quality of a product does not get out of hand and add to the cost of its manufacture or design

Strategy:	A long-range plan whose merit cannot be evaluated until sometime after those creating it have left the organization
User:	Someone requiring drug rehabilitation
8-bit machine:	A computer selling for \$1.00 (see bit)
16-bit machine:	A computer selling for \$2.00 (see bit)

What if operating systems were airlines?

Unix Airline

Everyone brings one piece of the plane with them when they come to the airport. They all go out on the runway and put the plane together piece by piece, arguing constantly about what kind of plane they're building. When another plane lands nearby, the passengers begin breaking up into meetings and trading pieces of the two planes.

Fly NT

Everyone marches out on the runway, says the password in unison, and forms the outline of an airplane. Then they all sit down and make a whooshing sound like they're flying. The flight attendant then announces that soon all flying will be just like this.

DOS Airline

Everybody pushes the airplane until it glides, then they jump on and let the plane coast until it hits the ground again, then push again, jump on again, and so on. For relaxation Bill's autobiographies are tucked in the back of every seat.

MAC Airways

All the flight attendants, captains, baggage handlers, and ticket agents look the same, act the same. Every time you ask a question, you are told you don't need to know, don't want to know, and everything will be done for you without having to know, so just shut up. Cute little signs are everywhere and outside every window there are flying toasters.

Windows Airline

The airport terminal is nice and colorful with friendly flight attendants, easy access to the plane, an uneventful takeoff...then the plane blows up without any warning whatsoever. In mid-air you are informed that the rest of the of your flight will be continued on DOS Airline. (See DOS Airline)

Taligent Airline

You apply for a ticket 24-36 months in advance and must pay a large application fee. Then you are alerted that "exclusive" ticket slots are available on a first come first serve basis. There is no scheduled departure time for any of the flights but the "exclusive" ticket purchase will ensure that you get a seat on the first flight - whenever. After purchasing the "exclusive" ticket at extremely exorbitant prices, you never hear from Taligent Airline again. Feeling perturbed after 8 months, you call the airline and ask about the status of your flight. You are informed of a "slight slip" in the take-off schedule and you are informed to call back in 6 months. At this point you are irate and

the Taligent Airline offers a consolation. You are awarded a privileged "simulation" of what the flight would be like once they build the plane - just stop by anytime.

Newton Airline

After buying your ticket 18 months in advance, you finally get to board the plane. Upon boarding the plane, you are asked your name. After 46 times, the flight attendant recognizes your name and then you are allowed to take your seat. As you are getting ready to take your seat, the flight attendant announces that you have to repeat the boarding process because they are out of room and need to recount to make sure they can take more passengers.

NeXT Airline

Everyone gets a paint-brush and paints the airport terminal. Right before take-off they are told that the plane will have only one engine and that the air-phones can only be used to call other NeXT Airline planes. On take-off you are told that its peanuts all the way. Every time you ask for food/beverages you are told that other food/beverage items are not necessary and that these peanuts have no fat and come in a wonderful black bag, with Steve's picture and personal greetings!

VMS Airline

Everyone has difficulties getting into the plane and once they are in, it starts to make a lot of noise and takes off very slowly. The plane only blows up if you think it is safe. Occasionally the captain mumbles, "off to the left of the aircraft, you can see the Unix desert, and don't worry, we won't be going over there."

Politically correct North Pole

'Twas the night before Christmas, and Santa's a wreck.
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves";
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labor conditions at the North Pole
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.
Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And Equal Employment had made it quite clear
That Santa had better not use just reindeer.
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
Were replaced with four pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.
And people had started to call for the cops
When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened.
His fur-trimmed red suit was termed "unenlightened".
And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.
He'd appeared on Geraldo, in front of the nation,
Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
Demanding from now on her title was "Ms."

As for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion
That making a choice could cause so much commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
Which meant nothing for him, and nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.

Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
Nothing that's war-like or non-pacific.
No candy or sweets -- they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.

And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.
For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football -- someone could get hurt;
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe';
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next.
He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
But you've got to be careful with that word today.

His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.
Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion;
Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere, even you.

So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth.
May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth.

New self-improvement courses

Self-Improvement

Creative suffering
Overcoming Peace of Mind
You and Your Birthmarks
Guilt Without Sex
The Primal Shrug
Ego Gratification Through Violence
Moulding your Child's Behavior Through Guilt and Fear
Dealing With Post-Realization Depression
Whine your Way To Alienation
How to Overcome Self-Doubt Through Pretence and Ostentation
How to Cope with Jet Lag
How to Improve your Horoscope
How to Relax and Let your Lawn Grow
Classic TV Guide Literature
Recalling Bad Jokes
Reciting Monty Python
Repair and Maintenance of your Virginty

Business And Career

How I made \$100 in Real Estate
Money Can Make You Rich!
Packaging and Selling your Children
Carrer Opportunities in El Salvador
How to Profit from your Genetalia
The Underachiever's Guide to Very Small Business Opportunities
Tax Shelters for the Indigent
Looters' Guide to American Cities
Mortgage Reduction Through Arson
Retirement as a Career for Ages 16 through 26
Reading Between the Lines
Profit from your own Funeral
Tricking your own Mother for Money
Daring to be a Beggar
Gambling your way to prosperity
Making money from TV Guide Study
Piracy

Economics

- Europe on \$5000 per day
- Pen and Pencil repair
- How to Convert your Family Room into a Garage
- Burglarproof your Home with Cement
- Basic Kitchen Taxidermy
- Sinus Drainage at Home
- How to Convert a Wheelchair into a Dune Buggy
- Cat Hair Macrame
- What to Do with your Conversation Pit
- Inexpensive Lawn Care Through Cement

Health And Fitness

- Itchy-gitchy-goo-Kwon-Do: The Martial Art for frady cats
- Creative Tooth Decay
- Exorcism and Acne
- The Joys of Hypochondria
- High Fiber Sex
- Suicide for your Health
- Understanding Female Nudity (already full)
- Biofeedback and how to Stop your Heart
- Skate Yourself to Regularity
- Understanding Male Nudity
- Tap Dance your way to Ridicule
- Dressing Right/Dressing Left - it can change your life
- The Braille System of Anatomy
- Impersonating a Doctor

Arts And Crafts

- Bad Modern Art Appreciation
- Old Architecture: GOOD! New Architecture: BAD!
- Self-Actualization through Macrame
- Needlecraft for Junkies
- Cuticle Crafts
- Gifts for the Senile
- Bonsai your Pets
- How to Draw a Navel
- Stained Glass for your Car's Windshield
- Sculpting your Facial Hair

Politically correct Little Red Riding Hood

There once was a young person named Little Red Riding Hood who lived on the edge of a large forest full of endangered owls and rare plants that would probably provide a cure for cancer if only someone took the time to study them. Red Riding Hood lived with a nurture giver whom she sometimes referred to as "mother", although she didn't

mean to imply by this term that she would have thought less of the person if a close biological link did not in fact exist. Nor did she intend to denigrate the equal value of nontraditional households, although she was sorry if this was the impression conveyed.

One day her mother asked her to take a basket of organically grown fruit and mineral water to her grandmother's house. "But mother, won't this be stealing work from the unionized people who have struggled for years to earn the right to carry all packages between various people in the woods?"

Red Riding Hood's mother assured her that she had called the union boss and gotten a special compassionate mission exemption form.

"But mother, aren't you oppressing me by ordering me to do this?"

Red Riding Hood's mother pointed out that it was impossible for womyn to oppress each other, since all womyn were equally oppressed until all womyn were free.

"But mother, then shouldn't you have my brother carry the basket, since he's an oppressor, and should learn what it's like to be oppressed?"

And Red Riding Hood's mother explained that her brother was attending a special rally for animal rights, and besides, this wasn't stereotypical womyn's work, but an empowering deed that would help engender a feeling of community.

"But won't I be oppressing Grandma, by implying that she's sick and hence unable to independently further her own selfhood?"

But Red Riding Hood's mother explained that her grandmother wasn't actually sick or incapacitated or mentally handicapped in any way, although that was not to imply that any of these conditions were inferior to what some people called "health".

Thus Red Riding Hood felt that she could get behind the idea of delivering the basket to her grandmother, and so she set off. Many people believed that the forest was a foreboding and dangerous place, but Red Riding Hood knew that this was an irrational fear based on cultural paradigms instilled by a patriarchal society that regarded the natural world as an exploitable resource, and hence believed that natural predators were in fact intolerable competitors.

Other people avoided the woods for fear of thieves and deviants, but Red Riding Hood felt that in a truly classless society all marginalized peoples would be able to "come out" of the woods and be accepted as valid lifestyle role models.

On her way to Grandma's house, Red Riding Hood passed a woodchopper, and wandered off the path, in order to examine some flowers. She was startled to find herself standing before a Wolf, who asked her what was in her basket. Red Riding Hood's teacher had warned her never to talk to strangers, but she was confident in taking control of her own budding sexuality, and chose to dialogue with the Wolf.

She replied, "I am taking my Grandmother some healthful snacks in a gesture of solidarity."

The Wolf said, "You know, my dear, it isn't safe for a little girl to walk through these woods alone."

Red Riding Hood said, "I find your sexist remark offensive in the extreme, but I will ignore it because of your traditional status as an outcast from society, the stress of which has caused you to develop an alternative and yet entirely valid worldview. Now, if you'll excuse me, I would prefer to be on my way."

Red Riding Hood returned to the main path, and proceeded towards her Grandmother's house. But because his status outside society had freed him from slavish adherence to linear, Western-style thought, the Wolf knew of a quicker route to Grandma's house. He burst into the house and ate Grandma, a course of action affirmative of his nature as a predator. Then, unhampered by rigid, traditionalist gender role notions, he put on Grandma's nightclothes, crawled under the bedclothes, and awaited developments.

Red Riding Hood entered the cottage and said, "Grandma, I have brought you some cruelty free snacks to salute you in your role of wise and nurturing matriarch."

The Wolf said softly "Come closer, child, so that I might see you."

Red Riding Hood said, "Goddess! Grandma, what big eyes you have!"

"You forget that I am optically challenged."

"And Grandma, what an enormous, what a fine nose you have."

"Naturally, I could have had it fixed to help my acting career, but I didn't give in to such societal pressures, my child."

"And Grandma, what very big, sharp teeth you have!"

The Wolf could not take any more of these specist slurs, and, in a reaction appropriate for his accustomed milieu, he leaped out of bed, grabbed Little Red Riding Hood, and opened his jaws so wide that she could see her poor Grandmother cowering in his belly.

"Aren't you forgetting something?" Red Riding Hood bravely shouted. "You must request my permission before proceeding to a new level of intimacy!"

The Wolf was so startled by this statement that he loosened his grasp on her. At the same time, the woodchopper burst into the cottage, brandishing an ax.

"Hands off!" cried the woodchopper.

"And what do you think you're doing?" cried Little Red Riding Hood. "If I let you help me now, I would be expressing a lack of confidence in my own abilities, which would lead to poor self esteem and lower achievement scores on college entrance exams."

"Last chance, sister! Get your hands off that endangered species! This is an FBI sting!" screamed the woodchopper, and when Little Red Riding Hood nonetheless made a sudden motion, he sliced off her head.

"Thank goodness you got here in time," said the Wolf. "The brat and her grandmother lured me in here. I thought I was a goner."

"No, I think I'm the real victim, here," said the woodchopper. "I've been dealing with my anger ever since I saw her picking those protected flowers earlier. And now I'm going to have such a trauma. Do you have any aspirin?"

"Sure," said the Wolf.

"Thanks."

"I feel your pain," said the Wolf, and he patted the woodchopper on his firm, well padded back, gave a little belch, and said "Do you have any Alkaseltzer?"

Programming languages are like women

Assembler - A female track star who holds all the world speed records. She is hard and bumpy, and so is not that pleasant to embrace. She can cook up any meal, but needs a complete and detailed recipe. She is not beautiful or educated, and speaks in monosyllables like "MOV, JUMP, INC". She has a fierce and violent temper that make her the choice of last resort.

FORTRAN - Your grey-haired grandmother. People make fun of her just because she is old, but if you take the time to listen, you can learn from her experiences and her mistakes. During her lifetime she has acquired many useful skills in sewing and cooking (subroutine libraries) That no younger women can match, so be thankful she is still around. She has a notoriously bad temper and when angered will start yelling and throwing dishes. It was mostly her bad temper that made grandad search for another wife.

COBOL - A plump secretary. She talks far too much, and most of what she says can be ignored. She works hard and long hours, but can't handle really complicated jobs. She has a short and unpredictable temper, so no one really likes working with her. She can cook meals for a huge family, but only knows bland recipes.

BASIC - The horny divorcee that lives next door. Her specialty is seducing young boys and it seems she is always readily available for them. She teaches them many amazing things, or at least they seem amazing because it is their) first experience. She is not that young herself, but because she was their first lover the boys always remember her fondly. Her cooking and sewing skills are mediocre, but largely irrelevant, it's the frolicking that the boys like. The opinion that adults have of Mrs. BASIC is varied. Shockingly, some fathers actually introduce their own sons to this immoral woman! But generally the more righteous adults try to correct the badly influenced young men by introducing them to well behaved women like Miss Pascal.

PL/I - A bordello madam. She wears silk dresses, diamonds, furs and red high heels. At one time she seemed very attractive, but now she just seems overweight and tacky. Tastes change.

C - A lady executive. An avid jogger, very healthy, and not too talkative. Is an good cook if you like spicy food. Unless you double check everything you say (through LINT) you can unleash her fierce temper. Her daughter C++ is still quite young and prone to tantrums, but it seems that she will grow up into a fine young woman of milder temper and more sophisticated character.

ALGOL 60 - Your father's wartime sweetheart, petite, well proportioned, and sweet tempered. She disappeared mysteriously during the war, but your dad still talks about her shapely form and their steamy romance. He never actually tasted much of her cooking.

Pascal - A grammar school teacher, and Algol 60's younger sister. Like her sister she is petite and attractive, but very bossy. She is a good cook but only if the recipe requires no more than one pot (module).

Modula II - A high-school teacher and Pascal's daughter. Very much like her mother, but she has learned to cook with more than one pot.

ALGOL 68 - Algol 60's niece. A high-society woman, well educated and terse. Few men can fully understand her when she talks, and her former lovers still discuss her mysterious personality. She is very choosy about her romances and won't take just any man as her lover. She hasn't been seen lately, and rumor has it that she died in a fall from an ivory tower.

LISP - She is an aging beatnik, who lives in a rural commune with her hippie cousins SMALLTALK and FORTH. Many men (mostly college students) who have visited the farmhouse,-- enthusiastically praise the natural food, and perpetual love-ins that take place there. Others criticize the long cooking times, and the abnormal sexual postures (prefix and postfix). Although these women seldom have full-time jobs, when they do work, their employers praise them for their imagination, but usually not for their efficiency.

APL - A fancy caterer specializing in Greek food. She can cook delicious meals for rows and rows of tables with dozens of people at each table. She doesn't talk much, as that would just slow her work down. Few people can understand her recipes, since they are in a foreign language, and are all recorded in mirror writing.

LOGO - A grade-school art teacher. She is just the kind of teacher that you wish you had when you were young. She is shapely and patient, but not an interesting conversationalist. She can cook up delicious kiddie snacks, but not full-course meals.

LUCID & PROLOG - These clever teenagers show a new kind of cooking skill. They can cook-up fine meals without the use of recipes, working solely from a description of the desired meal (declarative cooking). Many men are fascinated by this and have already proposed marriage. Others complain that the girls work very slowly, and that often the description of the meal must be just as long as a recipe would be. It is hard to predict what these girls will be like when they are fully mature.

Ada - A WAC colonel built like an amazon. She is always setting strict rules, but if you follow them, she keeps her temper. She is quite talkative, always spouting army regulations, and using obscure military talk. You gotta love her though, because the army says so.

Spell checker

I have a spelling checker.
It came with my PC.
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it.
Your sure real glad two no.
Its very polished in its weigh,
My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a blessing.
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore a veiling checkers
Hour spelling mite decline,

And if we're laks oar have a laps,
We wood bee maid too wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
There are know faults with in my cite,
Of nun eye am a wear.

Now spelling does not phase me,
It does knot bring a tier.
My pay purrs awl due glad den
With wrapped words fare as hear.

To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud,
And wee mussed dew the best wee can,
Sew flaws are knot aloud.

Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays
Such soft wear four pea seas,
And why eye brake in two averse
Buy righting want too please.

Chaos in pronunciation

Dearest creature in creation
Studying English pronunciation,
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse and
worse

I will keep you, Susy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.
Tear in eye your dress you'll tear,
So shall I! Oh, hear my prayer,

Pray, console your loving poet,
Make my coat look new, dear, sew it!
Just compare heart, beard and heard,
Dies and diet, lord and word,

Sword and sward, retain and Britain.
(Mind the latter, how it's written).
Made has not the sound of bade,
Say said, pay - paid, laid, but plaid.

Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as vague and ague,
But be careful how you speak,
Say break, steak, but bleak and streak.

Previous, precious, fuchsia, via,
Pipe, snipe, recipe and choir,
Cloven, oven, how and low,
Script, receipt, shoe, poem, toe.
Hear me say, devoid of trickery:
Daughter, laughter and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles.
Exiles, similes, reviles.

Wholly, holly, signal, signing.
Thames, examining, combining
Scholar, vicar, and cigar,
Solar, mica, war, and far.

From "desire": desirable, admirable
from "admire."

Lumber, plumber, bier, but brier.
Chatham, brougham, renown, but
known.
Knowledge, done, but gone and tone,

One, anemone. Balmoral.
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel,
Gertrude, German, wind, and mind.
Scene, Melpomene, mankind,

Tortoise, turquoise, chamois - leather,
Reading, reading, heathen, heather.
This phonetic labyrinth
Gives moss, gross, brook, brooch, ninth,
plinth.

Billet does not end like ballet;
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet;
Blood and flood are not like food,
Nor is mould like should and would.
Banquet is not nearly parquet,
Which is said to rime with "darky."
Viscous, Viscount, load, and broad.
Toward, to forward, to reward.

And your pronunciation's O.K.,
When you say correctly: croquet.
Rounded, wounded, grieve, and sieve,
Friend and fiend, alive, and live,

Liberty, library, heave, and heaven,
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven,
We say hallowed, but allowed,
People, leopard, towed, but vowed.

Mark the difference, moreover,
Between mover, plover, Dover,
Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
Chalice, but police, and lice.

Camel, constable, unstable,
Principle, disciple, label,
Petal, penal, and canal,
Wait, surmise, plait, promise, pal.

Suit, suite, ruin, circuit, conduit,
Rime with "shirk it" and "beyond it."

But it is not hard to tell,
Why it's pall, mall, but Pall Mall.

Muscle, muscular, gaol, iron,
Timber, climber, bullion, lion,
Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, and
chair,
Senator, spectator, mayor,

Ivy, privy, famous, clamour
And enamour rime with hammer.
Pussy, hussy, and possess,
Desert, but dessert, address.

Golf, wolf, countenance, lieutenants.
Hoist, in lieu of flags, left pennants.
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
Doll and roll and some and home.

Stranger does not rime with anger.
Neither does devour with clangour.
Soul, but foul and gaunt but aunt.
Font, front, won't, want, grand, and
grant.

Shoes, goes, does. Now first say: finger.
And then: singer, ginger, linger,
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, and gauge,
Marriage, foliage, mirage, age.

Query does not rime with very,
Nor does fury sound like bury.
Dost, lost, post; and doth, cloth, loth;
Job, Job; blossom, bosom, oath.

Though the difference seems little,
We say actual, but victual.
Seat, sweat; chaste, caste.; Leigh, eight,
height;
Put, nut; granite, and unite.

Reefer does not rime with deafer,
Feoffer does, and zephyr, heifer.
Dull, bull, Geoffrey, George, ate, late,
Hint, pint, Senate, but sedate.

Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,
Science, conscience, scientific,
Tour, but our and succour, four,

Gas, alas, and Arkansas.

Sea, idea, guinea, area,
Psalm, Maria, but malaria,
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and
clean,
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.

Compare alien with Italian,
Dandelion with battalion.
Sally with ally, yea, ye,
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, key, quay.

Say aver, but ever, fever.
Neither, leisure, skein, receiver.
Never guess - it is not safe:
We say calves, valves, half, but Ralph.

Heron, granary, canary,
Crevice and device, and eyrie,
Face but preface, but efface,
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.

Large, but target, gin, give, verging,
Ought, out, joust, and scour, but
scourging,

Ear but earn, and wear and bear
Do not rime with here, but ere.

Seven is right, but so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew, Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, clerk, and jerk,
Asp, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.

Pronunciation - think of psyche!
Is a paling, stout and spikey,
Won't it make you lose your wits,
Writing "groats" and saying "grits"?

It's a dark abyss or tunnel,
Strewn with stones, like rowlock,
gunwale,
Islington and Isle of Wight,
Housewife, verdict, and indict!

Don't you think so, reader, rather,
Saying lather, bather, father?
Finally: which rimes with "enough"
Though, through, plough, cough, hough,
or tough?
Hiccough has the sound of "cup."
My advice is - give it up!

Graffiti

- Things should be as simple as possible, but not simpler.
- Condense soup, not books!
- I used to have a photographic memory, but it was never developed...
- Hey, bartender, a thousand pints of light!
- If you can keep your head while those about you are losing theirs, consider an exciting career as a guillotine operator!
- Women libbers are ok. I just wouldn't want my sister to marry one.
- Draft beer, not people.
- When aiming for the common denominator, be prepared for the occasional division by zero.
- Of all the things I've lost, I miss my mind the most.
- Klein bottle for rent---inquire within.
- Did you hear about the dislexic agnostic insomniac who stays up all night wondering if there really is a Dog?
- He looked at me at though I were a side dish he hadn't ordered.
- Q: How many surrealists does it take to screw in a lightbulb? A: Two. One to hold the giraffe and the other to fill the bathtub with brightly colored machine tools.

- Character density: The number of very weird people in the office.
- Half moon tonight. At least it's better than no moon at all.
- Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
- The moon may be smaller than Earth, but it's further away.
- ...an animal loses not only its life but also its third dimension. -- in "Flattened Fauna: A Field Guide to Common Animals of Roads, Streets, and Highways"
- Jesus saves...but Gretzky gets the rebound! He shoots. HE SCOOORES!
- Sex between a man and a woman can be wonderful, provided you get between the right man and the right woman...
- Give your child mental blocks for Christmas.
- Everybody should believe in something - I believe I'll have another drink.
- If you steal a clean slate, does it go on your record?
- This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force.
- I don't like spinach, and I'm glad I don't, because if I liked it I'd eat it, and I just hate it.
- To iterate is human; to recurse, divine.
- Everybody wants to see justice done, to somebody else.
- Trees don't fall in the forest when no one's around to hear them. Sometimes they just happen to be on the ground when you see them again.
- Minds, like parachutes, only function when they are open.
- Read my Lisp...no new syntax. (nil)
- "... one of the main causes of the fall of the Roman Empire was that, lacking zero, they had no way to indicate successful termination of their C programs."
- God is real, unless declared as an integer.
- Life is a sexually transmitted disease, and it's 100% fatal.
- Camouflage condoms: So they won't see you coming.
- The meek shall inherit the earth---they are too weak to refuse.
- You can't expect to wield supreme executive power, Arthur, just because some watery tart threw a sword at you!
- I can't complain, but sometimes I still do.
- What the hell, go ahead and put all your eggs in one basket.
- Non-Reciprocal Laws of Expectations: Negative expectations yield negative results. Positive expectations yield negative results.
- Grabel's Law: 2 is not equal to 3---not even for very large values of 2.
- The crimes we are about to depict have been specially committed for this program.
- The climate of Bombay is such that its inhabitants have to live elsewhere.
- Death: To stop sinning suddenly.
- Murphy's Law is recursive. Washing your car to make it rain doesn't work.
- No man is an island, but some of us are long peninsulas.
- Whatever happens to you, it will have previously happened to everyone you know, only more so.
- Happiness: The agreeable sensation of contemplating the misery of others.
- "Death is life's way of telling you you've been fired."
- The world is coming to an end! Repent and return those library books!
- Hindsight is an exact science.

- An expert is a person who avoids the small errors while sweeping on to the grand fallacy.
- That must be wonderful! I don't understand it at all.
- One planet is all you get.
- Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die.
- Be free and open and breezy! Enjoy! Things won't get any better so you better get used to it.
- Be different: Conform.
- A bore is someone who persists in holding his own views after we have enlightened him with ours.
- If the odds are a million to one against something occurring, chances are 50-50 it will.
- Computers are not intelligent. They only think they are.
- If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.
- Mistakes are often the stepping stones to utter failure.
- Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggy" until you can find a rock.
- Acid: Better living through chemistry.
- There's no future in time travel.
- Always borrow money from a pessimist; they don't expect to be paid back.
- Children are natural mimics who act like their parents despite every effort to teach them good manners.
- Anarchy may not be the best form of government, but it's better than no government at all.
- Paul's law: You can't fall off the floor.
- Just because your doctor has a name for your condition doesn't mean he knows what it is.
- Sex is not the answer. Sex is the question. "Yes" is the answer.
- It may be that your whole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- When I was young, all I wanted was to be ruler of the universe. Now that isn't enough.
- Life would be so much easier if everyone read the manual.
- When you asked me to live in sin with you, I didn't know you meant sloth.
- A polar bear is a rectangular bear after a coordinate transform.
- IBM: It may be slow, but it's hard to use.
- Photons have mass? I didn't know they were catholic!
- Walt Disney is not dead. He's in suspended animation.
- What's the sound a name makes when it's dropped?
- What was sliced bread the greatest thing since?
- I haven't lost my mind; I'm sure it's backed up on tape somewhere!
- If you hear an onion ring, answer it.
- Eagles may soar, free and proud, but weasels never get sucked into jet engines.
- Thought for the day: What if there were no hypothetical situations?
- I've truncated, and I can't round up!
- Why don't cannibals eat clowns? Because they taste funny.
- Did you hear about the cannibal who loved children? He just adored the platter of little feet...

- Shouldn't there be a shorter word for monosyllabic?
- Quantum particles: The dreams that stuff is made of.
- 355/113: Not the famous irrational number Pi, but an incredible simulation!
- Her eyes were cold and harsh, which made them tough to chew.
- You possess a mind not merely twisted, but actually sprained.
- Q: How do you spell "onomatopoeia"? A: The way it sounds.
- The misanthrope's catastrophic apostrophe landed in the cantaloupe near the antelope's interloper.
- If all the students who slept through lectures were laid end to end, they'd be a lot more comfortable.
- Seen on Pavlov's door: "Knock. Don't ring bell."
- There's an old proverb that says just about whatever you want it to.
- Blood is thicker than water, and much tastier.
- The earth is like a tiny grain of sand, only much, much heavier.
- Conscious is when you are aware of something, and conscience is when you wish you weren't.
- Wanted, Dead or Alive: Schrodinger's Cat.
- Every day, the hummingbird eats its own weight in food. You may wonder how it weighs the food. It doesn't. It just eats another hummingbird.
- Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
- Behind every successful man stands a woman. And behind her stands his wife.
- I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it.
- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.
- For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong.
- In the beginning there was nothing. God said, "Let there be light." And there was still nothing, but everybody could see it.
- The speed of time is one second per second.
- Black holes result from God dividing the universe by zero.
- Solution to two of the world's problems: Feed the homeless to the hungry.
- ASCII stupid question, get a stupid ANSI.
- Exercise - write a short story involving all the important ingredients - Nobility, Emotion, Sex, Religion and Mystery..... "My god!" cried the duchess. "I'm pregnant. Who did it?"
- The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not "Eureka!" but "That's funny..."
- Marriage isn't a word, it's a sentence.
- A physicist is just an atom's way of looking at itself.
- Anyone who says he can see through women is missing a lot.
- There was a young lady of Crewe whose limericks stopped at line two.
- In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice, however, there is.
- The light at the end of the tunnel is usually a "No Exit" sign.
- Knock Knock. Who's There? Recursion. Recursion who? Knock Knock...
- In capitalism, man exploits man. In Communism, it's exactly the opposite.
- Wisdom is like an open oven: The food is gone, but the heat remains.

- Cold hands, warm feet.
- Bend a carrot if you will, but a turnip will never bend.
- Neither a panhandler nor a Laplander be.
- Do not remove a fly from a friend's forehead with a chopstick.
- Elephants never forget, but you seldom see a kangaroo with a zipper.
- A dog may bark, but his legs will never grow longer.
- A thrifty housewife always peels potatoes twice.
- Even the most wrinkled prune has a pit.
- Look not to the windmill's turning while the ant still burrows.

A tech support phone call

RING *RING*

"Hello! Personal Function Kit Technical Support, how can I help you?"

"Well, I was sorta hoping someone could walk me through taking a leak."

"Okay, well, do you have to go now?"

"Yes, I do"

"Okay... well, are you on male or female equipment?"

"Male - Clone."

"Okay, the first thing we want to do is find your fly..."

"My what?"

"Your fly... it opens your pants. It should be in the front of you. Look down."

"I see shoes."

"No, sir... look sorta in the front of you... like just below your stomach. You should see some metal on your pants. That's your fly..."

"The round thing?"

"Well, that's your button... let's open that too, while we're down there. The fly looks like a lot of little metal things sideways."

"Oh, okay... I got it. <Pause> Okay, it's open..."

"Okay, sir... can you grab your willy?"

"No."

"Do you see your willy?"

"No."

"Okay... what do you see?"

"I see white... just white and some lines..."

"Do you have underwear installed?"

"No."

"Sir, if you can't see your willy, and you see only white, ... I think that you may have underwear installed. We are going to have to uninstall your underwear to take a leak..."

"Well, my friend was the last one to use my fly... he might have installed underwear..."

"Okay sir... well grab the white part and pull down... keep pulling until you see your willy..."

"It's stuck... it won't go down..."

"The white part? Or your willy?"

"My willy..."

"DON'T pull down on your willy, sir... just the underwear... we only want to get to the point where we can see it.... your willy, that is."

"You want to see my willy"

"Yes... well no, I want YOU to see your willy."

"Oh... okay, we're there..."

"Okay... now look around the room... do you see anything made of porcelain?"

"I see a little penguin on a shelf..."

"Okay, sir... I think you're in the living room... go to the bathroom. We can't take a leak until we are in the bathroom. The bathroom will have a lot of tile, maybe some carpeting... your might have mirrors or some soap in it. Some people have showers in their bathroom..."

"Okay... I think I can see the bathroom from here."

"Okay, sir, what do you see?"

"The bathroom."

"Yes, sir, I understand that. What do you see in the bathroom?"

"Well, I think I can see a lot of tile."

"Good."

"And some carpeting."

"Good."

"And a table."

"A table?"

"Yes, a large table with some chairs around it. Can I take my leak now?"

"NO!... Sorry, sir... No, I think you're looking at the kitchen. Is there a big box in there that keeps things cold."

"Well, I know there's one that makes things hot... Yes, I remember I saw a cold box also."

"Okay, sir. That IS the kitchen. Now think again. I need a small room with tile and mirrors. I need a bathroom."

"You need a bathroom too?"

"No, sir. I meant I need a bathroom for you where you are. Can you think of a bathroom?"

"Well, I'm downstairs and there's that kitchen and <pause>... I think the bathroom is upstairs..."

"Very good! ... let's go upstairs..."

"I can't."

"Why is that sir?"

"Well, I could hardly walk to the kitchen, if I try to walk up stairs I'm gonna fall."

"Okay sir... temporarily reinstall your underwear... then go upstairs... then uninstall your underwear again..."

"That was the white part, right?"

"Yes, sir... that's correct..."

<pause>

"Okay, I'm upstairs..."

"Okay... now do you see any porcelain bowl-type things?"

"Well, there's two..."

"How tall are you sir?"

"5'4"

"Okay... go to the one where it's lower than your willy..."

"Okay... I'm there."

"Okay... now make sure that you are pointing toward the porcelain bowl... Now, just go..."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, when it pops up... just hit 'okay'..."