

# SATICHE



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

*Volume 2*

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# Standard for the transmission of IP datagrams on avian carriers

## **Status of this Memo**

This memo describes an experimental method for the encapsulation of IP datagrams in avian carriers. This specification is primarily useful in Metropolitan Area Networks. This is an experimental, not recommended standard. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

## **Overview and Rationale**

Avian carriers can provide high delay, low throughput, and low altitude service. The connection topology is limited to a single point-to-point path for each carrier, used with standard carriers, but many carriers can be used without significant interference with each other, outside of early spring. This is because of the 3D ether space available to the carriers, in contrast to the 1D ether used by IEEE802.3. The carriers have an intrinsic collision avoidance system, which increases availability. Unlike some network technologies, such as packet radio, communication is not limited to line-of-sight distance. Connection oriented service is available in some cities, usually based upon a central hub topology.

## **Frame Format**

The IP datagram is printed, on a small scroll of paper, in hexadecimal, with each octet separated by whitestuff and blackstuff. The scroll of paper is wrapped around one leg of the avian carrier. A band of duct tape is used to secure the datagram's edges. The bandwidth is limited to the leg length. The MTU is variable, and paradoxically, generally increases with increased carrier age. A typical MTU is 256 milligrams. Some datagram padding may be needed. Upon receipt, the duct tape is removed and the paper copy of the datagram is optically scanned into a electronically transmittable form.

## **Discussion**

Multiple types of service can be provided with a prioritized pecking order. An additional property is built-in worm detection and eradication. Because IP only guarantees best effort delivery, loss of a carrier can be tolerated. With time, the carriers are self-regenerating. While broadcasting is not specified, storms can cause data loss. There is persistent delivery retry, until the carrier drops. Audit trails are automatically generated, and can often be found on logs and cable trays.

## **Security Considerations**

Security is not generally a problem in normal operation, but special measures must be taken (such as data encryption) when avian carriers are used in a tactical environment.

## 30 ways to confuse Santa Claus

1. Instead of milk and cookies, leave him a salad, and a note explaining that you think he could stand to lose a few pounds.
2. While he's in the house, go find his sleigh and write him a speeding ticket.
3. Leave him a note, explaining that you've gone away for the holidays.
4. Ask if he would mind watering your plants.

5. While he's in the house, replace all his reindeer with exact replicas, then wait and see what happens when he tries to get them to fly.
6. Keep an angry bull in your living room. If you think a bull goes crazy when he sees a little red cape, wait until he sees that big, red Santa suit!
7. Build an army of mean-looking snowmen on the roof, holding signs that say "We hate Christmas," and "Go away Santa."
8. Leave a note by the telephone, telling Santa that Mrs. Claus called and wanted to remind him to pick up some milk and a loaf of bread on his way home.
9. Throw a surprise party for Santa when he comes down the chimney. Refuse to let him leave until the gorillagram arrives.
10. While he's in the house, find the sleigh and sit in it. As soon as he comes back and sees you, tell him that he shouldn't have missed that last payment, and take off.
11. Leave a plate filled with cookies and a glass of milk out, with a note that says, "For The Tooth Fairy. :)" Leave another plate out with half a stale cookie and a few drops of skim milk in a dirty glass with a note that says, "For Santa. :("
12. Take everything out of your house as if it's just been robbed. When Santa arrives, show up dressed like a policeman and say, "Well, well. They always return to the scene of the crime."
13. Leave out a copy of your Christmas list with last-minute changes and corrections.
14. While he's in the house, cover the top of the chimney with barbed wire.
15. Leave lots of hunting trophies and guns out where Santa's sure to see them. Go outside, yell, "Ooh! Look! A deer! And he's got a red nose!" and fire a gun.
16. Leave Santa a note, explaining that you've moved. Include a map with unclear and hard-to-read directions to your new house.
17. Set a bear trap at the bottom of the chimney. Wait for Santa to get caught in it, and then explain that you're sorry, but from a distance, he looked like a bear.
18. Leave out a Santa suit, with a dry-cleaning bill.
19. Paint "hoof-prints" all over your face and clothes. While he's in the house, go out on the roof. When he comes back up, act like you've been "trampled." Threaten to sue.
20. Instead of ornaments, decorate your tree with Easter eggs.
21. Cut a big hole in your roof and cover it with a blanket, so that when Santa tries to land on your roof his sleigh crashes into your living room. Explain that you've been having problems with termites.
22. Set up your living room to look like a workshop, and have people dressed up like elves making toys. When Santa comes, sneer and say, "What's the matter? Afraid of a little competition?"
23. While he's on the roof, yell up to Santa, asking if he'll mind adjusting your TV antenna. When he does so, tell him, "That's good" and don't let him move until the "commercial" comes on.
24. Put on a giant tree costume, and wear a sign that says, "Man-eating Tree - Stay Back." When Santa comes, wave your arms angrily and chase him back up the chimney.
25. Shovel all the snow off of your roof, and replace it with whipped cream. Just when Santa is remarking how cute this is, light a bunch of firecrackers and throw them onto the roof. The explosions should make quite a mess, and maybe scare the reindeer away, too. If so, offer to loan Santa your car.
26. Scatter the parts of a disassembled bicycle around your living room. Get Santa to help you put it together.



27. Make your own stockings to hang over the fireplace. Have pictures on them of things like Santa getting hit in the head with a large rock, or Santa catching his beard on fire.
28. Put a note that says, "For Santa" on a can that's labelled "Rat Poison." Cross out the words "Rat Poison" and write "Yummy Cookies." When Santa comes, act like you're wrapping Christmas presents. Have boxes that say things on them like "Dead Elf" or "Human Skull." If Santa asks, explain that they're for needy children.
29. Set up bowling pins in front of your fireplace. When Santa comes down the chimney, throw the ball at him. Angrily tell him to get out of your lane.
30. Dress up like the Easter Bunny. Wait for Santa to come, and then put up your fists and say, "This neighborhood ain't big enough for the both of us."

## The Trailing Edge Catalog: products you can live without

- **Electric Shocking Pager** - Your employees will never forget a meeting with these helpful reminders strapped to their bodies. This unbreakable device delivers a painful electric shock to notify them of pending appointments and approaching deadlines. Not legal for use on livestock.
- **The Magical Mystery Mixture** - An enchanting assortment of broken glass, dead beetles, and soiled, bloody medical waste. Available in 5, 20, or 100 pound bags, or choose the two-ton economy pack, dumped directly in your living room free of charge.
- **Drink the Spittoon** - The juicy new game for kids! If you get a Hawker, Loogie, or Gob Card, it's time to ante up, with the electronic scoring spittoon judging your range and accuracy. But draw the dreaded Purple Lunger Card and it's time to Drink the Spittoon! Now available: Adventures in Excretia Expander Pack, for adults only.
- **The Game of Life, California Edition** - The whole family will enjoy golden times in the Golden State with this fast-paced new boardgame. Starting out as a Laid-off Defense Worker, Crack-addicted Runaway, Young Vice Lord, or Impoverished Migrant Worker, can you achieve riches on the Gridlocked Freeway of Success? Collect points by landing on Senseless Litigation, Check Kiting, and Insurance Fraud squares. Draw a Red Card and roll the dice to order a Driveby Shooting, or draw a Green Card to avoid the Deportation Square. But don't draw Earthquake, Flood, or Fire cards, and watch out for the Fault Zone!
- **Dead Rat in an Old Buick Hubcap** - Pretty much self explanatory. A great alternative to pot-pourri. Color may vary.
- **Shrieking Sonic Mind Mangler** - Put on this sleek "virtual reality" helmet and you're guaranteed a splitting headache in under a minute! Blinding strobe lights and screeching stereophonic sirens will overwhelm your senses in a cacaphony of stimuli. Requires ten "D" cell batteries, not included.
- **Acme Artificial Mucous** - Just like the real thing! Now in the two-liter Economy Jug, with the new EZ-Pour spout.
- **Stress Enhancement Tapes** - Don't lull yourself to complacent slumber with the sound of ocean waves and forest breezes; pop these jarring cassettes in your WalkPerson and keep your edge! Feel your skin crawl as the sound of braking trolley cars, jackhammers, and low-flying jets assaults your ears on the Urban

Rhythms tape. Thrill to the natural sounds of hyenas in their death-agony and screeching howler monkeys defending their territory on Shrieks of Nature! Forty-seven tapes in all.

- **Ticking Bomb** - Where'd it come from? Is it real? Should I open it? These mysteries and more are yours to unravel when you order this ominous-looking device. Makes a great gift.
- **Dr. Dullard's Cough Syrup** - The only cough syrup designed to make you cough \*more\*! You'll be rasping, wheezing, and convulsively hacking up bits of lung scant moments after consuming the Doctor's potent mixture.
- **Young Investigator Kits** - Now your children can explore the wonders of nature with these exciting Activity Kits:

*Mutation Exploration* Discover the Miracle of Life as you trace the development of small creatures exposed to the Big Lump O' Cesium. Lead shielding not included.

*Scorpion Hatchery* Leave the eggs in a cool, dry place such as a coat closet or dresser, and experience the thrill as dozens of young hatch in the coming weeks.

*Giga Glue* Mix the chemicals in a well ventilated area to produce a pungent mixture that will permanently adhere to virtually any form of solid matter.

*Electric Tower of Power* An exciting new kit that lets you turn any high tension wire tower into a glowing, spark-shooting Tower of Power! May disrupt television reception in surrounding counties.

- **Little Tykes Musical Maelstrom** - Everything a budding young musician needs for a really BIG sound! Includes a trumpet, a slide trombone, a ten-piece drum kit, blasting caps, an air-raid siren, and a 500 watt amplifier! Act now and receive a free ten-pound bag of raw sugar that'll give them the energy to play on through the night. The perfect gift for children of parents you hate.
- **The Enchanted Chalkboard** - Spend a thrilling evening with Itchi, Peruvian master of the Musical Chalkboard, as his talented fingernails scratch out your favorite tunes on this four album collection. Every hair on your body will stand on end during his half-hour scraped rendition of Moon River. Be moved to tears by his masterful two-handed interpretation of Chariots of Fire. Perfect for the office!
- **Staring Escort Service** - Receive total attention from our Staring Escorts! Trained members of our staff will follow your every move closely for days on end, silently fixing you with a piercing, unwavering stare through all your activities. There's no need to feel ignored with Staring Escorts on call! Surprise that special someone now.
- **Anything's Possible!** - Why let your children be unnecessarily constrained by boring old facts? Expand their horizons and give them lots to think about with these dynamic new educational videos. Maybe two plus two is negative seventy-three. Maybe George Washington fought Eskimo raiders in the Franco-Prussian War of 1066. Maybe ice melts because of sunspots and evil spirits. Or maybe not. After all, Anything's Possible in this exciting series that will profoundly influence your child's educational progress for years to come.
- **Home Biscuit Baker** - Just mix the twenty-three special ingredients in the precise order, kneed vigorously for a few hours, pop the dough in the Biscuit Baker, let sit in a dark, sound-proof room in a seismically stable region for a few weeks, and Presto! Your homemade biscuit is ready. It's that easy! Not safe for children under 18. Not intended for actual human consumption.
- **Own Your Very Own Soviet Oil Refinery!** - We've made a Special Deal, and for a limited time only you can live the dream of owning your very own Authentic Soviet Oil Refinery, for a lot less than you might expect! Constructed in the

romantic years of the 1950-1955 Five Year Economic Plan, these plants have been painstakingly disassembled with powerful explosives for easy transport. Won't the neighbors be green with envy when three hundred semi trailers arrive with the pieces of \*your\* refinery! Its rusted, blackened shards of towering scrap metal will be the talk of the town. May violate zoning ordinances in some areas. Extensive assembly required.

- **FlossTracker** - How many times has this happened to you: you've just gorged yourself on roast beef and corn on the cob, yet you discover you're completely out of dental floss! Well, you'll never be without floss again with FlossTracker, the advanced software solution from FlossWare. Record your hourly flossing activity in the FlossTracker Spreadsheet Module to generate an exhaustive statistical profile of your floss consumption, complete with three-dimensional distribution plots and histograms. FlossTracker will even monitor your current floss inventory, projecting your floss needs for the coming weeks and automatically ordering additional floss as necessary from the nearest FlossWare Regional Distribution Center. You can calculate optimal floss lengths for your personalized dental profile, and even add flavor with the optional Mint Module. FlossTracker requires a Pentium PC with 32MB of RAM, 1.2GB of storage space, a Novell file server, an atomic clock, a Romulan cloaking device, and Windows 95.

## Some famous last words

You'll be perfectly safe behind this much lead plate.

That's not smoke, that's steam.

Of course it's sterile.

Well, we're the next best thing to a bank.

It's so tame you can put your head in its mouth.

It was fresh just last week.

These are the safe kind of mushrooms.

It should be ok to swim in.

Clip the red wire first.

It's ok to format this disk.

It's supposed to make that noise.

It's pretty much grounded.

It doesn't **look** like the bridge is out.

They only attack when they're hungry.

I can hold my breath at least that long.

The boss won't mind.

Let's ask those soldiers for directions.

It'll shrink in the wash.

Jason won't find us in this closet.

I'm sure I turned my lights off.

I bet I can fit in there

## Me no speak English...

Here are some signs and notices written in English that were discovered throughout the world.

- In a Tokyo Hotel: Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not person to do such a thing is please not to read notis.
- In a Bucharest hotel lobby: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.
- In a Leipzig elevator: Do not enter lift backwards, and only when lit up.
- In a Belgrade hotel elevator: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

- In a Paris hotel elevator: Please leave your values at the front desk.
- In a hotel in Athens: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily.
- In a Yugoslavian hotel: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.
- In a Japanese hotel: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.
- In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from Russian Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.
- In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers: Not to perambulate the corridors during the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.
- On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.
- On the menu of a Polish hotel: Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.
- Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop: Ladies may have a fit upstairs.
- In a Bangkok dry cleaners: Drop your trousers here for best results.
- Outside a Paris dress shop: Dresses for street walking.
- In a Rhodes tailor shop: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.
- From the Soviet Weekly: There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 150,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.
- A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest: It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.
- In a Zurich hotel: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.
- In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.
- In a Rome laundry: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.
- In a Czechoslovakian tourist agency: Take one of our horse-driven city tours - we guarantee no miscarriages.
- Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand: Would you like to ride on your own ass?
- In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today -- no ice cream.
- In a Bangkok temple: It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner if dressed as a man.
- In a Tokyo bar: Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.
- In a Copenhagen airline ticket office: We take your bags and send them in all directions.
- On the door of a Moscow hotel room: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.
- In a Norwegian cocktail lounge: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.
- In the office of a Roman doctor: Specialist in women and other diseases.
- In an Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

- In a Tokyo shop: Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.
- From a Japanese information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner: Cooles and Heates: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.
- From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo: When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.
- Two signs from a Mojorcan shop entrance: - English well speaking - Here speeching American.

## The shiftkey FAQ – version 0.001

### Unleash the Power of Shift!

Q. My shift keys have little arrows on them. Does that mean the \*real\* shift keys are located above them, and these keys are just little signs to point them out?

A. Nope, they're the Real McCoy. The little arrows mean "up", as in "look up at the screen". Your keyboard is telling you to learn to touch type and quit staring at your fingers.

Q. What happens if I press both shift keys?

A. Even bigger letters may show up on your screen. You should not use this feature, however, because these letters are also brighter, and may cause Screen Burn-In, which would be particularly embarrassing if you were typing something naughty at the time. You might consider obtaining the author's Shift Key Burn-In Protector program for only \$139.95. Or you might not, it's your computer, but don't say I didn't warn you.

q. my religion prohibits the use of shift keys. how can i type capital letters and punctuation

A. Discuss alternatives to the shift key with your spiritual advisor. Perhaps your deity would not be angered by repeated use of the Caps Lock key, or maybe you can retain a consultant to depress the shift for you. You might also consider replacing punctuation marks that require the use of shift keys with lower case expressions; replace ? with "huh" and ! with "zowie".

Q> I PRESSED SHIFT AND IT"S STUCK DOWN NOW>

A. Do small children with a fondness for peanut butter use your keyboard frequently? If so, you may want to clean it off for more reliable operation. First, disconnect your keyboard by gripping each of its ends firmly and pulling as hard as you can. Next, immerse the keyboard in warm water and scrub thoroughly with your favorite lemon-scented detergent and lots of steel wool. Finally, you need to dry the keyboard. Either dry it to touch with a handheld blowdryer, or place it in the dryer for not less than 60 minutes. Be sure to clean the lint screen when you are finished.

Q. Why are there are no "shift" keys on my keyboard, but there are two keys labelled "hif"?

A. Again, you may want to consider cleaning your keyboard, and washing your hands more frequently for that matter.

Q. Are there shift keys on my Macintosh?

A. Yes, although instead of the notation "shift", the key may be labelled with an excited Mac face, something like :O . Press this key to use shift, and be thankful you're using a friendly Mac instead of a mean old PC with all them confusin' words 'n stuff on it.

Q. I'm sick of pushing the shift key every single time I want big letters. Is there any other way to do this?

A. This is the Modern Age of Convenience, and you may be able to activate the shift key merely with the power of your voice! Check to see whether your computer is equipped with speech-recognition equipment by saying the word "shift" very clearly and slowly into its speaker. Then watch the keyboard closely to see if the Shift key moves down. Note that you may have to repeat this action several times to "train" the computer to recognize your voice before the feature works reliably.

Q. There are two shift keys, which should I use?

A. Avoid unnecessary wear on either shift key by alternating between the two. Keep track of your usage of each key so that you press them in equal amounts. Your keyboard may be equipped with a small notepad; you should use this to make little tally marks in two columns for each time you shift. Remember, it's better to go to a little trouble than wind up with a broken shift key.

Q. Why are the shift keys bigger than the other keys?

A. They aren't. This is simply an optical illusion. Just as the moon appears much larger when it is close to the horizon, your shift keys look larger because of their proximity to other keys. To verify this, go out in a large field at night with your keyboard, place it in an upright position, and view it from a distance of 200 yards. Sure enough, the keys all look the same size!

Q. If I press the shift key at the wrong time, or too many times, will my computer explode?

A. No. Well, generally no. Not unless you are using a NEC laptop. Or VT100 terminal emulation. But even then, hardly ever. Really, don't worry about it. Forget I mentioned it. Just type softly. Move along, next question.

Q. No matter what I do, the shift key just doesn't seem to work. What's wrong?

A. Have you ever considered that the problem may not be your keyboard, the problem may be YOU? Perhaps God Himself has suspended the operation of these keys to send you a Message that you have strayed from the path of righteousness. Use this as an opportunity to reflect on your life. Before rushing blindly ahead with a lot of shifting, consult the spiritual advisor of your choice for help in dealing with any unresolved issues in your relationship with the Almighty.

## Rotten first lines for novels

He was a manly man, a rugged veteran of the Northern ranges, with features chiseled from granite and great sinewy arms that could fell the tallest pine with but one swing of an axe no other man could lift, a bearded colossus whose roar echoed through the

mountains and shook birds from trees, a man of iron forged in the wilderness he now bent to his will, and only his closest companions dared address him by his true name: Thweetie Pie.

Of all her brothers, Amy loved Roger the most, because he didn't stink much for a dead guy.

As Wiener Schnitzel looked back on his career as a mathematician, he rued the fast life he'd led; his angry, drunken proofs, the cheap tawdry theorems scrawled in lipstick on the naked bellies of unconscious groupies, the lemmas he'd hustled for fixes in the smoke-filled back rooms of conferences, and determined to go back to his origin, to rationalize his singular life with the common denominator.

Leroy began his day with a trip to the insurance agency, where he purchased exhaustive life insurance, which was fortunate since he dies at the end of the book.

xHrps'tphlng maneuvered his gleaming hover car over the hot sands of Ybl'g'fnrPqn, pondering his conversation with Ambassador fFFptbh|lknguf concerning his suspicions of treaty violations by the Iuq\_nuHcnwef'kjcbaygqwt in the BbBbBqr&'hrAwnk sector.

Rex Stone, a senior CIA operative who'd faced danger on a hundred foreign continents and wore his years with the agency on his face like an old hankie, strode briskly into the office of the President, who at that time was a small green parakeet named Alphonse, and who needed fresh newspaper, right away.

Percival's mind often wandered as he worked, and he would think endlessly, thinking about thinking, thinking about thinking about thoughts about thinking, and thoughts thereupon thunk, until in his reverie he fell from the mizzen mast into the briny depths of the great sea and was never heard from again, which is why this story does not involve him.

""""They'd cried "No!"" Arthur said," was what Leslie intoned', muttered Max, to no one in particular," Henry recounted.

Jerome's life was particularly dull at that time, and showed no prospect of improvement in the near future, so you might as well hop ahead to page 53 so you won't be bored out of your skull.

He walked into the place, looking at the stuff the guy had given him, comparing it to the things at the other place, and his face erupted in a big expression.

Her face faced his face, because they were face-to-face, their faces facing one another's faced faces, and then his head exploded.

It was many years before Timmy realized how much growing up he'd done that day, when he'd said goodbye to his cherished pet and closest companion, the best buddy who'd been with him as he romped through sundrenched meadows and splashed through babbling forest brooks in the great woods behind Grandma's cottage, sharing her gingerbread cookies hot from the oven and fragrant pies left to cool in country breezes; only old Doctor Burrows could separate the two, and Timmy had emptied the



specimen jar containing his beloved tapeworm Ralph into the great brass commode with a tear in his eye.

## The non-discovery of Australia

Although Australia is the largest island on earth and contributes a continental land mass in its entirety, it remained undiscovered for a considerable length of time. This paper deals with those who did not discover Australia, why, and the implications of their non-discoveries.

The Australian Aborigines were the first people to not discover Australia. There are a number of theories put forward by a number of leading experts as to why this is so. It is generally accepted that the Aborigines failed to discover Australia because they had:

- no guns
- no Bibles
- no diseases such as the plague, small pox, etc.
- no flags
- no title deeds
- no monarch

Furthermore, current theory is that they may have crossed over from Southeast Asia by a number of land bridges caused by the Ice Age, which would have been cheating, since all discovery had to be done by boat. In addition, the Aborigines are not of European descent, and it is universally accepted that discovery can only be an act of white races<sup>1</sup>. At any rate, this all took place long before the Age of Discovery and therefore can and should be discounted. Therefore Australia remains undiscovered.

The next group of people not to discover Australia were the Dutch, which is somewhat surprising considering the number of times they ran into it on their way to subjugating Java and laying the foundations of apartheid in South Africa. In hindsight, however, this may be rather fortunate since otherwise they would all be Reformed and speaking Dutch. This is why Australia is known as "the Lucky Country".

The Third people not to discover Australia were the Spanish (or Spaniards, as they are sometimes called). The Spanish (or Spaniards) sailed throughout the Pacific Ocean<sup>2</sup>, naming almost everywhere they discovered after their saints and conquering South America and the Philippines. Incredibly, by the time they discovered Vanu Atu<sup>3</sup> they had run out of saints. Naming the largest island Espiritus Santo, they returned home to obtain the latest list. Again, this proved fortunate since Australia would have been the next destination, and we might all be Roman Catholic, had the Inquisition, and speak Spanish (or Portuguese, as the Brazilians call it.)

The French (bastards!) also did not discover Australia. They sailed around the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, carving up an empire in and enslaving the people of Africa, the Middle East, India and Indochina into colonies, thus promoting liberty and equality. This was done to prove French superiority to the nations of the world, despite the fact they couldn't even win a war against England. That they failed to discover



Australia meant that Australians have been (largely) free of quiche, atom bombs and Chirac<sup>4</sup>.

The English were the last people to not discover Australia, in spite of the huge number of fleets sent out to discover it. That so many commissioned explorers somehow managed to miss a land mass of such magnitude may help explain England's demise in the arena of international cricket. England then colonized Australia, sending out fleets of settlers. Traditionally, it was thought that most of the early settlers were undesirable elements of English society, but recent research suggests otherwise<sup>5</sup>.

Finally, Australia was not discovered by Indonesian fishermen, seafaring Chinese of the Ming Dynasty, or Japanese tourists. These people are known to history as Et Cetera.

1. *Other examples include China (discovered by Marco Polo, not the Chinese) and the Americas (discovered by Columbus, not the Indians)*
2. *This was named by the Spanish (or Spaniard) explorer Magellan, who originally intended to name it The Ocean. He was allegedly requested by his first officer to name it more specifically, upon which he renamed it The Specific Ocean.*
3. *Vanu Atu was not discovered by the Melanesians. See above for reasons.*
4. *Chirac (pron. Shi-rack) Fr.= military disaster.*
5. *This would explain the presence of whinging poms, soccer hooligans, cockneys, and Take That in England, and their absence in Australia.*

## The history of the English language

In the beginning there was an island off the coast of Europe. It had no name, for the natives had no language, only a collection of grunts and gestures that roughly translated to "Hey!", "Gimme!", and "Pardon me, but would you happen to have any woad?"

Then the Romans invaded it and called it Britain, because the natives were "blue, nasty, br(u->i)tish and short." This was the start of the importance of u (and its mispronunciation) to the language. After building some roads, killing off some of the nasty little blue people and walling up the rest, the Romans left, taking the language instruction manual with them.

The British were bored so they invited the barbarians to come over (under Hengist) and "Horsa" 'round a bit. The Angles, Saxons, and Jutes brought slightly more refined vocal noises.

All of the vocal sounds of this primitive language were onomatopoeic, being derived from the sounds of battle. Consonants were derived from the sounds of weapons striking a foe. "Sss" and "th" for example are the sounds of a draw cut, "k" is the sound of a solidly landed axe blow, "b", "d", are the sounds of a head dropping onto rock and

sod respectively, and "gl" is the sound of a body splashing into a bog. Vowels (which were either gargles in the back of the throat or sharp exhalations) were derived from the sounds the foe himself made when struck.

The barbarians had so much fun that decided to stay for post-revel. The British, finding that they had lost future use of the site, moved into the hills to the west and called themselves Welsh.

The Irish, having heard about language from Patrick, came over to investigate. When they saw the shiny vowels, they pried them loose and took them home. They then raided Wales and stole both their cattle and their vowels, so the poor Welsh had to make do with sheep and consonants. ("Old Ap Ivor hadde a farm, L Y L Y W! And on that farm he hadde somme gees. With a dd dd here and a dd dd there...")

To prevent future raids, the Welsh started calling themselves "Cymry" and gave even longer names to their villages. They figured if no one could pronounce the name of their people or the names of their towns, then no one would visit them. (The success of the tactic is demonstrated still today. How many travel agents have YOU heard suggest a visit to scenic Llyddumlmunnyddthllywddu?)

Meantime, the Irish brought all the shiny new vowels home to Erin. But of course they didn't know that there was once an instruction manual for them, so they scattered the vowels throughout the language purely as ornaments. Most of the new vowels were not pronounced, and those that were were pronounced differently depending on which kind of consonant they were either preceding or following. The Danes came over and saw the pretty vowels bedecking all the Irish words. "Ooooh!" they said. They raided Ireland and brought the vowels back home with them. But the Vikings couldn't keep track of all the Irish rules so they simply pronounced all the vowels "oouuoo."

In the meantime, the French had invaded Britain, which was populated by descendants of the Germanic Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. After a generation or two, the people were speaking German with a French accent and calling it English. Then the Danes invaded again, crying "Oouuoo! Oouuoo!," burning abbeys, and trading with the townspeople.

The Britons that the Romans hadn't killed intermarried with visiting Irish and became Scots. Against the advice of their travel agents, they descided to visit Wales. (The Scots couldn't read the signposts that said, "This way to LLyddyllwyyddymmllwylldd," but they could smell sheep a league away.) The Scots took the sheep home with them and made some of them into haggis. What they made with the others we won't say, but Scots are known to this day for having hairy legs.

The former Welsh, being totally bereft, moved down out of the hills and into London. Because they were the only people in the Islands who played flutes instead of bagpipes, they were called Tooters. This made them very popular. In short order, Henry Tooter got elected King and begin popularizing ornate, unflattering clothing.

Soon, everybody was wearing ornate, unflattering clothing, playing the flute, speaking German with a French accent, pronouncing all their vowels "oouuoo" (which was fairly easy given the French accent), and making lots of money in the wool trade. Because they were rich, people smiled more (remember, at this time, "Beowulf" and "Canterbury Tales" were the only tabloids, and gave generally favorable reviews even

to Danes). And since it is next to impossible to keep your vowels in the back of your throat (even if you do speak German with a French accent) while smiling and saying "ouuuoo" (try it, you'll see what I mean), the Great Vowel Shift came about and transformed the English language.

The very richest had their vowels shifted right out in front of their teeth. They settled in Manchester and later in Boston. There were a few poor souls who, cut off from the economic prosperity of the wool trade, continued to swallow their vowels. They wandered the countryside in misery and despair until they came to the docks of London, where their dialect devolved into the incomprehensible language known as Cockney. Later, it was taken overseas and further brutalized by merging it with Dutch and Italian to create Brooklynese.

## Learn to speak Chinese

Ai Bang Mai Ne	I bumped into the coffee table
Ar U Wun Tu	A gay liberation greeting
Chin Tu Fat	You need a face lift
Dum Gai	A stupid person
Gun Pao Der	An ancient Chinese invention
Hu Flung Dung	Which one of you fertilized the field?
Hu Yu Hai Ding	We have reason to believe you are harboring a fugitive
Kum Hia	Approach me
Lao Ze Sho	Gilligan's Island
Lao Zi	Not very good
Lin Ching	An illegal execution
Moon Lan Ding	A great achievement of the American space program
Ne Ahn	A lighting fixture used in advertising signs
Shai Gai	A bashful person
Tai Ne Bae Be	A premature infant Tai Ne
Po Ne	A small horse
Ten Ding Ba	Serving drinks to people
Wan Bum Lung	A person with T.B.
Yu Mai Te Tan	Your vacation in Hawaii agrees with you
Wa Shing Kah	Cleaning an automobile
Wai So Dim	Are you trying to save electricity?
Wai U Shao Ting	There is no reason to raise your voice
Si-Ling Fan	A device to keep you cool

## Rules of grammar

- Don't use no double negatives
- Don't never use no triple negatives.
- No sentence fragments
- Corollary: Complete sentences: important.
- Stamp out and eliminate redundancy.
- Avoid cliches like the plague.

- All generalizations are bad.
- Corollary: All statements must be specific.
- Never listen to advice.
- Take care that your verb and subject is in agreement.
- A preposition is a bad thing to end a sentence with.
- Down with categorical imperatives.
- Avoid those run-on sentences that just go on, and on, and on, they never stop, they just keep rambling, and you really wish the person would just shut up, but no, they just keep going, they're worse than the Energizer Bunny, they babble incessantly, and these sentences, they just never stop, they go on forever... if you get my drift...
- Never contradict yourself always.
- You should never use the second person.
- When dangling, watch your participles.
- Never go off on tangents, which are lines that intersect a curve at only one point and were discovered by Euclid, who lived in the sixth century, which was an era dominated by the Goths, who lived in what we now know as Poland...
- As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I hate quotations."
- Excessive use of exclamation points can be disastrous!!!!
- Remember to end each sentence with a period
- Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
- Don't use question marks inappropriately?
- Don't be terse.
- Don't obfuscate your theses with extraneous verbiage.
- Never use that totally cool, radically groovy out-of-date slang.
- Avoid tumbling off the cliff of triteness into the black abyss of overused metaphors.
- Keep your ear to the grindstone, your nose to the ground, take the bull by the horns of a dilemma, and stop mixing your metaphors.
- Avoid those abysmally horrible, outrageously repellent exaggerations.
- Avoid any awful anachronistic aggravating antediluvian alliterations.
- Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
- Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
- It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
- Contractions aren't necessary.
- Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
- One should never generalize.
- Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
- Don't be redundant; don't more use words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
- Profanity sucks.
- Be more or less specific.
- Understatement is always best.
- Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
- One-word sentences? Eliminate.
- Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
- The passive voice is to be avoided.
- Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
- Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
- Who needs rhetorical questions?

- While a transcendent vocabulary is laudable, one must nevertheless keep incessant surveillance against such loquacious, effusive, voluble verbosity that the calculated objective of communication becomes ensconced in obscurity.
- In a sentence, the nouns has to match the verbs.
- In writing, few things are, so to speak, more infuriating, than, say, commas, at least when there are too many of them, or when they should be, say, semicolons.
- Proofread your work, so you don't leave some out or forget to finish
- To have been using excessively complex verb constructions, is to have been bopping the literary baloney.

## English made easy?

Having chosen English as the preferred language in the EEC (now officially the European Union, or EU), the European Parliament has commissioned a feasibility study in ways of improving efficiency in communications between Government departments.

European officials have often pointed out that English spelling is unnecessary difficult; for example: cough, plough, rough, through and thorough. What is clearly needed is a phased programme of changes to iron out these anomalies. The programme would, of course, be administered by a committee staff at top level by participating nations.

In the first year, for example, the committee would suggest using 's' instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants in all sities would resieve this news with joy. Then the hard 'c' could be replaced by 'k' sinse both letters are pronounsed alike. Not only would this klear up konfusion in the minds of klerikal workers, but typewriters could be made with one less letter.

There would be growing enthusiasm when in the sekond year, it was anounced that the troublesome 'ph' would henseforth be written 'f'. This would make words like 'fotograf' twenty persent shorter in print.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling.

We would al agre that the horrible mes of silent 'e's in the languag is disgrasful. Therefor we kould drop thes and kontinu to read and writ as though nothing had hapend. By this tim it would be four years sins the skem began and peopl would be reseptive to steps sutsh as replasing 'th' by 'z'. Perhaps zen ze funktion of 'w' kould be taken on by 'v', vitsh is, after al, half a 'w'. Shortly after zis, ze unesesary 'o' kould be dropd from words kontaining 'ou'. Similar arguments vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

Kontinuing zis proses yer after yer, ve vud eventuli hav a reli sensibl riten styl. After tventi yers zer vud be no mor trubls, difikultis and evrivun vud fin it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drems of the uvermnt vud finali hav kum tru.

## Company slogans

Cracking an international market is a goal of most growing corporations. It shouldn't be that hard, yet even the big multi-nationals run into trouble because of language and cultural differences. For example...

- The name Coca-Cola in China was first rendered as Ke-kou-ke-la. Unfortunately, the Coke company did not discover until after thousands of signs had been printed that the phrase means "bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax" depending on the dialect. Coke then researched 40,000 Chinese characters and found a close phonetic equivalent, "ko-kou-ko-le," which can be loosely translated as "happiness in the mouth."
- In Taiwan, the translation of the Pepsi slogan "Come alive with the Pepsi Generation" came out as "Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead."
- Also in Chinese, the Kentucky Fried Chicken slogan "finger- lickin' good" came out as "eat your fingers off."
- The American slogan for Salem cigarettes, "Salem - Feeling Free," got translated in the Japanese market into "When smoking Salem, you feel so refreshed that your mind seems to be free and empty."
- When General Motors introduced the Chevy Nova in South America, it was apparently unaware that "no va" means "it won't go." After the company figured out why it wasn't selling any cars, it renamed the car in its Spanish markets to the Caribe.
- Ford had a similar problem in Brazil when the Pinto flopped. The company found out that Pinto was Brazilian slang for "tiny male genitals". Ford pried all the nameplates off and substituted Corcel, which means horse.
- When Parker Pen marketed a ballpoint pen in Mexico, its ads were supposed to say "It won't leak in your pocket and embarrass you." However, the company's mistakenly thought the spanish word "embarazar" meant embarrass. Instead the ads said that "It wont leak in your pocket and make you pregnant."
- An American t-shirt maker in Miami printed shirts for the spanish market which promoted the Pope's visit. Instead of the desired "I Saw the Pope" in Spanish, the shirts proclaimed "I Saw the Potato."
- Chicken-man Frank Perdue's slogan, "It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken," got terribly mangled in another Spanish translation.
- Hunt-Wesson introduced its Big John products in French Canada as Gros Jos before finding out that the phrase, in slang, means "big breasts." In this case, however, the name problem did not have a noticeable effect on sales.
- Colgate introduced a toothpaste in France called Cue, the name of a notorious porno mag.
- In Italy, a campaign for Schweppes Tonic Water translated the name into Schweppes Toilet Water.
- Japan's second-largest tourist agency was mystified when it entered English-speaking markets and began receiving requests for unusual sex tours. Uoon finding out why, the owners of Kinki Nippon Tourist Company changed its name.
- In an effort to boost orange juice sales in predominantly continental breakfast-eating England, a campaign was devised to extoll the drink's eye-opening, pick-me-up qualities. Hence, slogan, "Orange juice. It gets your pecker up."

## Cool things about a car that goes faster than the speed of light

- Sleep 'til noon. Still get to work by 8:00am!
- Doppler shift makes red traffic lights look green.
- Breaking laws of physics only a misdemeanor in most states.
- Never in car long enough to hear an entire Madonna song.
- Carl Sagan and Stephen Hawking keep bugging you to carpool.
- No one can see you pick your nose while you drive.
- Lunch breaks in Paris, circa 1792.
- LA to Vegas in 2 nanoseconds.
- You can stop worrying about being sucked into a black hole driving home from work.
- You'll be so thin while driving it you can even wear horizontal stripes.
- That deer in your headlights is actually behind you.
- Traffic enforcement limited to cops with PhD's in Quantum Physics.
- Bugs never see you comin'.
- Can make a fortune delivering pizza with the slogan "It's there before you order or it's free!"
- Car makes it from Hollywood to London fast enough to not arouse suspicions of Elizabeth Hurley.
- License plate: "Me=mc<sup>2</sup>"

## Worried about Santa?

Dear Santa:

We're worried about you. From your rosy red cheeks to your legendary girth to your all-night sleigh ride around the world, you may be at risk for diseases, maladies, mishaps and lawsuits that send chills through our Santa-loving hearts.

The latest warning comes from the National Rosacea Society in Barrington, Illinois. Dermatologist Dr. Jerome Litt says you have "a clear-cut case of rosacea," a skin condition that also affects millions of Americans, particularly at middle age. Unable to examine you personally, the good doctor based his finding on a well-circulated report that your "cheeks were like roses, (your) nose like a cherry." Sadly, many observers conclude that red-skin condition comes from hitting the Christmas-punch bowl a little too hard. Sadder still, rosacea can be aggravated by holiday stress, hot chocolate and overexertion...all things you may encounter this time of year. The one bright note in Dr. Litt's message is that certain antibiotics can help, and he advises you to see a North Pole dermatologist. But the news about your facial tint is only our latest source of concern. A careful examination of what we know about you and your lifestyle raises a host of other trouble signs:

**OBESITY:** Frankly, Santa, this may be your biggest area of concern. Studies show overweight men have more than double the normal risk of heart attacks and increased chances of many other diseases. We've seen the pictures; we've noticed you in the malls. And we've heard that your tummy shakes "like a bowlful of jelly" when you

chuckle. On this, we'll take part of the blame. All these years, we've set out milk and cookies on Christmas Eve. With 102 million homes in the US alone, even if 1 in 100 homes put out two cookies and a cup of milk, that would make an overnight snack of 2 million cookies and 63,750 gallons of milk. Maybe it's time for Mrs. Claus to get you a NordicTrack or a Thighmaster. But be sure to have the old ticker checked out before you start an exercise regimen.

**PIPE SMOKING:** You've been pictured with a pipe, and even though an apologist in The New York Times once claimed it's only a prop, a witness who encountered you in his home said "the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath." According to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, pipe and cigar smokers have twice a nonsmoker's risk for lung cancer, four times the risk for larynx cancer and two to three times the risk for cancers of the mouth and esophagus. Even if the pipe's just a prop, it might be a good idea to lose it. Remember, you're not just a saint, you're a role model.

**STRESS:** Dealing with Christmas wishes from millions of kiddies could certainly put one on the emotions hot seat. And anxiety can surpass even smoking as a risk for certain heart problems. On this point, though, we have some good news: A medical news service says laughter.....as evidenced by your trademark "Ho, ho, ho".....is one of the best stress-busters going.

**SOOT:** We admire your ability to slip up and down the average chimney, an opening about 12 inches by 16 inches. But creosote flakes on the chimney walls are toxic and can lead to respiratory problems. Brent Rigby of Emerald City Chimney Sweeps in Kirkland said his people never actually go into a chimney, and wear protective masks when they reach up through the fireplace to vacuum the soot.

**RSI (REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY):** Cards and letters by the bagful arrive on your doorstep through regular mail, but this year we've noticed you're also receiving, and answering, e-mail on at least four Internet addresses, including one based in Seattle: [santa@cyberspace.com](mailto:santa@cyberspace.com). We applaud your move onto the information superhighway, with this caution: too much keyboard work can result in painful injuries to the hands, wrists and arms.

**DEER MITES:** Close, continuous contact with your trusty reindeer means if they get mites, so might you, says Dr. David DuClos, a veterinary dermatologist in Lynnwood. Watch out for itchy rashes, and keep the deer out of your bed.

**FROSTBITE, HYPOTHERMIA:** You usually bundle up, and that's good. A Weather Service satellite recently showed the temperature at the North Pole was 13 below zero, and high winds are common. Exposure to such conditions can cause frostbite in minutes.

**MALL THUGS:** You spend a lot of time in shopping malls, so you already know things are getting a little tough out there. Try not to walk back to your sleigh at night alone.

**MEMORY TROUBLE:** It's been said that you make a list, then check it twice. Just being careful, or developing a little memory problem?



SAD (SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER): This time of year, there is virtually no daylight at the North Pole, and a lack of sunlight can trigger depression in some people. Maybe a full-spectrum light would help keep you jolly.

VIRAL INFECTIONS: A young witness saw you kissing Mommy underneath the mistletoe last night. You know this is colds and flu season, don't you?

SLEIGH ACCIDENTS: We've seen plenty of pictures of you in that sleigh, but never with a seat belt, and we'd sure hate to see you get hurt. By the way, when you cruise through Seattle this year, be sure to cover the load.

JET LAG: Fatigue, dizziness and insomnia are all dangers that travelers face when they cross through several time zones. And few travelers cross all 24 of them in a night, like you do.

SKYJACKERS: OK, you've been lucky so far, but they're out there.

Knowing all the dangers you face makes us feel that much more fortunate that you're still faithfully delivering the goodies to good boys and girls every Christmas. But you might want to try to reduce some of those risks before your insurance company decides to boost your rates. Which reminds us: You DO have insurance, don't you?

## The price of true love

The price of giving all the items in the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" went up less than 2 percent in 1994, under the current annual rate of inflation of 2.6 percent.

	£
1. Partridge in a pear tree	35
2. Turtle doves	50
3. French hens	15
4. Calling birds	280
5. Gold rings	450
6. Geese-a-laying	150
7. Swans-a-swimming	7,000
8. Maids-a-milking	34
9. Pipers piping	2,607
10. Ladies dancing	3,013
11. Lords-a-leaping	1,109
12. Drummers drumming	1,201

Total to give gifts once: £15,944

Total to give as in song\*: £73,345

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

## Shocking facts about electricity

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool, dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important electrical lesson. It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works, when you scuffed your feet, you picked up a batch of "electrons," which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpets so they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travels down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

**AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT:** If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about, unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tends to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomprehensible maxims, such as, "A penny saved is penny earned." Eventually, he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin, came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. For example, in 1780 Luigi Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, and electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer actually attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch in hop back into the pond just like a normal frog, except for the fact that it sinks like a stone.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention, in 1877, was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically just sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879, when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: The electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few consumers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year in which any new electricity was generated in the United States was 1937: the electric companies have been merely re-selling it ever since, which is why they have so much free time to apply for rate increases.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists developed the laser, an electronic appliance that emits a beam of light so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2,000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations on the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "VAPORIZE BULLDOZER" to "DELICATE."

## Translating “Personal” advertisements

Independent Thinker	Crazy
Outrageous	Crazy and likely to indulge in dangerous behavior
High-Spirited	Crazy, hyperactive, and throws things
Free-Spirited	Crazy and irresponsible
Ample	Large
Huggable	Large
Zaftig	REALLY Large
Fat and Sassy	Large and loudmouthed
Slender	Skinny
Svelte	Anorexic
Petite (I am)	Short
Petite (you are)	Size 2
Dynamic	Pushy
Assertive	Pushy with a mean streak
Excited About Life's Journey	No concept of reality
Moody	Manic-depressive
Unpredictable	Manic-depressive and off medication
Soulful	Manic-depressive and quiet
Poetic	Manic-depressive and boring
Looking for Mr/Ms Right	Looking for Mr/Ms Rich
Uninhibited	Lacking basic social skills
Irreverent	Mean and lacking basic social skills
Aging Child	Self-centered adult
Freedom-loving	Undependable
Young at Heart	Over-40
Youthful	Over-50 and in major denial
Chatty	Never shuts up
Humorous	Watches too much TV and never shuts up
Financially secure (I am)	Has a job
Financially secure (you are)	Rich
Affectionate / romantic	Horny
Passionate	REALLY horny

## Absurd warning labels

- On a cardboard windshield sun shade: "Warning: Do Not Drive With Sun Shield in Place."
- On an infant's bathtub: Do not throw baby out with bath water.
- On a package of Fisherman's Friend(R) throat lozenges: Not meant as substitute for human companionship.
- On a cup of McDonald's coffee: Allow to cool before applying to groin area.
- On a Pentium chip: If this product exhibits errors, the manufacturer will replace it for a \$2 shipping and a \$3 handling charge, for a total of \$4.97.
- On a refrigerator: Refrigerate after opening.
- On a pack of cigarettes: WARNING -- The Tobacco Institute has determined that smoking just one cigarette greatly increases your risk of heart attack by making you so incredibly sexy that gorgeous members of the opposite sex surround you night and day, begging for intercourse and wearing you into exhaustion, unless, of course, you have another couple of cigarettes to steady your nerves.
- On a disposable razor: Do not use this product during an earthquake.
- On a handgun: Not recommended for use as a nutcracker.
- On pantyhose: Not to be used in the commission of a felony.
- On a piano: Harmful or fatal if swallowed.
- On a can of Fix-a-Flat: Not to be used for breast augmentation.
- On work gloves: For best results, do not leave at crime scene.
- On a palm sander: Not to be used to sand palms.
- On a calendar: Use of term "Sunday" for reference only. No meteorological warranties express or implied.
- On Odor Eaters: Do not eat.
- On a blender: Not for use as an aquarium.
- On a fax machine: WARNING! Never attempt to directly fax anyone an image of your naked buttocks. Always photocopy your buttocks and fax the photocopy.
- On a revolving door: Passenger compartments for individual use only.
- On a microscope: Objects are smaller and less alarming than they appear.
- On children's alphabet blocks: Letters may be used to construct words, phrases and sentences that may be deemed offensive.
- On a wet suit: Capacity, 1.
- And Last: On The Washington Post: Do not cut up and use for blackmail note.

## Autoantonyms

An autoantonym is a word which has two meanings which are opposites of each other. It may have several other meanings - only the two contradictory meanings are significant and give an autoantonym its curious "Humpty-Dumpty" quality.

The word cleave - meaning either 'to split asunder' or 'to join together' - is a perfect example of an autoantonym.

DUST	remove dust	sprinkle with dust
INFLAMMABLE	flammable	not flammable

INHABITABLE	habitable	not habitable
INSCIENT	ignorant	having secret or inward knowledge
LEFT	remaining	gone away
LET	to permit	to hinder, to prevent
OVERLOOK	ignore	inspect
PINK	a light red colour	a greenish-yellow pigment
PRESENTLY	now	later
QUITE	completely, absolutely	to a partial extent, somewhat
ROCK	a sure foundation	a swaying or tilting movement
SCREEN	to conceal from view	to display (a film etc.)
TRIP	to move nimbly	to stumble
VAPULATE	to flog	to be flogged

## Cockney alphabet

A for 'orses	A for Gardner	
B for mutton		
C for miles	C for thighlanders	
D for dumb	D for mation	
E for brick	E for Peron	
F for vescence	F for been had	
G for police		
H for retirement		
I for Novello	I for lutin'	I for the girls
J for oranges		
K for teria	K for restaurant	
L for leather		
M for sis		
N for a penny	N for lope	N for a dig
O for the garden wall	O for the rainbow	O for the wings of a dove
P for whistle	P for a penny	P for ming fleas
Q for a bus	Q for a song	
R for mo	R for Askey	
S for you	S for Williams	
T for two	T for gums	
U for instance		
V for la France	V for la difference	
W for a bob		
X for breakfast		
Y for husband	Y for mistress	Y for crying out loud
Z for breezes		

## Dismissals

When people lose their jobs they may be dismissed, sacked, fired or kicked out; they may be out on their ear or on their neck; they may be shown the door; or they may be given their cards, their marching orders, the push, the elbow, the old heave-ho or the order of the boot. Some professions, however, have their own individual terminology

for this situation: a clergyman may be defrocked, a lawyer disbarred, an army officer cashiered. Why should not people in other walks of life also have their own terms for dismissal? Thus:

A barker could be disclaimed.	A model could be deposed.
A bishop could be disgraced.	A Moonie could be dissected.
A botanist could be deflowered.	A neurologist could be unnerved.
A bully could be demeaned.	A poet could be diversified.
A cashier could be distilled.	A policeman could be unwarranted.
A celebrity could be defamed.	A politician could be denominated.
A chef could be distasteful.	A prostitute could be delayed.
A Chinese waiter could be disoriented.	A rabble-rouser could be demobbed.
A climber could be dismounted.	A salesman could be disordered.
A conjuror could be disillusioned.	A skirtmaker could be depleted.
A convict could be discriminated.	A solicitor could be distorted.
A cowboy could be deranged.	A steel worker could be distempered.
A cricketer could be detested.	A tax collector could be distributed.
A diplomat could be disconsolate.	A traffic warden could be defined.
A fisherman could be despondent.	A wine merchant could be deported.
A gambler could be discarded.	A writer could be described.
A jailer could be excelled.	An engine-driver could be distrained.
A journalist could be depressed.	An immunologist could be disinfected.
A judge could be dishonoured.	An investment banker could be distrusted.
A lawyer could be displeased.	An office-worker could be defiled.
A mathematician could be nonplussed.	

For those in some professions a choice of exits would be available:

An MP could be devoted or dismembered.  
A statistician could be discounted or disfigured.  
A butcher could be disjointed or delivered.  
An actor could be displayed or departed.  
A horseman could be derided or unbridled.  
A sorcerer could be dispelled or disenchanting.  
A tennis player could be unloved or defaulted.  
A banker could be discredited or disinterested.  
A hairdresser could be distressed or unlocked.  
An electrician could be delighted or discharged or unearthed.  
A musician could be denoted, disbarred, disbanded, decomposed, or disconcerted

## Self-reference

Ever since Epimenides the Cretan (7th century B.C.) declared that All Cretans are liars, the notion of self-reference became synonymous (and often erroneously) with that of paradox. However, most ubiquitous self-reference which happens each time somebody says "I", is harmless. Following are a few gems from Metamagical Themas.

1. This sentence is not self-referential because "this" is not a word.
2. If this sentence didn't exist, somebody would have invented it.

3. This is not a complete. Sentence. This either.
4. This sentence will end before you can say "Jack Rob
5. Does this sentence remind you of Agatha Christie?

Raymond Smullyan lists what he calls self-annihilating sentences from a collection by Saul Gorn "S. Gorn's Compendium of Rarely Used Cliches." :

1. Before I begin speaking, there is something I would like to say.
2. I am a firm believer in optimism because without optimism, what else is there?
3. Half the lies they tell about me are true.
4. Every Tom, Dick, and Harry is called John.
5. Having lost sight of our goal, we must redouble our efforts!
6. I'll see to it that your project deserves to be funded.
7. I've given you an unlimited budget, and you have already exceeded it!
8. A preposition must never be used to end a sentence with.
9. This species has always been extinct.
10. Authorized parking forbidden!
11. If you're not prejudiced, you just don't understand!
12. Inflation is an economic device whereby each person earns more than the next.
13. Superstition brings bad luck.
14. That's a real step forward into the unknown.
15. You've outdone yourself as usual.
16. Every once in a while it never stops raining.
17. Monism is the theory that anything less than everything is nothing.
18. A formalist is one who cannot understand a theory unless it is meaningless.

How many mistakes are there in the sentence: "This sentence contains one mistake"?  
 What is the answer to the same question for this sentence: "There are three mistakes in this sentence"?

From the wonderful *Beyond Numeracy* I gleaned the following two pearls

1. There is the case of the voter who when asked by a pollster what were the reasons for the ignorance and apathy of the American public, responded, "I don't know and I don't care."
2. What is the question that contains the word cantaloupe for no apparent reason?

Lest you form a self-defeating impression that thinking up self-referential sentences is an exclusive pastime of self-indulgent mathematicians, I'll cite from a small book by William Safire

1. Don't use contractions in formal writing.
2. Do not put statements in the negative form.
3. Avoid run-on sentences they are hard to read.
4. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
5. Avoid trandy locutions that sound flaky.

A subtlety from the Littlewood's Miscellany:

E.Harrison: "Is it true that philosophy has never proved that something exists?"  
 Bertrand Russell: "Yes, and the evidence for it is purely empirical."



The following comes from A Whack on The Side of The Head by R. von Oech

Every rule here can be challenged except this one.

## I've jibe and joke

Someone used to tell me that between them, he and his father knew everything. "All right," I finally challenged him, "what's the meaning of life?" He replied, "That's one of the things my father knows."

A man in ragged motley appeared at the castle gates one day and demanded to see the king. When in due course he was presented in the throne room, he boldly spoke: "Your majesty, I am an itinerant jester in need of gainful employment, a traveling master of jibe and joke looking to settle down; in short, your majesty, I am a fool, and I need a job. Will you hire me to entertain you?" The king, half-amused already at the man's chutzpah (so he was a Jewish king, so sue me), said, "That depends. If you're a good jester, why did you leave your previous employment?" "I'm not just good, your majesty, I'm the best," the traveler replied. "I'm only on the road because my last master died, perhaps from laughing too much. In fact, I'm so good at my job that I can tell a joke on any subject." The king raised an eyebrow, a trick he'd practiced for years. "Very well, then, fool: tell me a joke about myself." The jester thought fast. Kings, as a rule, don't like to be the butts of jokes, but how else to make good his boast? Then he hit upon a solution. "Ah," he said, "but your majesty is a king, not a subject."

Four passengers are in a second-class train compartment en route to Moscow. There is an old woman, a young woman, a Russian soldier, and a Czech. The train goes into a tunnel. Everything is dark. There is the sound of a kiss, and then the sound of someone being slapped. When the train emerges from the tunnel, the old woman thinks, "Good for her! The soldier tried to kiss her when the lights were out, and she let him have it!"

The young woman thinks, "What a funny soldier. I wonder why he tried to kiss the old woman instead of me?"

The soldier thinks, "That Czech guy sure is smart! He kisses the girl, and I'm the one who gets hit."

The Czech thinks, "I sure am smart! I got away with slapping a Russian soldier, and all I had to do was kiss the back of my hand."

There was an American Indian who had an extraordinary memory. He was asked by a tourist, "What did you have for breakfast twenty years ago today?" He replied, "Eggs..." Ten years later, the tourist again sees the same (elephantine) Indian, and greets him: "How!" The Indian replies, "Scrambled."

## An eloquent orator

Words can be tricky things to say. They get tangled around and come out all wrong if you're not careful, and sometimes even if you are.



Which is why actors and others who perform using their voices do enunciation exercises to warm up their vocal apparatus. The most famous such exercise is probably the rhyme from the elocution lessons in *Singin' in the Rain*: "Moses supposes his toes are roses, but Moses supposes erroneously." In high school I did a lot of backstage work, and I never tired of listening to the actors repeating in rapid unison (and with careful, exaggerated pronunciation) phrases like:

He usually urges an umbrella upon us.  
In India, individual effort is intensified.  
Out of the opposition, an eloquent orator arose.

Sometimes the actors would chant together, with a variety of intonations and at a variety of volumes:

Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,  
We'll be together whatever the weather, whether we like it or not!

Other times, they would say a phrase that I've been told is from Shakespeare: "the tip of the tongue, the lips and the teeth." In a similar vein, some actor friends of mine in college used a bit from the beginning of *Lolita*: "...the tip of the tongue taking a trip of three steps down the palate to tap, at three, on the teeth." (The same group also liked to warm up with "Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul," but perhaps we'd best not go into that.) And speaking of emphasis on 't' sounds, Michael Bernstein taught me the line "ten tiny tots on the train tracks" (which he may have gotten from the movie *Speechless*).

The line is a thin one between vocal warmups and simple tongue twisters. I'd rather not try to produce an exhaustive list of tongue twisters (so please don't send me "rubber baby buggy bumpers" or "the sixth sheik's sixth sheep's sick"), but I can't resist mentioning a few fairly obscure ones. Stephen Sondheim, for instance, has elevated the tongue-twister to an art form. Here are two lines from *Into the Woods*:

"We've no time to sit and dither while her withers wither with her."  
"It's your father's fault that the curse got placed and the place got cursed in the first place."

Some others I've heard (if one time through is too easy, repeat 'em):

Cecil vexeth Essex.  
One black bug bled blue-black blood while the other black bug bled blue.  
The Lethe police dismisseth us.  
The seething sea ceaseth, and so the seething sea sufficeth us.  
Sinful Caesar sipped his snifter, seized his knees, and sneezed.  
unique New York  
Peggy Babcock

And some twisters that others came up with:

illuminated aluminum linoleum  
insidious avian amphibian amphetamines

Spenser's censors' censures  
close-cropped curls  
self-stultifyingly eristic flummoxed skink

And finally, a great long bit for warming up that may come from a movie:

What a to-do to die today, at a minute or two to two;  
a thing distinctly hard to say, but harder still to do.  
We'll beat a tattoo, at twenty to two  
a rat-tat-tat- tat-tat-tat- tat-tat-tattoo  
and the dragon will come when he hears the drum  
at a minute or two to two today, at a minute or two to two.

## What they did: the movie

Short works of fiction and drama created from movie and book titles

### **Invasion**

They came by night. (They only come out at night; they live by night.) They came from outer space; they came from beyond space; they came from within. They drive by night; they caught the ferry; they flew alone. They came in khaki. They came to a city: they had to see Paris. They came to Cordura. They met in a taxi. They met in Argentina. They met in Bombay. They met in Moscow. They met on skis. They met in the dark; they never slept. They rode west. They came to rob Las Vegas. They came to blow up America. They've taken our children. They're coming to get me. They're coming to get you.

### **It Tango II**

Clovis (harshly): It happened in Athens. It happened at the World's Fair. It happened in New York: it happened in Brooklyn, it happened in Flatbush, it happened on 5th Avenue. It happened in Hollywood. It happened in Honolulu. It happened in Paris. It happened out West. It happened here.

Dana (sadly): It couldn't happen here.

Clovis (unrelenting): It happened here again. It happens every spring. It happens every Thursday. It couldn't have happened[ -- ]but it did. It might happen to you. It could happen to you.

Dana (angrily): It should happen to you.

Clovis: It shouldn't happen to a dog. It shouldn't happen to a vet.

Dana: It happened to Jane.

Clovis (stiffly): It is not surprising.

Dana (wistfully): It started in Naples...

Clovis (remembering): It started in paradise!

Dana: It started with Eve.

Clovis: ...It started with a kiss.

Dana: It must be love...

Clovis (savagely): It ain't love. It seemed like a good idea at the time.

Dana: It was 20 years ago today. It rained all night the day I left.

Clovis: It isn't being done this season.

Dana: It is never too late to mend. ...It's you I want.

Clovis (softening): ...It takes two.

## **Two Premises in Search of a Conclusion**

It's hard to be good.

It's good to be alive.

## **Autobiography of a Psycho Killer**

I, Claudius; I stand accused. I stand condemned. I confess: I did it.

I was a teenage werewolf. I was a teenage Frankenstein. I was a teenage sex mutant. I was a teenage TV terrorist. I accuse my parents.

I walked with a zombie. I bought a vampire motorcycle. I was a Jewish sex worker. I was a Communist for the FBI. I was a male war bride. I was a spy [ -- ]I was an American spy. I was Stalin's bodyguard. I survived certain death. I met a murderer; I met him in Paris. I was a shoplifter; I became a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a thief. I was a convict. I was a prisoner on Devil's Island. I escaped from Devil's Island; I escaped from the Gestapo; I feel free. I cheated the law; I am a fugitive from a chain gang.

I deal in danger. I live on danger. I love trouble. I killed Rasputin; I shot Billy the Kid; I shot Jesse James; I killed Geronimo. I shot Andy Warhol. I shot a man in Vegas; I killed that man. I killed the Count. I bury the living. I am not afraid. I drink your blood, I eat your skin, I spit on your corpse, I spit on your grave. I died a thousand times.

I ought to be in pictures. I dream too much; I dreamt I woke up. I see something you can't see. I know why the caged bird sings; I heard the owl call my name.

I sent a letter to my love. I love N.Y.; I love Vienna; I love a man in uniform. I love a parade. I love a soldier. I love you. I love you again. I love you to death. I love you, I hate you. I can make you love me. I love my wife. I married a centerfold; I married a monster from outer space. I married an angel; I married a witch. I married a woman. I hate women. I want what I want: to be a woman. I wish I had wings. I want to forget. I want to scream. I wake up screaming.

## **Heteroradical homonyms**

An English teacher once said that in Chaucer's day the word "venerie" referred to matters involving either hunting or love; and that by saying the Monk "lovede venerie," Chaucer definitely meant he was both a hunter and a lover. I eventually discovered that that statement may be somewhat inaccurate; the modern word "venery" can refer to either hunting or love, but the two meanings derive from very different roots, and in Chaucer's time they may have been spelled differently. In a sense, the sequence of letters spelling "venery" actually represents two different words; it's mere coincidence that the two are spelled and pronounced alike.

- Two words that are pronounced alike, but not necessarily spelled alike, are called homophones: "rain" and "reign," for instance, are homophones.
- Two words that are spelled the same way but (a) mean different things, (b) come from different roots, or (c) are pronounced differently, are called homographs.

"Wind," for instance, can refer to air in motion or to the action of tightening a spring.

- Two words that come from different roots can be described as heteroradical.
- And two words that are pronounced and spelled the same but mean different things are called homonyms.

So two words that are spelled the same, and pronounced the same, but mean different things and are derived from different roots, could be called "heteroradical homonyms." But that's a mouthful; so around here we just call them "homomorphs," words that have "the same shape." It's not a precisely accurate term, but after all, few terms are precisely accurate. The terms "homoglyph" and "hetymon" are also occasionally used as synonyms for "homomorph." ("Hetymon" being a portmanteau word roughly short for hetero-etymon, a neologism intended to mean "different source words.")

A strong homomorph has at least two same-part-of-speech meanings. A weak homomorph's meanings are all different parts of speech.

For example:

- "Mail" meaning what the Post Office delivers has a different etymology from "mail" meaning armor.
- The kind of "pool" that you can bet in doesn't come from the same root as the kind that you can swim in.
- A "riddle" meant for answering has a different derivation from one meant for sifting.

One final point: homomorphs have some overlap with, but are not the same as, hobson-jobsons. A hobson-jobson is a word derived from a foreign phrase, when people who don't speak the foreign language try to interpret the phrase in their own language. For instance, in the phrase "ten-gallon hat," the "gallon" part is etymologically unrelated to the word "gallon"; English speakers heard a Spanish word and interpreted it as the English word "gallon." But that sense of "gallon" is never used as a word on its own (without being prefaced by "ten").

## Limericks

There once was a fellow from Xiangling  
Whose greatest delight was in mangling  
Poems. He would drop  
Words between lines and lop  
Their ends off, and leave readers dang

There was an old man of St. Bees  
Who was stung in the arm by a wasp.  
When they asked, "Does it hurt?"  
He replied, "No, it doesn't,  
But I'm sure glad it wasn't a hornet."

There was a young man from Peru  
Whose limericks stopped at line two.

There was a young man from Verdun.

And then, there's the one about the Emperor Nero.

There was a Soviet captain named XXXXXXXXXXXX  
Who was a XXXXXXXX technician in XXXXXXXXXXXX.  
He was XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
For failure to clear  
Limericks with his superiors.

A cardiac patient named Fred  
Made a limerick up in his head.  
But before he had time  
To write down the last line

There was a young poet quite fine,  
Whose limericks repeated a line.  
Though this was redundant,  
Though this was redundant,  
His limericks repeated a line.

Once there was a guy from Atlanta whose limericks were indistinguishable from prose.

There once was a limerick  
But this isn't it.  
This isn't a limerick;  
It isn't even a poem.

A newspaper poet for Hearst  
Deprived of his reason  
By uncontrolled sneezing  
Was by phantasmal demons coerced  
To write all of his limericks reversed.

## Homographs

Homographs have one spelling and two meanings, each with a different pronunciation.

agape	wide open; love
appropriate	to allocate money; apt
are	to be; 1/100 hectare
bass	low frequency; fish
bow	bow and arrow; bow of a boat
buffet	food spread; wind-blown
close	to shut; near

coax	urge; shielded cable
conduct	to lead an orchestra; behavior
content	comfortable; table of contents
desert	desert the army; Sahara desert
do	to do; do re mi (or Asian martial-arts school)
does	to do; female deer
dove	bird; did dive
entrance	entering place; put in a trance
essay	an article; to try
fillet	fish slice; moulding
forte	strong point; loud
he	him; Hebrew letter ("hay")
invalid	not valid; an ill person
lead	Pb; to lead a horse
minute	60 s; very small
mobile	movable; moving sculpture
none	not any; 5th canonical hour
number	more numb; 0, 1, pi, etc.
object	a thing; to make an objection
pasties	meat pies; nipple covers
pasty	meat pie; paste-like
present	make a presentation; gift
project	task; slide projector
pussy	cat; full of pus
putting	golfing; placing
refuse	to resist; garbage
resent	send again; dislike
resign	quit; sign again
row	to pull on oars; a quarrel
slough	estuary marsh; to shed
sol	the sun; do re mi...sol
sow	female pig; to plant seeds
taxes	plural of tax; plural of taxis
tear	tear drop; tear a hole
thou	biblical you; (slang) \$1000
vise	clamping tool; visa
wind	blowing; to wind a watch
wound	injury; past tense of "to wind"

## Homophones

Homophones have one pronunciation and more than one spelling.

6-way homophone

air are heir ere err e'er

4-way homophones

bore boar boor Boer

by bye bi buy

carrot carat karat caret  
I ay aye eye  
rays raise res raze  
right wright rite write  
rose rhos rows roes  
sear seer sere cere  
so sew sol sow  
teas tees tis tease

### 3-way homophones

aisle isle I'll  
ate eight ait  
bite bight byte  
bowl boll bole  
cell sell cel  
censor sensor censer  
do dew due  
dough doe do  
doze does doughs  
flew flu flue  
for four fore  
frees frieze freeze  
holy wholly holey  
idle idyll idol  
key quay cay  
lee lea li  
moll mall maul  
nay neigh nee  
need knead kneed  
new knew gnu  
nose knows noes  
or oar ore  
pair pear pare  
peak peek pique  
poor pour pore  
prays praise preys  
rail rale Rayl  
rain reign rein  
rapt rapped wrapped  
roomy roomie rheumy  
sees seize seas  
sense cents scents  
sent cent scent  
sew so sol  
sight site cite  
slew slough slue  
tea tee ti  
there their they're  
to too two  
toad towed toed  
vain vane vein

viol vile vial  
wail whale wale  
way weigh whey  
where wear ware  
you yew ewe  
your you're yore

## Words that mean opposite things

bomb	In the U.S., a great failure. In Britain, a great success.
dust	Dusting a cake with sugar means putting dust on it. Dusting the furniture means taking dust off it.
enjoin	In the U.S., to prohibit. In Britain, to require.
table	In the U.S., tabling a motion means suspending consideration of it. In England, it means putting it to a vote.
presently	In the U.S., this means currently, i.e. now. In England, it means pretty soon, but not now.
on the job	In the U.S., it means doing your work. In England, it means having sex -- for most people, not your work.
citation	A citation can be either an award or a summons.
copemate	Partner. Antagonist.
quiddity	Essential quality. A trifling thing.
ravel	To become entangled (opp. of unravel). To disentangle.
impregnable	Unconquerable. Capable of being impregnated.

## Negatives without positives

ahimsa	ineffable
discombobulated	ineluctable
disheveled	inept
disgruntled	inevitable
immaculate	ingenuous
impeccable	nonchalant
impecunious	nonpareil
inane	ungainly
incontrovertible	unruly



## Rare double letters

A	aah aardvark aardwolf bazaar kraal laager salaam
H	bathhouse beachhead fishhook highhanded hitchhike roughhouse washhouse withhold
I	coniine euphausiid genii radii shiitake skiing taxiing zombiism
J	hajj hajji
K	bookkeeper chukka chukkar chukker hokku jackknife knickknack lockkeeper markka pukka stockkeeper sukkah trekked trekking yakking
U	continuum duumvir menstruum muumuu residuum triduum vacuum
V	revved revving savvy
W	arrowwood arrowworm bowwow glowworm hollowware powwow screwworm slowworm swallowwort willowware yellowwood
Y	sayyid

## A collection of word oddities and trivia

AA (a type of lava), consists entirely of vowels. Some other words consisting only of vowels are IAO, OII, EUOUAE, OO, I, O, and if proper nouns are allowed, IO. The Oxford English Dictionary has the interjection AIEEE. If Y is allowed: AYE, AYU, EYE, IYO, EY EY, YAYA (although I am not sure which of these Y's are vowels!).

ADCOMSUBORDCOMP HIBSPAC is the longest acronym in the 1965 edition of the Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary. It is a Navy term standing for Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet Subordinate Command.

AEGILOPS is apparently the longest word whose letters are in alphabetical order. The word is an alternate spelling for EGILOPS (an ulcer in a part of the eye)

AFTERCATARACTS (a condition that sometimes follows cataract surgery) and TESSERADECADES are the longest words which can be typed exclusively with the fingers of the left hand. The longest word in common use which can be typed with the fingers of the left hand is STEWARDESSES.

AMBIDEXTROUSLY is the longest word in common use with no letter appearing more than once. SUBDERMATOGLYPHIC is the longest word with no letter appearing more than once

ANHUNGRY is one answer to the question, "What's the other word besides 'angry' and 'hungry' that ends in 'gry'?" Actually, "angry" and "hungry" are the only two words in common use ending in -gry, but quite a few obsolete or obscure words can be found in unabridged dictionaries. Among them are ANHUNGRY, used by Shakespeare, and AGGRY BEAD

ASPHODEL is one of the words in a list of the most beautiful words in English. The complete list: ASPHODEL, FAWN, DAWN, CHALICE, ANEMONE, TRANQUIL, HUSH, GOLDEN, HALCYON, CAMELLIA, BOBOLINK, THRUSH, CHIMES, MURMURING, LULLABY, LUMINOUS, DAMASK, CERULEAN, MELODY, MARIGOLD, JONQUIL, ORIOLE, TENDRIL, MYRRH, MIGNONETTE, GOSSAMER,

ALYSSEUM, MIST, OLEANDER, AMARYLLIS, ROSEMARY. The ten worst-sounding words in English, according to a poll - CACOPHONY, CRUNCH, FLATULENT, GRIPE, JAZZ, PHLEGMATIC, PLUMP, PLUTOCRAT, SAP, and TREACHERY.

ATOLL is the only widely-known word Divehi origin. The other two words of Divehi origin are RUFUYAA and LAARI. Divehi is spoken on the Maldivian Islands.

AVIJJA has the very rare double J. Other such words: ZU'L-HIJJAH or DHU'L-HIJJAH (the twelfth month of the Muslim calendar), HAJJ (the Muslim pilgrimage), HAJJI, and UJJAIN (one of the holy cities of India).

BARBECUE is a candidate for the most commonly misspelled word, with honorable mention to UKULELE and MINUSCULE

BEIJING has three dotted letters in a row (in lower case). Some other such common words are FIJI and HIJINKS.

BOYCOTT is an example of a word named for a person (in this case Charles C. Boycott). Some others: BURKE for William Burke, BOWDLERIZE for Thomas Bowdler, GALVANIZE for Luigi Galvani, BLOOMER for Amanda Bloomer, BRAILLE for Louis Braille, CHAUVINISM for Nicolas Chauvin, DIESEL for Rudolf Diesel, DUNCE for John Duns Scotus (who was actually very smart), GUILLOTINE for Joseph I. Guillotin, LYNCH for William Lynch, NICOTINE for Jean Nicot, QUISLING for Maj. Vidkun Quisling, MASOCHISM for Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, SADISM for Marquis de Sade, SAXOPHONE for Antoine Joseph Sax, SILHOUETTE for Etienne de Silhouette, POINSETTIA for Joel R. Poinsett, GERRYMANDER for Elbridge Gerry, HECTOR from Homer's Iliad, MACADAMIZE for John Macadam, MESMERIZE for Friedrich Anton Mesmer, PASTEURIZE for Louis Pasteur, SANDWICH for John Montagu, the Fourth Earl of Sandwich, VULCANIZE for the Roman god of fire and metalworking.

CARES is an example of a plural word that becomes a singular word (CARESS) with another added S. MULTIMILLIONAIRES(S) might be the longest word that can be changed from a plural to a singular in this way.

COACH is derived from the village of Kocs, Hungary, where coaches were invented and first used.

CONSERVATIONALISTS and CONVERSATIONALISTS are the longest pair of non-scientific English words which are anagrams of each other

CWM (a glacial hollow on a hillside) has the rare W as a vowel. Another such word is CRWTH (the crowd or a stringed instrument), TWP (stupid), and AWDL (an ode written in the strict alliterative meters).

DEEDED can be typed using one finger. Some other such words: HUMHUM, HUMMUM, MUHUHU, and MUUMUU.

DISMANTLEMENT is typed by alternating the use of both hands. Another such word is LEUCOCYTOZOANS.

DREAMT seems to be the only common word in English ending in -MT. Others are the obscure ADREAMT, UNREAMT, or DAYREAMT.

ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHICALLY appears to be the longest closed compound (i.e., single word without spaces or hyphens)

erroneousnesses and verrucosenesses are the longest words consisting of only short letters; lighttight and lillypilly are the longest consisting of only long letters.

ESCALATOR is one of many words that were originally trademarks but have become ordinary words found in dictionaries. Some other words which were originally trademarks are ESCALATOR, CUBE STEAK, CORNFLAKES, KEROSENE, YO-YO, MIMEOGRAPH, LANOLIN, NYLON, TRAMPOLINE, THERMOS, CELLOPHANE.

ETAOIN SHRDLU is defined as "a combination of letters set by running a finger down the first and then the second left-hand vertical banks of six keys of a Linotype machine to produce a temporary marking slug not intended to appear in the final printing." The word comes from the layout of the keys on a Linotype machine. The letters also correspond exactly to the sequence of most frequently used letters found in English writing. That is, "e" is the most frequently occurring letter, followed by "t," etc., according to one study.

EXXON, FOXX, and LEXXEL (a new prescription drug) are examples of words with a double X, but all such words are proper names; there are no words in dictionaries containing XX. In fact, only one word in the RHUD2 has two X's separated by one letter, MAXIXE (a Brazilian dance). XX is the only double letter combination not found in English. According to an article in Time in 1970, the name Exxon was chosen partly because it meant nothing in any language and the article reported researchers concluded that XX occurs in no language. The sign on the Maltese embassy in Washington, D. C., reads AMBAXXATA DA MALTA, so apparently Maltese has a double X. X in Maltese is pronounced like "sh."

FLOCCINAUCINIHIPIILIFICATION (an estimation of something as worthless) is the longest word in the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary.

GLOWWORM may be the best-known word with the relatively rare double W. Some others: ARROWWEED, BOWWOMAN, BOWWOOD, BOWWOW, COWWEED, COWWHEAT, DEWWORM, GLOWWORM, LOWWOOD, MALLOWWORT, MEADOWWORT, PILLOWWORK, PLOWWISE, PLOWWOMAN, PLOWWRIGHT, POWWOW, POWWOWER, POWWOWISM, RAINBOWWEED, SAWWAY, SAWWORKER, SAWWORT, SCREWWISE, SHAWWAL, SHOWWORM, SHOWWORTHY, SKEWWHIFF, SKEWWISE, SLOWWORM, SPARROWWORT, SQUAWWEED, STRAWWALKER, STRAWWORM, SWALLOWWORT, TALLOWWEED, THROWWORT, VIEWWORTHY, WHITLOWWORT, WILLOWWARE, WILLOWWEED, WILLOWWORM, WILLOWWORT, WINDOWWARD, WINDOWWARDS, WINDOWWISE, YAWWEED, YELLOWWARE, YELLOWWEED, YELLOWWOOD, YELLOWWORT.

GODDESSSHIP is the only word with a triple letter. This does not include some abbreviations, and words with letters separated by punctuation, such as WALL-LIKE, WALL-LESS, BELL-LESS, and GAUSS'S LAW.

GOOGOL is a 1 followed by 100 zeros. Mathematician Edward Kasner supposedly asked his nephew Milton Sirota to suggest a name for the number, and he came up with this word, which is now found in many dictionaries. The million, billion, trillion, quadrillion system skips over this number. A GOOGOLPLEX is 1 followed by a googol of zeros.

HONORIFICABILITUDINTATIBUS (honorableness) is the longest word used by Shakespeare. It is said to be a "pedantic nonsense word," although it had been used earlier by other writers.

HUMUHUMUNUKUNUKUAPUAAS, PHONOCARDIOGRAPHICALLY, PRORHIPIDOGLOSSOMORPHA, SUPRADIAPHRAGMATICALLY, and MACRACANTHORHYNCHIASIS are the longest words not containing an E. E is the most frequently occurring letter in English.

IMPETICOS is an example of a nonce word (a word which has been found to have been used only once). The word is spoken by the clown in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. W2 says perhaps it means "impocket."

INDIVISIBILITY is the shortest word with 6 I's. (The only words with more than 6 I's in RHUD2 are PNEUMONOULTRAMICROSCOPICSILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS and SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS.)

INTESTINES has each of its letters occurring twice.

IO, one of the moons of Jupiter, is apparently the shortest two-syllable word (there could be others consisting of two letters, but none shorter it would seem!).

IRAQ is one of the very few words ending in Q. Obscure words ending in Q are: SHOQ, PONTACQ, INUPIAQ (an Eskimo people), SUQ, ZAQAQIQ (or ZAGAZIG, a city in Egypt), ZIA-UL-HAQ (a proper name), and NOASTALIQ.

JAAAARNE is an Estonian word meaning "the edge of the ice." It has four A's in a row. (There is an umlaut above each A.) s

JAI ALAI is one of only two common words of Basque origin; the other is CHAPARRAL. (Some dictionaries have BIZARRE and ANCHOVY of Basque origin.)

KINE is a plural of COW (although it is archaic). KINE qualifies as a plural that shares no letters in common with its singular.

KYRKY is the Chukchi word for "walrus." The word is pronounced "KYRKY" by men but "TSYTSTSY" by women because of a curious feature of the Chukchi language: K is pronounced "K" by men but "TS" by women; "RK" is pronounced "RK" by men but "TSTS" by women.

LATCHSTRING has 6 consonants in a row. The Dutch word ANGSTSCHREEUW (a scream of anguish), and the German word ANGSTSCHWEISS both have 8 consecutive consonants.

LIKE has uses involving eight parts of speech.

LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDROBWLLELLANTYSILIOGOGOG OCH is according to one source the longest placename in the world, with 58 letters. It is a town in North Wales meaning "St. Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool of Llantysilio of the red cave" or "St. Mary's (Church) by the white aspen over the whirlpool, and St. Tysilio's (Church) by the red cave" in Welsh.

A Maori name for a hill in New Zealand was in general use. Its abbreviated version is TAUMATAWHAKATANGIHANGAKOAUAUTAMATEAPOKAIWHENUAKITANATA HU, and means "When Tamatea's brother was killed in a battle near here, Tamatea

climbed this ridge and played a lament on his flute." It often appears with another section in the middle explaining who Tamatea was, which means "the man with the big knee who slid." The location is eight miles south of Porangahau in Hawke's Bay, and if we want to go there now (it's a country hill) we call it Taumata."

There is also a 66-letter place name in Wales, GORSAFAWDDACHAIDRAIGODANHEDDOGLEDDOLONPENRHYNAREURDRAETHCEREDIGION, meaning "the Mawddach station and its dragon teeth at the Northern Penrhyn Road on the golden beach of Cardigan bay."

The longest place name in the U. S. may be NUNATHLOOGAGAMIUTBINGOI, the name of some dunes in Alaska, taken from Eskimo. However, in Massachusetts, there is Lake CHARGOGAGOGMANCHARGOGAGOGCHARBUNAGUNGAMOG, usually listed on maps as "Lake Webster." The shortest placenames in the U.S. may be L, a lake in Nebraska, and T, a gulch in Colorado, each named for its shape.

MAHER-SHALAL-HASH-BAZ, a name, is the longest word in the Bible (Isaiah 8:1).

MASSACRING is a word with more pronounced syllables than vowels. Others are EDINBURGH and RHYTHM.

MHO is the unit of electrical conductance. Since conductance is the reciprocal of resistance, which is measured in ohms, MHO is OHM spelled backwards. The only other word the origin of which is a backwards spelling is YOB, now more commonly spelled YOBBO, which is the backwards spelling of BOY.

OCEANIA crams five syllables into only seven letters.

OF is apparently the only word in which an F is pronounced like a V.

ONE THOUSAND contains the letter A, but none of the words from ONE to NINE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE has an A. FORTY is apparently the only number which has its letters in alphabetical order.

PNEUMONOULTRAMICROSCOPICSILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS, with 45 letters, is the longest word in any English-language dictionary.

PSI and SAI make up a pair of homophones, both of which refer to pitchfork-shaped objects. The first is Greek and refers to a letter; the second is Japanese and refers to a ninja weapon. (In Greek, PSI is pronounced "psee," but in English-language dictionaries it is pronounced "sai.")

QUEUEING has five vowels in a row. Another word with five vowels in a row is MIAOUED (past tense of what a cat does)

RAISE/RAZE are contronymic homophones. Others are RECKLESS/WRECKLESS, AURAL/ORAL, PETALLESS/PETALOUS.

RHYTHMS is the longest common word without an A, E, I, O, or U, but these longer words exist: SYMPHYSY, NYMPHLY, GYPSYRY, GYPSYFY. (In all these words, Y is a vowel.)

SAUNA is the only common word in the English language borrowed directly from Finnish. Obscure words from Finnish include KANTELE, a type of zither, PULKA, a sled, ESSIVE, a linguistic term, and EDUSKUNTA, the Finnish parliament.

SEQUOIA, EULOGIA, MIAOUED, ADOULIE, EUCOSIA, EUNOMIA, EUTOPIA, and MOINEAU are the shortest words containing the five vowels in any order. ACHEILOUS, ACHEIROUS, AEROBIOUS, ARSENIUS, ARTERIOUS, AUTECIUS, and FACETIOUS are the shortest words containing the five vowels in alphabetical order.

SET has the longest definition (or definitions) in the dictionary.

SPENDTHRIFT may be the longest word spelled exactly as it is pronounced.

STRENGTHS is the longest word with one vowel; STRENGTHLESSNESS and DEFENSELESSNESS are the longest word with one vowel if allowed to repeat.

SUBBOOKKEEPER is the only word with four pairs of double letters in a row.

SYZYGY, when written in cursive, has five letters in a row which descend below the line. It is also the shortest word with three Y's.

TARAMASALATA (a type of Greek salad) has an A for every other letter.

TAXI is spelled the same way in nine languages--English, French, German, Swedish, Spanish, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch, and Portuguese.

THEREIN is a seven-letter word that contains eleven words spelled with consecutive letters: THE, HE, HER, HERE, THERE, ERE, REIN, RE, IN, THEREIN, and HEREIN. SHADES contains HADES, SHADE; ADES, HADE, SHAD; DES, ADE, HAD, SHA; ES, DE, AD, HA, SH; S, E, D, A, H, all of which are in W3.

TOUGH, THOUGH, THROUGH, THOROUGH are formed adding a letter every time between T and OUGH, but none of them rhymes with any other.

VOODOO is the only common word of Ewe origin. (Ewe is spoken in Ghana and Togo.)

ZYXOMMA has been suggested as the word yielding the highest score in Scrabble, although the word is not in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary. Other words which have high point value are QUIXOTIC, SQUEEZE, POPQUIZ.

## Anagrams

Dormitory

Clint Eastwood

A Telephone Girl

Western Union

The Country Side

Evangelist

Astronomers

The Cockroach

Desperation

The Morse Code

Slot Machines

Conversation

Florence Nightingale

Dirty Room

Old West Action

Repeating "Hello"

No Wire Unsent

No City Dust Here

Evil's Agent

Moon starers / No more stars

Cook, Catch Her

A Rope Ends It

Here Come Dots

Cash Lost in'em

Voices Rant On

Nigel, Fetch an Iron Leg / Flit on Cheering Angel

Darling I love you	Avoiding our yell
Butterfly	Flutter-by
Heavy Rain?	Hire a Navy!
Mother-in-law	Woman Hitler
Funeral	Real Fun
A Domesticated Animal	Docile, as a Man Tamed it
The Hilton	Hint: Hotel
A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss	Stroller on Go, Amasses Nothing
Sunshine and Shadow	Show in Sun and Shade
Snooze Alarms	Alas! No More Z's
Vacation Times	I'm Not as Active
The Detectives	Detect Thieves
Christmas tree	Search, Set, Trim
A Gentleman	Elegant Man
The Public Art Galleries	Large Picture Halls, I Bet
A Decimal Point	I'm a Dot in Place
The Earthquakes	That Queer Shake
Barbie doll	I'll bare bod
Statue of Liberty	Built to Stay Free
Eleven plus two	Twelve plus one
Admirer	Married
Indomitableness	Endless ambition
Contradiction	Accord not in it
Debit card	Bad Credit
The Towering Inferno	Not Worth Fire Engine
Tony Blair, MP	I'm Tory plan B
Virginia Bottomley	I'm an evil Tory bigot
Margaret Thatcher	That great charmer
The Conservative Party	Teacher in vast poverty

Twenty thousand leagues under the sea - Huge water tale stuns. End had you tense  
The best things in life are free - Nail-biting refreshes the feet

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Neil A. Armstrong  
A thin man ran; makes a large stride; left planet, pins flag on moon! On to Mars!

To be or not to be: that is the question, whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer the  
slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.  
In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on  
two fronts about how life turns rotten.

## The not so correct dictionary

AARDVARK	Strenuous labor
ABASH	A great party
ACOUSTIC	Instrument used in billards.
ACTOR	Someone who tries to be everything but himself.
ACURA	All Cars Usually Require Adjustment
	Americans Can Underestimate Routine Accidents
	Any Child Understands Real Automobiles
	Automobile Causes Universal Road Accidents
	Awful, Crappy, Unreliable, Rusty Automobile
ACUTE	The Opposite of an ugly.

ADVIL	n. device used to hammer things on.
ADVICE	n. the smallest current coin.
AELUROPHOBIA	fear of cats
AFTER-MATH	n. The period following algebra.
AIBOHPHOBIA	Fear of palindromes.
AIDS	v. looking for love in all the wrong places
ALARM CLOCK	n. machine that scares the daylights into you. adj. something that makes people rise and whine.
ALIMONY	'Bye now, pay later.
ALTERNATING CURRENT	Bi-sexual electrons.
AN UDDER FAILURE	Cow that doesn't give milk.
ANARCHY	Such a good idea, it should be the law.
ANNOYING	Two people who go right on talking when you're interrupting
ANTIQUÉ SHOP	n. A place where sale items are very old and the prices are very modern.
ANXIETY	Nature's way of getting you up mornings.
APPARENT	n. A large, old, bossy person who tortures youths.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	n. person whose career lies in ruins.
ARTERY	Study of fine paintings
ASPIRIN	Having great ambitions
ASTRONOMER	n. a night watchman
ATHEISM	A non-prophet organisation.
ATOMIC BOMB	n. thing that makes molehills out of mountains.
AUDI	Accelerates Under Demonic Influence
BABY PHILOSOPHY	if it stinks, change it.
BACHELOR	n. One who never makes the same mistake once. n. One who's footloose and fiance free.
BACTERIA	n. Lunchroom for chiropractors. n. rear portion of a cafeteria.
BAD DAY	A day when everyone loves your drivers license photo.
BANKERS' HOURS	That part of the day when it is too hot to play golf.
BARIUM	What doctors do when treatment fails.
BARNEY (BAR-NEE)	n. Well known purple mutant eggplant from Hell. A Smurf on steroids.
BARNEY & FRIENDS	An adult's virtual reality trip through Jurassic Park
BEETLE	Battered Everywhere, Expect To Lose Engine
BIGAMY	One wife too many. Monogamy: same idea.
BLACK CLOTHES	Ideal tool for removing cat hair from furniture.
BMW	Babbling Mechanical Wench Bastard Money Wielders Beastly Monstrous Wonder Beautiful Masterpieces on Wheels Beautiful Mechanical Wonder Big Money Waster Big Money Works Blasphemized Motorized Wreck Blasphemous Motorized Wreck Born Moderately Wealthy. Break My Windows Broken Money Waster Broken Monstrous Wonder Brutal Money Waster Bumbling Mechanical Wretch Bring Money Withyou Pitter patter of little feats.
BOASTING	



BOEING	The sound a plane makes when it hits the ground
BORE	One who, upon being asked how they are, tells you.
BORG CABLE CO	subscriber's wishes are irrelevant
BORG COLA	The choice of the Next Generation
BORG TRIVIAL PURSUIT	Assimilating irrelevant information
BORG TV	One Channel. Anything else is irrelevant.
BOW TIE	Big Over Weight Tired Impotent Engines
BOY SCOUTS, THE	Like the army with adult supervision.
BUICK	Big Ugly Import Car Killer Big Ugly Indestructible Car Killer Built Under Inspection of Cooky Korean a kitty who sleeps on your undies.
BUREAUCAT	
CAFFEINE	The fifth food group Everything you could want in a drink
CAMARO	Can't America Make A Real One?
CAPITALISM	Man exploiting man. Socialism: The reverse.
CAT (kat')	n. Dog with an attitude problem. n. animal that tastes JUST like chicken n. Fast, psychotic animal bred for target practice. n. A dog with an attitude problem Fit into the smallest space available.
CAT GAME	
CAT TOY	n. Any object on the ground.
CATAclysm	Bible study classes for cats.
CATACOMB	n. used for brushing cat hair.
CATALAN OPENING	Starting a local area network for cats.
CATASTROPHE	An award for the cat with the nicest buns.
CATATONIC	n. Italian beverage most preferred by cats.
CATGUT	n. My dog got fleas but my catgut kittens.
CATHOLIC	n. A cat with a drinking problem.
CATOLIC	n. a religiously clean Cat.
CATS	God's way of saying your furniture is too nice. Good for dusting high places. proof that eating and sleeping isn't all bad. proof that not everything in nature has a function.
CATS' FAVORITE GAME	Hah - made you look!
CATSCAN	hi-tech device for examining cats.
CATSKILL MOUNTAINS	Mountain range with dangerous cats. The land of dead mice.
CENSORISM	** * ***** *****
CHEVORLET	Crappy Hot-Running Engines, Very Rusted Out, Lose Every Time Car Has Extensive Valve Rattle On Long Extended Trips.
CHEVY	Charged Heavily Cheapest Heap Ever envisioned Yet
CHICKEN	The egg's way of making more eggs.
CHILDISH GAME	One at which you cannot beat your spouse.
CHOCOLATE	The other major food group.
CHRYSLER	Car Having Really Yucky Stupid Lazy Engine Runs Could Have Remained Your Sickly Lame Elderly Relative's
CITROEN	Crap Interior Terrible Road-holding Owned Entirely by Nutters
CLINTON/GORE	the Beavis and Butthead of politics
COBOL	n. Crude Outdated Boring Obsolete Language
COMMITTEE	12 people doing the work of one. A life form with six or more legs and no brain.

COMPUTER	A group that keeps the minutes but wastes the hours.
COMPUTER USERS	Machine that makes very fast, very accurate mistakes
NOVICE USERS:	n. Collective term for those who stare vacantly at a monitor. Users are divided into three subgroups:
INTERMEDIATE USERS:	People who are afraid that simply pressing a key might break their computer.
EXPERT USERS:	People who don't know how to fix their computer after they've just pressed a key that broke it.
CONCLUSION	People who break other people's computers.
CONGRESS	Where somebody got tired of thinking.
CONSCIENCE	Political Asylum
CONSCIOUSNESS	The inner voice warning you that somebody is looking.
COURAGE	That annoying time between naps.
CREDIT CARD	n. Fear extinguisher.
CYNIC	A way to increase ones yearning.
DATABASE	Someone who smells the flowers and looks for the casket.
DATSUN	adj. More information than you'll ever need.
DEATH	Detroit's Angry Towards Sneaky Unscrupulous Nips
DELICATE	Nature's way of telling you to slow down.
DIME	A dainty kitten who likes kosher.
DIPLOMACY	A dollar after taxes.
DODGE	The art of letting somebody have your way.
	Dead Or Dying Garbage Emitter
	Dem Old Dudes Go Everywhere
	Drips Oil, Drops Grease, Everywhere
DOG	Foot Warmer
DOGMATISM	Puppyism come to full growth.
DOOR	something a cat wants to be on the other side of.
EARTH	Mostly Harmless
EGOTIST	Someone who talks much and thinks little.
ELASTIC	Oprah's pants
EXPERIENCE	What you get when you don't get what you want.
EXPERIMENT	One-legged cats are easier to throw.
	Cats without legs never land on all fours.
FELINIOUS ASSAULT	Striking someone with a cat.
FIAT	Failure In Automotive Technology
	Feeble Italian Attempt at Transportation
	Fix It Again Tony
	Fix It All the Time
FINE	Tax for doing wrong. Tax: fine for doing fine.
FLASHLIGHT	A device used to store dead batteries.
FOOT	A device for finding furniture in the dark.

FORD	(backwards) Driver Returns On Foot First On Recall Day First On Race Day Fix Or Repair Daily Found On Road Dead Fraternal Order of Restored DeSoto's
FREE	Flying lessons for your cat, off the Sears Tower
G.T.I.	Got Tossers Inside
GM	General Mistake Grungy Merchandise
GMC	Garage Man's Companion Generally Mediocre Cars Got Mechanic Coming Got More Crap
GOD	The only one who really knows what he is talking about
GOLFER	One who yells "fore!", takes five and writes down three.
GUI	Grab the User In-the-face
HANGOVER	The wrath of grapes.
HEALTH	The slowest possible rate of dying.
HEAVY	adj. Seduced by the chocolate side of the force
HOBBY	Getting exhausted on your own time.
HONDA	Hand Over Dollars to Asians Helping Out Nips Destroying America Hold Overs Not Doing Anything
HOMEMOANER	n. One who complains about property taxes
HUH	Primary word of the teenage language.
HUMAN	n. Useful domestic animal, popular with cats.
IBM	A non-service profit organization
ILLINOIS	Not as boring as you think.
INSANITY	A Primary method of survival.
IRAQ	Past tense of Iran
JAGUAR	Jews And Germans Usually Argue Retail
JEEP	Jinxed Engine has Extra Parts Jump Excitedly in Every Pothole. Jumps Everything Ever Parked Junk Eletrical and Emissions Parts Junk Everyone Eyes for Parts Just Eat Every Pickle.
JOB	A really, really, really, bad joke.
JOURNALISM	Literature in a hurry
KARAOKE	A Japanese word meaning Tone Deaf American.
KITTY LITTER	Throwing cats out a car window.
KITTY WELLS	where cats go to drink
LAPTOP	where my kitties sleep.
LAWYER	The larval form of Politician
LIFE	Something to do when you can't get to sleep. What happens to you while you are making other plans. Circus and all the clowns are in Washington. A first draft, with no rewrite. Series of rude awakenings. (In a Sentence): If life is unfair, why can't it be unfair in my favor?
LSD	Virtual Reality without all the fancy hardware.
MASON-DIXON LINE	Line that separates Y'all from the Youse Guys
MAZDA	Model All Zoids Drive Aimlessly

MCAFEE	Making A Zillion Dollars Annually
MEEEEE	Patron saint of paranoid computer users.
MICE CRISPIES	What Geronimo says when he jumps out of a plane.
MODEM	Breakfast of champion cats!
	A deterrent to phone solicitors.
	n. Monumentally Overpriced Data Eating Machine.
	How a southerner asks for seconds.
MODERATOR	n. Also known as god, dictator, egotist, oppressor
MOPAR	Mitsubishi's Over Priced American Replicars
	Most Often Passed At Races
	Mostly Old Paint And Rust
	Mostly Old Parts And Rust
MULTITASKING	Screwing up several things at once.
NAPA	Never Any Parts Available.
NERVOUS	Asking which wine goes best with fingernails.
NISSAN	Nasty Import Sucks Savings Away to Nippon
NOSTALGIA BUFF	One who finds the past perfect and present tense.
NOW	adv: A moment in time that has already passed.
NURSERY	Place where nurses are made.
OLDSMOBILE	Old Loose Dented Sheet Metal Outdated By Infamies Like Edsel
ONCE	(wuns) adv: Enough.
ORGAN DONOR	A motorcyclist without a helmet
OXYMORON	A compassionate Republican.
	A thinking liberal.
	Airline food
	Alone together.
	Artificial intelligence
	Athletic scholarships.
	Baby grand.
	Bittersweet
	Brave politician.
	Budget Resolution
	Bug free code.
	Business ethics.
	Capital Punishment.
	Chicken fingers
	Civil War.
	Classic Rock
	Cold fire.
	Completely Unfinished
	Computer security.
	Congressional ethics.
	Constant Change.
	Constant variable.
	Conventional wisdom.
	Criminal justice.
	Death benefits
	Dodge Ram.
	Down Escalator.
	Dream Reality
	Dry ice.
	Dry wine.
	Dull point.
	Educational Television.

	Elementary calculus.
	Even Odds.
	Fast idle.
	Final version.
	Finished buildings.
	Firewater.
	Free love.
	Freezer burn.
	Fresh frozen.
	Friendly fire.
	Good Grief.
	Progressive Conservative.
PEANUTS	n. my paycheck.
PEST	n. A friend in need.
PHILOSOPHY	A study that lets us be unhappy more intelligently.
PINTO	Put In New Transmission Often
PIZZA	The fourth food group.
POLITICIAN	The adult form of a lawyer
POLITICS	Poly: many + Tics: blood sucking parasites
	The entertainment branch of industry.
PONTIAC	Poor Old Nitwit Thinks Its A Cadilliac
PORSCHE	Phased Out Racer-Still Can't Hold Engine
	Pulled Over Regularly So Cops Have Enough
	Puts Out Really Smoky Carbonate Hazardous Emissions
POVERTY	Having too much month left at the end of the money.
PROFESSOR	Someone who talks in somebody else's sleep.
PROGRESS	Opposite of Congress
PRONOUN	A noun that has lost it's amateur status
PROSTITUTE	Receiver of swollen goods.
PURR	The sound of a cat manufacturing cuteness
PURRANOIA	Fear the cat is up to something..
PURRING	The sound of a cat manufacturing cuteness.
RADIOACTIVE CAT	Cat with 18 half lives.
REALITY	n. Where the pizza dude comes from.
REDUNDANCY	An airbag in a politician's car
REJECTION	When your imaginary friends won't talk to you.
RENAULT	Retarded Engine No Acceleration Ugly Lump of Trash
RETIREMENT	Twice as much husband, half as much money.
	When you stop living at work and start working at life
RING	Item used to explore the drain in one's sink
ROFL	Rolling On the Floor Laughing
ROTISSERE	A ferris wheel for chickens
SAAB	Swedish Automobile - Always Broken
SCHOOL	n. a learning prison
SKIER	Someone who pays an arm and a leg to break them.
SLEEP	A poor substitute for caffeine.
	That fleeting moment just before the alarm goes off.
SOCIALISM	Man exploiting man. Capitalism: The reverse.
SPOILS OF WAR, THE	n. Army food.
STICK	('stik) n. A boomerang that doesn't work.
STP	Stop Those Pistons.
STRESS	n. Doing a tight 180-dregree U-turn at Warp 9.5.
SUBARU	Send Undercover Boat And Radioactive Uranium
SUCCESS	Attending a funeral as a spectator
SUSHI	Known to the rest of the world as 'Bait'.

SYNONYM	Word you use when you can't spell the one you want.
SYSOP (sihs-ahp)	n. One who reconfigures
TACT	n. The person laughing at your typing.
TAGLINES ('tag-l,,inz)	Knowing how far to go in going too far.
TAX	n. The restroom walls of BBSing
TERROR	n. The bumperstickers of the information super highway.
THESAURUS	Fine for doing fine. FINE: Tax for doing wrong
TOYOTA	A female Klingon with PMS.
TREE	Ancient reptile with an excellent vocabulary.
TRIUMPH	Taking Our Yen Out -- Thanks All
TUNAR	Plant used to stop cars.
UNILINGUAL	The Risk Involving Useless Machinery Pays Heavily
UNWRITTEN BOOK	Sonarlike device in can that causes cats to appear
VACATION	American.
VW	"Dash for the Bathroom" by Willie Makitt.
WASHINGTON D.C.	A place to go without having to.
WINDOWS	Very Worthless
WITLAG	A work free drug place.
WOMAN	The best 89 dollar solitaire game you can buy
WORK	The delay between delivery and comprehension of a joke.
	Man, the sequel.
	The slow, dragging fingernail on the blackboard of life.

## 21 signs that the Enterprise is nearing the end of its warranty

1. Impulse engines stall when used in reverse.
2. Digital speedometer on helm console stuck at "88".
3. Shields fail to work on alternate Fridays.
4. Rust problem in engineering causes support failure: one corner of warp coil now held up by phone book.
5. Computer fails to process any instruction beginning with "w".
6. Booster cables become permanent fixtures in transporter room.
7. Captain's chair must be propped up against screen to keep image from flickering.
8. Guinan stops wearing large, heavy hats for fear of falling through squeaky part of floor in 10-forward.
9. Main sensor array unable to pick up anything except CBS.
10. Lower part of bridge falls even lower and ramps along either side become too steep for crew to climb.
11. Turbolift cannot climb past deck 5 when there are more than 2 people on board.
12. Holodeck becomes caught in an infinite loop: ship is overcome by ten thousand care bears.
13. Ship cannot enter warp while food dispenser is making Kraft macaroni and cheese.
14. Food dispenser in 10-forward will only serve light beer.
15. Bug in main computer speech processor: computer voice will either stutter or talk like Barbara Walters.
16. Untraceable glitch in plumbing periodically replaces water in Wesley's shower with frozen concentrated orange juice.
17. Ship's dryer indiscriminately shreds crew's uniforms, and related problem in fabrication machinery will only produce new clothing with Roger Rabbit caricature prominently displayed.
18. Computer refuses to carry out commands unless captain says "Pretty please with sugar on it".

19. Riker unable to sleep for 2 weeks when holodeck computer crashes and loses access to nude volleyball program.
20. Replacement parts for automatic door to captain's ready room are exhausted and door must be replaced with bead curtains.
21. Saucer section separates whenever ship makes left turn.

## Computer terms

- ALPHA:** Software undergoes alpha testing as a first step in getting user feedback. Alpha is Latin for "doesn't work".
- APPLE:** A fruit never seen again after you've had a computer for a while. (SEE "CHIPS", "FLOPPY", "ETHERNET", or "KERNEL")
- AUTOMATION:** A process by which computer users never leave their computer and get everything they want.
- BETA:** Software undergoes beta testing shortly before it's released. Beta is Latin for "still doesn't work".
- BIT:** A word used to describe computers, as in "Our daughters computer cost quite a bit."
- BOOT:** What your friends give you because you spend too much time bragging about your computer skill.
- BUG:** What your eyes do after you stare at the tiny green computer screen for more than 15 minutes. Also: What computer magazine companies do to you after they get you on their mailing list.
- BUS:** A vehicle that you will never see again after you buy a computer.
- C:** Something your eyes won't be able to do much more of after you buy a computer.
- CDROM DRIVE:** A cup holder that is attached to your computer.
- CHIPS:** The fattening, non-nutritional food computer users eat to avoid having to leave their keyboards for meals.
- COMPUTER:** Instrument of torture. The first computer was invented by Roger "Duffy" Billingsly, a British scientist. In a plot to overthrow Hitler, Duffy disguised himself as a German ally and offered his invention as a gift to the dictator. The plot worked. On April 8, 1945, Hitler 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.
- COPY:** What you have to do during school tests because you spend too much time at your computer and not enough time studying.
- 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 model, a ferret if it's a 386, and a ferret on speed if it's a 486.
- CURSOR:** What you turn into when you can't get your computer too perform, as in "You %@& computer!"
- DEFAULT DIRECTORY:** Black Hole. Default directory is where all the files that you need disappear to.
- DILBERT:** Someone every computer science student wishes they could be.
- DISK:** What goes out of your back after bending over a computer keyboard for seven hours at a clip.
- DISK OPERATION SYSTEM:** Same as OPERATING SYSTEM except instead of sequential operations, the operations are done in patterns, over and over again.
- DUMP:** The place all your former hobbies wind up soon after you install your computer.

**ELECTRICITY:** Something you won't have after you don't check your mail because you are on your computer all the time.

**ERROR:** What you made when you first walked into a computer showroom "just to look."

**ETHERNET:** A network of drunks. (SEE "CHIPS", "FLOPPY", "APPLE", or "KERNEL")

**EXPANSION UNIT:** The new room you have to build on to your home to house your computer and all its peripherals.

**ERROR MESSAGE:** Terse, baffling remark used by programmers to place blame on users for the program's shortcomings.

**EXPANSION UNIT:** The new room you have to build on to your home to house your computer and all its peripherals.

**FILE:** 1. 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 (which can kill you, just ask Hitler). 2. What a secretary can now do to her nails six and a half hours a day, now that the computer does her day's work in 30 minutes.

**FLOOPY:** The condition of a constant computer user's stomach due to lack of exercise and a steady diet of junk food (see "CHIPS").

**HARD DISK DRIVE:** The discus throw in the Olympics.

**HARDWARE:** 1. Collective term for any computer-related object that can be kicked or battered when inclined to do so. 2. Tools, such as lawnmowers, rakes and other heavy equipment you haven't laid a finger on since getting your computer.

**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 a damn thing.

**IBM:** The kind of missile your family members and friends would like to drop on your computer so you'll pay attention to them again.

**INPUT/OUTPUT:** Information is "input" from the keyboard as intelligible data and "output" to the printer as unrecognizable crap.

**INTERNET:** An alien (US Armed Forces) invention that somehow found it's way into half of the homes in the world.

**KERNEL:** The part of corn that used to make popcorn for computer users to support their eating habits. (SEE "CHIPS", "FLOPPY", "ETHERNET", or "APPLE")

**MAC OPERATING SYSTEM:** One huge operation by many different types of doctors once a month during the first two years of ownership of a MAC, then one a year every year after that, and daily visits to a psychiatrist throughout it all.

**MACS:** People who are mad, irrational, and/or who have just cracked.

**MEMORY:** Of computer components, the most generous in terms of variety, and the skimpiest in terms of quantity.

**MENU:** What you'll never see again after buying a computer because you'll be too poor to eat in a restaurant.

**MICROSOFT:** What happens to your brain after getting a computer.

**MONITOR:** Often thought to be a word associated with computers, this word actually refers to those obnoxious kids who always want to see your hall pass at school.

**MOUSE:** One of many rodents running around your house after you have been on the computer for a couple of months.

**NETWORKS:** A group project gone awry.

**NOTEBOOK:** Something filled with paper that you used to use for notes before you got a comptuer.



**OPERATING SYSTEM:** A list of sequential operations doctors must perform on computer users at specific amounts of time after the user has bought their first computer.

**PCMIA:** A lot of letters together that make no sense to the average user.

**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.

**PROGRAMS:** Those things you used to look at on your television before you hooked your computer up to it.

**RAM:** An animal that a farmer sends you after you have helped him with his computer.

**REFERENCE MANUAL:** Object used to raise the monitor to eye level. Also handy to compensate for that short table leg.

**RETURN:** What lots of people do to their computers after only a week and a half.

**SCHEDULED RELEASE DATE:** A carefully calculated date determined by estimating the actual shipping date and subtracting six months from it.

**SCREEN:** Something you do to the calls you get from other people after you buy a computer.

**SLEDGEHAMMER:** Special type of hardware specially designed for users who would like to demonstrate their frustrations to their computer.

**SOUND BLASTER:** The stereo that you hooked up to your computer so you could have better sound in your games.

**TERMINAL:** A place where you can find buses, trains and really good deals on hot computers.

**TOKEN RING:** A ring made entirely of New York Transit Authority Tokens. Minimum value of ring: \$5.00 (3 tokens).

**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 blankly at a monitor. Users are divided into three types: novice, intermediate, and expert. Novice users are those who are afraid that simply pressing a key might break their computer. Intermediate users are those who don't know how to fix their computer after they've just pressed a key that broke it. And expert users are those who break other people's computers.

**VIRUS:** Something you use as an excuse to stay home from school and use the computer.

**WINDOW:** What you heave the computer out of after you accidentally erase a program that took you three days to set up.

## How cold is it?

An annotated thermometer (°F)

- 60 Californians put on sweaters (if they can find one in their wardrobe)
- 50 Miami residents turn on the heat
- 40 You can see your breath Californians shiver uncontrollably  
Minnesotans go swimming
- 35 Italian cars don't start
- 32 Water freezes
- 30 You plan your vacation to Australia

Minnesotans put on T-shirts  
 Politicians begin to worry about the homeless  
 British cars don't start  
 Your boogers freeze  
 25 Boston water freezes  
 Californians weep pitifully  
 Minnesotans eat ice cream  
 Canadians go swimming  
 20 You can hear your breath  
 Politicians begin to talk about the homeless  
 New York City water freezes  
 Miami residents plan vacation further South  
 15 French cars don't start  
 You plan a vacation in Mexico  
 Cat insists on sleeping in your bed with you  
 10 Too cold to ski  
 You need jumper cables to get the car going  
 5 You plan your vacation in Houston  
 American cars don't start  
 0 Alaskans put on T-shirts  
 Too cold to skate  
 -10 German cars don't start  
 Eyes freeze shut when you blink  
 -15 You can cut your breath and use it to build an igloo  
 Arkansans stick tongue on metal objects  
 Miami residents cease to exist  
 -20 Cat insists on sleeping in your pajamas with you  
 Politicians actually do something about the homeless  
 Minnesotans shovel snow off roof  
 Japanese cars don't start  
 -25 Too cold to think  
 You need jumper cables to get the driver going  
 -30 You plan a two week hot bath  
 The Mighty Monongahela freezes  
 Swedish cars don't start  
 -40 Californians disappear  
 Minnesotans button top button  
 Canadians put on sweaters  
 Your car helps you plan your trip South  
 -50 Congressional hot air freeze  
 Alaskans close the bathroom window  
 -80 Hell freezes over  
 Polar bears move south

## 50 facts about men

1. Men like to barbecue. Men will cook if danger is involved.
2. Men who have pierced ears are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry.
3. If you buy your husband or boyfriend a video camera, for the first few weeks he has it, lock the door when you go to the bathroom. Most of my husband's early films end with a scream and a flush.

4. Be careful of men who are bald and rich; the arrogance of "rich" usually cancels out the nice of "bald."
5. Marrying a divorced man is ecologically responsible. In a world where there are more women than men, it pays to recycle.
6. Men are very confident people. My husband is so confident that when he watches sports on television, he thinks that if he concentrates he can help his team. If the team is in trouble, he coaches the players from our living room, and if they're really in trouble, I have to get off the phone in case they call him.
7. If it's attention you want, don't get involved with a man during play-off season.
8. Men like phones with lots of buttons. It makes them feel important.
9. Men love to be the first to read the newspaper in the morning. Not being the first is upsetting to their psyches.
10. All men look nerdy in black socks and sandals.
11. The way a man looks at himself in a mirror will tell you if he can ever care about anyone else.
12. Don't try to teach men how to do anything in public. They can learn in private; in public they have to know.
13. Men who are going bald often wear baseball caps.
14. All men are afraid of eyelash curlers. I sleep with one under my pillow, instead of a gun.
15. A good place to meet a man is at the dry cleaner. These men usually have jobs and bathe.
16. Men love watches with multiple functions. My husband has one that is a combination address book, telescope and piano.
17. All men hate to hear "We need to talk about our relationship." These seven words strike fear in the heart of even General Schwarzkopf.
18. Men are sensitive in strange ways. If a man has built a fire and the last log does not burn, he will take it personally.
19. Men are brave enough to go to war, but they are not brave enough to get a bikini wax.
20. All men think that they're nice guys. Some of them are not. Contact me for a list of names.
21. Men don't get cellulite. God might just be a man.
22. Men have an easier time buying bathing suits. Women have two types: depressing and more depressing. Men have two types: nerdy and not nerdy.
23. Men have higher body temperatures than women. If your heating goes out in winter, I recommend sleeping next to a man. Men are like portable heaters that snore.
24. Women take clothing much more seriously than men. I've never seen a man walk into a party and say "Oh, my God, I'm so embarrassed; get me out of here. There's another man wearing a black tuxedo."
25. Most men hate to shop. That's why the men's department is usually on the first floor of a department store, two inches from the door.
26. If a man prepares dinner for you and the salad contains three or more types of lettuce, he is serious.
27. If you're dating a man who you think might be "Mr. Right," if he a) got older, b) got a new job, or c) visited a psychiatrist, you are in for a nasty surprise. The cocoon-to-butterfly theory only works on cocoons and butterflies.
28. Men own basketball teams. Every year cheerleaders' outfits get tighter and briefer, and players' shorts get baggier and longer.
29. No man is charming all of the time. Even Cary Grant is on record saying he wished he could be Cary Grant.
30. When four or more men get together, they talk about sports.
31. When four or more women get together, they talk about men.
32. Not one man in a beer commercial has a beer belly.

33. Men are less sentimental than women. No man has ever seen the movie THE WAY WE WERE twice, voluntarily.
34. Most women are introspective: "Am I in love? Am I emotionally and creatively fulfilled?" Most men are outrospective: "Did my team win? How's my car?"
35. If a man says, "I'll call you," and he doesn't, he didn't forget...he didn't lose your number... he didn't die. He just didn't want to call you.
36. Men hate to lose. I once beat my husband at tennis. I asked him, "Are we going to have sex again?" He said, "Yes, but not with each other."
37. Men who can eat anything they want and not gain weight should do it out of sight of women.
38. Getting rid of a man without hurting his masculinity is a problem. "Get out" and "I never want to see you again" might sound like a challenge. If you want to get rid of a man, I suggest saying, "I love you... I want to marry you... I want to have your children." Sometimes they leave skid marks.
39. Men accept compliments much better than women do. Example: "Mitch, you look great." Mitch: "Thanks." On the other side: "Ruth, you look great." Ruth: "I do? Must be the lighting."
40. Impulse buying is not macho. Men rarely call the Home Shopping Network.
41. Men who listen to classical music tend not to spit.
42. Only men who have worn a ski suit understand how complicated it is for a woman to go to the bathroom when she's wearing a jumpsuit.
43. Men don't feel the urge to get married as quickly as women do because their clothes all button and zip in the front. Women's dresses usually button and zip in the back. We need men emotionally and sexually, but we also need men to help us get dressed.
44. Men are self-confident because they grow up identifying with superheros. Women have bad self-images because they grow up identifying with Barbie.
45. When a woman tries on clothing from her closet that feels tight, she will assume she has gained weight. When a man tries something from his closet that feels tight, he will assume the clothing has shrunk.
46. Male menopause is a lot more fun than female menopause. With female menopause you gain weight and get hot flashes. Male menopause - you get to date young girls and drive motorcycles.
47. Men forget everything; women remember everything.
48. That's why men need instant replays in sports. They've already forgotten what happened.
49. Men would like monogamy better if it sounded less like monotony.
50. All men would still really like to own a train set.

## The court of King George III

July 10, 1776

Mr. Thomas Jefferson

We have read your "Declaration of Independence" with great interest. Certainly, it represents a considerable undertaking, and many of your statements do merit serious consideration. Unfortunately, the Declaration as a whole fails to meet recently adopted specifications for proposals to the Crown, so we must return the document to you for further refinement. The questions which follow might assist you in your process of revision:

- In your opening paragraph you use the phrase "the Laws of Nature and Nature's God." What are these laws? In what way are they the criteria on which you base your central arguments? Please document with citations from the recent literature.
- In the same paragraph you refer to the "opinions of mankind." Whose polling data are you using? Without specific evidence, it seems to us the "opinions of mankind" are a matter of opinion.
- You hold certain truths to be "self-evident." Could you please elaborate. If they are as evident as you claim then it should not be difficult for you to locate the appropriate supporting statistics.
- "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" seem to be the goals of your proposal. These are not measurable goals. If you were to say that "among these is the ability to sustain an average life expectancy in six of the 13 colonies of at last 55 years, and to enable newspapers in the colonies to print news without outside interference, and to raise the average income of the colonists by 10 percent in the next 10 years," these could be measurable goals. Please clarify.
- You state that "Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government...." Have you weighed this assertion against all the alternatives? What are the trade-off considerations?
- Your description of the existing situation is quite extensive. Such a long list of grievances should precede the statement of goals, not follow it. Your problem statement needs improvement.
- Your strategy for achieving your goal is not developed at all. You state that the colonies "ought to be Free and Independent States," and that they are "Absolved from All Allegiance to the British Crown." Who or what must change to achieve this objective? In what way must they change? What specific steps will you take to overcome the resistance? How long will it take? We have found that a little foresight in these areas helps to prevent careless errors later on. How cost-effective are your strategies?
- Who among the list of signatories will be responsible for implementing your strategy? Who conceived it? Who provided the theoretical research? Who will constitute the advisory committee? Please submit an organization chart and vitas of the principal investigators.
- You must include an evaluation design. We have been requiring this since Queen Anne's War.
- What impact will your problem have? Your failure to include any assessment of this inspires little confidence in the long-range prospects of your undertaking.
- Please submit a PERT diagram, an activity chart, itemized budget, and manpower utilization matrix.

We hope that these comments prove useful in revising your "Declaration of Independence." We welcome the submission of your revised proposal. Our due date for unsolicited proposals is July 31, 1776. Ten copies with original signatures will be required.

Sincerely,  
 Management Analyst to the British Crown

# U.S. Army regulations for the operation of aeroplanes

To Begin January 1920

- Do not take the machine into the air unless you are satisfied it will fly.
- Never leave the ground if the motor is dripping.
- Do not make any sharp turns while on the ground. Sharp turns will be made by lifting the tail.
- No machine will taxi faster than a man can walk.
- Never run motor so as to blow on other machines.
- Never get out of a machine with the motor on until the pilot taking over can reach the controls.
- Pilots should carry kerchiefs in a place so as to clean his goggles.
- Riding on the step, wing, or rails of the machine is prohibited.
- Never take a machine into the air until you are familiar with the controls and instruments.
- Pilots shall not wear spurs when flying.
- No two cadets shall ride together in the same machine.
- In case the motor stops when taking to the air, the pilot should land straight ahead regardless of obstacles.
- On taking to the air, one should look at the ground and the air.
- You must not take-off or land closer than 50 feet to the hanger.
- Hedge-hopping shall not be tolerated.
- No spins on back or tail slides will be indulged in as it puts unnecessary strain on the machine.
- Do not trust altitude gages.
- If you see another machine near you, get out of the way.
- Learn to gauge altitude, especially when landing.
- IF FLYING AGAINST THE WIND AND YOU WISH TO FLY WITH THE WIND, DO NOT MAKE A SHARP TURN NEAR THE GROUND. \*\*\* YOU MAY CRASH. \*\*\*
- If an emergency occurs while in the air, LAND as soon as possible.
- Before you begin a landing glide, look to see that no machines are below you.
- Motors have been known to stop while on a long glide. If the pilot wishes to use the motor to land, he should open the throttle.
- Do not attempt to force the machine onto the ground with more than flying speed. The result is bounding or ricocheting.
- Do not use aeronautical gasoline in motorcycles or automobiles.

## Heaven and hell

### ***Heaven is Where***

The police are British  
The cooks are Italian  
The lovers are French  
The mechanics are German  
And it's all organized by the Swiss

The lovers are Swiss  
The police are German  
And it's all organized by the Italians

### ***Hell is Where***

The cooks are British  
The mechanics are French

## Enterprise v. Road Runner

Captain's Log, Stardate 54324.5: Starfleet Command has directed the Enterprise to do a preliminary exploration of planet M22 in advance of a full research team. Scanners report the atmosphere to be breathable, but are receiving confusing readings with regard to life forms. I am beaming down with a landing party composed of all our chief officers except for poor Scotty.

Supplement: Redshirt Riley has received a head injury, apparently while exploring under a high rock shelf. He reports only hearing a loud sound and jumping before being struck. After examination by Dr. McCoy he has been judged capable of continuing duty.

Supplement: We have encountered an alien creature on this planet. While it does not itself seem menacing, a unfortunate occurrence took place when it was present. Specifically, on my orders Lt. Sulu drew his phaser. The creature disappeared leaving a puff of smoke, immediately following which a loud noise was heard next to Sulu. Sulu fired, hitting Ens. Chekov. Oddly enough, although Sulu's weapon was set to stun, Chekov was also covered with a black powder similar to soot. Mr. Chekov has been sent back to the ship for examination and quarantine.

Stardate 54326.2, Mr. Spock reporting: Tricorder readings indicate that the creature we encountered earlier is constantly moving at great speed over the surface of the planet. We have encountered the creature once again. In an attempt to slow the creature for study, I attempted to fire on it. The creature, however, appeared to move faster than the phaser beam. Regretfully, the beam struck an outcropping of rock above the Captain's head, causing it to break off and fall. Although it appears that several tons of rock fell squarely on the Captain, he was driven straight into the ground but apparently not seriously injured, though stunned. The Captain has been beamed up to Sickbay, leaving me in command of the research party.

Captain's Log, Stardate 54342.1: The creature is still at large on the planet surface. While Mr. Spock continues to lead a research party I am currently at work with Mr. Scott on an Acme Pressure Cooker for our lab, for when the creature is finally apprehended.

Captain's Log, stardate 54342.3. The strange occurrences that have dogged the landing party since our arrival at this planet have led me to believe that the creature is in some way directly responsible for them. Mr. Chekov and I have both been declared fit for return to duty, though Dr. McCoy has entered in his medical log that he feels we should be kept under observation. Mr. Spock has constructed a device which he suspects should be able to counteract the creature's incredible speed as follows: We have placed a dish of birdseed out in the open, with several signs pointing to it. The dish is atop a cleverly concealed trap door, which will open when any weight falls on it. The creature will then travel a slide, eventually being deposited in a cage constructed of sheets of transparent aluminum. We will then be free to analyze it at our leisure. Meanwhile, I have forbidden all beaming down to the surface of the planet except on my or Mr. Spock's direct order.



Captain's Log, supplemental. The plan failed. The creature was indeed lured by the birdseed, as expected. It sped to the dish, consumed the bait, and sped off without setting off the trap. Mr. Spock is as puzzled as I, and has begun tests to discover the flaw in the design. I have sent out three search parties to see if we can box the creature in, one headed by Mr. Sulu, one by Mr. Chekov, and one by Sociologist Xontel.

Captain's Log, stardate 54342.8. Sociologist Xontel has been temporarily incapacitated. In pursuing the creature, he and his men somehow managed to cross the place where Mr. Spock's trap was set just as he completed the corrections to it. The trap was sprung, and all four of my men were suspended for a moment in mid-air, puzzled, just before they fell into the cage we constructed. We are now trying to release them with phasers, as the lock was inadvertently smashed by the impact from Sociologist Xontel's foot as he fell. I consider this a major setback. Mr. Spock considers it "fascinating."

Captain's Log, stardate 54343.4. In an all-out attempt to stop the creature once and for all, I have had a phaser rifle beamed down from the Enterprise. The creature has behaved in an extremely cunning manner, yet I am unsure whether this is a sign of actual intelligence. Lt. Uhura has been unsuccessful in her attempts to raise Starfleet Command. Meanwhile, Mr. Scott informs me that our dilithium crystals are deteriorating at an alarming rate. He has juryrigged a system that will prevent the decay for a time, but it is imperative that we find new crystals soon.

Captain's Log, supplemental. Mr. Sulu reports high energy tricorder readings from an area of the planet in which the creature has not yet been sighted. He has taken a small party, including Mr. Spock, to the high-elevation spot from which the readings emanate. I have begun to analyze the creature's movements. It seems to travel consistently over a set path. Perhaps we can corner it in a tunnel it seems to pass through frequently.

Captain's Log, stardate 54344.7. Mr. Sulu has located a cache of ACME dilithium crystals atop a high cliff. Regretfully, while collecting them, the edge of the cliff broke off, and he and Mr. Spock plummeted several hundred feet to the ground below. Strangely enough, they both survived the fall with no more than raising a cloud of dust on impact, although they did pass the chunk of rock on the way down and end up completely buried. A rescue excavation has commenced, and they should be safe shortly.

Captain's Log, stardate 54344.9. Mr. Spock has beamed up to the ship with them to assist Mr. Scott in their installation, as he foresees compatibility problems. Back on the planet's surface, Mr. Chekov led seven men into the tunnel in an attempt to capture the creature in transit. A loud BEEP, BEEP was heard, and Chekov aimed the phaser rifle and commanded his men to spread out. I wish to state for the record that I would have acted similarly, and that Ensign Chekov should in no way be held responsible for the unfortunate circumstances arising from the unexpected appearance of an old Earth-style freight train. He has been beamed back up to the ship with minor injuries.

Captain's Log, stardate 54345.1. Dr. McCoy has beamed down with a hypo containing a mixture of kyranide, tri-ox compound, Scalosian concentrate, a theragram derivative, and some other items he found in unmarked containers in Sickbay. By



injecting a small amount into each member of the landing party, I hope to be able to deal with the creature on its own high speed terms.

Captain's Log, supplemental. The latest experiment to deal with the strange creature has failed. As Dr. McCoy was injecting a measured dose of the compound, it abruptly appeared behind him and uttered a loud BEEP, BEEP! Dr. McCoy, understandably flustered, accidentally pressured in the entire contents of the hypo into his arm. A full security team is in pursuit of him, waiting for the effects of the drug to wear off.

Captain's Log, stardate 54345.2. I have ordered the landing party transported back to the ship. The new dilithium crystals have been successfully installed. On my responsibility, the ship is preparing to engage main phasers to attack the creature, which continues on its semi-erratic course across the planet's surface.

Captain's Log, supplemental. This is a warning to all other starships that may pass this way. Do not approach this planet! The illogical events occurring here are too much to overcome with simple science. If you have heard the events transcribed in the rest of this log, you will learn that this creature is nearly undefeatable. We channelled full ship's power through the phaser banks. Theoretically, the creature should have been destroyed; however, the energies were too much strain for the ACME crystals. The full force of the phasers backlashed over the Enterprise, engulfing her completely. At first, the only noticeable effect was a complete failure of all systems save emergency gravity and life support. Then a web of black lines spread through the Enterprise's superstructure. Next, the ship began breaking up, piece by piece, falling through the atmosphere to land on the surface of the planet. When the ship had collapsed entirely, my crew was left hanging in space for a short time, and finally each of us began to fall to the planet below. We have no theories on how any of us survived, but every crewmember has reported nothing more than a sense of uneasiness, followed by the realization that they were several hundred miles up in the air, a sinking sensation, and then a gradual drop: first the feet, then the body, and finally the head, usually wearing a resigned expression of perplexity. We are attempting now to communicate with the creature in the hopes that it will prove intelligent. Perhaps we can communicate our peaceful intentions to it. Mr. Spock has constructed a crude rocket launcher from the wreckage of the ship, and with this we hope to send the recorder marker up into space, where hopefully someone will find it. Captain James T. Kirk, of the United Federation of Planets, Captain of the Starship Enterprise, recording.

## Ways to say someone is stupid

1. A few clowns short of a circus.
2. A few fries short of a Happy Meal.
3. An experiment in Artificial Stupidity.
4. A few beers short of a six-pack.
5. Dumber than a box of hair.
6. A few peas short of a casserole.
7. Doesn't have all his cornflakes in one box.
8. The wheel's spinning, but the hamster's dead.
9. One Fruit Loop shy of a full bowl.
10. One taco short of a combination plate.

11. A few feathers short of a whole duck.
12. All foam, no beer.
13. The cheese slid off his cracker.
14. Body by Fisher, brains by Mattel.
15. Has an IQ of 2, but it takes 3 to grunt.
16. Warning: Objects in mirror are dumber than they appear.
17. Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel.
18. He fell out of the Stupid tree and hit every branch on the way down.
19. An intellect rivaled only by garden tools.
20. As smart as bait.
21. Chimney's clogged.
22. Doesn't have all his dogs on one leash.
23. Doesn't know much but leads the league in nostril hair.
24. Elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor.
25. Forgot to pay his brain bill.
26. Her sewing machine's out of thread.
27. His antenna doesn't pick up all the channels.
28. His belt doesn't go through all the loops.
29. If he had another brain, it would be lonely.
30. Missing a few buttons on his remote control.
31. No grain in the silo.
32. Proof that evolution CAN go in reverse.
33. Receiver is off the hook.
34. Several nuts short of a full pouch.
35. Skylight leaks a little.
36. Slinky's kinked.
37. Surfing in Nebraska.
38. Too much yardage between the goal posts.
39. In the pinball game of life, his flippers were a little further apart than most.

## Dictionary of dating

- **ATTRACTION** : the act of associating horniness with a particular person.
- **LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT** : what occurs when two extremely horny, but not entirely choosy people meet.
- **DATING** : the process of spending enormous amounts of money, time and energy to get better acquainted with a person whom you don't especially like in the present and will learn to like a lot less in the future.
- **BIRTH CONTROL** : avoiding pregnancy through such tactics as swallowing special pills, inserting a diaphragm, using a condom, and dating repulsive men.
- **EASY** : a term used to describe a woman who had the sexual morals of a man.
- **EYE CONTACT** : a method utilized by one person to indicate that they are interested in another. Despite being advised to do so, many men have difficulty looking a woman directly in the eyes, not necessarily due to shyness, but usually due to the fact that a woman's eyes are not located in her chest.
- **FRIEND** : a person in your acquaintance who has some flaw which makes sleeping with him/her totally unappealing.
- **INDIFFERENCE** : a woman's feeling towards a man, which is interpreted by the man to be "playing hard to get".

- INTERESTING : a word a man uses to describe a woman who lets him do all the talking.
- IRRITATING HABIT : what the endearing little qualities that initially attract two people to each other turn into after a few months together.
- LAW OF RELATIVITY : how attractive a given person appears to be is directly proportionate to how unattractive your date is.
- NYMPHOMANIAC : a man's term for a woman who wants to have sex more often than he does.
- SOBER : condition in which it is almost impossible to fall in love. We all know that men are not quite as adept at fashion as women. In fact guys will pretty much wear anything, anytime, with anything. This creates the false impression that guys just "throw" any old thing on. This however is not the case. As this handy little guide points out, getting dressed is a highly complex and organized ritual for men.

## Profound sayings

A bird in the hand is better than a pig in a poke.  
A closed book traps no flies.  
A cow knows its own tail.  
A leaping frog takes no prisoners.  
A locked jaw has no key.  
A man in a sack troubles no owl.  
A stitch in tights saves very little.  
A surprise gift is never expected.  
Behind every black poodle is a woman with hairy legs.  
Big hat on head, useless in bed.  
Fingers for hands, toes for feet.  
He who answers the phone in the early evening must be in need of double glazing.  
He who giveth up his seat stands.  
He who kills the dove must gather up the feathers.  
He who wears his trousers back to front does not fool the wise man.  
It's a tall man who can clean his gutters without a ladder.  
It's never too late to miss a train.  
It is a poor lawn that needs no cutting.  
It is a strange telephone directory that contains no numbers.  
Look after the pence before you leap.  
Not all drains lead to the sea.  
Nothing whiffs half so much that sniffing makes it so.  
One swallow does not make a meal.  
Open your hand if you want to read your palm.  
Saddle a dead horse and you will have no need of your overnight bag.  
The man who speaks the truth must surely have something to hide.  
There's mony a wirroch in a spoilt birroch.  
Two bullocks do not make a herd.  
What cannot be said let us not say.  
Where there's a grandmother there are three generations.  
You can take a horse to Wembley, but you'd be in the wrong place.

## Proud to be an engineer

A math/engineering convention was being held. On the train to the convention, there were a bunch of mathematicians and a bunch of engineers. Each of the mathematicians had his/her train ticket. The group of engineers had only ONE ticket for all of them. The mathematicians started laughing and snickering. Then, one of the engineers said "here comes the conductor" and then all of the engineers went into the toilet. The mathematicians were puzzled. The conductor came aboard and said "tickets please" and got tickets from all the mathematicians. He then went to the toilet and knocked on the door and said "ticket please" and the engineers stuck the ticket under the door. The conductor took it and then the engineers came out of the toilet a few minutes later. The mathematicians felt really stupid.

So, on the way back from the convention, the group of mathematicians had one ticket for the group. They started snickering at the engineers, for the whole group had no tickets amongst them. Then, the engineer lookout said “Conductor coming!”. All the engineers went to one toilet. All the mathematicians went to another toilet. Then, before the conductor came on board, one of the engineers left the toilet, knocked on the other toilet, and said “**ticket please.**”

## Hitherto undiscovered and revolting dishes

Ambrosia creamed mice	Ice cream hornet
Baked elastic	Jugged hair
Baked grout	Larvae bread
Bat'n'bird cake	Mashed suede
Battered vole	Mint choc chick
Beaked vole cutlet	Mules marinière
Beans on toes	Mushy bees
Beef wellingtons	Petit poids
Bigot	Phlegm bruleé
Bjork scratchings	Rat à touille
Blunkett	Roast turnkey
Buttered puffins	Scotch breath
Chicken chaffeur	Shepherd's eye
Codpieces	Sock au vin
Crispy poodles	Soiled egg
Cumbersome sausage	Soused earring
Drugged hare	Spaghetti carburetta
Duck à l'orang	Stewed prudes
Duck with orange sores	Toad in the mole
Eggs quarantine	Tornado of beef
Faked potatoes	Vole au vent
Fetid cheese salad	Vole veronique
Five bee salad	Yule dog

## Science paper bloopers

- When you breath, you inspire. When you do not breath, you expire.
- H<sub>2</sub>O is hot water, and CO<sub>2</sub> is cold water
- To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube
- When you smell an oderless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide
- Water is composed of two gins, Oxygen and Hydrogin. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.
- Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.
- Blood flows down one leg and up the other.
- Respiration is composed of two acts, first inspiration, and then expectoration.
- The moon is a planet just like the earth, only it is even deader.

- Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull.
- Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.
- A super-saturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold.
- Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas.
- The body consists of three parts- the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowls, of which there are five - a, e, i, o, and u.
- The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.
- The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Indiana.
- The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is something to hitch meat to.
- A permanent set of teeth consists of eight canines, eight cuspids, two molars, and eight cuspidors.
- The tides are a fight between the Earth and moon. All water tends towards the moon, because there is no water in the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.
- A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.
- Equator: A managerie lion running around the Earth through Africa.
- Germinate: To become a naturalized German.
- Liter: A nest of young puppies.
- Magnet: Something you find crawling all over a dead cat.
- Momentum: What you give a person when they are going away.
- Planet: A body of Earth surrounded by sky.
- Rhubarb: A kind of celery gone bloodshot.
- Vacuum: A large, empty space where the pope lives.
- Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.
- To remove dust from the eye, pull the eye down over the nose.
- For a nosebleed: Put the nose much lower than the body until the heart stops.
- For drowning: Climb on top of the person and move up and down to make artificial perspiration.
- For fainting: Rub the person's chest or, if a lady, rub her arm above the hand instead. Or put the head between the knees of the nearest medical doctor.
- For dog bite: put the dog away for several days. If he has not recovered, then kill it.
- For asphyxiation: Apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
- For head cold: use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat.
- To keep milk from turning sour: Keep it in the cow.

## You spend too much time with your PC when...

- The letterhead lists a fax number, e-mail addresses for two on-line services, and your Internet address, which spreads across the breadth of the letterhead and continues to the back. In essence, you have conceded that the first page of any letter you write \*is\* letterhead.
- You have never sat through an entire movie without having at least one device on your body beep or buzz.

- You need to fill out a form that must be typewritten, but you can't because there isn't one typewriter in your house -- only computers with laser printers.
- You think of the gadgets in your office as “friends,” but you forget to send your father a birthday card.
- You disdain people who use low baud rates.
- When you go into a computer store, you eavesdrop on a salesperson talking with customers -- and you butt in to correct him and spend the next twenty minutes answering the customers' questions, while the salesperson stands by silently, nodding his head.
- You use the phrase “digital compression” in a conversation without thinking how strange your mouth feels when you say it.
- You constantly find yourself in groups of people to whom you say the phrase “digital compression.” Everyone understands what you mean, and you are not surprised or disappointed that you don't have to explain it.
- You know Bill Gates' e-mail address, but you have to look up your own social security number.
- You stop saying “phone number” and replace it with “voice number,” since we all know the majority of phone lines in any house are plugged into contraptions that talk to other contraptions.
- You sign Christmas cards by putting :-) next to your signature.
- Off the top of your head, you can think of nineteen keystroke symbols that are far more clever than :-).
- You back up your data every day.
- Your wife asks you to pick up some minipads for her at the store and you return with a rest for your mouse.
- You think jokes about being unable to program a VCR are stupid.
- On vacation, you are reading a computer manual and turning the pages faster than everyone else who is reading John Grisham novels.
- The thought that a CD could refer to finance or music rarely enters your mind.
- You are able to argue persuasively the Ross Perot's phrase “electronic town hall” makes more sense than the term “information superhighway,” but you don't because, after all, the man still uses hand-drawn pie charts.
- You go to computer trade shows and map out your path of the exhibit hall in advance. But you cannot give someone directions to your house without looking up the street names.
- You would rather get more dots per inch than miles per gallon.
- You become upset when a person calls you on the phone to sell you something, but you think it's okay for a computer to call and demand that you start pushing buttons on your telephone to receive more information about the product it is selling.
- You know without a doubt that disks come in five-and-a-quarter-and three-and-a-half-inch sizes.
- You own a set of itty-bitty screw-drivers and you actually know where they are.
- While contemporaries swap stories about their recent hernia surgeries, you compare mouse-induced index-finger strain with a nine-year-old.
- You are so knowledgeable about technology that you feel secure enough to say “I don't know” when someone asks you a technology question instead of feeling compelled to make something up.
- You rotate your screen savers more frequently than your automobile tires.

- You have a functioning home copier machine, but every toaster you own turns bread into charcoal.
- You have ended friendships because of irreconcilably different opinions about which is better -- the track ball or the track \*pad\*.
- You understand all the jokes in this message. If so, my friend, technology has taken over your life. We suggest, for your own good, that you go lie under a tree and write a haiku. And don't use a laptop.

## Useless facts

- Coca-cola was originally green.
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the US Treasury.
- Smartest dogs: 1) border collie; 2)poodle; 3)golden retriever; Dumbest--afghan
- The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.
- Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.
- Amount American Airlines saved in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served first class: \$40,000
- City with the most Rolls Royce's per capita: Hong Kong
- State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska
- Percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28
- Percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38
- Estimated percentage of American adults who go on a diet each year: 44
- Barbie's measurements if she were life size: 39-23-33
- Average number of days a West German goes without washing his underwear: 7
- Percentage of American men who say they would marry the same woman if they had it to do all over again: 80
- Percentage of American women who say they would marry the same man: 50
- Percentage of men who say they are happier after their divorce or separation: 58
- Percentage of women who say they are happier: 85
- Number of different family relationships for which Hallmark makes cards: 105
- Cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400
- Average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000.
- Percentage of Americans who have visited Disneyland or Disney World: 70
- Portion of ice cream sold that is vanilla: 1/3
- Portion of potatoes sold that are French fried: 1/3
- Percentage of Americans that eat at McDonalds each day: 7
- Percentage of bird species that are monogamous: 90
- Percentage of mammal species that are: 3
- Number of US states that claim test scores in their elementary schools are above national average: 50
- Only food that does not spoil: honey
- Only bird that can fly backwards: Hummingbird
- Only continent without reptiles or snakes: Antartica
- Only animal besides human that can get sunburn: pig
- Ostriches stick their heads in the sand to look for water.
- In the Caribbean there are oysters that can climb trees.



- Polar bears are left-handed.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- Eskimos never gamble.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- Proportional to their weight, men are stronger than horses.
- Pilgrims ate popcorn at the first Thanksgiving dinner.
- Your nose and ears never stop growing.
- Jupiter is bigger than all the other planets in our solar system combined.
- Hot water is heavier than cold.
- They have square watermelons in Japan...they stack better.
- Cream does not weigh as much as milk.
- Starfish have eight eyes--one at the end of each leg.
- Iceland consumes more Coca-cola per capita than any other nation.
- First novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer.
- Heinz Tomato Ketchup leaving the bottle travels at 25 miles per year.
- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.
- Men get hiccups more often than woman.
- Armadillos can be housebroken.

## Crackpot index

A simple method for rating potentially revolutionary contributions to physics.

- A -5 point starting credit.
- 1 point for every statement that is widely agreed on to be false.
- 2 points for every statement that is clearly vacuous.
- 3 points for every statement that is logically inconsistent.
- 5 points for each such statement that is adhered to despite careful correction.
- 5 points for using a thought experiment that contradicts the results of a widely accepted real experiment.
- 5 points for each word in all capital letters (except for those with defective keyboards).
- 10 points for each claim that quantum mechanics is fundamentally misguided (without good evidence).
- 10 points for each favorable comparison of oneself to Einstein, or claim that special or general relativity are fundamentally misguided (without good evidence).
- 10 points for pointing out that one has gone to school, as if this were evidence of sanity.
- 20 points for suggesting that you deserve a Nobel prize.
- 20 points for each favorable comparison of oneself to Newton or claim that classical mechanics is fundamentally misguided (without evidence).
- 20 points for every use of science fiction works or myths as if they were fact.
- 20 points for defending yourself by bringing up (real or imagined) ridicule accorded to ones past theories.
- 30 points for each favorable comparison of oneself to Galileo, claims that the Inquisition is hard at work on ones case, etc..

- 30 points for claiming that the “scientific establishment” is engaged in a “conspiracy” to prevent ones work from gaining its well-deserved fame, or suchlike.
- 40 points for claiming one has a revolutionary theory but giving no concrete testable predictions.

## Words that are fun to say

### Places

Uruguay  
Paducah  
Zimbabwe  
Mozambique  
Rancho Cucamongo  
Bora Bora  
Katmandu

### People

Hipster  
Skamakowitz  
Mysoginist  
Octogenarian  
Beelzebub  
Huffnagle  
Phlebotomist  
Otorhinolaryncologist  
Flautist  
Beeblebrox

### Behaviors

High-Falutin'  
Aspersions  
Digginit  
Discombobulate  
Vituperating  
Obsterperous  
Pecksniffian  
Gymnophilia  
Polyphiloprogenitive

### States of Being

Monotonous  
Melancholy  
Geocentric  
Orthogonalization  
Lilliputian  
Homogenized  
Onomatopoeia  
Disillusion  
Unctous

### Morphogenesis

Debauchery  
Osculation  
Swank  
Zog  
Transfinite  
Phantasmagorical

### Things

Rhutabega  
Wankle-Rotary Engine  
Catamaran  
Schnitzel  
Fandango  
Van Allen Belt  
Poinsettia  
Sphygmomanometer  
Follicle  
Medulla Oblongata  
Frankfurter  
Chimichanga  
Lumpsucker  
Phylactery  
Opiate  
Zarf  
Loofa  
Zamboni  
Fructose  
Werepteranodon  
Scumidibigidibum  
Methylchloroisothiazolinone  
Borborygmy  
Krankenwagon  
Bongo  
Megaphone

### Phrases

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny  
A man. A plan. A canal. Panama.  
Winky Tinky Ha Ha Hut  
Competitive Inhibition  
Eschew Obfuscations

## Miscellaneous

Kizinti  
Oligopoly  
Juxtaposition  
Duma  
Slepitchka  
Qatar

Antidisestablishmentarianism  
Heebee Jeebees  
Tomfoolery  
Shenanigans  
Acrophilia  
Palindrome

## Elephant books

Every nation has to write a book about the Elephant:

The French book	1000 ways to cook Elephant
The English book	Elephants I have shot on Safari
The Welsh book	The Elephant and its influence on Welsh language and culture or: Oes ysgol tocynnau eleffant llanfairpwll nhadau coeden.
The American book	How to Make Bigger And Better Elephants
The Japanese book	How to Make Smaller And Cheaper Elephants
The Greek book	How to Sell Elephants for a Lot of Money
The Finnish book	What Do Elephants Think about Finnish People
The German book	A Short Introduction to Elephants, Vol 1-6.
The Icelandic book	Defrosting an Elephant
The Swiss book	Switzerland: The Country Through Which Hannibal Went With His Elephants
The Canadian book	Elephants: A Federal or State Issue?
The Swedish book	How to reduce your taxes with an elephant.

## Things not to say or do in a zoo

1. Ask to borrow a lion, so that you can scare one of your friends.
2. Dress up as a monkey and run around yelling, "I'm FREE! I'm FREE!"
3. Roam around on all fours, and look at people with food expectantly.
4. Put on a crown, jump in the lion cage, and scream, "I AM KING OF THE JUNGLE! RESPECT ME! GIVE ME LARGE PORTIONS OF STEAK AND TELL YOUR KIDS NOT TO COME TOO CLOSE TO ME!"
5. Try to pet one of the carnivorous animals, after covering yourself with meat tenderizer.
6. Look at the gorilla. Flex your muscles. Then, tell everyone around that you could beat him easily, if it were just the two of you.
7. Try to interview a snake.
8. Turn in a teddy bear, and ask for a reward.
9. Turn in yourself. Ask for more.
10. Put on a hook for a hand, visit the crocodiles, and then yell "I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!" to one of them repeatedly. If someone asks, say it was a traumatic childhood incident that sparked your hatred.
11. Dress up as a tour guide, and then lie about the animals. ("The first zebra was found in 1956, in the kitchen of Walter Smith, a famous mathematician.")

12. Pretend you're a spy. Spy on the giraffe.
13. When you get near the hyena, start laughing, and as soon as you've passed it, stop. If people ask, tell them that a hyena laughed at your Uncle Cyril after he tripped on a well placed banana.

## Company car features

Company Cars have the following features rarely found in Private Cars:

- They travel faster in all gears, especially reverse.
- They accelerate at a phenomenal rate.
- They have a much shorter braking distance.
- They have a much tighter turning circle.
- They can take ramps (or any other hazard) at twice the speed of private cars.
- Battery, water, oil and tyre pressures do not need to be checked nearly so often.
- The floor is shaped like an ashtray.
- They only burn the most expensive petrol.
- They do not need to be garaged at night.
- They can be driven miles with the oil warning light flashing.
- They very seldom need cleaning, especially inside.
- The suspension is reinforced to permit carriage of concrete slabs or other heavy building materials for weekend DIY work.
- They are specially adapted to allow reverse gear to be engaged whilst the car is still moving forward.
- The tyre walls are designed to allow bumping into and over kerbstones.
- Unusual or alarming engine noises are easily eliminated by the adjustment of the fitted radio volume control knob.
- No security needed - may be left unlocked with the keys in the ignition.
- They are designed to tow loads far exceeding normal and are suited for backing into water at loading ramps.
- No need to take the foot off the clutch while waiting for the lights to change.
- Much better for the 17 year olds to learn driving in.

## Pairs of contradictory proverbs

Look before you leap.

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

Two heads are better than one.

Haste makes waste.

You're never too old to learn.

A word to the wise is sufficient.

It's better to be safe than sorry.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

He who hesitates is lost.

Don't beat your head against a stone wall.

Out of sight, out of mind.

Don't cross the bridge until you come to it.

Paddle your own canoe.

Time waits for no man.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Talk is cheap.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.

Do unto others as you would have  
others do unto you.  
Hitch your wagon to a star.  
Many hands make light work.  
Don't judge a book by its cover.  
The squeaking wheel gets the grease.

Nice guys finish last.  
Don't bite off more than you can chew.  
Too many cooks spoil the broth.  
Clothes make the man.  
Silence is golden.

## The whys and wherefores of sound & spelling discrepancies

There are five principal reasons for the discrepancy between the written representation of many English words and their actual pronunciation:

1. English orthography had several diverse origins with different spelling conventions:
  2. The system that had evolved in Wessex before the Norman Invasion of 1066 gave us such spellings as *ee* for the sound in words like *deed* and *seen*.
  3. The system that was overlaid on the Old English system by the Normans, with their French orthographic customs, gave us such spellings as *queen* (for the earlier *cween*) and *thief* (for earlier *theef*).
  4. A Dutch influence from Caxton, the first English printer, who was born in England but lived in Holland for thirty years, gave us such spellings as *ghost* (which replaced *gost*) and *ghastly* (which replaced *gastlic*).
  5. During the Renaissance, an attempt to reform spelling along etymological (that is, historically earlier) lines gave us *debt* for earlier *det* or *dette* and *salmon* for earlier *samon*.
- A spelling system established several hundred years ago is still used for a language that continues to change and develop its spoken form. Thus the initial *k* in *knock*, *know*, *knee*, and certain other words was once pronounced, as was the *gh* in *knight* and *thought*, among others. As to vowels, change in progress when the system was developing and continuing change in pronunciation have led to such mismatched spelling for mismatched pronunciations as *beat/great* and *food/foot*.
  - English is spoken differently in different countries throughout the world (and in different regions within a single country), despite a relatively uniform standard for written orthography. Though this orthographic uniformity certainly facilitates international communication, it also increases the disparity between the way English is written and spoken in any given place.
  - Words (and their meaningful subparts) alter their pronunciation depending on the adjacent sounds and stress patterns. For example, in *electric* the second *c* represents the sound [k] as in *kiss*, but in *electricity* it represents the sound [s] as in *silly*. Compare also the pronunciation of *i* in *senile* (pronounced like the *i* of *ill*) with its pronunciation in *senility* (in which it has the *i* of *ill*).
  - Spoken forms differ from one set of circumstances to another---for example, in formal and informal situations. While some degree of such variation is incorporated into the written system (*do not/don't*; *was/twas*), there is relatively little tolerance for such spelling variation as *gonna* ('going to'), *wanna* ('want to'), *gotcha* ('got you'), and *jeat yet?* ('did you eat yet?'). Such variable spelling of variable speech would force readers to determine the pronunciation of the represented speech before arriving at meaning, instead of directly for meaning, as adult readers normally do, with the necessity of silent pronunciation.

## Bad analogies

- Oooo, he smells bad, she thought, as bad as Calvin Klein's Obsession would smell if it were called Enema and was made from spoiled Spamburgers instead of natural floral fragrances.
- The baseball player stepped out of the box and spit like a fountain statue of a Greek god that scratches itself a lot and spits brown, rusty tobacco water and refuses to sign autographs for all the little Greek kids unless they pay him lots of drachmas.
- I felt a nameless dread. Well, there probably is a long German name for it, like Geschpooklichkeit or something, but I don't speak German. Anyway, it's a dread that nobody knows the name for, like those little square plastic gizmos that close your bread bags. I don't know the name for those either.
- She was as unhappy as when someone puts your cake out in the rain, and all the sweet green icing flows down and then you lose the recipe, and on top of that you can't sing worth a damn.
- His fountain pen was so expensive it looked as if someone had grabbed the pope, turned him upside down and started writing with the tip of his big pointy hat.
- He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.
- The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.
- The politician was gone but unnoticed, like the period after the Dr. on a Dr Pepper can.
- He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.
- She caught your eye like one of those pointy hook latches that used to dangle from screen doors and would fly up whenever you banged the door open again.
- The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
- From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and "Jeopardy" comes on at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30.
- Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.
- Her eyes were like two brown circles with big black dots in the center.
- Bob was as perplexed as a hacker who means to access T:\flw.quid>55328.com\aaakk/ch@ung but gets T:\flw.quid>aaakk/ch@ung by mistake.
- Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- Her date was pleasant enough, but she knew that if her life was a movie this guy would be buried in the credits as something like "Second Tall Man."
- Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.
- They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
- John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.

- The thunder was ominous-sounding, much like the sound of a thin sheet of metal being shaken backstage during the storm scene in a play.
- His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
- The red brick wall was the color of a brick-red Crayola crayon.

## Fun with foreign phrases

The following are some of the winners in a New York magazine contest, in which the rules were: take ANY well-known phrase in ANY foreign language, change JUST ONE SINGLE LETTER, and then provide a definition for the new expression.

HARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?	Can you drive a French motorcycle?
IDIOS AMIGOS	We're wild and crazy guys
VENI, VIPI, VICI	I came, I'm a very important person, I conquered
COGITO, EGGO SUM	I think, therefore I waffle
RIGOR MORRIS	The cat is dead
RESPONDEZ S'IL VOUS PLAID	Honk if you're Scottish
QUE SERA SERF	Life is feudal
LE ROI EST MORT, JIVE LE ROI	The king is dead. No kidding
POSH MORTEM	Death styles of the rich and famous
PRO BOZO PUBLICO	Support your local clown
MONAGE A TROIS	I am three years old
FELIX NAVIDAD	Our cat has a boat
HASTE CUISINE	Fast French food
VENI, VIDI, VICE	I came, I saw, I partied
QUIP PRO QUO	A fast retort
ALOHA OY	Love; greetings, farewell; from such a pain you should never know
MAZEL TON	Tons of good luck
ICH LIEBE RICH	I'm really crazy about having dough
FUI GENERIS	What's mine is mine
VISA LA FRANCE	Don't leave your chateau without it
CA VA SANS DIRT	And that's not gossip
MERCI RIEN	Thanks for nothin'
AMICUS PURIAE	Platonic friend



## The importance of proper punctuation

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy--will you let me be yours?

Gloria

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?

Yours, Gloria

## How I met my wife

If had been a rough day, so when I walked into the party I was very chalang, despite my efforts to appear grunted and consolate.

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

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

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

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

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



Nevertheless, since this was all new hat to me and I had not time to prepare a promptu speech, I was petuous. Wanting to make only called-for remarks, I started talking about the hors d'oeuvres, trying to abuse her of the notion that I was sipid, and perhaps even bunk a few myths about myselfs.

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

## Amazing English sentences

Look at these sentences. Each of them is normal English for some people, somewhere in the world.

- Let's buy some food home! (Singapore)
- Don't smoke without causing an explosion! (South Wales)
- AIDS is very popular in Africa. (Hong Kong)
- My hair needs washed. (Scotland, Northern Ireland, parts of USA)
- Whenever my baby was born I was 26. (Northern Ireland)
- Her outlook is very beautiful. (Hong Kong)
- John smokes a lot anymore. (Mid-West USA)
- I am difficult to study. (Hong Kong)
- I might could do it. (Scotland, Northern England, India, parts of USA)
- My name is spelt with four alphabets. (Singapore)
- You must beware of your handbag! (Hong Kong)
- We'll be there nine while ten. (Lancashire, Yorkshire)
- He loves his car than his girlfriend. (India, parts of Africa)
- Come here till I punch you! (Ireland, Liverpool, Cumbria, parts of Scotland)
- I'm after losing my ticket. (Ireland)
- My brother helps me with my studies and so do my car. (Hong Kong)
- I been know your name. (USA (Black))
- I use to live there now. (Singapore)
- My grandfather died for a long time. (Hong Kong)
- I am having a nice car. (India, Singapore)
- I'll give it him. (Northern England (standard))
- Robots can do people not like jobs. (Hong Kong (low proficiency))

## Etch-a-Sketch technical support

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has a distorted display. What should I do?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has these funny little lines all over the screen.

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I turn my Etch-A-Sketch off?

A: Pick it up and shake it. Set it down.

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has lines that prevent me from doing my art project.

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I delete a document from my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I keep from losing my Etch-A-Sketch document?

A: Stop shaking it.

## Dog rules

### **BASIC RULES FOR DOGS WHO HAVE A HOME TO PROTECT**

**NEWSPAPERS:** If you have to go to the bathroom while playing in the front garden, always use the newspaper that's placed on the step every morning for that purpose.

**VISITORS:** Quickly determine which guest is afraid of dogs. Charge across the room, barking loudly and leap playfully on this person. If the human falls down on the floor and starts crying, lick its face and growl gently to show your concern.

**BARKING:** Because you are a dog, you are expected to bark. So bark --- a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting their house. Especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds. There is no more secure feeling for a human than to keep waking up in the middle of the night and hearing your protective bark, bark, bark...

**LICKING:** Always take a BIG drink from your water dish immediately before licking your human. Humans prefer clean tongues. Be ready to fetch your human a towel.

**HOLES:** Rather than digging a BIG hole in the middle of the garden and upsetting your human, dig a lot of smaller holes all over the garden so they won't notice. If you arrange a little pile of earth on one side of each hole, maybe they'll think it's moles. There are never enough holes in the ground. Strive daily to do your part to help correct this problem.

**DOORS:** The area directly in front of a door is always reserved for the family dog to sleep.

**THE ART OF SNIFFING:** Humans like to be sniffed. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family dog, to accommodate them.

**DINING ETIQUETTE:** Always sit under the table at dinner, especially when there are guests, so you can clean up any food that falls on the floor. It's also a good time to practice your sniffing.

HOUSEBREAKING: Housebreaking is very important to humans, so break as much of the house as possible.

GOING FOR WALKS: Rules of the road: When out for a walk with your master or mistress, never go to the bathroom on your own lawn.

SOFAS: It is perfectly permissible to lie on the new sofa after all your humans have gone to bed.

PLAYING: If you lose your footing while chasing a ball or stick, use the flower bed to absorb your fall so you don't injure yourself.

CHASING CATS: When chasing cats, make sure you never--- quite--- catch them. It spoils all the fun.

CHEWING: Make a contribution to the fashion industry. ...Eat a shoe.

## Brain damage quiz

Following is a quiz. Please answer all questions True or False, honestly, and to the best of your ability, or your answers may not be honest, or to the best of your ability.

1. People tell me one thing one day and out the other.
2. I can't unclasp my hands.
3. I can wear my shirts as pants.
4. I feel as much like I did yesterday as I do today.
5. At parties, I like to sit by myself and collect a great deal of saliva.
6. I often mistake my hands for food.
7. I'd rather eat soap than little stones.
8. I never liked room temperature.
9. I line my pockets with hot cheese.
10. My throat is closer than it seems.
11. I am annoyed by the taste of my teeth.
12. Sometimes I feel compelled to count the freckles on my arms over and over until I lose control of my bladder.
13. Most things are better eaten than forgotten.
14. Likes and dislikes are among my favorites.
15. My patio is covered with killer frost.
16. I've lost all sensation in my shirt.
17. I try to swallow at least three times a day.
18. My best friend is a social worker.
19. I've always known when to close my eyes.
20. My squirrels don't know where I am tonight.
21. Little can be said for Luxembourg.
22. No napkin is sanitary enough for me.
23. I walk this way because I have to.
24. Walls impede my progress.
25. I can't find my marmots.

26. I like mechanics magazines, but I would rather fondle a marine.
27. My uncle is as stupid as paste.
28. I can pet animals by the mouthful.
29. My toes are numbered.
30. Man's reach should exceed his overbite.
31. People tell me I'm deaf.
32. My beaver won't go near the water.
33. I can find my ears, but I have to look for them.
34. I don't like any of my loved ones.
35. Sometimes I have the strange feeling that I've done something before.
36. Sometimes I have the strange feeling that I've done something before.
37. A good friend should stick to the ceiling when the going gets rough.

## Tools

**HAMMER:** Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive car parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.

**MECHANIC'S KNIFE:** Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on boxes containing convertible tops or tonneau covers.

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning steel Pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age, but it also works great for drilling rollbar mounting holes in the floor of a sports car just above the brake line that goes to the rear axle.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting those stale garage cigarettes you keep hidden in the back of the Whitworth socket drawer (What wife would think to look in *there*?) because you can never remember to buy lighter fluid for the Zippo lighter you got from the PX at Fort Campbell.

**ZIPPO LIGHTER:** See oxyacetelene torch.

**WHITWORTH SOCKETS:** Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for hiding six-month old Salems from the sort of person who would throw them away for no good reason.

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against the Rolling Stones poster over the bench grinder.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans rust off old bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar callouses in about the time it takes you to say, "Django Reinhardt".

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering a Mustang to the ground after you have installed a set of Ford Motorsports lowered road springs, trapping the jack handle firmly under the front air dam.

**EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 2X4:** Used for levering a car upward off a hydraulic jack.

**TWEEZERS:** A tool for removing wood splinters.

**PHONE:** Tool for calling your neighbor Chris to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.

**SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER:** Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for getting dog-doo off your boot.

**E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool that snaps off in bolt holes and is ten times harder than any known drill bit.

**TIMING LIGHT:** A stroboscopic instrument for illuminating grease buildup on crankshaft pulleys.

**TWO-TON HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST:** A handy tool for testing the tensile strength of ground straps and hydraulic clutch lines you may have forgotten to disconnect.

**CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER:** A large motor mount prying tool that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end without the handle.

**BATTERY ELECTROLYTE TESTER:** A handy tool for transferring sulfuric acid from a car battery to the inside of your toolbox after determining that your battery is dead as a doornail, just as you thought.

**AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.

**TROUBLE LIGHT:** The mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin", which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splash oil on your shirt; can also be used, as the name implies, to round-out Phillips screw heads.

**AIR COMPRESSOR:** A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty suspension bolts last tightened 40 years ago by someone in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and rounds them off.

## The end of the world – newsflash!

When the end of the world arrives, how will the media report it?

Daily Mail:  
WE'RE DEAD

The Financial Times:  
FTSE PLUMMETS AS WORLD ENDS

Playboy:  
GIRLS OF THE APOCALYPSE

Microsoft Systems Journal:  
APPLE LOSES MARKET SHARE

Sporting Life:  
GAME OVER

Wired:  
THE LAST NEW THING

New Musical Express:  
THE GRATEFUL DEAD REUNION TOUR

Readers Digest:  
'BYE

New Scientist:  
HOW WILL THE EXTINCTION OF ALL LIFE AS WE KNOW IT AFFECT THE WAY WE VIEW THE COSMOS?

TV Times:  
DEATH AND DAMNATION: RATINGS SOAR!

Woman's Journal:  
LOSE 10 LBS BY JUDGEMENT DAY WITH OUR NEW "ARMAGEDDON" DIET!

Compuserve:  
SYSTEM TEMPORARILY DOWN. TRY CALLING BACK IN 15 MINUTES.

Investor's Chronicle:  
TEN WAYS YOU CAN PROFIT FROM THE APOCALYPSE

Microsoft's Web Site:  
IF YOU DIDN'T EXPERIENCE THE RAPTURE, DOWNLOAD SOFTWARE PATCH  
RAPT777.EXE.

Sun:  
ARMAGEDDON TOLERANT SOFTWARE NOW AVAILABLE!

News at Ten:  
THE END IS NIGH. AND FINALLY...

## A skier's dictionary

**Alp:** One of a number of ski mountains in Europe. Also a shouted request for assistance made by a European skier on a U.S. mountain. An appropriate reply: "What Zermatter?"

**Avalanche:** One of the few actual perils skiers face that needlessly frighten timid individuals away from the sport. See also: Blizzard, Fracture, Frostbite, Hypothermia, Lift Collapse.

**Bindings:** Automatic mechanisms that protect skiers from potentially serious injury during a fall by releasing skis from boots, sending the skis skittering across the slope where they trip two other skiers, and so on and on, eventually causing the entire slope to be protected from serious injury.

**Bones:** There are 206 in the human body. No need for dismay, however: TWO bones of the middle ear have never been broken in a skiing accident.

**Cross-Country Skiing:** Traditional Scandinavian all-terrain snow-travelling technique. It's good exercise. It doesn't require the purchase of costly lift tickets. It has no crowds or lines. It isn't skiing. See Cross-Country Something-Or-Other.

**Cross-Country Something-or-Other:** Touring on skis along trails in scenic wilderness, gliding through snow-hushed woods far from the hubbub of the ski slopes, hearing nothing but the whispery hiss of the skis slipping through snow and the muffled tinkle of car keys dropping into the puffy powder of a deep, wind-sculped drift.

**Exercises:** A few simple warm-ups to make sure you're prepared for the slopes:

- Tie a cinder block to each foot with old belts and climb a flight of stairs.
- Sit on the outside of a second-story window ledge with your skis on and your poles in your lap for 30 minutes.
- Bind your legs together at the ankles, lie flat on the floor; then, holding a banana in each hand, get to your feet.

**Gloves:** Designed to be tight enough around the wrist to restrict circulation, but not so closefitting as to allow any manual dexterity; they should also admit moisture from the outside without permitting any dampness within to escape.

**Gravity:** One of four fundamental forces in nature that affect skiers. The other three are the strong force, which makes bindings jam; the weak force, which makes ankles give way on turns; and electromagnetism, which produces dead batteries in expensive ski-resort parking lots. See Inertia.

**Inertia:** Tendency of a skier's body to resist changes in direction or speed due to the action of Newton's First Law of Motion. Goes along with these other physical laws:

- Two objects of greatly different mass falling side by side will have the same rate of descent, but the lighter one will have larger hospital bills.
- Matter can neither be created nor destroyed, but if it drops out of a parka pocket, don't expect to encounter it again in our universe.
- When an irresistible force meets an immovable object, an unethical lawyer will immediately appear.

**Prejump:** Manuever in which an expert skier makes a controlled jump just ahead of a bump. Beginners can execute a controlled prefall just before losing their balance and, if they wish, can precede it with a prescream and a few pregroans.

**Shin:** The bruised area on the front of the leg that runs from the point where the ache from the wrenched knee ends to where the soreness from the strained ankle begins.

**Ski!:** A shout to alert people ahead that a loose ski is coming down the hill. Another warning skiers should be familiar with is "Avalanche!" - which tells everyone that a hill is coming down the hill.

**Skier:** One who pays an arm and a leg for the opportunity to break them.

**Stance:** Your knees should be flexed, but shaking slightly; your arms straight and covered with a good layer of goose flesh; your hands forward, palms clammy, knuckles white and fingers icy, your eyes a little crossed and darting in all directions. Your lips should be quivering, and you should be mumbling, "Why?"

**Thor:** The Scandinavian god of acheth and painth.

**Traverse:** To ski across a slope at an angle; one of two quick and simple methods of reducing speed.

**Tree:** The other method.

## Real book titles

The most amazing book titles for 1995:

Re-using Old Graves  
How to Avoid Huge Ships



The Book of Marmalade: Its Anecdotes, History and Role in the World Today  
 Group 4 Prison Escort Service - A Survey of Customer Satisfaction  
 The Baby Jesus Touch and Feel Book  
 The Joy of Chickens  
 Amputee Management: A Handbook  
 Highlights in the History of Concrete  
 Big and Very Big Hole Drilling  
 Versailles - The View from Sweden  
 Virtual Reality - Exploring the Bra  
 Simply Bursting - A Guide to Bladder Control  
 Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice

## Proof methods

proof by example:	The author gives only the case $n = 2$ and suggests that it contains most of the ideas of the general proof.
proof by intimidation:	"Trivial."
proof by vigorous handwaving:	Works well in a classroom or seminar setting.
proof by cumbersome notation:	Best done with access to at least four alphabets and special symbols.
proof by exhaustion:	An issue or two of a journal devoted to your proof is useful.
proof by omission:	'The reader may easily supply the details' "The other 253 cases are analogous" "..."
proof by obfuscation:	A long plotless sequence of true and/or meaningless syntactically related statements.
proof by wishful citation:	The author cites the negation, converse, or generalization of a theorem from the literature to support his claims.
proof by funding:	How could three different government agencies be wrong?
proof by eminent authority:	"I saw Karp in the elevator and he said it was probably NP-complete."
proof by personal communication:	"Eight-dimensional colored cycle stripping is NP-complete."
proof by reduction to the wrong problem:	"To see that infinite-dimensional colored cycle stripping is decidable, we reduce it to the halting problem."
proof by reference to inaccessible literature:	The author cites a simple corollary of a theorem to be found in a privately circulated memoir of the Slovenian Philological Society, 1883.
proof by importance:	A large body of useful consequences all follow from the proposition in question.
proof by accumulated evidence:	Long and diligent search has not revealed a counterexample.

proof by cosmology:	The negation of the proposition is unimaginable or meaningless. Popular for proofs of the existence of God.
proof by mutual reference:	In reference A, Theorem 5 is said to follow from Theorem 3 in reference B, which is shown to follow from Corollary 6.2 in reference C, which is an easy consequence of Theorem 5 in reference A.
proof by metaproof:	A method is given to construct the desired proof. The correctness of the method is proved by any of these techniques.
proof by picture:	A more convincing form of proof by example. Combines well with proof by omission.
proof by vehement assertion:	It is useful to have some kind of authority relation to the audience.
proof by ghost reference:	Nothing even remotely resembling the cited theorem appears in the reference given.
proof by forward reference:	Reference is usually to a forthcoming paper of the author, which is often not as forthcoming as at first.
proof by semantic shift:	Some of the standard but inconvenient definitions are changed for the statement of the result.
proof by appeal to intuition:	Cloud-shaped drawings frequently help here.

## Meat

*Imagine if you will... the leader of the fifth invader force speaking to the commander in chief...*

"They're made out of meat."

"Meat?"

"Meat. They're made out of meat."

"Meat?"

"There's no doubt about it. We picked several from different parts of the planet, took them aboard our recon vessels, probed them all the way through. They're completely meat."

"That's impossible. What about the radio signals? The messages to the stars."

"They use the radio waves to talk, but the signals don't come from them. The signals come from machines."

"So who made the machines? That's who we want to contact."

"They made the machines. That's what I'm trying to tell you. Meat made the machines."

"That's ridiculous. How can meat make a machine? You're asking me to believe in sentient meat."

"I'm not asking you, I'm telling you. These creatures are the only sentient race in the sector and they're made out of meat."

"Maybe they're like the Orfolei. You know, a carbon-based intelligence that goes through a meat stage."

"Nope. They're born meat and they die meat. We studied them for several of their life spans, which didn't take too long. Do you have any idea the life span of meat?"

"Spare me. Okay, maybe they're only part meat. You know, like the Weddilei. A meat head with an electron plasma brain inside."

"Nope. We thought of that, since they do have meat heads like the Weddilei. But I told you, we probed them. They're meat all the way through."

"No brain?"

"Oh, there is a brain all right. It's just that the brain is made out of meat!"

"So... what does the thinking?"

"You're not understanding, are you? The brain does the thinking. The meat."

"Thinking meat! You're asking me to believe in thinking meat!"

"Yes, thinking meat! Conscious meat! Loving meat. Dreaming meat. The meat is the whole deal! Are you getting the picture?"

"Omigod. You're serious then. They're made out of meat."

"Finally, Yes. They are indeed made out meat. And they've been trying to get in touch with us for almost a hundred of their years."

"So what does the meat have in mind?"

"First it wants to talk to us. Then I imagine it wants to explore the universe, contact other sentients, swap ideas and information. The usual."

"We're supposed to talk to meat?"

"That's the idea. That's the message they're sending out by radio. 'Hello. Anyone out there? Anyone home?' That sort of thing."

"They actually do talk, then. They use words, ideas, concepts?"

"Oh, yes. Except they do it with meat."

"I thought you just told me they used radio."

"They do, but what do you think is on the radio? Meat sounds. You know how when you slap or flap meat it makes a noise? They talk by flapping their meat at each other. They can even sing by squirting air through their meat."

"Omigod. Singing meat. This is altogether too much. So what do you advise?"

"Officially or unofficially?"

"Both."

"Officially, we are required to contact, welcome, and log in any and all sentient races or multibeings in the quadrant, without prejudice, fear, or favor. Unofficially, I advise that we erase the records and forget the whole thing."

"I was hoping you would say that."

"It seems harsh, but there is a limit. Do we really want to make contact with meat?"

"I agree one hundred percent. What's there to say?" `Hello, meat. How's it going?' But will this work? How many planets are we dealing with here?"

"Just one. They can travel to other planets in special meat containers, but they can't live on them. And being meat, they only travel through C space. Which limits them to the speed of light and makes the possibility of their ever making contact pretty slim. Infinitesimal, in fact."

"So we just pretend there's no one home in the universe."

"That's it."

"Cruel. But you said it yourself, who wants to meet meat? And the ones who have been aboard our vessels, the ones you have probed? You're sure they won't remember?"

"They'll be considered crackpots if they do. We went into their heads and smoothed out their meat so that we're just a dream to them."

"A dream to meat! How strangely appropriate, that we should be meat's dream."

"And we can mark this sector unoccupied."

"Good. Agreed, officially and unofficially. Case closed. Any others? Anyone interesting on that side of the galaxy?"

"Yes, a rather shy but sweet hydrogen core cluster intelligence in a class nine star in G445 zone. Was in contact two galactic rotation ago, wants to be friendly again."  
"They always come around."  
"And why not? Imagine how unbearably, how unutterably cold the universe would be if one were all alone."

## Engineer's cookies

*Why Engineers Don't Write Recipe Books*

### **Chocolate Chip Cookies:**

Ingredients:

1. 532.35 cm<sup>3</sup> gluten
2. 4.9 cm<sup>3</sup> NaHCO<sub>3</sub>
3. 4.9 cm<sup>3</sup> refined halite
4. 236.6 cm<sup>3</sup> partially hydrogenated tallow triglyceride
5. 177.45 cm<sup>3</sup> crystalline C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>11</sub>
6. 177.45 cm<sup>3</sup> unrefined C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>11</sub>
7. 4.9 cm<sup>3</sup> methyl ether of protocatechuic aldehyde
8. Two calcium carbonate-encapsulated avian albumen-coated protein
9. 473.2 cm<sup>3</sup> theobroma cacao
10. 236.6 cm<sup>3</sup> de-encapsulated legume meats (sieve size #10)

To a 2-L jacketed round reactor vessel (reactor #1) with an overall heat transfer coefficient of about 100 Btu/F-ft<sup>2</sup>-hr, add ingredients one, two and three with constant agitation. In a second 2-L reactor vessel with a radial flow impeller operating at 100 rpm, add ingredients four, five, six, and seven until the mixture is homogenous. To reactor #2, add ingredient eight, followed by three equal volumes of the homogenous mixture in reactor #1. Additionally, add ingredient nine and ten slowly, with constant agitation. Care must be taken at this point in the reaction to control any temperature rise that may be the result of an exothermic reaction.

Using a screw extrude attached to a #4 nodulizer, place the mixture piece-meal on a 316SS sheet (300 x 600 mm). Heat in a 460K oven for a period of time that is in agreement with Frank & Johnston's first order rate expression (see JACOS, 21, 55), or until a golden brown colouration is achieved. Once the reaction is complete, place the sheet on a 25°C heat-transfer table, allowing the product to come to equilibrium.

## Einstein's cat analogy

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

*Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio.*

## Werewolf test

Werewolves live among us today, but unless you know what to look for, they are impossible to identify. Except when they're suffering an attack of the rare illness that turns them into crazed beasts, they look like any of your friends or neighbors, experts say.

Dr. Werner Bokelman, an Austrian anthropologist who has studied werewolves for 30 years, has developed a test to help identify the werewolves among us. Here's how he says you can tell if your friend or neighbor is a werewolf:

- Does he smell like a mixture of stale hay and horse manure? Werewolves have extra glands that emit nasty smells.
- Does he have eyebrows that meet in the middle of his forehead? Doctors in Denmark say that's a certain sign of the beast inside. Werewolves' arms, legs, and bodies are extremely hairy, especially the backs of their hands and the tops of their feet.
- Is the ring finger on both of his hands longer than the middle finger? Experts say a long ring finger is a sure sign a person is a werewolf.
- Does he own large pets that often disappear and then are replaced by other large pets? Werewolves have enormous appetites and like to sink their fangs into large, fleshy animals. It would take 100 chickens a week, for example, to satisfy the average werewolf.
- Do you hear strange howling and moaning in the neighborhood when there is a full moon and no dogs around? If so, you are living close to a werewolf.
- Does his skin slowly change color? It takes a few hours for a werewolf to change from human to animal form. The first sign is a gradual darkening of the skin.
- Does he wander around graveyards, mortuaries or turn up at the scene of fatal accidents? Corpses are a ready source of nourishment for young werewolves.
- Is his blood bluish red and his urine a deep purple? If you can trust yourself to be alone with a suspected werewolf in the daytime, try to find out without being too obvious.

## The king and the toaster

Once upon a time, in a kingdom not far from here, the king summoned two of his advisors for a test. He showed them both a shiny metal box with two slots in the top, a control knob, and a lever. "What do you think this is?" he asked. One advisor, an engineer, answered first. "It is a toaster," he said. The king asked, "How would you design an embedded computer for it?"

The engineer replied, "Using a four-bit microcontroller, I would write a simple program that reads the darkness knob and quantifies its position to one of 16 shades of darkness, from snow white to coal black. The program would use that darkness level as the index to a 16-element table of initial timer values. Then it would turn on the heating elements and start the timer with the initial value selected from the table. At the end of the time delay, it would turn off the heat and pop up the toast. Come back next week, and I'll show you a working prototype."

The second advisor, a computer scientist, immediately recognized the danger of such short-sighted thinking. He said, "Toasters don't just turn bread into toast, they are also used to warm frozen waffles. What you see before you is really a breakfast food cooker. As the subjects of your kingdom become more sophisticated, they will demand more capabilities. They will need a breakfast food cooker that can also cook sausage, fry bacon, and make scrambled eggs. A toaster that only makes toast will soon be obsolete. If we don't look to the future, we will have to completely redesign the toaster in just a few years."

"With this in mind, we can formulate a more intelligent solution to the problem. First, create a class of breakfast foods and specialize this class into subclasses: grains, pork, and poultry. The specialization process should be repeated with grains divided into toast, muffins, pancakes, and waffles; pork divided into sausage, links, and bacon; and poultry divided into scrambled eggs, hard-boiled eggs, poached eggs, fried eggs, and various omelet classes."

"The ham and cheese omelet class is worth special attention because it must inherit characteristics from the pork, dairy, and poultry classes. Thus, we see that the problem cannot be properly solved without multiple inheritance. At run time, the program must create the proper object and send a message to the object that says, 'Cook yourself.' The semantics of this message depend, of course, on the kind of object, so they have a different meaning to a piece of toast than to scrambled eggs."

"Reviewing the process so far, we see that the analysis phase has revealed that the primary requirement is to cook any kind of breakfast food. In the design phase, we have discovered some derived requirements. Specifically, we need an object-oriented language with multiple inheritance. Of course, users don't want the eggs to get cold while the bacon is frying, so concurrent processing is required, too."

"We must not forget the user interface. The lever that lowers the food lacks versatility, and the darkness knob is confusing. Users won't buy the product unless it has a user-friendly, graphical interface. When the breakfast cooker is plugged in, users should see a cowboy boot on the screen. Users click on it, and the message 'Booting UNIX v. 8.3' appears on the screen. (UNIX 8.3 should be out by the time the product gets to the market.) Users can pull down a menu and click on the foods they want to cook."

"Having made the wise decision of specifying the software first in the design phase, all that remains is to pick an adequate hardware platform for the implementation phase. A Pentium-90 with 32MB of memory, a 1G hard disk, and a Super-VGA monitor should be sufficient. If you select a multitasking, object-oriented language that supports multiple inheritance and has a built-in GUI, writing the program will be a snap. (Imagine the difficulty we would have had if we had foolishly allowed a hardware-first design strategy to lock us into a four-bit microcontroller!)."

The king wisely had the computer scientist beheaded, and they all lived happily ever after.

## Cars for the Information Highway

### **OSI**

This sleek black car has obviously been long years in the design process - almost everything has been thought of, down to the last detail. Unfortunately, it is 500 metres long, weighs 300 tons, and has no accelerator pedal. It takes a long time to get going, but once it reaches its top speed (15 mph), it takes a lot to stop it. A gentle hill will usually do the trick...

### **TCP/IP**

This hillbilly pickup truck has the most crazy assortment of add ons you can possibly imagine, but underneath there is a deceptively simple, rust-free chassis. You can also hear the purr of an obviously turbo-charged V8 engine underneath the clutter, but it's getting harder to find. It'll do 0-60 in 4 seconds, but it has no brakes. Brakes? Who needs brakes? Just jam a crowbar in the axle and lock the wheels...

### **WWW**

This is a huge freeway system, with roads crossing roads all over the place. Exits flash past at bewildering speed, and before long you can think you're lost beyond hope of ever being found. However, if you know where you want to go, you're okay, since you can guarantee that there will be at least a dozen ways to get there. Unfortunately, they're all off that road underneath you. So you just have to work out how to get there...

### **Netscape**

This is a huge tour bus, the very latest air conditioned, luxury model. It'll take you wherever you want to go, as long as there is a 5-lane freeway right to the doorstep, otherwise get off and walk (it's quicker). Oh, and the highway is jammed with hundreds of other buses full of Japanese tourists busy taking photos and writing articles about the anarchic freedom of the highways, whilst sitting in a huge traffic jam waiting to get into Gracelands.

### **ftp**

This is a sleek bare-bones sports car with an ultra aerodynamic body. It will take you where you want to go in the blink of a second and you can fill the boot with as much stuff as you want. However, there is no windscreen, 184 gears, and you have to type in a 12 digit number from memory to tell it where to go.

### **telnet**

This is a reliable old family saloon car. It never breaks down, can fit down any road, no matter how small and twisty, and performs well no matter what the road conditions. However, it goes at the same speed on a 6 lane autobahn as on a dirt track, and it steers like a 12 ton truck.

### **X Windows**

This is a flashy red convertible, with electric windows, doors, sunroof etc. Inside, you can alter the position of the steering wheel, the layout of all the controls and instruments, the sound of the horn, and the colour of any of the fittings. It is the ultimate accessory for the power user, and gives you many happy years of pleasure. It is only when you get out of the car that you realise that you never left the drive.



## Windows 95

This car is in such great demand that your order cannot be delivered until next year. However, when you do get it, it looks great, a big improvement over the Windows 3 model, and it boasts a big "Highway Ready" sticker in the back window, which means you finally get to leave the car park. You get inside, and press the big red "Go InfoBahn" button on the dashboard. You wait for the g force. Nothing happens for 10 minutes, then the square wheels fall off.

## Where do deleted characters go?

QUESTION: Where do the characters go when I use my backspace or delete them on my PC?

ANSWER: The characters go to different places, depending on whom you ask:

- The Catholic Church's approach to characters: The nice characters go to Heaven, where they are bathed in the light of happiness. The naughty characters are punished for their sins. Naughty characters are those involved in the creation of naughty words, such as "breast," "sex" and "contraception."
- The Buddhist explanation: If a character has lived rightly, and its karma is good, then after it has been deleted it will be reincarnated as a different, higher character. Those funny characters above the numbers on your keyboard will become numbers, numbers will become letters, and lower-case letters will become upper-case.
- The 20th-century bitter cynical nihilist explanation: Who cares? It doesn't really matter if they're on the page, deleted, undeleted, underlined, etc. It's all the same.
- The Mac user's explanation: All the characters written on a PC and then deleted go to straight to PC hell. If you're using a PC, you can probably see the deleted characters, because you're in PC hell also.
- Stephen King's explanation: Every time you hit the (Del) key you unleash a tiny monster inside the cursor, who tears the poor unsuspecting characters to shreds, drinks their blood, then eats them, bones and all. Hah, hah, hah!
- IBM's explanation: The characters are not real. They exist only on the screen when they are needed, as concepts, so to delete them is merely to de-conceptualize them. Get a life.
- PETA's (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) explanation: You've been DELETING them??? Can't you hear them SCREAMING??? Why don't you go CULL some BABY SEALS while wearing a MINK, you pig!!!!

## Proper care of floppy diskettes

Follow all of these instructions carefully for error-free floppies!!

- Never leave diskettes in the disk drive, as data can leak out of the disk and corrode the inner mechanics of the drive. Diskettes should be rolled up and stored in pencil holders.
- Diskettes should be cleaned and waxed once a week. Microscopic metal particles can be removed by waving a powerful magnet over the surface of the disk. Any stubborn metallic shavings can be removed with scouring powder and soap. When



waxing the diskettes, make sure the surface is even. This will allow the diskette to spin faster, resulting in better access time.

- Do not fold diskettes unless they do not fit into the drive. "Big" diskettes may be folded and used in "little" disk drives.
- Never insert a diskette into the drive upside down. The data can fall off the surface of the disk and jam the intricate mechanics of the drive.
- Diskettes cannot be backed up by running them through the xerox machine. If your data is going to need to be backed up, simply insert two diskettes into the drive. Whenever you update a document, the data will be written on both diskettes.
- Diskettes should not be inserted or removed from the drive while the red light is flashing. Doing so could result in smeared or possibly unreadable text. Occasionally the red light remains flashing in what is known as a "hung" or "hooked" state. If your system is "hooking" you will probably need to insert a few coins before being allowed access to the slot.
- If your diskette is full and you need more storage space, remove the disk from the drive and shake vigorously for 2 minutes. This will pack the data enough (Data Compression) to allow for more storage. Be sure to cover all the openings with scotch tape to prevent loss data.
- Access time can be greatly improved by cutting more holes in the diskette jacket. This will provide more simultaneous access points to the disk.
- Diskettes may be used as coasters for beverage glasses, provided that they are properly waxed beforehand. Be sure to wipe the diskettes dry before using. (see item 2 above)
- Never use scissors and glue to manually edit documents. The data is stored much too small for the naked eye, and you may end up with data from some other document stuck in the middle of your document. Razor blades and scotch tape may be used, however, provided the user is equipped with an electron microscope.
- Periodically spray diskettes with insecticide to prevent system bugs from spreading.

## Airline dictionary

The airline industry, like any other, has a specialized dictionary. These are words and phrases that are used commonly by airline employees for which the meanings may not be obvious to outsiders.

Passenger	A herding creature of widely varying intellect, usually found in pairs or small groups. Often will become vicious and violent in simple and easily rectified situations. When frightened or confused these creatures collect into a group called a "line." This "line" has no set pattern and is usually formed in inconvenient places. Passengers are of four known species: Paxus iratus, Paxus latus, Paxus inebriatus, & Paxus ignoramus.
Pre-Board	Passenger who arrives at the gate five minutes before departure.
Voluntary Oversale	A passenger who arrives at the gate as the jetway is coming off the flight.
No-Record	Any passenger booked through a travel agency.
Non-Revenue Position	Usually can be identified by the fact that these passengers are in first class and are dressed in pilot or flight attendant

	uniforms. Non-revenue position are permitted to fly first class free of charge to prevent revenue passengers from being able to pay first class passenger charges.
Group	A large loud pack of passengers (see passenger) travelling together. The group leader, who has the tickets, usually waits in the bar until the required pre-board time of five minutes before departure, or until there are no seats left together, whichever occurs last. Reservation agents are prohibited from pre-assigning seats to groups as this may convenience them.
Sign	An airport decoration. Usually unnoticed except by small children. Its primary function is to hide the location of various areas of the airport, i.e., gate numbers, rest rooms, baggage claim, etc.
Position Closed	This is a sign posted at various counter locations, which when interpreted by the passenger says, "Form line here."
Baggage Claim	The most difficult area of the airport to find. It is usually hidden by numerous signs saying, "Baggage Claim Area."
Carry On Bag	An item, usually of large dimensions, which somehow managed to fit under the passenger's seat on the inbound flight. Regardless of what the passenger says the following are not acceptable as carry-on items: bicycles, steamer trunks, refrigerators, truck tires, or wide screen projection TVs.
Flight Schedule	An entertaining work of paperback fiction.
On Time	An obscure term, meaning unknown.
Fog	A natural weather phenomenon which usually occurs around an airport while the surrounding areas are clear. Fog is controlled by the airlines and is used to delay flights.
Air Traffic Control	A game played by airline pilots and air traffic controllers. The game has no rules, and neither side knows how it is played, but the goal is to prevent flights from arriving in time for passengers to make connecting flights.
Ticket Agent	A superhuman with the patience of a saint, the herding ability of an Australian sheepdog, the E.S.P. abilities of Uri Geller, the compassion of a psychoanalysts, and and the tact of a diplomat. They have mysterious abilities to control wind/rain/snow/fog and all other weather phenomenon. They are capable of answering three questions at one time, while talking on the phone, and without stuttering or choking on their tongue. Later in life they sit in parks carrying on mysterious conversations with themselves.

## All the answers

#These are answers for you to use at your discretion in everyday circumstances. They are about relationships, belief systems, romance (or lack thereof), and ultimately death. These are answers of all pedigrees, short and long, good and bad, polite and rude, covering every subject in the everyday language of everyday people. The only things missing are the questions.

- Trust me. I do this all the time.
- I'm just not ready to make a commitment
- No.

- NO!
- No, there's nothing wrong with my pancreas. Why do you ask?
- Unleaded.
- If I HAD three pennies, I would have given them to you.
- I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.
- I have a high metabolism.
- Forty-Two, maybe fifty.
- I was absent that day.
- But if I tie it looser, that'll defeat the purpose.
- I'm not authorized to release that information.
- If the mouthwash doesn't get it, try a mixture of lemon juice and muriatic acid.
- Define love.
- You'll break your mother's heart.
- I had it done when I was in boot camp.
- When hell freezes over.
- Because the world would be a lot better off if things were done my way all the time.
- I posted it yesterday. It should be there by the end of the week.
- I ran out of stamps.
- No, honestly. I can't taste the freezer burn.
- To make as much money as humanly possible as quickly as possible while expending the least amount of effort.

## College degrees and what they really mean

Sometimes it seems that what we study in college doesn't have much relation to what we end up doing for a living. Following is a list of various degrees, as well as what graduates actually end up doing after earning them.

### **Computer Science:**

**College** Spend most of your time in a dimly lit lab, playing XTrek and drinking Jolt. Interact only with other CS majors, and only via the 'net if you can manage it. Become passionately involved only in the continuing IBM/Commodore/Macintosh debate.

**Real Life** Spend most of your time in a dimly lit office, playing Flight Simulator and drinking gourmet coffee...at least five cups an hour. Interact only with your own project team, and then only via e-mail. Become passionately involved in the continuing debate over who pays when the schedule slips, which wasn't your fault because you told them to take DOOM-playing into account from the beginning.

### **Psychology:**

**College** Spend most of your time in a dimly-lit lab, playing with rats and other vermin. Drink Jolt by the six-pack to stay up all night with the rodents. Interact only with other Psychos, but only to analyze their behavior in non-lab situations. Become involved in the continuing debate over whether a trained rat could succeed as a comp sci major.

Real Life Spend most of your time in an unemployment line and living in a cardboard box with other vermin, wishing you'd changed to CS instead of the rat. Continue to consider yourself superior to social work majors.

**Economics:**

College Spend most of your time in a brightly-lit room full of charts and graphs. Learn about supply and demand, GNP, supply and demand, prime rates, supply and demand, inflation, and supply and demand.

Real Life Spend most of your time in a brightly-lit government office with people who look just like you. Issue reports you wrote in college because you're too lazy to write a new one. Watch newscaster explain your report to unsuspecting viewers. Listen to President explain that the economy sucks because of unemployed psychologists.

**Philosophy:**

College Read books by dead guys. Debate whether a tree falling alone in a forest will say, "Oh, crud! Not again!" Consider the ethical problems in the killing of annoying street mimes. Get failed by prof for not liking correct dead guy.

Real Life Spend most of your time in a dimly lit office, playing Flight Simulator and drinking gourmet coffee...at least five cups an hour. Interact only with your own project team, and then only via e-mail. Become passionately involved in the continuing debate over who pays when the schedule slips, which wasn't your fault because you told them to take DOOM-playing into account from the beginning. Be thankful you switched to comp sci, which pays better than being a dead philosopher.

**Math:**

College Spend your time in a cramped office, thinking about polydimensional shapes and arguing their properties with other mathematicians. Scream when they steal your work. Steal their work. Be a social outcast.

Real Life See above. You work for the university.

## In the beginning

In the Beginning God created heaven and the earth. Quickly he was faced with a class action suit for failure to file an environmental impact statement. He was granted a temporary permit for the project, but was stymied with the cease and desist order for the earthly part.

Appearing at the hearing, God was asked why he began his earthly project in the first place. He replied that he just liked to be creative. Then God said, "Let there be light", and immediately the officials demanded to know how the light would be made. Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? God explained that the light would come from a huge ball of fire. God was granted provisional permission to make light, assuming that no smoke would result from the ball of fire: that he would obtain a building permit; and to conserve energy, would have the light out half the time. God agreed and said he would call the light "Day" and the darkness "Night". Officials replied that they were not interested in semantics.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth green herb and such as many seed". The EPA agreed so long as native seed was used. Then God said, "Let waters bring forth creeping creatures having life; and the fowl that may fly over the earth". Officials pointed out this would require approval from the Department of Game coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and the Audubongelic Society.

Everything was fine until God said he wanted to complete the project in Six days. Officials said it would take at least 200 days to review the application and impact statement. After that there would be a public hearing. Then there would be 10-12 months before...

At this point God created Hell.

## P.C. nativity

And Joseph went up from Galilee to Bethlehem with Mary, his espoused wife, who was great with child. And she brought forth a son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. And the angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds and said, "I bring you tidings of great joy. Unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

"There's a problem with the angel," said a Pharisee who happened to be strolling by. As he explained to Joseph, angels are widely regarded as religious symbols, and the stable was on public property where such symbols were not allowed to land or even hover.

"And I have to tell you, this whole thing looks to me very much like a Nativity scene," he said sadly. "That's a no-no, too."

Joseph had a bright idea. "What if I put a couple of reindeer over there near the ox and donkey?" he said, eager to avoid sectarian strife.

"That would definitely help," said the Pharisee, who knew as well as anyone that whenever a savior appeared, judges usually liked to be on the safe side and surround it with deer or woodland creatures of some sort.

"Just to clinch it, throw in a candy cane and a couple of elves and snowmen, too," he said. "No court can resist that."

Mary asked, "What does my son's birth have to do with snowmen?"

"Snowpersons," cried a young woman, changing the subject before it veered dangerously toward religion.

Off to the side of the crowd, a Philistine was painting the Nativity scene.

Mary complained that she and Joseph looked too tattered and worn in the picture.

"Artistic license," he said. "I've got to show the plight of the haggard homeless in a greedy, uncaring society in winter," he quipped.

"We're not haggard or homeless. The inn was just full," said Mary.

"Whatever," said the painter.

Two women began to argue fiercely. One said she objected to Jesus' birth "because it privileged motherhood." The other scoffed at virgin births, but said that if they encouraged more attention to diversity in family forms and the rights of single mothers, well, then, she was all for them.

"I'm not a single mother," Mary started to say, but she was cut off by a third woman who insisted that swaddling clothes are a form of child abuse, since they restrict the natural movement of babies.

With the arrival of 10 child advocates, all trained to spot infant abuse and manger rash, Mary and Joseph were pushed to the edge of the crowd, where arguments were breaking out over how many reindeer (or what mix of reindeer and seasonal sprites) had to be installed to compensate for the infant's unfortunate religious character.

An older man bustled up, bowling over two merchants, who had been busy debating whether an elf is the same as a fairy and whether the elf/fairy should be shaking hands with Jesus in the crib or merely standing to the side, jumping around like a sports mascot.

"I'd hold off on the reindeer," the man said, explaining that the use of donkeys and oxen as picturesque backdrops for Nativity scenes carries the subliminal message of human dominance. He passed out two leaflets, one denouncing manger births as invasions of animal space, the other arguing that stables are "penned environments" where animals are incarcerated against their will. He had no opinion about elves or candy canes.

Signs declaring "Free the Bethlehem 2" began to appear, referring to the obviously exploited donkey and ox. Someone said the halo on Jesus' head was elitist.

Mary was exasperated. "And what about you, old mother?" she said sharply to an elderly woman. "Are you here to attack the shepherds as prison guards for excluded species, maybe to complain that singing in Latin identifies us with our Roman oppressors, or just to say that I should have skipped patriarchal religiosity and joined some dumb new-age goddess religion?"

"None of the above," said the woman, "I just wanted to tell you that the Magi are here." Sure enough, the three wise men rode up. The crowd gasped, "They're all male!" And "Not very multicultural!" "Balthasar here is black," said one of the Magi. "Yes, but how many of you are gay or disabled?" someone shouted. A committee was quickly formed to find an impoverished lesbian wise-person among the halt and lame of Bethlehem.

A calm voice said, "Be of good cheer, Mary, you have done well and your son will change the world." At last, a sane person, Mary thought. She turned to see a radiant and confident female face. The woman spoke again: "There is one thing, though. Religious holidays are important, but can't we learn to celebrate them in ways that

unite, not divide? For instance, instead of all this business about 'Gloria in excelsis Deo,' why not just 'Season's Greetings'?"

Mary said, "You mean my son has entered human history to deliver the message, 'Hello, it's winter'?"

"That's harsh, Mary," said the woman.

"Remember, your son could make it big in midwinter festivals, if he doesn't push the religion thing too far. Centuries from now, in nations yet born, people will give each other pricey gifts and have big office parties on his birthday. That's not chopped liver."

"Let me get back to you," Mary said.

## Proverbs to live by

- "As a matter of fact" is an expression that precedes many an expression that isn't.
- But officer, I was only trying to gain enough speed so I could coast to the nearest gas station.
- I don't think they could put him on a mental hospital. On the other hand, if he were already in, I don't think they would let him out.
- Lord, please let me find a one-armed economist so we won't always hear "on the other hand..."
- The student in question is performing minimally for his peer group and is an emerging underachiever!
- \$100 placed at 7% interest compounded quarterly for 200 years will increase to more than \$100,000,000 - by which time it will be worth nothing.
- 'Tis better that a man's own works, than another man's words should praise him.
- 'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view, and robes the mountain in its azure hue.
- 'Tis not the fairest form that holds the mildest, purest soul within; 'Tis not the richest plant that holds the sweetest fragrance in.
- 'Tis one thing to be tempted, another thing to fall.
- 'Tis strange the miser should his cares employ to gain the riches he can ne'er enjoy.
- A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the first or second laws.
- Cost consciousness and sophisticated design are basically incompatible.
- The less management demands of engineers and scientists, the greater their productivity.
- TRC eht edisni deppart ma I !pleH
- A "critic" is a person who creates nothing and thereby feels qualified to judge the work of creative people. There is logic in this; he is unbiased-- he hates all creative people equally.
- A bathroom hook will be loaded to capacity immediately upon becoming available. This also applies to freeways, closets, playgrounds, downtown hotels, taxis, parking lots, wallets, purses, pockets, and so on. The list is endless.
- A bird in the hand is safer than two overhead.
- A camel is a horse planned by committee.



- A characteristic of the normal child is he doesn't act that way very often.
- A carelessly planned project takes three times longer than expected; a carefully planned project will only take twice as long.
- A clean limerick is a contradiction in terms.
- A committee is a life form with six or more legs and no brain.
- A committee is a thing which takes a week to do what one good man can do in an hour.
- A company is known by the people it keeps.
- A compromise is the art of dividing the cake in such a way that each one thinks he is getting the biggest piece.
- A coward is a hero with a wife, kids, and a mortgage.
- A cynic is a person searching for an honest man, with a stolen lantern.
- A cynic is man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin.
- A dress that zips up the back will bring a husband and wife together.
- A fake fortune teller can be tolerated, but an authentic soothsayer should be shot on sight. Cassandra did not get half the kicking around that she deserved.
- A fool, indeed, has great need of a title. It teaches men to call him count and duke. And to forget his proper name of fool.
- A foot is a device for finding furniture in the dark.
- A free people always has the right to dismiss its rulers, whom it regards as its servants, at any time.
- A friend of mine stopped smoking, drinking, overeating, and chasing women all at the same time. It was a lovely funeral.
- A gift of flowers will soon be made to you.
- A good leader inspires others with confidence in him; a great leader inspires them with confidence in themselves.
- A good name will wear out; a bad one may be turned; a nickname lasts forever.
- A great fortune is a great slavery.
- A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.
- A guy has to get fresh once in a while so the girl doesn't lose her confidence.
- A journalist is a grumbler, a censorer, a giver of advice, a regent of sovereigns, a tutor of nations. Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.
- A king's castle is his home.
- A lie in time saves nine.
- A light heart lives long.
- A light supper, a good night's sleep, and a fine morning have often made a hero out of the same man, who, by indiscretion, a restless night, and a rainy morning would have proved a coward.
- A little help at the right time is better than a lot of help at the wrong time.
- A little ignorance can go a long way.
- A lost ounce of gold may be found, a lost moment of time never.
- A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew.
- A man is never astonished that he doesn't know what another does, but he is surprised at the gross ignorance of the other in not knowing what he does.
- A man never discloses his character so clearly as when he describes another's.



- A man said to the universe, "Sir, I exist." "However," replied the universe, "the fact has not created in me a sense of obligation."
- A man should be greater than some of his parts.
- A man who can't mind his own business so not to be trusted with the king's.
- A man who studieth revenge keeps his wounds green.
- A man with one watch knows what time it is; a man with two watches is never sure.
- A man's legs must be long enough to reach the ground.
- A meeting is a place where people get together to talk about what they should be doing.
- A memorandum is written not to inform the reader but to protect the writer.
- A motion to adjourn is always in order.
- A new broom sweeps clean, but the old brush knows the corners.
- A nickname is the heaviest stone the devil can throw at a man.
- A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the pants.
- A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.
- A perpetual holiday is a good working definition of hell.
- A person who can't lead and won't follow makes a dandy roadblock.
- A phenomenon known to anyone who has ever lit fires: You can throw a burnt match out the window of your car and start a forest fire while you can use two boxes of matches and a whole edition of the Sunday paper without being able to start a fire under the dry logs in your fireplace.
- A picture is a poem without words.
- A piece of electronic equipment is housed in a beautifully designed cabinet, and at the side or on top is a little box containing the components which the designer forgot to make room for.
- A pig ate his fill of acorns under an oak tree and then started to root around the tree. A crow remarked, "You should not do this. If you lay bare the roots, the tree will wither and die." "Let it die," said the pig, "Who cares so long as there are acorns?"
- A pipe give a wise man time to think and a fool something to stick in his mouth.
- A plucked goose doesn't lay golden eggs.
- A poet who reads his verse in public may have other nasty habits.
- A politician will always tip off his true belief by stating the opposite at the beginning of the sentence. For maximum comprehension, so not start listening until the first clause is concluded. Begin instead at the word "but" which begins the second, or active, clause. This is the way to tell a liberal from a conservative--before they tell you. Thus: "I have always believed in a strong national defense, second to none, but..." (a liberal, about to propose a \$20 billion defense cut).
- A pretty woman is a welcome guest.
- A professor's enthusiasm for teaching the introductory course varies inversely with his likelihood of having to do it.
- A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience.
- A quick response is worth a thousand logical responses.
- A real friend is a person who, when you've made a fool of yourself, lets you forget it.
- A realist lets circumstances decide which end of the telescope to look through. </ol>

## Proof techniques

Methods for getting people to believe you (as good as, if not better than, proof). A collection of proof techniques that will prove invaluable to both mathematicians and members of the general public.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #1 - 'Proof By Induction'**

1. Obtain a large power transformer.
2. Find someone who does not believe your theorem.
3. Get this person to hold the terminals on the HV side of the transformer.
4. Apply 25000 volts AC to the LV side of the transformer.
5. Repeat step (4) until they agree with the theorem.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #2 - 'Proof By Contradiction'**

1. State your theorem.
2. Wait for someone to disagree.
3. Contradict them.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #3 - Fire Proof**

1. Summon all your inferiors for a departmental meeting.
2. Present your theorem.
3. Fire those who disagree.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #4 - The Famous Water Proof**

1. State your theorem.
2. Wait for someone to disagree.
3. Drown them.

This is closely related to the 'bullet' proof, but is easier to make look like an accident.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #5 - Idiot Proof**

1. State your theorem.
2. Write exhaustive documentation with glossy colour pictures and arrows about which bit goes where.
3. Challenge anyone to not understand it.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #6 - Child Proof**

1. State your theorem.
2. Encapsulate it in epoxy and shape it into an ellipsoid.
3. Put it in a jar with all the other proofs (one with one of those Press-to-Open lids).
4. Give it to a professor and challenge him to open it.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #7 - Rabbit Proof**

1. Generate theorems at an altogether startling rate, much faster than anybody is able to refute them. Use up every body else's paper. Run away at the slightest sign of danger.
2. Leave any crap in small, easily identified piles, in prominent places where you no longer are, and it cannot in fact be proven that you ever were.

### **PROOF TECHNIQUE #8 - Fool Proof**

1. State your theorem.

2. Invite colleagues to comment.
3. If they don't agree, exclaim loudly, "You Fools!"

## Software revision guide

By now you have undoubtedly noticed that all software packages have version numbers. In theory each version represents improvements to the product, but many people have found that the version numbers tend to follow a general pattern. Use this guide to decipher the hidden meaning of version numbers. Also, do not be fooled. Using the year as the version number is a clever ploy, but it does not eliminate the fact that 4.0 follows 3.1.

- 1.0: Also known as "one point uh-oh", or "barely out of beta". We had to release because the lab guys had reached a point of exhaustion and the marketing guys were in a cold sweat of terror. We're praying that you'll find it more functional than, say, a computer virus and that its operation has some resemblance to that specified in the marketing copy.
  - 1.1: We fixed all the killer bugs.
  - 1.2: Uh, we introduced a few new bugs fixing the killer bugs and so we had to fix them, too.
- 2.0: We did the product we really wanted to do to begin with. Mind you, it's really not what the customer needs yet, but we're working on it.
  - 2.1: Well, not surprisingly, we broke some things in making major changes so we had to fix them. But we did a really good job of testing this time, so we don't think we introduced any new bugs while we were fixing these bugs.
  - 2.2: Uh, sorry, one slipped through. One lousy typo error and you won't believe how much trouble it caused!
  - 2.3: Some anal-retentive pain in the rear found a deep-seated bug that's been there since 1.0 and has been raising heck until we fixed it.
- 3.0: Hey, we finally think we've got it right! Most of the customers are really happy with this.
  - 3.1: Of course we did break a few little things.
- 4.0: More features. It's doubled in size now, by the way, and you'll need to get memory and a faster processor ...
  - 4.1: Just one or two bugs this time. Honest.
- 5.0: We really need to go on to a new product but we have an installed base out there to protect. We're cutting the staffing after this.
- 6.0: We had to fix a few things we broke in 5.0. Not very many, but it's been so long since we looked at this thing we might as well call it a major upgrade. Oh, yeah, we added a few flashy cosmetic features so we could justify the major upgrade number.
  - 6.1: Since I'm leaving the company and I'm the last guy left in the lab who works on the product, I wanted to make sure that all the changes I've made are incorporated before I go. I added some cute demos, too, since I was getting pretty bored back here in my dark little corner (I kept complaining about the lighting but they wouldn't do anything). They're talking about obsolescence planning but they'll try to keep selling it for as long as there's a buck or two to be made. I'm leaving the bits in as good a shape as I can in case somebody has to tweak them, but it'll be sheer luck if no one loses the source code.

## How specs live forever

The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Thus, we have the answer to the original questions. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot. Specs and Bureaucracies live forever. So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's hind end came up with it, you may be exactly right.

Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war horses.

## A true soap opera

*Attached is correspondence reportedly sent between a London hotel's staff and one of its guests. The unnamed London hotel submitted this to The Sunday Times.*

Dear Maid,

Please do not leave any more of those little bars of soap in my bathroom since I have brought my own bath-sized Dial. Please remove the six unopened little bars from the shelf under the medicine chest and

another three in the shower soap dish. They are in my way.

Thank you, S. Berman

Dear Room 635,

I am not your regular maid. She will be back tomorrow, Thursday, from her day off. I took the 3 hotel soaps out of the shower soap dish as you requested. The 6 bars on your shelf I took out of your way and put on top of your Kleenex dispenser in case you should change your mind. This leaves only the 3 bars I left today which my instructions from the management is to leave 3 soaps daily.

I hope this is satisfactory. Kathy, Relief Maid

Dear Maid -- I hope you are my regular maid.

Apparently Kathy did not tell you about my note to her concerning the little bars of soap. When I got back to my room this evening I found you had added 3 little Camays to the shelf under my medicine

cabinet. I am going to be here in the hotel for two weeks and have brought my own bath-size Dial so I won't need those 6 little Camays which are on the shelf. They are in my way when shaving, brushing teeth, etc.

Please remove them. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

My day off was last Wednesday so the relief maid left 3 hotel soaps which we are instructed by the management. I took the 6 soaps which were in your way on the shelf and put them in the soap dish where your Dial was. I put the Dial in the medicine cabinet for your convenience. I didn't remove the 3 complimentary soaps which are always placed inside the medicine cabinet for all new check-ins and which you did not object to when you checked in last Monday. Please let me know if I can of further assistance.

Your regular maid, Dotty

Dear Mr. Berman, The assistant manager, Mr. Kensedder, informed me this A.M. that you called him last evening and said you were unhappy with your maid service. I have assigned a new girl to your room. I hope you will accept my apologies for any past inconvenience. If you have any future complaints please contact me so I can give it my personal attention. Call extension 1108 between 8AM and 5PM. Thank you.

Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Miss Carmen,

It is impossible to contact you by phone since I leave the hotel for business at 745 AM and don't get back before 530 or 6PM. That's the reason I called Mr. Kensedder last night. You were already off duty. I only asked Mr. Kensedder if he could do anything about those little bars of soap. The new maid you assigned me must have thought I was a new check-in today, since she left another 3 bars of hotel soap in my medicine cabinet along with her regular delivery of 3 bars on the bath-room shelf. In just 5 days here I have accumulated 24 little bars of soap. Why are you doing this to me?

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

Your maid, Kathy, has been instructed to stop delivering soap to your room and remove the extra soaps. If I can be of further assistance, please call extension 1108 between 8AM and 5PM.

Thank you, Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Mr. Kensedder,

My bath-size Dial is missing. Every bar of soap was taken from my room including my own bath-size Dial. I came in late last night and had to call the bellhop to bring me 4 little Cashmere Bouquets.

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

I have informed our housekeeper, Elaine Carmen, of your soap problem. I cannot understand why there was no soap in your room since our maids are instructed to leave 3 bars of soap each time they service a room. The situation will be rectified immediately. Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience.

Martin L. Kensedder, Assistant Manager

Dear Mrs. Carmen,

Who left 54 little bars of Camay in my room? I came in last night and found 54 little bars of soap. I don't want 54 little bars of Camay. I want my one bar of bath-size Dial. Do you realize I have 54 bars of soap in here? All I want is my bath size Dial. Please give me back my bath-size Dial.

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

You complained of too much soap in your room so I had them removed. Then you complained to Mr. Kensedder that all your soap was missing so I personally returned them. The 24 Camays which had been taken and the 3 Camays you are supposed to receive daily. I don't know anything about the 4 Cashmere Bouquets. Obviously your maid, Kathy, did not know I had returned your soaps so she also brought 24 Camays plus the 3 daily Camays. I don't know where you got the idea this hotel issues bath-size Dial. I was able to locate some bath-size Ivory which I left in your room.

Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Mrs. Carmen,

Just a short note to bring you up-to-date on my latest soap inventory. As of today I possess:

- On shelf under medicine cabinet - 18 Camay in 4 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 2.
- On Kleenex dispenser - 11 Camay in 2 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 3.
- On bedroom dresser - 1 stack of 3 Cashmere Bouquet, 1 stack of 4 hotel-size Ivory, and 8 Camay in 2 stacks of 4.
- Inside medicine cabinet - 14 Camay in 3 stacks of 4 and 1 stack of 2.
- In shower soap dish - 6 Camay, very moist.
- On northeast corner of tub - 1 Cashmere Bouquet, slightly used.
- On northwest corner of tub - 6 Camays in 2 stacks of 3.

Please ask Kathy when she services my room to make sure the stacks are neatly piled and dusted. Also, please advise her that stacks of more than 4 have a tendency to tip. May I suggest that my bedroom window sill is not in use and will make an excellent spot for future soap deliveries. One more item, I have purchased another bar of bath-sized Dial which I am keeping in the hotel vault in order to avoid further misunderstandings.

S. Berman

## The three little politically correct pigs

Once there were three little pigs who lived together in mutual respect and in harmony with their environment. Using materials that were indigenous to the area, they each built a beautiful house. One pig built a house of straw, one a house of sticks, and one a house of dung, clay, and creeper vines shaped into bricks and baked in a small kiln. When they were finished, the pigs were satisfied with their work and settled back to live in peace and self-determination.

But their idyll was soon shattered. One day, along came a big, bad wolf with expansionist ideas. He saw the pigs and grew very hungry, in both the physical and ideological sense. When the pigs saw the wolf, they ran into the house of straw. The wolf ran up to the house and banged on the door, shouting, "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!"

The pigs shouted back, "Your gunboat tactics hold no fear for pigs defending their homes and culture."

But the wolf wasn't to be denied what he thought was his manifest destiny. So he huffed and he puffed and he blew down the house of straw. The frightened pigs ran to the house of sticks, with the wolf in hot pursuit. Where the house of straw had stood, other wolves bought up the land and started a banana plantation. At the house of sticks, the wolf again banged on the door and shouted,

"Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!"

The pigs shouted, "Go to hell, you carnivorous, imperialistic oppressor!"

At this, the wolf chuckled condescendingly. He thought to himself: "They are so childlike in their ways. It will be a shame to see them go, but progress cannot be stopped."

So the wolf huffed and puffed and blew down the house of sticks. The pigs ran to the house of bricks, with the wolf close at their heels. Where the house of sticks had stood, other wolves built a time-share condo resort complex for vacationing wolves, with each unit a fiberglass reconstruction of the house of sticks, as well as native curio shops, snorkeling, and dolphin shows.

At the house of bricks, the wolf again banged on the door and shouted, "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!"

This time in response, the pigs sang songs of solidarity and wrote letters of protest to the United Nations.

By now the wolf was getting angry at the pigs' refusal to see the situation from the carnivore's point of view. So he huffed and he puffed, and huffed and puffed, the grabbed his chest and fell over dead of a massive heart attack brought on from eating too many fatty foods.

The three little pigs rejoiced that justice had triumphed and did a little dance around the corpse of the wolf. Their next step was to liberate their homeland. They gathered together a band of other pigs who had been forced off their lands. Their new brigade of porcistas attacked the resort complex with machine guns and rocket launchers and slaughtered the cruel wolf oppressors, sending a clear signal to the rest of the hemisphere not to meddle in their internal affairs. Then the pigs set up a model socialist democracy with free education, universal health care, and affordable housing for everyone.

Please Note: The wolf in this story was a metaphorical construct. No actual wolves were harmed in the writing of the story.

## Truths about kids and their pets

1. All baby turtles are pre-programmed to fake an early death, just so that you will be repeatedly forced to flush your hard-earned £2.99 down the toilet. (NOTE: They will subsequently come back to life and join up with the other turtles who are waiting in the sewer system to grow up and take over the world.)
2. If you get your child a pet that you find personally repugnant, such as a snake, it will escape its tank at the earliest possible moment and take up residence underneath your bed.
3. A dog who sits next to children during dinner, will "mysteriously" gain weight in direct proportion to the amount of steamed vegetables and other healthy items on your kids plate(s).
4. On average, a puppy can be housebroken in less than 6 months. Children, never.
5. To a youngster, bathing the dog involves dousing the unfortunate animal in your £50 an bottle perfume when you're not looking.
6. Your "junior scientist" will be so successful at nurturing a productive ant farm that it will take the exterminator 6 months to undo the damage.
7. Worse yet, your "junior scientist" will mistakenly bring home woodworm instead of ants.
8. The one day your young son actually agrees to clean out the cat's litter box, he will trip before he makes it to the rubbish bins.
9. A young child will always forget to close the back gate when your dog is in heat.
10. Your children will eventually leave home -- their pets never will.

## Autoantonyms

Words that have meanings that contradict each other.

Anabasis  
Anxious

A military advance  
Full of mental distress because of apprehension of danger or misfortune [in effect, seeking to avoid] (We were anxious about the nearby gunshots.)

A military retreat  
Eager or looking forward to (Until you returned, I was anxious to see you.)



Apparent	Not clear or certain (For now, he is the apparent winner of the contest.)	Obvious (The solution to the problem was apparent to all.)
Avocation	a hobby	a regular occupation [and one could say it's a triple autoantonym if you agree that the archaic meaning of "a distraction" is the opposite of working (even at a hobby) and if you agree that the obsolete meaning of "a calling away" takes you away from (the opposite of participating in) your hobbies, work, and even your distractions!]
Awful	Extremely unpleasant, ugly	Awe-inspiring [typically, a feeling of admiration]
Cite, Citation	For doing good (such as military gallantry)	for doing bad (such as from a traffic policeman)
Cleave	To adhere tightly	To cut apart
Dust	To remove dust	To apply dust (as in fingerprinting)
Enjoin	To order someone to do something	To stop someone from doing something [such as in law by an injunction]
Fearful	Causing fear	Being afraid
Hysterical	Being overwhelmed with fear [in some cases]	Being funny
Inflammable [a pseudo-autoantonym!]	Burns easily	[the incorrect assumption by many that the prefix <i>in-</i> makes it mean:] Does not burn [Only the first definition is correct; the risk of confusion has removed this word from gasoline trucks!]
Lease, Rent	[in essence] To loan out for money	To "borrow" for money
Let	[Archaic] To hinder	To allow
License	Liberty or permission to do something	Undue or excessive freedom or liberty
Moot	[a slight stretch here] A moot point is one that is debatable, yet is also of no significance or has been previously decided, so why debate it?	
Oversight	Watchful and responsible care	An omission or error due to carelessness
Practiced	Experienced, expert (I am practiced in my work)	Inexperienced effort (The child practiced coloring)
Prescribe	To lay down a rule	To become unenforceable
Riot	Violent disorder	Revelry

Sanction	Support for an action (They sanctioned our efforts.)	A penalty for an action (The Congressman was sanctioned for inappropriate behavior.)
Sanguine	<i>(Now poetic)</i> Causing or delighting in bloodshed [according to contributor, also describes a person worked up into a bloody rage]	A person hopeful or confident of success [essentially someone calm about something]
Secreted Shank	Having put out, released <i>(Informal)</i> The early part of a period of time (It was just the shank of the evening when the party began.)	Placed out of sight <i>(Informal)</i> The latter part of a period of time (It was the shank of the evening when the party ended.)
Skin	to cover with a skin	to remove outer covering or skin
Strike out	An ending, as in “The batter struck out.”	A beginning, as in “I thought it was time to strike out on my own.”
Terrific	<i>(Informal)</i> Extraordinarily good	Causing terror

## Cultural differences explained

Aussies: Dislike being mistaken for Pommies (Brits) when abroad.

Canadians: Are rather indignant about being mistaken for Americans when abroad.

Americans: Encourage being mistaken for Canadians when abroad.

Brits: Can't possibly be mistaken for anyone else when abroad.

Aussies: Believe you should look out for your mates.

Brits: Believe that you should look out for those people who belong to your club.

Americans: Believe that people should look out for & take care of themselves.

Canadians: Believe that that's the government's job.

Aussies: Are extremely patriotic to their beer.

Americans: Are flag-waving, anthem-singing, and obsessively patriotic to the point of blindness.

Canadians: Can't agree on the words to their anthem, when they can be bothered to sing them.

Brits: Do not sing at all but prefer a large brass band to perform the anthem.

Americans: Spend most of their lives glued to the idiot box.

Canadians: Don't, but only because they can't get more American channels.

Brits: Pay a tax just so they can watch four channels.

Aussies: Export all their crappy programs, which no-one there watches, to Britain, where everybody loves them.

Americans: Will jabber on incessantly about football, baseball, and basketball.  
Brits: Will jabber on incessantly about cricket, soccer, and rugby.  
Canadians: Will jabber on incessantly about hockey, hockey, hockey, and how they beat the Americans twice, playing baseball.  
Aussies: Will jabber on incessantly about how they beat the Poms in every sport they play them in.

Americans: Spell words differently, but still call it "English".  
Brits: Pronounce their words differently, but still call it "English".  
Canadians: Spell like the Brits, pronounce like Americans.  
Aussies: Add "G'day", "mate" and a heavy accent to everything they say in an attempt to get laid.

Brits: Shop at home and have goods imported because they live on an island.  
Aussies: Shop at home and have goods imported because they live on an island.  
Americans: Cross the southern border for cheap shopping, gas, & liquor in a backwards country.  
Canadians: Cross the southern border for cheap shopping, gas, & liquor in a backwards country.

Americans: Drink weak, pissy-tasting beer.  
Canadians: Drink strong, pissy-tasting beer.  
Brits: Drink warm, beery-tasting piss.  
Aussies: Drink anything with alcohol in it.

Americans: Seem to think that poverty & failure are morally suspect.  
Canadians: Seem to believe that wealth and success are morally suspect.  
Brits: Seem to believe that wealth, poverty, success and failure are inherited things.  
Aussies: Seem to think that none of this matters after several beers.

## Top ten reasons men won't say "I love you"

1. They don't mean it.
2. They want to get laid, but not *that* bad.
3. Their fathers didn't say it to their mothers.
4. It has become a throw-away phrase.
5. They don't want to be trapped in some long-term thing.
6. They've said it before and found out they were wrong.
7. They think it is much cooler to say it to other men, like Sammy and Frank.
8. It will lead to "I'll marry you".
9. It has become a throwaway phrase.
10. If they say it, their genitals will fall off.

## Top ten reasons women want men to say “I love you”

1. They like the words.
2. Girls, at times, think that the "words" are important.
3. They can brag to their friends that they got him to do it.
4. It makes them feel all tingly to hear it.
5. Commitment/Power
6. He ain't gettin ANY unless he does.
7. It makes up for what a jerk he is the rest of the time.
8. It makes sex better.
9. The woman can say it back without risking rejection.
10. The woman wants to see his genitals fall off

## How do you know if you're in love, lust or marriage?

LOVE - when your eyes meet across a crowded room.

LUST - when your tongues meet across a crowded room.

MARRIAGE - when your belt won't meet around your waist, and you don't care.

LOVE - when intercourse is called making LOVE.

LUST - all other times.

MARRIAGE - what's intercourse?

LOVE - when you argue over how many children to have.

LUST - when you argue over who gets the wet spot.

MARRIAGE - when you argue over money.

LOVE - when you share everything you own.

LUST - when you think twice about giving your partner bus money.

MARRIAGE - when the bank owns everything.

LOVE - when it doesn't matter if you don't climax.

LUST - when the relationship is over, if you don't climax.

MARRIAGE - what's a climax?

LOVE - when you phone each other just to say "Giddy".

LUST - when you phone each other just to arrange sex.

MARRIAGE - when you phone each other to find out what time your son's game starts.

LOVE - when you write poems about your partner.

LUST - when all you write is your phone number.

MARRIAGE - when all you write are checks.

LOVE - when you show concern for your partners' feelings.

LUST - when you couldn't give a damn.

MARRIAGE - when your only concern is what's on TV.

LOVE - when your farewell is "I LOVE you darling ..."  
LUST - when your farewell is "So, same time next week?"  
MARRIAGE - when your farewell is silent.

LOVE - when you are proud to be seen in public with your partner.  
LUST - when you only ever see each other in the bedroom.  
MARRIAGE - when you never see each other awake.

LOVE - when your heart flutters everytime you see them.  
LUST - when your groin twitches everytime you see them.  
MARRIAGE - when your wallet empties everytime you see them.

LOVE - when nobody else matters.  
LUST - when nobody else knows.  
MARRIAGE - when everybody else matters and you don't care who knows.

LOVE - when all the songs on the radio describe exactly how you feel.  
LUST - when it's just the same mushy old rubbish.  
MARRIAGE - when you never listen to music.

LOVE - when breaking up is something you try not to think about.  
LUST - when staying together is something you try not to think about.  
MARRIAGE - when just getting through today is your only thought.

LOVE - when you're interested in everything your partner does.  
LUST - when you're only interested in one thing.  
MARRIAGE - when you're not interested in what your partner does and the one thing you're interested in is your golf score.

## Marriage dictionary

Bachelor: 1) A guy who has avoided the opportunity to make some woman miserable. 2) A guy who is footloose and fiancée-free. 3) A man who every morning comes to work from a different direction. 4) A man who never makes the same mistake once. 5) A nice guy who has cheated some nice girl out of her alimony. 6) A person who believes in life, liberty, and the happiness of pursuit. 7) A selfish guy who has cheated some woman out of a divorce. 8) The only man who has never told his wife a lie.

Bride: A woman with a fine prospect of happiness behind her.

Bridegroom: A gent who exchanges living quarters for a better half.

Cad: A man who doesn't tell his wife that he's sterile until she's pregnant.

Childish game: One at which your spouse beats you.

Compromise: An amiable arrangement between husband and wife whereby they agree to let her have her own way.

Diplomat: A man who can convince his wife she would look stout in a fur coat.

Domestic harmony: A condition brought about when the husband plays second fiddle and yet pays the piper.

Engagement: A call to arms; hence as day follows night, divorce is disarmament.

Gentleman: 1) A husband who steadies the stepladder so that his wife will not fall while she paints the ceiling. 2) A man who, when his wife drops her knitting, kicks it over to her so that she can easily pick it up.

Grand Slam Event: The honeymoon.

Housework: What the wife does that nobody notices until she doesn't do it.

Husband: 1) A man who buys his football tickets four months in advance and waits until December 24 to do his Christmas shopping. 2) A man who gives up privileges he never realized he had. 3) A man who stands by his wife in troubles she'd never have had if she didn't marry him. 4) A person who thinks he is the boss of the house, but in reality, houses the boss. 5) A person who is the boss of his house and has his wife's permission to say so.

Joint Checking Account: A handy little device which permits your wife to beat you to the draw.

LOVE: An obsessive delusion that is cured by MARRIAGE.

Marital Freedom: The liberty that allows a husband to do exactly that which his wife pleases.

Matrimony: A knot tied by a preacher, but untied by a lawyer.

Miss: A title with which we brand unmarried women to indicate that they are in the market.

Mistress: Something between a mister and a mattress.

Mother-in-Law: A woman who destroys her son-in-law's peace of mind by giving him a piece of hers.

Mrs: A job title involving heavy duties, light earnings, and no recognition.

Nuns: Women who marry god. If they divorce Him, do they get half the universe?

Old Maid: A critical reflection on every bachelor.

Sex drive: A physical craving that begins in adolescence and ends at MARRIAGE.

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

Spinster: A bachelor's wife.

Spouse: Someone who will stand by you through all the trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single in the first place.

Visionary: Marrying a man with intentions of changing and reforming him.

Wedding Ring: The world's smallest handcuffs.

Wedlock: The deep, deep peace of the double bed after the hurly-burly of the chaise-lounge.

Wife: 1) A mate who is forever complaining about not having anything to wear at the very same time that she complains about not having enough room in the closet. 2) The perfect acquisition for any gentleman feeling himself to have excessive control over his personal affairs.

Widow: A woman who can find no fault with her husband.

Widowhood: The only compensation some women get out of a marriage.

## Quotes taken from actual performance reports

- Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
- His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
- I would not allow this associate to breed.
- This associate is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.
- Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- This associate should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.
- This associate is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

## Employer speak

Competitive Salary: We remain competitive by paying less than our competitors.

Some Overtime Required: Some time each night and some time each weekend

Sales Position Requiring Motivated Self-Starter: We're not going to supply you with leads; there's no base salary; you'll wait 30 days for your first commission check.

Self-Motivated: Management won't answer questions

Casual Work Atmosphere: We don't pay enough to expect that you'll dress up; well, a couple of the real daring guys wear earrings.

Competitive Environment: We have a lot of turnover.

Some Public Relations Required: If we're in trouble, you'll go on TV and get us out of it..

Duties Will Vary: Anyone in the office can boss you around.

Career-Minded: We expect that you will want to flip hamburgers until you are 70.

Seeking Candidates With a Wide Variety of Experience: You'll need it to replace three people who just left.

Problem-Solving Skills a Must: You're walking into a company in perpetual chaos.

Good Communication Skills: Management communicates, you listen, figure out what they want you to do.

Ability To Handle A Heavy Workload: You whine, you're fired.

Flexible Hours: Work 55 hours; get paid for 37.5.

## Unproductive time

### **Notice to All Employees:**

It has come to our attention recently that many of you have been turning in timesheets that specify large amounts of Miscellaneous Unproductive Time (code 5309). To our department, unproductive time isn't a problem. What is a problem, however, is not knowing exactly what you are doing during your unproductive time. Attached below is a sheet specifying a tentative extended job code list based on our observations of

employee activities. The list will allow you to specify with a fair amount of precision what you are doing during your unproductive time. Please begin using this job code list immediately and let us know about any difficulties you encounter.

Thank you. The Management

*Code Explanation*

- 5316 Meeting
- 5317 Obstructing Communications at Meeting
- 5318 Trying to Sound Knowledgeable While in Meeting
- 5319 Waiting for Break
- 5320 Waiting for Lunch
- 5321 Waiting for End of Day
- 5322 Vicious Verbal Attacks Directed at Coworker
- 5323 Vicious Verbal Attacks Directed at Coworker While Coworker is not Present
- 5393 Covering for Incompetence of Coworker Friend
- 5400 Trying to Explain Concept to Coworker Who is not Interested in Learning
- 5401 Trying to Explain Concept to Coworker Who is Stupid
- 5402 Trying to Explain Concept to Coworker Who Hates You
- 5481 Buying Snack
- 5482 Eating Snack
- 5500 Filling Out Timesheet
- 5501 Inventing Timesheet Entries
- 5502 Waiting for Something to Happen
- 5503 Scratching Yourself
- 5504 Sleeping
- 5510 Feeling Bored
- 5511 Feeling Horny
- 5600 Bitching About Lousy Job
- 5601 Bitching About Low Pay
- 5602 Bitching About Long Hours
- 5603 Bitching About Coworker (see codes 5322, 5323)
- 5604 Bitching About Boss
- 5605 Bitching About Personal Problems
- 5640 Miscellaneous Unproductive Bitching
- 5701 Not Actually Present At Job
- 5702 Suffering From Eight-Hour Flu
- 6102 Ordering Out
- 6103 Waiting for Food Delivery to Arrive
- 6104 Taking it Easy While Digesting Food
- 6200 Using Company Resources for Personal Profit
- 6201 Stealing Company Goods
- 6202 Making Excuses after Accidentally Destroying Company Goods
- 6203 Using Company Phone to Make Long-Distance Personal Calls
- 6204 Using Company Phone to Make Long-Distance Personal Calls to Fence in Order to Sell Stolen Company Goods
- 6206 Gossip
- 6207 Planning a Social Event (e.g., vacation, wedding...)
- 6210 Feeling Sorry For Yourself
- 6221 Pretending to Work While Boss Is Watching
- 6222 Pretending to Enjoy Your Job
- 6223 Pretending You Like Coworker



6224 Pretending You Like Important People When in Reality They are Jerks  
 6238 Miscellaneous Unproductive Fantasizing  
 6350 Playing Pranks on the New Guy/Girl  
 6601 Running your own Business on Company Time (see code &6603)  
 6602 Complaining  
 6603 Writing a Book on Company Time  
 6611 Staring Into Space  
 6612 Staring At Computer Screen  
 6615 Transcendental Meditation  
 7281 Extended Visit to the Bathroom (at least 10 minutes)  
 7400 Talking With Divorce Lawyer on Phone  
 7401 Talking With Plumber on Phone  
 7402 Talking With Dentist on Phone  
 7403 Talking With Doctor on Phone  
 7404 Talking With Masseuse on Phone  
 7405 Talking With House Painter on Phone  
 7406 Talking With Personal Therapist on Phone  
 7419 Talking With Miscellaneous Paid Professional on Phone  
 7425 Talking With Mistress/Boy-Toy on Phone  
 7931 Asking Coworker to Aid You in an Illicit Activity  
 8000 Recreational Drug Use

## Deep thoughts

- To me, it's always a good idea to always carry two sacks of something when you walk around. That way, if anybody says, "Hey, can you give me a hand?," you can say, "Sorry, got these sacks."
- To me, clowns aren't funny. In fact, they're kind of scary. I've wondered where this started and I think it goes back to the time I went to the circus, and a clown killed my dad.
- Whenever I see an old lady slip and fall on a wet sidewalk, my first instinct is to laugh. But then I think, what if I was an ant, and she fell on me. Then it wouldn't seem quite so funny.
- I hope if dogs ever take over the world, and they chose a king, they don't just go by size, because I bet there are some Chihuahuas with some good ideas.
- Maybe in order to understand mankind, we have to look at the word itself: "Mankind". Basically, it's made up of two separate words - "mank" and "ind". What do these words mean? It's a mystery, and that's why so is mankind.
- I think there should be something in science called the "reindeer effect." I don't know what it would be, but I think it'd be good to hear someone say, "Gentlemen, what we have here is a terrifying example of the reindeer effect."
- I bet one legend that keeps recurring throughout history, in every culture, is the story of Popeye.
- If you ever fall off the Sears Tower, just go real limp, because maybe you'll look like a dummy and people will try to catch you because, hey, free dummy.
- I guess I kinda lost control, because in the middle of the play I ran up and lit the evil puppet villain on fire. No, I didn't. Just kidding. I just said that to help illustrate one of the human emotions, which is freaking out. Another emotion is greed, as when

you kill someone for money, or something like that. Another emotion is generosity, as when you pay someone double what he paid for his stupid puppet.

- If you had a school for professional fireworks people, I don't think you could cover fuses in just one class. It's just too rich a subject.
- I hate it when people say somebody has a "speech impediment" even if he does, because it could hurt his feelings. So instead, I call it a "speech improvement", and I go up to the guy and say, "Hey, Bob, I like your speech improvement." I think this makes him feel better.
- He was the kind of man who was not ashamed to show affection. I guess that's what I hated about him.
- A funny thing to do is, if you're out hiking and your friend gets bitten by a poisonous snake, tell him you're going to go for help, then go about ten feet and pretend that you got bit by a snake. Then start an argument with him about who's going to go get help. A lot of guys will start crying. That's why it makes you feel good when you tell them it was just a joke.
- Love can sweep you off your feet and carry you along in a way you've never known before. But the ride always ends, and you end up feeling lonely and bitter. Wait. It's not love I'm describing. I'm thinking of a monorail.
- I wish I had a Kryptonite cross, because then you could keep both Dracula AND Superman away.
- I think somebody should come up with a way to breed a very large shrimp. That way, you could ride him, then after you camped at night, you could eat him. How about it, science?
- If you're ever stuck in some thick undergrowth, in your underwear, don't stop and think of what other words have "under" in them, because that's probably the first sign of jungle madness.
- Whenever I hear the sparrow chirping, watch the woodpecker chirp, catch a chirping trout, or listen to the sad howl of the chirp rat, I think: Oh boy! I'm going insane again.
- When you go in for a job interview, I think a good thing to ask is if they ever press charges.
- When this girl at the art museum asked me whom I liked better, Monet or Manet, I said, "I like mayonnaise." She just stared at me, so I said it again, louder. Then she left. I guess she went to try to find some mayonnaise for me.
- We tend to scoff at the beliefs of the ancients. But we can't scoff at them personally, to their faces, and this is what annoys me.
- To me, boxing is like a ballet, except there's no music, no choreography, and the dancers hit each other.

## Feghoots

A shaggy dog story is "a long-drawn-out circumstantial story concerning an inconsequential happening that impresses the teller as humorous but the hearer as boring and pointless; also: a similar humorous story whose humor lies in the pointlessness or irrelevance of the punch line". or "an interminable story that spirals downward to a flat punchline".

I will always say, "Nay", to this vile characterization of these loved stories, even though my voice becomes hoarse in the effort. A modern shaggy dog is one that tells an entertaining tale in its own right, and which ends in a ripping pun as the punchline. When done properly, there are clues given through the story that make trying to guess the punchline part of the pleasure and challenge. A special version of the shaggy dog story originated in a long-running series in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. This was "Through Time and Space with Ferdinand Feghoot". Typically, these would tell a science-fiction story that ended in a PUNchline. Such stories and their imitations became known as feghoots.

## Why Star Wars characters would win in the Star Trek universe

1. In the Star Wars Universe weapons are rarely, if ever, set on "stun".
2. The Enterprise needs a huge engine room with an anti-matter unit and a crew of 20 just to go into warp - The Millennium Falcon does the same thing with R2D2 and a Wookiee.
3. After resisting the Imperial torture droid and Darth Vader, Princess Leia still looked fresh and desirable - After pithy Cardassian starvation torture, Picard looked like hell.
4. One word: Light Sabers.
5. Darth Vader could choke the entire Borg empire with one glance.
6. The Death Star doesn't care if a world is class "M" or not.
7. Luke Skywalker is not obsessed with sleeping with every alien he encounters.
8. Jabba the Hutt would eat Harry Mudd for trying to cut in on his action.
9. The Federation would have to attempt to liberate any ship named "Slave I".
10. Picard pilots the Enterprise through asteroid belts at one-quarter impulse power - Han Solo floors it.

## Definitions

TRAFFIC LIGHT apparatus that automatically turns red when your car approaches

DIVORCE post-graduate in School of Love

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE one who has mastered the science of remaining a bachelor

MAN a remarkable animal whose head swells when you pat his back

PEOPLE some make things happen, some watch things happen, and the majority has no idea what's happened

LOVE unseen when it comes, but visible when it goes

SWIMMING POOL a mob of people with water in it

SELF-CONTROL the ability to eat only one peanut

OPTIMIST girl who regards a bulge as a curve

EPITAPH a postponed compliment

MAGAZINE bunch of printed pages that tell you what's coming in the next issue

Absent Minded Person : One who stands in front of the mirror for hours trying to remember where he had seen the person before .

Lecture : An art of transferring information from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through "the minds of either" .

Opportunists : One who starts having a bath when he/she accidentally falls in a river .

Conference : The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present .  
Compromise : The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece  
Love affairs : Something like cricket where one-day internationals are more popular than a five day test .  
Tears : The hydraulic force by which masculine will-power is defeated by feminine water-power .  
Dictionary : A place where divorce comes before marriage .  
Cigarette : A pinch of tobacco rolled in paper with fire at one end & a fool on the other .  
Conference Room : A place where everybody talks , nobody listens & everybody disagrees later on .

## Marketing buzz words translated

NEW - Different color from previous design  
ALL NEW - Parts not interchangeable with previous design  
EXCLUSIVE - Imported product  
UNMATCHED - Almost as good as the competition  
DESIGNED SIMPLICITY - Manufacturer's cost cut to the bone  
FOOLPROOF OPERATION - No provision for adjustments  
ADVANCED DESIGN - The advertising agency doesn't understand it  
IT'S HERE AT LAST! - Rush job; Nobody knew it was coming  
FIELD-TESTED - Manufacturer lacks test equipment  
HIGH ACCURACY - Unit on which all parts fit  
DIRECT SALES ONLY - Factory had big argument with distributor  
YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT - We finally got one that works  
REVOLUTIONARY - It's different from our competitors  
BREAKTHROUGH - We finally figured out a way to sell it  
FUTURISTIC - No other reason why it looks the way it does  
DISTINCTIVE - A different shape and color than the others  
MAINTENANCE-FREE - Impossible to fix  
RE-DESIGNED - Previous faults corrected, we hope..  
HAND-CRAFTED - Assembly machines operated without gloves on  
PERFORMANCE PROVEN - Will operate through the warranty period  
MEETS ALL STANDARDS - Ours, not yours  
ALL SOLID-STATE - Heavy as Hell!  
BROADCAST QUALITY - Gives a picture and produces noise  
HIGH RELIABILITY - We made it work long enough to ship it  
SMPTE BUS COMPATIBLE - When completed, will be shipped by Greyhound  
NEW GENERATION - Old design failed, maybe this one will work  
MIL-SPEC COMPONENTS - We got a good deal at a government auction  
CUSTOMER SERVICE ACROSS THE COUNTRY - You can return it from most airports  
UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE - Nothing we ever had before worked THIS way  
BUILT TO PRECISION TOLERANCES - We finally got it to fit together  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED - Manufacturer's, upon cashing your check  
MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLED - Does things we can't explain  
AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY - One of our techs was laid off by Boeing



"Let me schedule you for some tests."

"I have a 40% interest in the lab."

"I'd like to have my associate look at you."

"He's going through a messy divorce and owes me a small fortune."

"I'd like to prescribe a new drug."

"I'm writing a paper and would like to use you as a guinea pig."

"If it doesn't clear up in a week, give me a call."

"I don't know what the hell it is. Maybe it will go away by itself."

"That's quite a nasty looking wound."

"I think I'm going to throw up."

"This may hurt a little."

"Last week two patients bit through their tongues."

"Well, we're not feeling so well today, are we?"

"I can't remember your name, nor why you're here."

"Everything seems to be normal."

"I guess I can't buy that new beach condo after all."

"I'd like to run some more tests."

"I can't figure out what's wrong. Maybe the kid in the lab can solve this one."

"Do you suppose all of this stress could be affecting your nerves?"

"I think you are crazy and I hope to find a psychiatrist who will split fees."

"There is a lot of that going around."

"My God, that's the third one this week. I'd better learn something about this."

## Things you don't want to hear during surgery

- Someone call the janitor we're going to need a mop.
- Bo! Bo! Come back with that! Bad dog!
- Wait a minute, if this is his spleen, then what's that?
- Hand me that...uh...that uh...thingie.
- Better save that. We'll need it for the autopsy.
- Oh no! I just lost my Rolex.
- Oops! Hey, has anyone ever survived 500ml of this stuff before?
- Rats, there go the lights again...
- Ya know, there's big money in kidneys and this guy's got two of 'em.
- Everybody stand back! I lost my contact lens.
- Could you stop that thing from beating; it's throwing my concentration off.
- What's this doing here? I hate it when they're missing stuff in here.
- That's cool! Now can you make his leg twitch?!



- I wish I hadn't forgotten my glasses.
- Well folks, this will be an experiment for all of us.
- Sterile, schmeril. The floor's clean, right?
- What do you mean he wasn't in for a sex change...!
- Anyone see where I left that scalpel?
- And now we remove the subject's brain and place it in the body of the ape.
- OK, now take a picture from this angle. This is truly a freak of nature.
- This patient has already had kids, am I correct?
- Nurse, did this patient sign the organ donation card?
- Don't worry. I think it is sharp enough.
- She's gonna blow! Everyone take cover!!!
- FIRE! FIRE! Everyone get out!
- Darn! Page 47 of the manual is missing!

## The BOOK

Announcing the new Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge device, otherwise known as the BOOK.

It's a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use even a child can operate it. Just lift its cover. Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere -- even sitting in an armchair by the fire -- yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disk.

Here's how it works: each BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. These pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence. By using both sides of each sheet, manufacturers are able to cut costs in half.

Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. The BOOK may be taken up at any time and used by merely opening it. The "Browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move forward or backward as you wish. Most come with an "index" feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

An optional "BOOKmark" accessory allows you to open the BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session -- even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufacturers.

Portable, durable and affordable, the BOOK is the entertainment wave of the future, and many new titles are expected soon, due to the surge in popularity of its programming tools, the Portable Erasable-Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylus.....

## Diary of a digital boatowner

Day 1: Moved in to my new digitally-maxed out Hunter 450 at last. Finally, I live on the smartest Boat in the Marina. Everything's networked. The cable TV is connected to our phone, which is connected to my personal computer, which is connected to the shore-power lines, all the appliances and the security system. Everything runs off a universal remote with the friendliest interface I've ever used. Programming is a snap. I'm like, totally wired.

Day 2: Hot Stuff! Programmed my VCR from the office, turned up the thermostat and switched on the lights with the car phone, remotely tweaked the oven a few degrees for my pizza. Everything nice & cozy when I arrived. Maybe I should get the universal remote surgically attached.

Day 3: Had to call the Smartboat people today about bandwidth problems. The TV drops to about 2 frames/second when I'm talking on the phone. They insist it's a problem with the cable company's compression algorithms. How do they expect me to order things from the Home Shopping Channel?

Day 4: Got my first Smartboat invoice today and was unpleasantly surprised. I suspect the cleaning woman of reading Usenet from the washing machine interface when I'm not here. She must be downloading one hell of a lot of GIFs from the binary groups, because packet charges were through the roof on the invoice.

Day 5: Yesterday, the galley CRASHED. Freak event. As I opened the refrigerator door, the light bulb blew. Immediately, everything else electrical shut down -- lights, microwave, coffee maker -- everything. Carefully unplugged and replugged all the appliances. Nothing.

Call the cable company (but not from the galley phone). They refer me to the utility. The utility insists that the problem is in the software. So the software company runs some remote tediagnosics via my boat processor. Their expert system claims it has to be the utility's fault. I don't care, I just want my galley back. More phone calls; more remote diag's. Turns out the problem was "unanticipated failure mode": The network had never seen a refrigerator bulb failure while the door was open. So the fuzzy logic interpreted the burnout as a power surge and shut down the entire galley. But because sensor memory confirmed that there hadn't actually been a power surge, the galley logic sequence was confused and it couldn't do a standard restart. The utility guy swears this was the first time this has ever happened. Rebooting the galley took over an hour.

Day 6: The marina security people are not happy. The boat keeps calling them for help. We discover that whenever I play the TV or stereo above 25 decibels, it creates patterns of micro-vibrations that get amplified when they hit the lexan hatches. When these vibrations mix with a gust of wind, the security sensors are actuated, and the marina security computer concludes that someone is trying to break in. Go figure.

Another glitch: Whenever the bilge is in self-diagnostic mode, the universal remote won't let me change the channels on my TV. That means I actually have to get up off the settee and change the channels by hand. The software and the utility people say this flaw will be fixed in the next upgrade -- Smartboat 2.1. But it's not ready yet.



Finally, I'm starting to suspect that the GPS is secretly tuning into the cable system to see Bay Watch. The unit is completely inoperable during that same hour. I guess I can live with that. At least the blender is not tuning in to old I Love Lucy episodes.

Day 7: I just bought the new Microsoft Boatmanager. Took 93 gigabytes of storage, but it will be worth it, I think. The boat should be much easier to use and should really do everything. I had to sign a second mortgage over to Microsoft, but I don't mind: I don't really own my boat now--it's really the bank. Let them deal with Microsoft.

Day 8: I'm beginning to have doubts about Microsoft Boatmanager. I keep getting an hour glass symbol showing up when I want to operate the Radar.

Day 9: This is a nightmare. There's a virus in the boat. My personal computer caught it while browsing on the public access network. I come home and the main salon is a sauna, the V-berth ports are covered with ice, the refrigerator has defrosted, the washing machine has flooded the bilge, the mainsail roller-furling is cycling up and down and the TV is stuck on the home shopping channel. Through-out the boat, lights flicker like stroboscopes until they explode from the strain. Broken glass is everywhere. Of course, the security sensors detect nothing.

I look at a message slowly throbbing on my personal computer screen: WELCOME TO BoatWrecker!!! NOW THE FUN BEGINS ... (Be it ever so humble, there's no virus like the BoatWrecker...).

Day 10: They think they've digitally disinfected the boat, but the place is a shambles. Pipes have burst and we're not completely sure we've got the part of the virus that attacks marine-heads. Nevertheless, the Exorcists (as the anti-virus SWAT team members like to call themselves) are confident the worst is over. "BoatWrecker is pretty bad" one of them tells me, "but consider yourself lucky you didn't get Blackbeard. That one is really evil."

Day 11: Apparently, my boat isn't insured for viruses. "Fires and Hurricanes, yes," says the claims adjuster. "Viruses, no." My agreement with the Smartboat people explicitly states that all claims and warranties are null and void if any appliance or computer in my boat networks in any way, shape or form with a non-certified on-line service. Everybody's very, very, sorry, but they can't be expected to anticipate every virus that might be created. I call my lawyer. He laughs. He's excited!

Day 12: I get a call from a SmartBoat sales rep. As a special offer, I get the free opportunity to become a beta site for the company's new Smartboat 2.1 upgrade. He says I'll be able to meet the programmers Personally. "Sure," I tell him.

## Software I'd like to see

**KeyFind** - Give your desktop the power to find your car keys! Cutting edge technology "listens" to you move about your home or office and registers the exact location where you mindlessly placed your keys. It's SmartVoice feature leads you back to that location by telling you you're "cold", "warm", "hot" or "burning up".

**LitiGate** - Lets you turn minor injuries into big bank accounts much faster than the court system.  
Just pick a wealthy celebrity and follow the easy steps.

**WebSuck** - Locates every web site still under construction.

**ButtMill** - Trim down those buns with your mouse! No more exhausting exercise programs.

**ZitDoctor** - Defragment your face!

**Mr. Dentist** - 3-D program lets you locate popcorn shells without using your tongue.

**QUACKEN** - Quickly finds a holistic herbal remedy for whatever ails you.

**SockTracker** - Use this application before you do your laundry. SockTracker Deluxe also does your laundry.

**LunchShop** - Lets women split their lunch tab to one billionth of a penny. A must for restaurateurs who want to greatly speed up their table turnaround.

**JobSECURE** - Uses your own voice to call in sick for you. Just choose one of hundreds of diseases and common ailments and JobSECURE will modify your voice accordingly.

**AMENDER** - Makes altering the Constitution fun and easy. Change it to benefit your commercial endeavors or to make everyone else comply to your particular moral and religious standards. Broke the law? Just change the law!

**TanLine** - Creates perfect horizontal, vertical and diagonal tan-colored lines instantly.

**AssetASSESS** - Before you commit to a relationship, check out their assets first.

## Murphy's laws of computing

1. When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
2. When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.
3. The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.
4. When the going gets tough, upgrade.
5. For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
6. To err is human . . . to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human, it is downright natural.
7. He who laughs last probably made a back-up.
8. If at first you do not succeed, blame your computer.
9. A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.

10. The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
11. A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want to do.

## Star Trek with Dilbert management

*What the 24th century would be like under today's management techniques.*

After the crew is told they are now Empowered, Dr. Crusher begins doing medical experiments on unsuspecting enlisted personnel while Worf slaughters everyone he considers "weak".

Data fails an ISO9000 audit because the construction of his positronic brain isn't properly documented. He curses Dr. Suhn's record keeping as he's stripped for parts.

All members of the ship's maintenance crew are required to be involved in Quality Circles. The loss of productive work time causes them to cut back on scheduled repairs, resulting in a warp core breach that kills everyone.

Commander Riker is fired after a round of "right sizing". Star Fleet decided that it didn't really need someone to seduce alien females and smirk a lot.

As part of the new Dignity Enhancement program, Piccard is forced to allow Troi to wear uniforms that cover her breasts.

Star Fleet decides to adopt the Borg "Team Building" methods and requires all newborn babies to be implanted with computer interface devices. As a bonus this cuts down on carpal tunnel disability claims.

The Enterprise finds that it can no longer communicate with Star Fleet Command because they're still running an old version of Windows and can't get budget approval for the upgrade.

As part of a cycle time reduction plan, the crew is ordered to cut the time necessary to encounter and escape from new life forms from once a week to 5 days a week. A re-use program is introduced under the nickname RERUNS (Reap Earnings and Royalties Using No-longer-produced Shows).

Piccard is ordered to go to diversity sensitivity training after system logs indicate that he has repeatedly disparaged the Ferengis, the Q, and the Romulans.

A ship-wide reorganization results in Worf becoming the ship's counsellor, Dr. Crusher taking over the engine room, Deanna managing weapons, Data running sick bay and Geordi at the helm. They were conquered by a Klingon freighter 15 minutes later.

The crew mutinies when they are given their annual performance reviews and find that, despite saving the universe numerous times, they're still only getting 3% raises.

## Inappropriate Christmas gift ideas

- Li'l Naturalist Hornet Farm
- The Duncan Yo -- Goes down, never comes back. Teaches children about warranties
- 5,200 pick up -- a jumbo deck of cards that lets kids play a larger version of their favorite game
- The "Learn about puberty chia pet"
- Supersoaker 9000: For use on those hard to reach targets; referees, low flying planes, and many more. At close range it can strip paint, clean rusty grills, and dig utility trenches.
- The laff-o-minit jajic spellin' tootor
- Doggie dentist -- Kids learn about dentistry on the family pooch.
- Cuisin-Art -- Turns mommy's food processor into a spinning paint tool.
- Water retention Wanda -- Teaches kids the principles of the calendar.
- Advanced play medical kit -- includes colonoscope and speculum.
- Chocolate covered lead soldiers.
- Bungeroo -- kid sized bungee kit for second story bedrooms.
- Islamic strip poker -- lose a hand, lose a hand.

## Nine types of boyfriends

**Joe Sensitive** - "After I wash the dishes, let's cuddle, OK?" Also known as: Mr. Nice Guy, Family man, Honey, Darling, Soft-boiled Egg, Snugglepup. Advantages: Well-behaved; irons own shirts. Disadvantages: Irritatingly compassionate, wimpy

**Old Man Grumpus** - "People are stupid. The world can go to hell. Let's stay home and watch TV." Also known as: Grumbles, Sour puss, Stick-in-the-mud, Old Fogey, Slow Mover, Jerk. Advantages: Stays put; predictable. Disadvantages: Royal pain in the ass

**Flinchy** - "I--I'm sorry for whatever it was I did." Also known as: Trembly, Creampuff, Hey you Advantages: Jumps entertainingly when startled. Disadvantages: Easily spooked; surrenders without a struggle.

**Bigfoot** - "Shut yer trap, I'm thinkin'." Also known as: Chunk-style, LummoX, Ignoramus, Galoot, the Hulk, Big 'n' Dumb. Advantages: Can tote bales; is easily fooled. Disadvantages: Can break you in half, sweats like a pig

**Lazybones** - "Zzzzzz". Also known as: Lucky Dog, Parasite, Bum, Sponge, Snoozebucket, Drug Addict. Advantages: Well rested; easy target. Disadvantages: Unlikely to fulfill your dreams

**The Sneak** - "Who, me?". Also known as: Love Pirate, Snake, Rat, Slime, G-D Son of a Bitch. Advantages: May feel pangs of guilt. Disadvantages: May be having time of his life

**Ace of Hearts** - "After I wash the dishes let's make love like crazed weasels, OK?". Also known as: The Sizzler, Handyman, Dreamboat, Casanova, Monster. Advantages: Perpetually aroused. Disadvantages: Perpetually aroused

**The Dreamer** - "Someday I'm going to be rich and famous. I don't know how, but" Also known as: Struggling Artist, Philosopher, Buffoon, Bag of Wind. Advantages: Tells good stories. Disadvantages: Will turn into "Old Man Grampus"

**Mr. Right** - "While the servants wash the dishes, let's make love like crazed weasels in my new yacht, ok?". Also known as: Mr. Perfect, Jim Dandy. Advantages: Answer to a woman's prayer. Disadvantages: Hunted to extinction

## Nine types of girlfriends

**Ms. Nice Guy** - "Tickets to the boxing match? Oh, darling, you shouldn't have!". Also known as: Whattagal, Precious, one of the boys, My Main Squeeze, Doormat. Advantages: Cheerful, agreeable, kindly. Disadvantages: May wise up someday

**Old Yeller** - "You G-D spineless good-for-nothing drag-ass no-talent son of a bitch! Can't you see you're making me miserable??" Also known as: She-Devil, Sourpuss, the Nag, My Old Lady, Warthog from Hell. Advantages: Pays attention to you. Disadvantages: Screeches, throws frying pans

**Sickly** - "Oh, my head. My head. My feet. My cramps. My cellulite." Also known as: Whiner, Mewler, Grumpy. Advantages: Predictable. Disadvantages: Contagious

**The Bosser** - "Stand up straight. Put on a different tie. Get a haircut. Change your job. Make some money. Don't give me that look." Also known as: Whipcracker, The Sarge, Ms. Know-it-all, Ball and Chain, Yes Mom. Advantages: Often right. Disadvantages: Often right, but so what?

**Ms. Vaguely Dissatisfied** - "I just can't decide. Should I switch my career, goals, home, and hair color?" Also known as: The Fretter, Worrywart, Typical, Aw C'mon Honey. Advantages: Easily soothed. Disadvantages: Even more easily perturbed

**Wild Woman out of Control** - "I've got an idea. Let's get drunk and make love on the front lawn. I done it before. S'fun." Also known as: Fast Girl, Freewheeler, Goodtime Charleena, Passed Out. Advantages: More fun than a barrel of monkeys. Disadvantages: Unreliable; drives off cliffs

**Huffy** - "I see nothing humorous in those silly cartoons you keep snickering at." Also known as: No Fun, Humorless Prig, Cold fish, Chilly Proposition, Iceberg, Snarly. Advantages: Your friends will feel sorry for you. Disadvantages: You will have no friends

**Woman from Mars** - "I believe this interpretive dance will explain how I feel about our relationship." Also known as: The Babbler, Spooky Girl, Screwball, Loony, Bad News, Artistic. Advantages: Entertaining, unfathomable. Disadvantages: Will read her poetry aloud

**Ms. Dreamgirl** - "I am utterly content with you just the way you are, my handsome genius of a boyfriend. I think we must make love like crazed weasels now!" Also known as: Ms. Right, Goddess, Knockout, Perfection, Gorgeous. Advantages: Funny, intelligent, uninhibited Disadvantages: Will have nothing to do with you

## Big-busted v. small-busted

### Big-Busted Women...

- can get a taxi on the worst days
- have a neat place to carry spare change
- have always been the center of the arts (art)
- make jogging a spectator sport
- have more negotiating power (with men shorter than them)
- usually can find leftover popcorn after a movie
- can always carry a little extra
- always float better
- know where to look first for lost earrings
- rarely lack for a slow dance partner
- have a place to set their glasses when sitting in an armless recliner

### Small-Busted Women.

- don't cause a traffic accident every time they bend over in public
- always look younger
- find that dribbled food makes it to the napkin on their lap
- can always see their toes and shoes
- can sleep on their stomachs
- have no trouble sliding behind the wheel of small cars
- know that people can read the entire message on their t-shirts
- know that everything more than a handful is wasted
- can come late to a theater and not disrupt an entire aisle
- can take aerobic class without running the risk of knocking themselves out

## American University grading procedures

Here is a list of the ways professors here at the American University grade their final exams:

DEPT OF STATISTICS: - All grades are plotted along the normal bell curve.

DEPT OF PSYCHOLOGY: - Students are asked to blot ink in their exam books, close them and turn them in. The professor opens the books and assigns the first grade that comes to mind.

DEPT OF HISTORY: - All students get the same grade they got last year.

DEPT OF RELEGION: - Grade is determined by God.

DEPT OF PHILOSOPHY: - What is a grade?

LAW SCHOOL: - Students are asked to defend their position of why they should receive an A.

DEPT OF MATHEMATICS: - Grades are variable.

DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE: - If and only if the student is present for the final and the student has accumulated a passing grade then the student will receive an A else the student will not receive an A.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT: - Each student must figure out his grade by listening to the instructor play the corresponding note (+ and - would be sharp and flat respectively).

DEPT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION: - Everybody gets an A.

## Physics story: Hell

*"Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with a proof." Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law or some variant. One student, however wrote the following:*

First, we postulate that if souls exist, then they must have some mass.

If they do, then a mole of souls can also have a mass. So, at what rate are souls moving into hell and at what rate are souls leaving? I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for souls entering hell, lets look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to hell. Since, there are more than one of these religions and people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change in volume in hell. Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of souls and volume needs to stay constant.

So, if hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose.

Of course, if hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over.



## Horror movie survival

- If the house you're living in tells you to "GO AWAY", do so immediately.
- Never take a bath or shower with an MSDC (maniac/spirit/demon/creature) in the house.
- When it appears that you have killed the MSDC, DO NOT check to see if he/she/it's really dead.
- If plumbing fixtures or other structures in your home begin spewing body fluids, it's time to move out.
- Never read a book of demon summoning aloud, even as a joke.
- Don't look under the bed.
- Do not search the basement, especially if the power has just gone out.
- If tree's, TV's, or other objects try to consume your children, save as many as you can and then get the hell out of the area.
- If relatives or pets come back from the dead, stay as far away from them as possible.
- If inanimate objects such as dolls, toys, or furniture attack you, be prudent and leave the area.
- If you've hidden from the MSDC and you are not found, do not peek from or leave your hiding place, for you are only further endangering yourself.
- Never believe that your companion has truly become "dispossessed."
- It is VERY, VERY dangerous to back into or through rooms.
- If your children speak to you in Latin or any other language which they do not know, or if they speak to you using a voice which is other than their own, shoot them immediately. It will save you a lot of grief in the long run. NOTE: It will probably take several rounds of gunfire to incapacitate them, so be prepared.
- When you have the benefit of numbers, \*NEVER\* pair off or go it alone!!!
- Never get into a car without first checking the back seat for occupants.
- If demons begin possessing your companions, it's a good idea to leave the area as soon and as quickly as possible.
- If your companions start turning up dead, make yourself scarce before someone else does it for you. Worry about funerals later.
- If you've just finished running over the MSDC in your car, keep going. Most certainly DO NOT get out of the car to see if he/she/it's really dead.
- As a general rule, don't solve puzzles that open portals to Hell.
- Don't fall asleep if you have a history of homicidal/suicidal nightmares.
- Never stand in, on, above, below, beside, or near a grave, tomb, crypt, mausoleum, etc.
- Never stand in, on, above, below, beside or near a window, especially those that appear that they would break easily.
- If you're searching for something which caused a noise and find out that it's just the cat, LEAVE THE ROOM IMMEDIATELY ELSE YOU WILL QUICKLY DIE.
- If appliances start operating by themselves, leave the area immediately.
- Do not take anything from the dead.
- If priests won't or can't enter your home, start looking for a new home.
- If the place you are visiting is known for its history of mass murders, deaths, freak accidents, or supernatural occurrences, leave.
- If you wake up from a particularly horrific dream and find yourself still alive, you probably aren't awake yet.



- If you find a town which looks deserted, it's probably for a reason. Take the hint and stay away.
- If the ouija board starts moving by itself, stop playing and leave.
- If supernatural beings start calling your name, leave the area.
- Never pick up a hitchhiker or stop to aid a suspicious person, especially if he/she/it resembles Santa Claus.
- Don't fool with recombinant DNA technology unless you're sure you know what you are doing.
- Make sure that your weapon is loaded before you try to use it.
- Never put your back to or lean on a door.
- Never take the dare to spend a night in a haunted house.
- Never speak to clowns in sewers.
- Never accept gifts from strangers, especially if you suspect that they are supernatural beings.
- If you're running from the MSDC, expect to trip and/or fall down at least twice, more if you are of the female persuasion.
- If your companions exhibit uncharacteristic behavior such as hissing, biting, thirst for blood, howling, glowing eyes, unnatural hairiness, marked resemblance to demons, excretion of ectoplasm or other forms of gelatinous goo, flaming appendages, extra appendages, etc., get as far away from them as possible.
- Listen closely to the soundtrack for hints on what is going on around you. Use all resources available, especially the audience, for on the average, they are much, much more intelligent than you could ever hope to be.
- Stay away from certain geographical locations, some of which are listed here: Amityville, Elm Street, Crystal Lake, Transylvania, Nilbog (God help you if you recognize this one), Mydian, Questa Verde, the Bermuda Triangle, or any small town in Maine.
- Beware of transvestite doctors that sing.
- Avoid secluded mountain resorts, especially those which keep 'Redrum' in stock.
- Finally, beware of strangers bearing tools of destruction such as chainsaws, staple guns, chipper/shredders, weed poppers, combines, lawnmowers, knives, soldering irons, stun guns, flamethrowers, band saws, crossbows, napalm, grenades, catapults, tactical warheads, high-powered rifles, gophers, food processors, gophers in food processors, lambchops, axes, gophers wielding axes, laser pistols, tanks, any weapon resembling Margaret Thatcher, or Alludium q-36 explosive space modulators.

## Glossary of musical terms

ACCIDENTALS: Wrong notes

AUGMENTED FIFTH: A 36-ounce bottle

BROKEN CONSORT: When somebody in the ensemble has to leave and go to the restroom.

CADENCE: When everybody hopes you're going to stop - but you don't

CADENZA: The heroine in Monteverdi's opera "Frottola"

CANTUS FIRMUS: The part you get when you can only play four notes

CHANSONS DE GESTE: Dirty songs

CLAUSULA: Mrs. Santa

**CROTCHET:** A tritone with a bent prong - or  
**CROTCHET:** It's like knitting but it's faster  
**CUT TIME:** When you're going twice as fast as everybody else in the ensemble.  
**DUCTIA:** A lot of mallards  
**EMBOUCHRE:** The way you look when you've been playing the Krummhorn  
**ESTAMPIE:** What they put on letters in Quebec  
**GARGLEFINKLEIN:** A tiny recorder played by neums  
**HOCKET:** The thing that fits into a crochet to produce a rackett  
**INTERVAL:** How long it takes you to find the right note. There are three kinds: Major Interval: A long time; Minor Interval: A few bars; Inverted Interval: When you have to back one bar and try again  
**INTONATION:** Singing through one's nose. Considered highly desirable in the Middle Ages  
**ISORHYTHMIC MOTET:** When half of the ensemble got a different xerox than the other half  
**MINNESINGER:** A boy soprano  
**MUSICA FICTA:** When you lose your place and have to bluff till you find it again. Also known as faking  
**NEUMS:** Renaissance midgets  
**NEUMATIC MELISMA:** A bronchial disorder caused by hockets  
**ORDO:** The hero in Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" (Snaps for Frodo)  
**PERFORMANCE PRACTISE:** Sex education  
**ROTA:** An early Italian method of teaching music without score or parts  
**TROTTO:** An early Italian form of Montezuma's Revenge  
**LAUDA:** The difference between shawms and krummhorns  
**SANCTA:** Clausula's husband  
**LASSO:** The 6th and 5th steps of a descending scale  
**DI LASSO:** Popular with Italian cowboys  
**QUAVER:** Beginning viol class  
**RACKETT:** Capped reeds class  
**RITORNELLO:** An opera by Verdi  
**SINE PROPRIETATE:** Cussing in church  
**SUPERTONIC:** Schweppes  
**TRANSPOSITION:** An advanced recorder technique where you change from alto to soprano fingering (or vice-versa) in the middle of a piece  
**TUTTI:** A lot of sackbuts  
**STOPS:** Something Bach did not have on his organ  
**AGNUS DEI:** A famous female church composer  
**METRONOME:** A dwarf who lives in the city  
**ALLEGRO:** Leg fertilizer  
**RECITATIVE:** A disease that Monteverdi had  
**ORCHESTRAL SUITES:** Naughty women who follow touring orchestras

## Rules of the woman

1. PMS is every woman's prerogative. It is always a good enough excuse for anything, and take advantage of it whenever possible.
2. Don't be afraid to gossip. It is your responsibility to make sure your friends are well-informed about the latest happenings.

3. You may change your mind whenever you wish.
4. Never give a direct answer when a man asks you a question.
5. It is not wrong to withhold sex to get what you want.
6. Always ask a guy "What are you thinking?" after sex.
7. If he doesn't call, take it as the most personal if insults.
8. Never believe "I love you" if it comes before sex.
9. Always wear matching bra and panties for the first few dates, then you can switch to the comfortable old plain white cotton once you have impressed him with the stylishness of your underwear.
10. ALWAYS say that he is the best you've ever had.
11. Fake orgasms when necessary.
12. Find a "cute giggle". Practice it constantly.
13. Learn to toss your hair around, even if it's short.
14. Never admit that your're not a real blonde.
15. Shopping always makes you feel better.
16. When with a group of girls, it is customary to talk particularly about the girl who is not present.
17. Always try to set up your single female friends with your single male friends.
18. Never forget that men are pigs.
19. Jeans: the tighter the better.
20. the fact that you menstruate makes it okay to bitch as much as you want about anything you want.
21. Criticize every other woman behind her back.
22. Never reveal the full extent of your intelligence to a man.
23. Pretend that you can't do certain "guy" things like change a flat tire. It's even okay to calim that you can't pump gasoline or check the oil. Helpless females make a guy feel macho.
24. If a guy really cares about you, he should be able to read your mind. You needn't have to explain yourself, ever. And he should know what's expected of him without you saying anything.
25. Be a tease.
26. Men always want to know how they compare to the last guy you were with. Always say "Your're not as well hung as my last boyfriend."
27. Never dutch treat.
28. If he doesn't spend money on you, don't waste your time.
29. Guys like to see you flirt with their friends.
30. Devleop a "cute butt" scale and use it to rate every guy's butt that you see.
31. Never go to the ladies room alone, if you can help it.
32. Carry feminine hygiene products with you wherever you go, and don't be shy about showing them to people.

## The speed of time by age

0-9 Extremely slow. Even a trip to the store with Mom seems like going to Albania - by covered wagon. Most common phrase: "Is it Christmas yet?"

10-19 Still slow. Scientific evidence seems to show that school clocks actually move backwards just before the bell rings.

20-29 Alternately fast and slow. Weekends seem shorter and shorter, yet paychecks seem further and further apart.

30-39 Time achieves warp speed, except when put on hold on the telephone and forced to endure anything longer than 5 seconds of Muzak. Most common phrase: "Is it Christmas already?"

40-49 Still fast. Seems like just yesterday when Jerry Brown said he might run for President. Wait a minute! It WAS yesterday when he said that. Also, Dick Clark still looks the same. Could time be slowing down?

60-69 Hey! What happened to 50-59?

70 + Unbelievably fast. Wars used to last years. Now it seems like they're over in a couple weeks.

## Musical styles

JAZZ	Five men on the same stage all playing different tunes.
BLUES	Played exclusively by people who woke up this morning.
WORLD MUSIC	A dozen different types of percussion all going at once.
OPERA	People singing when they should be talking.
RAP	People talking when they should be singing.
CLASSICAL	Discover the other 45 minutes they left out of the TV ad.
FOLK	Endless songs about shipwrecks in the 19th century.
BIG BAND	20 men who take it in turns to stand up plus a drummer.
HEAVY METAL	Codpiece and chaps
HOUSE MUSIC	OK as long as it's not the house next door.

## British military officer fitness reports

The form used for Royal Navy and Marines fitness reports is the S206. The following are actual excerpts taken from people's "206's"....

- His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
- I would not breed from this Officer.
- This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't-be.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- Technically sound, but socially impossible.
- This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.

- This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.
- Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
- This Officer should go far and the sooner he starts, the better.
- In my opinion this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
- The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
- Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap
- This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- Only occasionally wets himself under pressure

## A glass of milk

*Somebody left a glass of milk next to the keyboard. Reaction?*

Optimist: The glass is half full.

Pessimist: The glass is half empty.

Futurist: The milk's in the wrong half of the glass.

Pascal programmers: Well, what type of milk is it?

C Programmers: No thanks; I drink straight from the jug.

Assembly programmers: No thanks; I drink straight from the cow.

Basic programmers: No thanks; I'm still breast feeding.

MIS: I'LL DRINK IT IF YOU CAN GIVE ME UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

Fuzzy logic guys: I may or may not have drunk some part of that milk.

Prolog programmers: I know I drank it - just don't ask me how.

Non-procedural language programmers: I drank it when nobody was looking.

UI designers: What's that crap in my glass?

Pentium users: I drank Glass \* .49999999 . . . but don't hold me to that.

Windows users: Where's my straw?

Mac users: Where's my pump?

UNIX users: Nahh . . . too easy.

Multimedia author: <slurp!

Shareware game author: That glass is free; the next one you have to pay for.

Security consultant: Where'd the rest of the milk go?

CIA: What makes you think that's milk?

NSA: We know what it really is.

Copy protection crazies: Somebody drank half my milk and didn't pay for it!

Free Software Foundation: That milk is the cow's contribution to all mankind!

Schroedinger: That damned cat got into the milk again!

Bill Gates: Not enough market share to be Microsoft Milk.

Apple Computer: You guys really oughta be drinking Perrier.

IBM: Rent the glass from us and we'll fill it with something we know is good for you.

IRS: Thanks for getting your milk withholding correct this year.

## Men's rules for women

1. It is only common courtesy that you should leave the seat on the toilet up when you are done.
2. If you are cooking a special dinner for a man, be sure to include something from each of the four major male food groups: Meat, Fried, Beer, and Red.
3. Don't make him hold your purse in the mall.
4. Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary in many of the fine bars and fraternities throughout the country, not all men are cretins deserving your contempt.
5. Shopping is not fascinating.
6. When he asks for a threesome with you and your best friend, he is only joking.  
1. Unless the answer is yes. 2. In which case, can he videotape it?
7. The man is always in charge of poking the campfire with a stick and/or tending the grill.
8. Trying to provoke a large, dangerous-looking felon from across the room is not funny.
9. Money does not equate love.
10. Any attempt by a man to prepare food, no matter how feeble (ie Microwaving a burrito, fixing Spaghetti, etc) should be met with roughly the same degree of praise a parent might shower upon their infant when it walks for the first time.
11. Those male models with perfect bodies are all gay. Accept it.
12. He heard you the first time.
13. You know, you can ask him out too... Let's spread the rejection around a little.
14. If you truly want honesty, don't ask questions you don't really want the answer to.
15. Of course he wants another beer.
16. The guy doesn't always have to sleep on the wet spot.
17. Dogs good. Cats bad.
18. Any sort of injury involving the testicles is not funny.
19. If he has to sit through "Legends of the Fall", you have to sit through "Showgirls".
20. "Fine." is not an acceptable way to end an argument.
21. Do not question a man's innate navigational abilities by suggesting he stop for directions.
22. He was not looking at that other girl. 1. Well, okay... maybe a little. 2. Okay, so what! He was looking at her. Big deal. Like you never looked at another guy...
23. He is the funniest, strongest, best-looking, most successful man you have ever met.  
a) And all your friends think so too. Especially the cute ones.
24. Your (select appropriate item:) butt/boobs/hair/makeup/legs look fine. As a matter of fact, it/they look damn good. Stop asking.
25. If you want a satisfying sex life, you will never fake an orgasm.
26. It is not necessary to discuss the heaviness of your menstrual flow with him.
27. Yes, Sharon Stone/Pamela Anderson/Cindy Crawford is prettier than you. Just like Brad Pitt/Antonio Banderas/Keanu Reeves is better looking than him. But since neither one of you is going to be dating any of these people, love the one you're with.
28. Of course size matters, and boy does he have the granddaddy of them all.
29. His (fill in appropriate selections:) bald spot/beer gut/impossibly thick glasses/impotency/scabby rash, is cute.
30. Don't hog the covers.



31. Watching football is a major turn-on for you. But please wait until the halftime show to act upon that...
32. He does not just want to be friends.
33. A successful date always starts with the woman uttering the sentence: "You know, why don't we just skip the expensive dinner and stay here having freaky circus sex all night?"

## The history of medicine

- 2000 B.C. - Here, eat this root.  
 1000 A.D. - That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.  
 1850 A.D. - That prayer is superstition. Here, drink this potion.  
 1940 A.D. - That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.  
 1985 A.D. - That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic.  
 2000 A.D. - That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root.

## Things you learn from your children

1. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 pound boy wearing pound puppy underwear and a superman cape. It is strong enough, however, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 by 20 foot room.
2. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-oh," it's already too late.
3. Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
4. A six year old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36 year old man says they can only do it in the movies.
5. If you use a waterbed as home plate while wearing baseball shoes it does not leak - it explodes.
6. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 sq foot house 4 inches deep.
7. LEGO will pass through the digestive tract of a four year old.
8. Super glue is forever.
9. Mcgyver can teach us many things we don't want to know.
10. No matter how much Jelly you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.
11. Pool filters do not like Jelly
12. VCR's do not eject peanut butter sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do.
13. Always look in the oven before you turn it on.
14. The fire brigade has at least a 5 minute response time.
15. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earth worms dizzy.
16. It will however make cats dizzy.
17. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.

## Excuses for not showing up at work

- If it is all the same to you I won't be coming in to work. The voices told me to clean all the guns today.

- When I got up this morning I took two Ex-Lax in addition to my Prozac. I can't get off the john, but I feel good about it.
- I set half the clocks in my house ahead an hour and the other half back an hour Saturday and spent 18 hours in some kind of space-time continuum loop, reliving Sunday (right up until the explosion). I was able to exit the loop only by reversing the polarity of the power source exactly  $e \cdot \log(\pi)$  clocks in the house while simultaneously rapping my dog on the snout with a rolled up Times. Accordingly, I will be in late, or early.
- My stigmata's acting up.
- I can't come in to work today because I'll be stalking my previous boss, who fired me for not showing up for work. OK?
- I have a rare case of 48-hour leprosy, but I know we have that deadline to meet...
- I am stuck in the blood pressure machine down at the Seven Eleven.
- Yes, I seem to have contracted some attention-deficit disorder and, hey, how about Roswell? So, I won't be able to, yes, could I help you? No, no, I'll be sticking with Sprint, but thank you for calling.
- Constipation has made me a walking time bomb.
- I just found out that I was switched at birth. Legally, I shouldn't come to work knowing my employee records may now have the wrong social security number.
- The psychiatrist said it was an excellent session. He even gave me this jaw restraint so I won't bite things when I am startled.
- The dog ate my car keys. We're going to hitchhike to the vet.
- I prefer to remain an enigma.
- My stepmother has come back as one of the Undead and we must track her to her coffin to drive a stake through her heart and give her eternal peace. One day should do it.
- I can't come to work today because the EPA has determined that my house is completely surrounded by wetlands and I have to arrange for helicopter transportation.
- I am converting my calendar from Julian to Gregorian.
- I am extremely sensitive to a rise in the interest rates.
- I refuse to travel to my job in the District until there is a commuter tax. I insist on paying my fair share.

## Penguins

Bored Royal Air Force pilots stationed on the Falkland Islands have devised what they consider a marvellous new game. Noting that the local penguins are fascinated by airplanes, the pilots search out a beach where the birds are gathered and fly slowly along it at the water's edge. Perhaps ten thousand penguins turn their heads in unison watching the planes go by, and when the pilots turn around and fly back, the birds turn their heads in the opposite direction, like spectators at a slow-motion tennis match. Then, the paper reports, "The pilots fly out to sea and return directly to the penguin colony and overfly it. Heads go up, up, up, and ten thousand penguins fall over gently onto their backs.



## Quotes on the nature of the universe

- Carl Zwanzig: "Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together...."
- Douglas Adams: "There is a theory which states that if ever anybody discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened."
- Albert Einstein: "Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."
- Unknown: "Astronomers say the universe is finite, which is a comforting thought for those people who can't remember where they leave things."
- Edward P. Tryon: "In answer to the question of why it happened, I offer the modest proposal that our Universe is simply one of those things which happen from time to time."
- John Andrew Holmes: "It is well to remember that the entire universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others."
- Max Frisch: "Technology is a way of organizing the universe so that man doesn't have to experience it."
- Kilgore Trout: "The universe is a big place, perhaps the biggest."
- Woody Allen: "I'm astounded by people who want to 'know' the universe when it's hard enough to find your way around Chinatown."
- Douglas Adams: "In the beginning the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move."
- William J. Broad: "The crux... is that the vast majority of the mass of the universe seems to be missing."
- Rich Cook: "Programming today is a race between software engineers striving to build bigger and better idiot-proof programs, and the Universe trying to produce bigger and better idiots. So far, the Universe is winning."
- Fred Hoyle: "There is a coherent plan in the universe, though I don't know what it's a plan for."
- Ray Bradbury: "We are an impossibility in an impossible universe."
- Christopher Morley: "My theology, briefly, is that the universe was dictated but not signed."
- Edward Chilton: "I'm worried that the universe will soon need replacing. It's not holding a charge."
- Calvin and Hobbes: "The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us."

## Astrological lightbulbs

*What's your sign? How many of you does it take to change a lightbulb?*

- Aries: Just one. You want to make something of it?
- Taurus: One, but just \*try\* to convince them that the burned-out one is useless and should be thrown away.

- Gemini: Two, but the job never gets done--they just keep arguing about who is supposed to do it and how it's supposed to be done!
- Cancer: Just one. But it takes a therapist three years to help them through the grief process.
- Leo: Leos don't change lightbulbs, although sometimes their agent will get a Virgo in to do the job for them while they're out.
- Virgo: Approximately 1.000000 with an error of +/- 1 millionth.
- Libra: Er, two. Or maybe one. No - on second thought, make that two. Is that OK with you?
- Scorpio: That secret information can only be shared only with the Enlightened Ones in the Star Chamber of the Ancient Hierarchical Order.
- Sagittarius: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned-out lightbulb?
- Capricorn: I don't waste my time with these childish jokes.
- Aquarius: Well, you have to remember that everything is energy, so.....
- Pisces: Lightbulb? What lightbulb?

## Lesson in economics

- FEUDALISM: You have two cows. Your lord takes some of the milk.
- PURE SOCIALISM: You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. You have to take care of all the cows. The government gives you as much milk as you need.
- BUREAUCRATIC SOCIALISM: You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. They are cared for by ex-chicken farmers. You have to take care of the chickens the government took from the chicken farmers. The government gives you as much milk and as many eggs as the regulations say you should need.
- FASCISM: You have two cows. The government takes both, hires you to take care of them, and sells you the milk.
- PURE COMMUNISM: You have two cows. Your neighbors help you take care of them, and you all share the milk.
- RUSSIAN COMMUNISM: You have two cows. You have to take care of them, but the government takes all the milk.
- DICTATORSHIP: You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.
- SINGAPOREAN DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. The government fines you for keeping two unlicensed farm animals in an apartment.
- MILITARIANISM: You have two cows. The government takes both and drafts you.
- PURE DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. Your neighbors decide who gets the milk.
- REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. Your neighbors pick someone to tell you who gets the milk.
- AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: The government promises to give you two cows if you vote for it. After the election, the president is impeached for speculating in cow futures. The press dubs the affair "Cowgate".
- BRITISH DEMOCRACY: You have two cows. You feed them sheep' brains and they go mad. The government doesn't do anything.

- **BUREAUCRACY:** You have two cows. At first the government regulates what you can feed them and when you can milk them. Then it pays you not to milk them. After that it takes both, shoots one, milks the other and pours the milk down the drain. Then it requires you to fill out forms accounting for the missing cows.
- **ANARCHY:** You have two cows. Either you sell the milk at a fair price or your neighbors try to kill you and take the cows.
- **CAPITALISM:** You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.
- **HONG KONG CAPITALISM:** You have two cows. You sell three of them to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute a debt / equity swap with associated general offer so that you get all four cows back, with a tax deduction for keeping five cows. The milk rights of six cows are transferred via a Panamanian intermediary to a Cayman Islands company secretly owned by the majority shareholder, who sells the rights to all seven cows' milk back to the listed company. The annual report says that the company owns eight cows, with an option on one more. Meanwhile, you kill the two cows because the fung shui is bad.
- **ENVIRONMENTALISM:** You have two cows. The government bans you from milking or killing them.
- **FEMINISM:** You have two cows. They get married and adopt a veal calf.
- **TOTALITARIANISM:** You have two cows. The government takes them and denies they ever existed. Milk is banned.
- **POLITICAL CORRECTNESS:** You are associated with (the concept of "ownership" is a symbol of the phallo - centric, war - mongering, intolerant past) two differently aged (but no less valuable to society) bovines of non specified gender.
- **COUNTER CULTURE:** Wow, dude, there's like... these two cows, man. You got to have some of this milk.
- **SURREALISM:** You have two giraffes. The government requires you to take harmonica lessons.

## Thoughts

- **ON METAPHYSICS - Deja Fu:** The feeling that somehow, somewhere, you've been kicked in the head like this before.
- **ON DEEP THOUGHTS -** A day without sunshine is like night.
- **ON PARADOX AND RETURN POLICIES -** There is a CD out entitled "The Worst of Jefferson Airplane". If you buy this, take it home, play it, and enjoy it, should you take it back and demand a refund?
- **ON HIGHER EDUCATION -** College is a fountain of knowledge...and the students are there to drink.
- **ON MATHEMATICAL TRANSFORMS -** A polar bear is a rectangular bear after a coordinate transform.
- **ON YOUTH -** Some people say that I must be a horrible person, but that's not true. I have the heart of a young boy -- in a jar on my desk.
- **ON PROBLEM SOLVING -** When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail.
- **ON MATERIALISM -** He who dies with the most toys, is, nonetheless, still dead.
- **ON RELIGIOUS PRACTICES -** Photons have mass? I didn't know they were catholic!

- ON INFINITY - If you had everything, where would you keep it?
- ON ECONOMICS - The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.
- ON PUBLISHING OR PERISHING - I am returning this otherwise good typing paper to you because someone - has printed gibberish all over it and put your name at the top.
- ON REVISIONIST HISTORY - What was sliced bread the greatest thing since?
- ON DATING - When aiming for the common denominator, be prepared for the occasional - division by zero.
- ON LAMENTATION - Of all the things I've lost, I miss my mind the most.
- ON POETIC LOVE - When you're swimmin' in the creek - And an eel bites your cheek - That's a moray!
- ON MATERIAL SCIENCE - Character density: The number of very weird people in the office.
- ON EXTINCTION - Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
- ON LITERATURE - This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great - force.
- ON HUMILITY - To err is human, to moo bovine.
- ON EXPLANATION OF THE END - "... 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."
- ON PROPHECY - The meek shall inherit the earth---they are too weak to refuse.
- ON EXCUSES - I can't complain, but sometimes I still do
- ON NUMBERS - Grabel's Law: 2 is not equal to 3---not even for very large values of 2.
- ON WORLD POLITICS - Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggy" until you can find a rock.
- ON DRUGS AND DEVELOPMENT - There are two major products to come out of Berkeley: LSD and UNIX. We - don't believe this to be a coincidence.

## Military aircraft maintenance

*These are purportedly from actual military "squawk sheets." Squawk sheets are maintenance forms filed by the flight crews to inform the maintenance crews of problems with the aircraft.*

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Response/Solution</b>
Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.	Almost replaced left inside main tire.
Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.	Autoland not installed on this aircraft.
#2 Propeller seeping prop fluid.	#2 Propeller seepage normal. #1,#3, and #4 propellers lack normal seepage.
The autopilot doesn't.	IT DOES NOW.
Something loose in cockpit.	Something tightened in cockpit.
Evidence of hydraulic leak on right main landing gear	Evidence removed.

Number three engine missing.	Engine found on right wing after brief search.
DME volume unbelievably loud.	Volume set to more believable level.
Dead bugs on windshield.	Live bugs on order.
Autopilot in altitude hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent.	Cannot reproduce problem on ground.
IFF inoperative.	IFF inoperative in OFF mode.
Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.	That's what they're there for.

## Which? guide to selecting a girlfriend

Well it's been almost 20 years since Which? reviewed girlfriends (Which?, Aug 1972). Since then, styles have changed, new features have been introduced, and the market for girlfriends has changed substantially. So we here at Which? decided another report was needed.

As in a car or a computer, you should ask yourself what you need a girlfriend for before obtaining one. This will, in large part, dictate the final product which you should consider. Do you want an intellectual companion? A baby factory? A hiking partner? Or just lots of good, old-fashioned sex? Identifying your needs is the first, and most important, step in selecting a girlfriend.

The second question which needs to be addressed is, of course, how much you are able to spend. This is largely determined by your physical and personal characteristics--if you are good looking, have a commanding personality and a good sense of humor, you will have the resources to obtain a fancy, high-end model. On the other hand, if you are ugly, smell bad, and wear polyester clothes, your choices are more limited. Keep your purchasing power in mind when considering your selection. Although the salesman will tell you that a girlfriend can be financed, Which? does not recommend this practice; due to inflating expectations, the required monetary outlay will actually increase with time.

### Used vs. New?

A question many girlfriend seekers have to address is whether to get a new or a used girlfriend. The answer to this question will, roughly speaking, be determined by your age, as shown in the following table:

*Your age*      *Used or New*

1-12 years	(see note A)
13-16 years	New
17-21 years	Used, but not used up
22-35 years	Used heavily
35-60 years	New (see note B)
60+	(see note A)

Notes:    A: Seek psychiatric help    B: Only "new" if income > £100,000/year. Otherwise, "divorced."

New girlfriends have the advantage that they have no previous bad experiences to project on you, but the disadvantage that they will rarely be old enough to open their own checking account. Used girlfriends, on the other hand, may be steady, reliable performers, with the initial problems worked out, but Which? advises that you avoid models which have much more than average mileage (2.1 SO's/yr). Much greater than the average may be an indication that the girlfriend was a professional.

### **Accessories**

Often the potential girlfriends you see on the forecourt or in a pub will be loaded with accessories, as the dealer gets a high markup on such items as large bosom, long legs, green eyes, etc. Other accessories will only appeal to fringe markets, such as models which come pre-equipped with children, or the ability run 10 miles while chanting sanskrit. In such cases you should make a list of accessories desired, tolerated, and disliked. Note that some accessories (such as children) can be added later, while others (such as a large bosom) should be factory installed.

### **The Test Ride**

When evaluating a girlfriend, a test ride is essential. The test ride ritual begins with the so-called "pickup line", which can range from the simple if dull ("Can I buy you a drink?") to the aggressively hip ("dance with me or I'll kill you") to the arcane ("You're my Camus comrade, and I want to leap you, Faith!"). Which? rates as Not Acceptable "Smile, you'll look better." Once on the test bed, evaluate handling, stability, and acceleration. The two questions you want to answer are: how fast, and how far? Examine the detailing. Does the bosom sag? Does the heater warm adequately, or does she remain cool?

### **Ordering vs. On-The-Forecourt**

Finding the right girlfriend can be a frustrating experience, and many potential customers find it hard to get the exact model and accessories wanted. In such cases ordering from the factory is an option. Delivery time, however, is from 14 to 16 years (depending on the part of the country you live in), and Which? questions the usefulness of such a practice: if you have access to the baby factory, you should reconsider your need for a girlfriend anyway.

### **Methodology**

Girlfriends were evaluated by a dedicated group of 10 test engineers, selected to typify the average seeking population. All tests were performed at Which?'s specially constructed test facility, which included a bedroom, kitchen, and living room, and at a number of bars and pubs surrounding the facility. A series of seven tests were run, evaluating each product according to the following criterion: intelligence, wit, humor, empathy, initiative, looks, and performance.

## Results

Girlfriends are grouped together in categories by similarity. Within each category, variation is not statistically significant.

**Goddess** This is the woman of your dreams. She comes equipped with all the options you want and none of the ones you don't. She can argue subtle points of philosophy, give you a stiff game of squash, understand what you mean even if you don't say it, and break a bed. No mental or physical hang-ups. The drawback is that this model is not actually available.

**Goddess-in-law** This model is similar to the goddess, but comes with contractual retainers, such as a psychotic ex-husband, a spiteful mother, an alcoholic father, and a bratty kid. This model tends to generate gray hairs.

**Ms. Right** The best all-around choice for most girlfriend situations. Has most of the characteristics of the Goddess except possibly in the wrong size or hair color. Other than that, an excellent long-term investment. Availability is extremely limited but can occasionally be found with luck.

**Babe** This is the flashy, fully-loaded variety with all the options. Unfortunately this model lacks cognitive powers and empathy. Showy, and suitable for a parade or for impressing your friends, but not for your long-term girlfriend needs.

**Friend** The model with the most empathy. Caring and kind but you wouldn't be caught dead in it. Availability is poor to fair, depending on quality.

**Yeah, Her** The Ford Escort of girlfriends. Widely available, but useful as a girlfriend only in a pinch, if no others are available. Tends to be spiteful or unreliable, or have a dull finish.

Until you find her, we at Which? wish you Happy Hunting!

## German Little Red Riding Hood

Ein smallisch fraulein ben stayen mit der mama ein thicken woodser besiden. Der mama ben loven der fraulein und maken ein reddisch riden hood, mit warmen der earsers.

Acrossen der woodser der sicken grossmama ben liven. Reddish Riden Hood been taken ein boxen mit cheesen cakern and butter patters und starten der walken mit maken ein visiter.

Mitout warnen ein grosser wolfer ben uppen gecomen mit maken der talken. Reddish Riden Hood ben tellen abouten der grossmama und outenpointen der housen, Das wolfer ben racen mit breaknecken speeded und reachen der housen firster.



Der grossmama ben hearen der knocken mit rapper-tappen und asken der namen. "Reddish Riden Hood mit cheese cakere und butter patters," das wolfer ben callen. Der sicken grossmama ben yellere, "Flippen der latchen und insiden gecomen."

Das wolfer ben growlen mit bursten der dooren. Mit screamers der grossmama ben uppenleapen und der chasen ben starten. Ach! Ober und under der bedden und das roomen arounder gerunen mit nippen und tucken das hotten chasen ben proceeden!

In der meantimer Reddish Riden Hood ben hoppen und skippen mit watchen der birdsers und smellen der bloomen budde und finaller reachen der housen. Der noisers ben raisen der roofen und der fraulein ben closer obercomen mit frighthers.

Suddener der noises ben stoppen und der housen ben stillisch. Reddish Riden Hood ben inpeepen der windowpaner. Mit smoothen der curlers, der grossmama iss lickere der choppers.

## Movie laws of computers and electronics

- Word processors never display a cursor.
- You never have to use the space-bar when typing long sentences.
- All monitors display inch-high letters.
- High-tech computers, such as those used by NASA, the CIA, or some such governmental institution, will have easy to understand graphical interfaces. Those that don't, have incredibly powerful text-bases command shells that can correctly understand and execute commands typed in plain English. Corollary: you can gain access to any information you want by simply typing "ACCESS ALL OF THE SECRET FILES" on any keyboard.
- Likewise, you can infect a computer with a destructive virus by simply typing "UPLOAD VIRUS" (see "Fortress")
- All computers are connected. You can access the information on the villain's desktop computer, even if it's turned off.
- Powerful computers beep whenever you press a key or whenever the screen changes. Some computers also slow down the output on the screen so that it doesn't go faster than you can read. The \*really\* advanced ones also emulate the sound of a dot-matrix printer.
- All computer panels have thousands of volts and flash pots just underneath the surface. Malfunctions are indicated by a bright flash, a puff of smoke, a shower of sparks, and an explosion that forces you backwards.
- People typing away on a computer will turn it off without saving the data.
- A hacker can get into the most sensitive computer in the world before intermission and guess the secret password in two tries.
- Any PERMISSION DENIED has an OVERRIDE function (see "Demolition Man" and countless others).
- Complex calculations and loading of huge amounts of data will be accomplished in under three seconds. Movie modems usually appear to transmit data at the speed of two gigabytes per second.
- When the power plant/missile site/whatever overheats, all the control panels will explode, as will the entire building.



- If a disk has got encrypted files, you are automatically asked for a password when you try to access it.
- No matter what kind of computer disk it is, it'll be readable by any system you put it into. All application software is usable by all computer platforms The more high-tech the equipment, the more buttons it has (Aliens). However, everyone must have been highly trained, because the buttons aren't labelled.
- Most computers, no matter how small, have reality-defying three-dimensional, active animation, photo-realistic graphics capability.
- Laptops, for some strange reason, always seem to have amazing real-time video phone capabilities and the performance of a CRAY Supercomputer.
- Whenever a character looks at a VDU, the image is so bright that it projects itself onto his/her face (see "Alien", "2001").

## Computer terms

640K barrier	the finish line in a mega-marathon
analog	what Ana tosses into the fire
assembly language	put tab A into slot B, then put tab C...
bandwidth	limited by the size of the stage
battery backup	going in reverse in a golf cart
benchmark	what happens when your saw hits the bench
broadband	an all female rock group
cache memory	remembering how much you spent
carrier detect	"I see the mail man!"
CASE	24 bottles
Control Character	prison guard
conventional memory	remembering what you did at COMDEX
copyright	vs. copy wrong
cursor	a garbage mouth
daisy chain	a dog's leash
DAT	the opposite of DIS
delimiter	some who says, "Stop, that's enough"
density	how to measure IQs of blondes
dhrystones	the stones that were tossed out of the water
DIP switch	how my sister gets a new boy friend
EBCDIC	similar to herpes
EMS	happens just before PMS
escape sequence	Distract guard. Dig tunnel. Cut fence...
Ethernet	used to catch Etherbunny
fixed disk	a broken disk that comes back from the shop
flat file	a file with all the air out of it
full duplex	a 2-family house with 16 occupants
groupware	clothes swapping
hacker	a heavy smoker
hand scanner	singles bar prowler looking for wedding rings
heap	what I drive
high density diskette	a very stupid floppy
home computer	what you tell your computer when it follows you
hypertext	text on amphetamines

ink jet	a plane used for sky writing
integrated circuit	a circuit with both black & white components
local bus	stops at every intersection
lost chains	euphoria experienced by the recently divorced
low-level language	for basement programmers
high-level language	for penthouse programmers
machine dependency	an addiction of machine users
main memory	remembering where the water line is
math coprocessor	the person you cheated from in math class
megaflop	the worst play you ever saw
minicomputer	the peer to Mickey's computer
modem	what the gardener did to the lawns
multi-sync	can be sunk more than once
native mode	head hunting
on-line	where the birds sit
overlay	chickens making too many eggs
pentium	the thing that swings back-and-forth on a clock
plotter	a deceitful person
postscript	grafitti on a pole
record locking	what you do to your Beatles' White Album
right justified	vs. wrongly justified
software piracy	stealing a ship's program
streaming tape	party decorations
subroutine	not quite routine
word wrap	black music
Ymodem	because, modem

## Aphorisms

- I think animal testing is a terrible idea; they get all nervous and give the wrong answers.
- A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
- The hypothalamus is one of the most important parts of the brain, involved in many kinds of motivation, among other functions. The hypothalamus controls the "Four F's": 1. fighting; 2. fleeing; 3. feeding; and 4. mating.
- What is a committee? A group of the unwilling, picked from the unfit, to do the unnecessary.
- Slogan of 105.9, the classic rock radio station in Chicago: "Of all the radio stations in Chicago...we're one of them."
- With every passing hour our solar system comes forty-three thousand miles closer to globular cluster M13 in the constellation Hercules, and still there are some misfits who continue to insist that there is no such thing as progress.
- Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.
- Applying computer technology is simply finding the right wrench to pound in the correct screw.
- The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an Accounting

degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with a Liberal Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

- Karate is a form of martial arts in which people who have had years and years of training can, using only their hands and feet, make some of the worst movies in the history of the world.
- I am not a vegetarian because I love animals; I am a vegetarian because I hate plants.
- A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.
- Never underestimate the bandwidth of a station wagon full of tapes hurtling down the highway.
- We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it - and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again---and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.
- There's so much comedy on television. Does that cause comedy in the streets?
- If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base.
- I am sick unto death of obscure English towns that exist seemingly for the sole accommodation of these so-called limerick writers -- and even sicker of their residents, all of whom suffer from physical deformities and spend their time dismembering relatives at fancy dress balls.
- When cryptography is outlawed, bayl bhgynjf jvyy unir cevinpl.
- Lazlo's Chinese Relativity Axiom: No matter how great your triumphs or how tragic your defeats---approximately one billion Chinese couldn't care less.
- 668: The Neighbor of the Beast
- Some mornings, it's just not worth chewing through the leather straps.
- Writing about music is like dancing about architecture.
- Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you recognize a mistake when you make it again.
- 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.
- As your attorney, it is my duty to inform you that it is not important that you understand what I'm doing or why you're paying me so much money. What's important is that you continue to do so. 26. When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and said, "Yes, but is it the God of the Catholics or the God of the Protestants in whom you don't believe?"
- Boundary, n. In political geography, an imaginary line between two nations, separating the imaginary rights of one from the imaginary rights of another.
- I think that all right-thinking people in this country are sick and tired of being told that ordinary, decent people are fed up in this country with being sick and tired. I'm certainly not! But I'm sick and tired of being told that I am!
- May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house.
- Sorry, but my karma just ran over your dogma.
- Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.

- Life may have no meaning. Or even worse, it may have a meaning of which I disapprove.
- My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I am right.
- Her kisses left something to be desired -- the rest of her.
- Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.
- Always try to do things in chronological order; it's less confusing that way.
- Based on what you know about him in history books, what do you think Abraham Lincoln would be doing if he were alive today? 1. Writing his memoirs of the Civil War. 2. Advising the President. 3. Desperately clawing at the inside of his coffin.
- Once at a social gathering, Gladstone said to Disraeli, "I predict, Sir, that you will die either by hanging or of some vile disease". Disraeli replied, "That all depends, sir, upon whether I embrace your principles or your mistress."
- For three days after death, hair and fingernails continue to grow but phone calls taper off.
- I think that the team that wins game five will win the series. Unless we lose game five.
- My initial response was to sue her for defamation of character, but then I realized that I had no character.
- The most important thing in the programming language is the name. A language will not succeed without a good name. I have recently invented a very good name and now I am looking for a suitable language.
- An Animated Cartoon Theology: 1. People are animals. 2. The body is mortal and subject to incredible pain. 3. Life is antagonistic to the living. 4. The flesh can be sawed, crushed, frozen, stretched, burned, bombed, and plucked for music. 5. The dumb are abused by the smart and the smart destroyed by their own cunning. 6. The small are tortured by the large and the large destroyed by their own momentum. 7. We are able to walk on air, but only as long as our illusion supports us.
- Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.
- On one occasion a student burst into his office. "Professor Stigler, I don't believe I deserve this F you've given me." To which Stigler replied, "I agree, but unfortunately it is the lowest grade the University will allow me to award."
- The overwhelming majority of people have more than the average (mean) number of legs.
- Old Yiddish proverb: "If triangles had a God, He'd have three sides."
- Don't worry about temptation--as you grow older, it starts avoiding you.
- G: "If we do happen to step on a mine, Sir, what do we do?" EB: "Normal procedure, Lieutenant, is to jump 200 feet in the air and scatter oneself over a wide area."
- The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.
- Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, "Where have I gone wrong?" Then a voice says to me, "This is going to take more than one night."
- The only difference between me and a madman is that I am not mad.
- What a distressing contrast there is between the radiant intelligence of the child and the feeble mentality of the average adult.
- I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me.
- Sacred cows make the best hamburger.
- "Time's fun when you're having flies."

## Aviation quotes

- If it flies, floats or fornicates, it's probably cheaper to rent.
- In response to how he checked the weather: "I just whip out my blue card with a hole in it and read what it says: 'When colour of card matches colour of sky, FLY!'"
- A midair collision seriously erodes climb performance.
- The four things that never did a pilot any good: the altitude that's above you, the runway that's behind you, the gas that's still in the truck, and a field-grade navigator in the right seat.
- "A human being is the best computer available to place in a spacecraft. ... It is also the only one that can be mass produced with unskilled labor"
- On a large jet following a maintenance test flight, the pilot-in-command wrote in the aircraft log, "Aircraft satisfactory, except autoland very rough. "The mechanics sign-off was, "Autoland not installed on this aircraft."
- Flying is not dangerous; crashing is dangerous.
- Being an airline pilot would be great if you didn't have to go on all those trips.
- Passengers prefer old captains and young stewardesses.
- A smooth touchdown in a simulator is as exciting as kissing your sister.
- A good simulator check ride is like successful surgery on a cadaver.
- Asking what a pilot thinks about the FAA is like asking a fireplug what it thinks about dogs.
- A thunderstorm is nature's way of saying, "Up yours."
- One good hole in the overcast is worth ten published approaches.
- Eagles may soar, but weasels never get sucked into jet air intakes.
- No female shall appear in a bathing suit at any airport in this State (Kentucky) unless she is escorted by two officers or unless she is armed with a club. The provisions of this statute shall not apply to females weighing less than 90 pounds nor exceeding 200 pounds, nor shall it apply to female horses.
- In Columbia, Pennsylvania, it is against the law for a pilot to tickle a female flying student under her chin with a feather duster in order to get her attention.
- In Lowes Crossroads, Delaware, it is a violation of local law for any pilot or passenger to carry an ice cream cone in their pocket while either flying or waiting to board a plane.
- In Pocatigo, Georgia, it is a violation for a woman over 200 pounds and attired in shorts to pilot or ride in an airplane.
- A male pilot is a confused soul who talks about women when he's flying, and about flying when he's with a woman.
- Airport Test: Go through your address book, call people and ask them to drive you to the airport. The ones who will drive you are your true friends. The rest aren't bad people, they are just acquaintances.
- What's the difference between God and Pilots? God doesn't think he's a pilot.
- "Bother," said Pooh when his engine quit on take-off.
- Parachutists are good to the last drop

## Operating system for your brain

### **Windows for brains:**

You think about one of any number of things at anyone time but only for a short amount of time because then your mind goes blank as you encounter a "general protection fault" and as a last resort you have to re-boot your brain.

### **DOS for brains:**

You only think of one thing at one time, and can't remember anything else you were meant to be thinking about. You think only in words and never any pictures.

### **Unix for brains:**

Wow - you can think of lots of things all at once until your brain runs out of sockets. You can only talk though with people who have brains made by the same vendor. Unfortunately you also never make any sense and have to read manuals to learn how to think. Predominantly a random thinker.

### **CP/M for brains:**

A very slow and old fashioned thinker. Any thing you remember has to be less than 3 letters long.

### **MVS/CICS for brains:**

You have a very big and expensive brain. You can think about many things at the one time but never now what other parts of your brain are thinking unless you have set up SNA connections between sections of your brains. You also need an army of system programmers to define what thoughts you may and may not have.

### **OS/2 for brains:**

You can think about lots of things at once but need the equivalent of eighteen sets of encyclopaedias in memory to produce any rational thought. No-one supports your way of thinking and many laugh at you whenever you speak.

### **Mac for brains:**

Simple thoughts for simple people. Thinking that looks good, feels good but is expensive.

### **Pick for brains:**

I now narthing. Narthing Mr Fawlty.

### **AmigaOS for brains:**

You can think of lots of things at once, even with a very small memory. The trouble is that, sometimes, one thought starts to think about the things another thought was using. This leads to a compelling need to wrap a teatowel around your head and sit, crosslegged, on the floor.

### **Linux for Brains:**

You can think of any number of things and not run out of sockets. Unfortunately, there is no support for your particular limbs, ears, mouth or ... thingy.... available yet so you are reluctant to change over at this stage.

## You know you're getting older when

- Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
- You feel like the night after, and you haven't been anywhere.
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- You get winded playing chess.
- Your children begin to look middle aged.
- You're still chasing women but can't remember why.
- A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.
- You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.
- You look forward to a dull evening.
- You walk with your head high trying to get used to your bifocals.
- Your favorite part of the newspaper is "25 Years Ago Today..."
- You turn out the light for economic reasons rather than romantic ones.
- You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.
- After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat.
- Dialing long distance wears you out.
- You're startled the first time you are addressed as an old timer.
- You just can't stand people who are intolerant.
- The best part of your day is over when your alarm clock goes off.
- You burn the midnight oil until 9 pm.
- Your back goes out more often than you do.
- A fortune teller offers to read your face.
- Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl go by.
- The little grey haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
- You have too much room in the house and not enough room in the medicine cabinet.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

## If architects had to work like programmers

Dear Mr. Architect:

Please design and build me a house. I am not quite sure of what I need, so you should use your discretion.

My house should have between two and forty-five bedrooms. Just make sure the plans are such that the bedrooms can be easily added or deleted. When you bring the blueprints to me, I will make the final decision of what I want. Also, bring me the cost breakdown for each configuration so that I can arbitrarily pick one.

Keep in mind that the house I ultimately choose must cost less than the one I am currently living in. Make sure, however, that you correct all the deficiencies that exist in my current house (the floor of my kitchen vibrates when I walk across it, and the walls don't have nearly enough insulation in them).

As you design, also keep in mind that I want to keep yearly maintenance costs as low as possible. This should mean the incorporation of extra-cost features like aluminum, vinyl, or composite siding. (If you choose not to specify aluminum, be prepared to explain your decision in detail.) Please take care that modern design practices and the latest materials are used in construction of the house, as I want it to be a showplace for the most up-to-date ideas and methods. Be alerted, however, that kitchen should be designed to accommodate, among other things, my 1952 Gibson refrigerator.

To insure that you are building the correct house for our entire family, make certain that you contact each of our children, and also our in-laws. My mother-in-law will have very strong feelings about how the house should be designed, since she visits us at least once a year. Make sure that you weigh all of these options carefully and come to the right decision. I, however, retain the right to overrule any choices that you make.

Please don't bother me with small details right now. Your job is to develop the overall plans for the house: get the big picture. At this time, for example, it is not appropriate to be choosing the color of the carpet. However, keep in mind that my wife likes blue.

Also, do not worry at this time about acquiring the resources to build the house itself. Your first priority is to develop detailed plans and specifications. Once I approve these plans, however, I would expect the house to be under roof within 48 hours.

While you are designing this house specifically for me, keep in mind that sooner or later I will have to sell it to someone else. It therefore should have appeal to a wide variety of potential buyers. Please make sure before you finalize the plans that there is a consensus of the population in my area that they like the features this house has.

I advise you to run up and look at my neighbor's house he constructed last year. We like it a great deal. It has many features that we would also like in our new home, particularly the 75-foot swimming pool. With careful engineering, I believe that you can design this into our new house without impacting the final cost.



Please prepare a complete set of blueprints. It is not necessary at this time to do the real design, since they will be used only for construction bids. Be advised, however, that you will be held accountable for any increase of construction costs as a result of later design changes.

You must be thrilled to be working on as an interesting project as this! To be able to use the latest techniques and materials and to be given such freedom in your designs is something that can't happen very often. Contact me as soon as possible with your complete ideas and plans.

PS: My wife has just told me that she disagrees with many of the instructions I've given you in this letter. As architect, it is your responsibility to resolve these differences. I have tried in the past and have been unable to accomplish this. If you can't handle this responsibility, I will have to find another architect.

PPS: Perhaps what I need is not a house at all, but a travel trailer. Please advise me as soon as possible if this is the case.