

# SATICHE



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

*Volume 5*

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## Kiwi language lesson

Following these easy steps, you can finally hold a successful conversation with a New Zealander:

a medgen	Visualise, conjure up mentally, John Lennon's first solo album, 'Imagine' was a bug hut in NZ.
Betting	Betting gloves are worn by betsmen in cricket
Brist	Part of human anatomy between nick and billy
Bugger	As in mine's bugger than yours
Chully Bun	Chilly Bin, as in Esky
Come Youse	Controversial captain of Oz cricket team who resigned tearfully in favour of Allan Border. Come had insisted that all deliveries be overarm. Full name - Kimberly John Hughes
Dimmer Kretz	Those who believe in democracy
Error Buck	Language spoken in countries like Surria, E. Jupp and Libbernon.
Ekka Dymocks	University staff
Guess	Flammable vapour used in stoves.
Buzniss	Common type of degree
Chick Out Chucks	Supermarket point of sale operators
Jendles	Sandals, thongs, open shoes
Colour	Terminator, violent forecloser of human life
Cuss	Kiss
Duck Hid	Term of abuse directed mainly at men. LOMBARD is an acronym popular in Sydney's eastern suburbs. It stands for Lots Of Money But A Real Duck-Hid.
Phar Lap	NZ's famous horse was christened Phillip but was incorrectly written down as Phar Lap by an Australian racing official who was not well versed in Kiwese.

Try constructing the ultimate kiwiese sentence with these gems.....

Come Youse had a billy full of betting so he a medgened himself a bugger future in Jendles. He got himself an Ekka Dymock Buzniss degree and cussed cricket goodbye. No more duck hids bowling underarm for Come. Come has a colour instinct for the jendle buzness and he kips abrist of all the trinds. Every chick out chuck in the buzness us wearing Come's Error Bick style Jendles. Buy one pear, you gut a free chully bun. Hus buzness is cukking wuth guess so he's thunking of joining the Dimmer Kretz.

## Thoughts

- Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?
- Since light travels faster than sound, isn't that why some people appear bright until you hear them speak?
- How come abbreviated is such a long word?
- Why does sour cream have an expiration date?
- The light went out, but where to?
- Does the reverse side also have a reverse side?

- Why do scientists call it research when looking for something new?
- If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?
- When I erase a word with a pencil, where does it go?
- Why do we put suits in a garment bag and put garments in a suitcase?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- What do little birdies see when they get knocked unconscious?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
- If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
- If all those psychics know the winning lottery numbers, why are they all still working?
- Isn't the best way to save face to keep the lower part shut?
- War doesn't determine who's right, just who's left.

## Painful puns

- Hangover: The wrath of grapes.
- Income Tax: Capital punishment.
- A used car is not always what it's jacked up to be.
- Two silkworms were in a race. They ended up in a tie.
- To my sweetheart: My cooking's gotten better since I fondue.
- Middle Age: When actions creak louder than words.
- Egotist: One who is me-deep in conversation.
- Archeologist: A man whose career lies in ruins.
- Kleptomaniac: One who can't help himself from helping himself.
- How did the pig with laryngitis feel? A: Dis-gruntled.

## Politics

- Remember the good old days, when the government lived within its income and without most of yours?
- Ever notice how many government officials make their raises effective long before they ever are?
- Too many politicians who wave the flag want to waive what it stands for!
- It's astonishing how politicians never say anything, yet always insist they're being misquoted.
- America is the land that fought for freedom and then began passing laws to get rid of it.
- War is what happens when arms are used instead of heads!
- Have you noticed that political promises are usually in one year and out the other?
- Political campaign speeches are like cattle horns: a point here, a point there...and a lot of bull in between!
- Isn't it amazing how political candidates can give you all their good points and qualifications in a thirty-second TV commercial?
- Elections are when people find out what the politicians stand for and politicians find out what people will fall for.

- The ups and downs of the economy are the result of having elected too many yo-yos!
- It's no wonder politicians don't listen to their conscience. They don't want to take advice from a total stranger.
- The reason politicians are so busy is that they spend half their time passing laws and the other half helping their friends get around them.
- These days, the only time politicians are telling the truth is when they call each other a liar!

## Electricity

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 customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated in the United States was 1937.

## Cream pie

"Brussels police department, how may I assist you?"

"Uh.. yes.. I just got hit in the face with a cream pie."

"Okay, sir. Have you called the Brussels police department before?"

"No"

"Well, let me get a little information about you for our records. Your name?"

"Bill Gates"

"Country?"

"The USA"

"Native language?"

"English"

"Okay, sir. Your police department ID number is BP31415927. Please use this number the next time you call. Now, you say you were hit in the face with a pie?"

"Yes, I was just about to meet with the Belgian Prime Minister. One person distracted me while another hit me with a cream pie."

"We've had other customers report that they were hit in the face with a custard pie. Are you sure it was a cream pie?"

"Well, I have white stuff all over my face and I don't see any custard, so I really don't think it was a custard pie."

"Have you visited the Prime Minister before?"

"Yes"

"Were you hit in the face with a pie then?"

"No"

"Hmm... have you visited any other Prime Ministers in the past month?"

"Yes"

"Any pies then?"

"No"

"Okay, well.. let's try something. Go outside the building and come in again. I'll wait."

"Just a minute.." <several minutes pass> "Okay, I'm back."

"Did you get hit by another pie?"

"Of course not"

"Well sir, I don't know what could have caused the first pie, but it looks like things are working fine now. I'll make a note of the problem, though. If it happens again, please note the exact details of the situation and call us again. Thank you for calling the Brussels Police Department. <click>"

## Everything I need to know I learned in corporate America

- Indecision is the key to flexibility.
- You can't tell which way the train went by looking at the track.
- There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.
- Happiness is merely the remission of pain.
- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- Sometimes too much to drink is not enough.
- The facts, although interesting, are irrelevant.
- The careful application of terror is also a form of communication.
- Someone who thinks logically is a nice contrast to the real world.
- Things are more like they are today than they ever were before.
- Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting dirty for.
- Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.
- Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- I have seen the truth and it makes no sense.
- Suicide is the most sincere form of self-criticism.
- If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.
- (too offensive to include)
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
- One seventh of your life is spent on Monday.
- By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.
- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- The more you run over a dead cat, the flatter it gets.
- There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
- This is as bad as it can get, but don't count on it.
- Never wrestle a pig. You both get dirty and the pig likes it.
- The trouble with life is, you're halfway through it before you realize it's a do-it-yourself thing.
- Youth and skill are no match for experience and treachery.
- No amount of advance planning will ever replace dumb luck.
- Anything you do can get you fired; this includes doing nothing.
- Money can't buy happiness; it can, however, rent it.
- Never pass a snow plow on the right.



## Would you like to join...

The Yoko Club?	Oh no.
The German philosophy club?	I. Kant.
The Arafat club?	Yessir.
The Alzheimer's club?	Forget it.
The Peter Pan club?	Never. Never.
The Japanese theater club?	Noh.
The quarterback club?	I'll pass.
The Rhett Butler club?	I don't give a damn.
The compulsive rhymers club?	Okey-dokey.
The Spanish optometrists club?	Si.
The anti-perspirant club?	Sure.
The pregnancy club?	Conceivably.
The Procrastinator's Club	Maybe next week
The Agoraphobics Society	Only if they meet at my house
The Co-Dependence Club	Can I bring a friend?
The Prayer Group	God willing!

## Divine press release

Turmoil rocked Heaven this morning as allegations arose that God had had an affair with a former worshipper. The scandal was begun when a 21 year old woman, known only as Mary, claimed that she had given birth to God's "only son" last week in a barn in the hamlet of Bethlehem.

Sources close to Mary claim that she "had loved God for a long time", that she was constantly talking about her relationship with God, and that she was "thrilled to have had his child." In a press conference this morning, God issued a vehement denial, saying that "No sexual relationship existed", and that "the facts of this story will come out in time, verily".

Independent counsel Kenneth Beelzebub immediately filed a brief with the Justice department to expand his investigation to cover questions of whether any commandments may have been broken, and whether God had illegally funnelled laundered money to his illegitimate child through three foreign operatives know only as the "Wise Men". Beelzebub has issued subpoenas to several angels who are rumoured to have acted as go-betweens in the affair.

Critics have pointed out that these allegations have little to do with the charges that Beelzebub was originally appointed to investigate, that God had created large-scale flooding in order to cover up evidence of a failed land deal.

In recent months, Beelzebub's investigation has already been expanded to cover questions surrounding the large number of locusts that plagued God's political opponents in the last election, as well as to claims that the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was to divert attention away from a scandal involving whether the give-away of a parcel of public land in Promised County to a Jewish special interest group was quid pro quo for political contributions.

If these allegations prove to be true, then this could be a huge blow to God's career, much of which has been spent crusading for stricter moral standards and harsher punishments for wrongdoers. Indeed, God recently outlined a "tough-on-crime" plan consisting of a series of 10 "Commandments", which has been introduced in Congress in a bill by Rep. Moses. Critics of the bill have pointed out that it lacks any provisions for the rehabilitation of criminals, and lawyers for the ACLU are planning to fight the "Name in Vain" Commandment as being an unconstitutional restriction on free speech.

## Mom's dictionary

**AIRPLANE:** What Mom impersonates to get a 1-yr.-old to eat strained beets.  
**ALIEN:** What Mom would suspect had invaded her house if she spotted a child-sized creature cleaning up after itself.  
**APPLE:** Nutritious lunchtime dessert which children will trade for cupcakes.  
**BABY:** 1. Dad, when he gets a cold. 2. Mom's youngest child, even if he's 42.  
**BATHROOM:** A room used by the entire family, believed by all except Mom to be self-cleaning.  
**BECAUSE:** Mom's reason for having kids do things which can't be explained logically.  
**BED & BREAKFAST:** Two things the kids will never make for themselves.  
**CARPET:** Expensive floor covering used to catch spills and clean mud off shoes.  
**CAR POOL:** Complicated system of transportation where Mom always winds up going the furthest with the biggest bunch of kids who have had the most sugar.  
**COOK:** 1. Act of preparing food for consumption. 2. Mom's other name.  
**COUCH POTATO:** What Mom finds on the sofa during Dallas Cowboy games.  
**DATE:** Infrequent outings with Dad where Mom can enjoy worrying about the kids in a different setting.  
**DRINKING GLASS:** Any carton or bottle left open in the fridge.  
**DUST:** Insidious interloping particles of evil that turn a home into a battle zone.  
**DUST RAGS:** See "DAD'S UNDERWEAR."  
**EAR:** A place where kids store dirt.  
**EAT:** What kids do between meals, but not at them.  
**EMPTY NEST:** See "WISHFUL THINKING."  
**ENERGY:** Element of vitality kids always have an oversupply of until asked to do something.  
**"EXCUSE ME":** One of Mom's favorite phrases, reportedly used in past times by children.  
**EYE:** The highly susceptible optic nerve which, according to Mom, can be "put out" by anything from a suction-arrow to a carelessly handled butter knife.  
**FABLE:** A story told by a teenager arriving home after curfew.  
**FOOD:** The response Mom usually gives in answer to the question "What's for dinner tonight?" See "SARCASM"  
**FROZEN:** 1. A type of food. 2. How Hell will be when Mom lets her daughter date an older guy with a motorcycle.  
**GARBAGE:** A collection of refuse items, the taking out of which Mom assigns to a different family member each week, then winds up doing herself.  
**GENIUSES:** Amazingly, all of Mom's kids.  
**GUM:** Adhesive for the hair.

**HAMPER:** A wicker container with a lid, usually surrounded by, but not containing, dirty clothing.

**HANDI-WIPES:** Pants, shirt-sleeves, drapes, etc.

**HANDS:** Body appendages which must be scrubbed raw with volcanic soap and sterilized in boiling water immediately prior to consumption of the evening meal.

**HINDSIGHT:** What Mom experiences from changing too many diapers.

**HOMEMADE BREAD:** An object of fiction like the Fountain of Youth and the Golden Fleece.

**ICE:** Cubes of frozen water which would be found in small plastic tray if kids or husbands ever filled the darn things instead of putting them back in the freezer empty.

**INSIDE:** That place that will suddenly look attractive to kids once Mom has spent a minimum of half an hour getting them ready to go outside.

**"I SAID SO":** Reason enough, according to Mom

**JACKPOT:** When all the kids stay at friends' homes for the night.

**JEANS:** Which, according to kids, are appropriate for just about any occasion, including church and funerals.

**"JEEEEEEEEZZ!":** Slang for "Gee Mom, isn't there anything else you can do to embarrass me in front of my friends?"

**JOY RIDE:** Going somewhere without the kids.

**JUNK:** Things belonging to Dad.

**KETCHUP:** The sea of tomato-based goop kids use to drown the dish that Mom spent hours cooking and years perfecting to get the seasoning just right.

**KISS:** Mom medicine.

**LAKE:** Large body of water into which a kid will jump should his friends do so.

**LEMONADE STAND:** Complicated business venture where Mom buys powdered mix, sugar, lemons, and paper cups, and sets up a table, chairs, pitchers and ice for kids who sit there for three to six minutes and net a profit of 15 cents.

**LIE:** An "exaggeration" Mom uses to transform her child's papier-mache volcano science project into a Nobel Prize-winning experiment and a full-ride scholarship to Harvard.

**LOSERS:** See "Kids' Friends"

**MAKEUP:** Lipstick, eyeliner, blush, etc. which ironically make Mom look better while making her young daughter look "like a tramp."

**MAYBE:** No.

**MILK:** A healthful beverage which kids will gladly drink once it's turned into junk food by the addition of sugar and cocoa.

**"MOMMMMMMM!":** The cry of a child on another floor who wants something.

**MUSH:** 1. What a kid loves to do with a plateful of food. 2. Main element of Mom's favorite movies.

**NAILS:** A hard covering on the end of the finger, which Mom can never have a full set of due to pitching for batting practice, opening stubborn modeling clay lids and removing heat ducts to retrieve army men and/or doll clothing.

**OCEAN:** What the bathroom floor looks like after bath night for kids, assorted pets, two or three full-sized towels and several dozen toy boats, cars and animals.

**OPEN:** The position of children's mouths when they eat in front of company.

**OVERSTUFFED RECLINER:** Mom's nickname for Dad.

**PANIC:** What a mother goes thru when the wind-up swing stops.

## Cynic's guide to life

- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
- Follow your dream! Unless it's the one where you're at work in your underwear during a fire drill.
- Always take time to stop and smell the roses... and sooner or later, you'll inhale a bee.
- Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me, either, just leave me alone.
- If you don't like my driving, don't call anyone. Just take another road. That's why the highway department made so many of them.
- It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal the neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
- A handy telephone tip: Keep a small chalkboard near the phone. That way, when a salesman calls, you can hold the receiver up to it and run your fingernails across it until he hangs up.
- Each day I try to enjoy something from each of the four food groups: the bonbon group, the salty-snack group, the caffeine group, and the "whatever-the-thing-in-the-tinfoil-in-the-back-of-the-fridge-is" group.
- Into every life some rain must fall. Usually when your car windows are down.
- It's a small world. So you gotta use your elbows a lot.
- Keep your nose to the grindstone and your shoulder to the wheel...it's cheaper than plastic surgery.
- This land is your land. This land is my land. So stay on your land.

## Real estate terms

- Unusual location - In the path of a projected motorway.
- Local authority grants available - About to be condemned.
- Period residence - Built in the last two years.
- Select neighborhood - Beside sewage works.
- Compact - Tiny.
- Country gentleman's residence - no longer suitable for agricultural tenants.
- Unusual features - No roof.
- Delightful rural location - In flight path of nuclear bomber base.
- Box room - Suitable for accommodating one or two large cardboard boxes, folded.
- A wealth of period features - Your self, dry rot, rising damp and an electrical circuit best operated in rubber gloves and wellies.
- Quite, secluded setting - On site of proposed dormitory town.
- Well situated - In full view of the neighbors.
- Within easy distance of - Next door to a pub and opposite a sex shop local amenities.
- Rare opportunity to buy - No one else wants it.
- For the gardening enthusiast - Grounds like a jungle.
- Extensively modernized - Former DIY owner had a breakdown under the strain.
- Unspoilt - Planning permission granted for field next door.
- Deceptive appearance - It looks terrible.

- Partial central heating - The room above the boiler can get warm in summer.
- Easily maintained - Requires at least two gardeners and live-in maid.
- Useful outbuildings - No inside toilet.
- Much sought after - It's been on the market at least twice before and still no one wants it.
- By private treaty - If it went to auction it would never reach the reserve price.
- Owner eager to sell - If it goes within a week the subsidence cracks won't be noticed.
- Subject to new instructions - They have just discovered death watch beetle.
- Sold - Unless idiots like you offer a higher price.

## Business terms

- A CONSULTANT - Any ordinary guy with a briefcase more than 50 miles from home.
- AN EXPERT - A person who avoids all small errors as he sweeps toward the grand fallacy
- A STATISTICIAN - One who draws a mathematically precise line from an unwarranted assumption to a foregone conclusion.
- A COLLEAGUE - Someone called in at the last minute to share the blame.
- A RELIABLE SOURCE - The guy you just met.
- AN INFORMED SOURCE - The guy who told the guy you just met.
- AN UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCE - The guy who started the rumor originally.
- A MEETING - A mass mulling of master-minds.
- A CONFERENCE - A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.
- A PROGRAM - Any assignment that can't be completed by one telephone call.
- CHANNELS - The guy who has a desk between two expeditors.
- TO ACTIVATE - To make copies and add more names to the memo.
- TO EXPIDITE - To confound confusion with commotion.
- TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM - Hire more people and expand the office.
- TO RESEARCH - Go looking for the jerk who moved the files.
- TO GIVE SOMEONE THE PICTURE - To present a long, confused and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.
- TO CLARIFY - To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.
- IT IS IN PROCESS - So wrapped up in red tape that the situation is almost hopeless.
- WE WILL LOOK INTO IT - By the time the wheel makes a full turn, we assume you will have forgotten about it.
- WILL ADVISE YOU IN DUE COURSE - If we figure it out, we'll let you know.
- WE ARE AWARE OF IT - We had hoped that the fool who started it would have forgotten about it by this time.
- IT'S UNDER CONSTRUCTION - Never heard of it.
- UNDER ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION - We are looking in the files for it.
- WE ARE MAKING A SURVEY - We need more time to think of an answer.
- LET'S GET TOGETHER IN THIS - I'm assuming you're as confused as I am.
- PLEASE NOTE AND INITIAL - Let's spread the responsibility for this.

- GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PRESENT THINKING - We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we have already decided to do.
- GIVE US YOUR INTERPRETATION - Your warped opinion will be pitted against your adversary's good sense.
- SEE ME - Come down to my office, I'm lonesome.

## The perfect woman

- When I was in junior high, all I wanted was a girl with big breasts
- In high school, I dated a girl with big breasts, but there was no passion. So I decided I needed a passionate girl.
- In college, I dated a passionate girl, but she was too emotional. Everything was an emergency, she cried all the time. So I decided I needed a girl with some stability.
- I found a very stable girl, but she was boring. She never got excited about anything. So I decided I needed a girl with some excitement.
- I found an exciting girl, but I couldn't keep up with her. She rushed from one thing to another, never settling on anything. She was without direction. So I decided to find a girl with some ambition.
- After college, I found an ambitious girl and married her. She was so ambitious, she divorced me and took everything I owned.
- Now all I want is a girl with big breasts.

## Definitions from “The Cynic’s Dictionary”

- AUTHOR A writer with connections in the publishing industry.
- BOSS A personal dictator appointed to those of us fortunate enough to live in free societies.
- CHILDHOOD The rapidly shrinking interval between infancy and first arrest on a drug or weapons charge.
- DENIAL How an optimist keeps from becoming a pessimist.
- EXPERIENCE In the working world, something you can't get unless you've already got it, in which case you probably don't want any more of it.
- FITNESS Salvation through perspiration.
- GOURMET A food fetishist.
- HOOKER A working woman commonly despised by people who sell themselves for even less.
- IDEOLOGUE Generally an obscure humourless zealot who finds fulfilment by spouting the ideas of famous humourless zealots.
- JEANS Lower half of the international uniform of youth, the upper half being the spots.
- KLEPTOMANIAC A thief with breeding.
- LABORATORY ANIMALS Furry foot-soldiers drafted in the name of science. Some die nobly in the battle to eradicate cancer; others give their lives so that we might produce a peach-scented dandruff shampoo.

- **MARTIAL ARTS** A family of Asiatic self-defence disciplines consisting largely of sweeping ornamental gestures of the arms and legs; amusing to look at but disappointingly ineffective when one's opponent is armed with a semi-automatic.
- **NEIGHBOURS** The strangers who live next door.
- **ORGASM** The punchline some women just don't get, generally because their mates have a tendency to rush through the joke.
- **PARASITE** A base creature that extracts a living from the lives of others, like a tapeworm or a biographer.
- **QUAGMIRE** Any situation more easily entered into than exited from; e.g., a guerrilla war, a bad marriage or a conversation with an insurance salesman.
- **REDNECK** Popular term for a rustic male, but rarely employed when addressing one in person.
- **SMILE** To expose a portion of one's skeleton as a gesture of goodwill toward a fellow human.
- **TRAILER PARKS** Latter-day gypsy camps scattered throughout the vast American hinterland; humble places of abode where hope dies young and tornadoes gravitate like flies to roadkill.
- **UNWED MOTHER** One who helps perpetuate the genes of an unwed father, without the latter's talent for becoming invisible at will.
- **VOTING** The right of our citizens to do as they please behind a curtain, as long as they do it alone.
- **WHITE SUPREMACISTS** The most convincing argument against the theory of white racial superiority.
- **X-RAY** A diagnostic tool used to detect existing cancerous growths and create new ones for future examinations to reveal.
- **Y-CHROMOSOME** A line of genes designed for men only; the cause of virility, war, baldness, hockey, sex crimes, clever inventions and a disinclination to ask for directions when lost.
- **ZOO** A pleasant and instructive wildlife park, lately denounced for depriving animals of their right to starve or be eaten alive in their natural habitats.

## How to give your cat a pill

1. Grasp cat firmly in your arms. Cradle its head on your elbow, just as if you were giving a baby a bottle. Coo confidently, "That's a nice kitty." Drop the pill in its mouth.
2. Retrieve cat from top of lamp & pill from under sofa.
3. Follow same procedure as in 1, but hold cat's front paws down with left hand & back paws down with elbow of right arm. Poke pill into its mouth with right forefinger.
4. Retrieve cat from under bed. Get new pill from bottle. (resist impulse to get new cat.)
5. Again proceed as in 1, except when you have cat firmly cradled in bottle-feeding position, sit on edge of chair, fold your torso over cat, bring your right hand over your left elbow, open cat's mouth by lifting the upper jaw & pop pill in - quickly! Since your head is down by your knees, you won't be able to see what you are doing. That's just as well.
6. Leave cat hanging on drapes. Leave pill in your hair.
7. If you are a woman, have a good cry. If you are a man, have a good cry.

8. Now pull yourself together. Who's the boss here anyway? Retrieve cat & pill. Assuming position 1, say sternly, "Who's the boss here anyway?" Open cat's mouth, take pill & ....Oooops!
9. This isn't working, is it? Collapse & think. Aha! Those flashing claws are causing the chaos.
10. Crawl to the linen closet. Drag back a large beach towel. Spread towel on floor.
11. Retrieve cat from kitchen counter & pill from potted plant.
12. Spread cat on towel near one end with its head over long edge.
13. Flatten cat's front & back legs over its stomach. (resist impulse to flatten cat.)
14. Roll cat in towel. Work fast; time & tabbies wait for no man - or woman!
15. Resume position 1. Rotate your left hand to cat's head. Press its mouth at the jaw hinges like opening the petals of a snapdragon.
16. Drop pill into cat's mouth & poke gently. Voila! It's done!
17. Vacuum up loose fur (cat's). Apply bandages to wounds (yours).
18. Take two aspirins & lie down.

## Self-referential and other nonsensical sentences

- This sentence no verb.
- This sentence is false.
- "Yields falsehood when preceded by its quotation" yields falsehood when preceded by its quotation.
- "is a sentence with no subject" is a sentence with no subject.
- This sentence totally fails in its attempt to convey the point that it is not trying to make.
- What do "masochism" and "amnesia" mean? Beats me! I forget!
- What is the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care!
- I'm not me!
- Don't use contractions.
- The first, eighth, thirteenth, fifteenth, nineteenth, twenty-third, twenty-eighth, thirty-second, thirty-eighth, .....
- Try not to ever split infinitives.
- Always proof-read to make sure you didn't any words out.
- This sentence is meaningless because it is self-referential.
- I am lying.
- This sentence claims to be an Epimenides paradox, but it is lying.
- This sentence contradicts itself; well, no, actually it doesn't.
- Disobey this command.
- This sentence contains exactly three errors.
- Cette phrase en francais est difficile a traduire en anglais.
- What it is like to be asked, "What is it like to be asked, self embedded in quotes after its comma?" self-embedded in quotes after its comma?
- You can't have your use and mention it too.
- You can't have "your cake" and spell it "too".
- "Playing with the use-mention distinction" isn't "everything in life, you know".
- In order to make sense of "this sentence", you will have to ignore the quotes in "it".



- This is a sentence with "onions", "lettuce", "tomato", and "a side of fries to go".
- This is a hamburger with vowels, consonants, commas, and a period at the end.
- Let us make a new convention: that anything enclosed in triple quotes, for example, "'No, I have decided to change my mind; when the triple quotes close, just skip directly to the period and ignore everything up to it'", is not even to be read (much less paid attention to or obeyed).
- A ceux qui ne comprennent pas l'anglais, la phrase citée ci-dessous ne dit rien: "For those who know no French, the French sentence this quoted sentence has no meaning."
- I should begin with a capital letter.
- I am not the person who wrote me.
- I am not the subject of this sentence.
- I am jealous of the first word of this sentence.
- Well how about that -- this sentence is about me!
- I am simultaneously writing and being written.
- Cut me out, twist me, and glue me to form a Mobius strip, please.
- I am the meaning of this sentence.
- I am the thought you are now thinking.
- I am thinking about myself right now.
- I am the set of neural firings taking place in your brain as you read the set of letters in this sentence and think about me.
- This inert sentence is my body, but my soul is alive, dancing in the sparks of your brain.
- Do you think anybody has ever had precisely this thought before?
- You are under my control because I am choosing exactly what words you are made out of, and in what order.
- No, you are under my control because you will read until you reach the end of me.
- Hey, down there -- are you the sentence I am writing, or the sentence I am reading?
- And you up there -- are you the person writing me, or the person reading me?
- You and I, alas, can have only one-way communication, for you are a person and I, a mere sentence.
- As long as you are not reading me, the fourth word of this sentence has no referent.
- The reader of this sentence exists only while reading me.
- Hey, out there -- is that you reading me, or is it someone else?
- Say, haven't you written me somewhere else before?
- Say, haven't I written you somewhere else before?
- This sentence is not self-referential because "thit" is not a word.
- No language can express every thought unambiguously, least of all this one.
- When you are not looking at it, this sentence is in Spanish.
- I had to translate this sentence into English because I could not read the original Sanskrit.
- The sentence now before your eyes spent a month in Hungarian last year and was only recently translated back into English.
- If this sentence were in Chinese, it would say something else.
- .siht ekil ti gnidaer eb d`uooy ,werbeH ni erew ecnetnes siht fl
- If this sentence didn't exist, someone would have invented it.
- If I had finished this sentence,
- If there were no counterfactuals, this sentence would not be paradoxical.

- If wishes were horses, the antecedent of this conditional would be true.
- If this sentence were false, beggars would ride.
- What would this sentence be like if it were not self-referential?
- What would this sentence be like if pi were 3?
- If the subjunctive was no longer used in English, this sentence would be grammatically correct.
- This sentence would be seven words long if it were six words shorter.
- This sentence is not about itself, but about whether it is about itself.
- because I didn't think of a good beginning for it.
- This sentence was in the past tense.
- This sentence has contains two verbs.
- a preposition. This sentence ends in
- In the time it takes you to read this sentence, eighty-six letters could have been processed by your brain.
- This is not a complete. Sentence. This either.
- This sentence contains only one nonstandard English flutzpah.
- This gubblick contains many nonsklarkish English flutzpahs, but the overall pluggandisp can be glorked from context.
- This sentence has cabbage six words.
- This is to be or actually not two sentences to be, that is the question, combined.
- It feels so good to have your eyes run over my curves and serifs.
- This sentence is a !!!! premature punctuator.
- This sentence, though not interrogative, nevertheless ends in a question mark.
- This sentence has no punctuation semicolon the others do period.
- This hear sentence do'nt know English purty good.
- If you meet this sentence on the board, erase it.
- This sentence verbs good, like a sentence should.
- I have nothing to say, and I am saying it.
- I have nothing to allude to, and I am alluding to it.
- Do you read me?
- This point is well taken.
- You may quote me.
- I am going two-level with you.
- I have been sentenced to death.
- This prophecy will come true.
- This sentence will end before you can say "Rumpelst
- This sentence will end before you can say "This sentence will end before you can say
- Surely no article on self-reference would be complete without including a few good examples of self-fulfilling prophecy.
- Does this sentence remind you of Agatha Christie?
- Please, oh please, include me in your list of self-referential sentences!
- What question no verb?
- What is a question that mentions the word "umbrella" for no apparent reason?
- How far across the page will this sentence run?
- How do you keep a reader in suspense?
- This sentence contains ten words, eighteen syllables and sixty-four letters.

- Has eighteen letters.
- In this sentence, the word "and" occurs twice, the word "eight" occurs twice, the word "four" occurs twice, the word "fourteen" occurs four times, the word "in" occurs twice, the word "seven" occurs twice, the word "the" occurs fourteen times, the word "this" occurs twice, the word "times" occurs seven times, the word "twice" occurs eight times, and the word "word" occurs fourteen times.
- Only the fool would take trouble to verify that this sentence was composed of ten a's, three b's, four c's, four d's, forty-six e's, sixteen f's, four g's, thirteen h's, fifteen i's, two k's, nine l's, four m's, twenty-five n's, twenty-four o's, five p's, sixteen r's, forty-one s's, thirty-seven t's, ten u's, eight v's, eight w's, four x's, eleven y's, twenty-seven commas, twenty-three apostrophes, seven hyphens, and, last but not least, a single !
- Complete the following sentence by filling each "\_\_\_" with one or more digits: In this sentence, the number of occurrences of 0 is \_\_\_, of 1 is \_\_\_, of 2 is \_\_\_, of 3 is \_\_\_, of 4 is \_\_\_, of 5 is \_\_\_, of 6 is \_\_\_, of 7 is \_\_\_, of 8 is \_\_\_, and of 9 is \_\_\_.
- The following sentence is totally identical with this one, except that the words "following" and "preceeding" have been exchanged, as have the words "except" and "in", and the phrases "identical with" and "different from". The preceeding sentence is totally different from this one, in that the words "preceeding" and "following" have been exchanged, as have the words "in" and "except", and the phrases "different from" and "identical with".
- This sentence refers to every sentence that does not refer to itself.
- This sentence does in fact not have the property that it claims not to have.
- This statement is inoperative.
- It goes without saying that ...
- If the meanings of "true" and "false" were switched, then this sentence wouldn't be false.
- I've heard that this sentence is a rumor.
- which is actually not a complete sentence, but merely a subordinate clause.
- Never use the imperative, and it is also never proper to construct a sentence using mixed moods.
- I don't understand a thing I say.
  1. This sentence every third, but it still comprehensible.
  2. This would easier understand fewer had omitted.
  3. This impossible except context.
  4. 4'33" attempt idea.
  - 5.
- All invalid syllogisms break at least one rule. This syllogism breaks at least one rule. Therefore, this syllogism is invalid.
- Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.
- They don't write oldies like they used to.
- I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
- I never make a mistake. One time I thought I did, but I was wrong.
- In this sentence, the concluding three words "were left out".
- This sentence offers its reader(s) various alternatives/options that he or she (or they) is (are) free to accept and/or reject.
- If I stated something else, would it still be me?
- If I were you, who would be reading this sentence?

- You have, of course, just begun reading the sentence that you have just finished reading.
- If you think this sentence is confusing, just change one pig.
- One me has translated at the foot of the letter of the French.
- Would not be anomalous if were in Italian.
- When one this sentence into German to translate wanted, would one the fact exploit, that the word order and the punctuation with the already with the German conventions agree.
- How come this noun phrase doesn't denote the same thing as this noun phrase does?
- Every last word in this sentence is a grotesque misspelling of "towmatow".
- I don't care who wrote this sentence; whoever he is, he's a damn sexist.
- This analogy is like lifting yourself by your own bootstraps.
- Although this sentence begins with the word "because", it is false.
- Despite the fact that it opens like a two-pronged pitchfork -- or rather, because of it -- this sentence resembles a double-edged sword.
- This line from Shakespeare has delusions of grandeur.
- If writers were bakers, this sentence would be exactly a dozen words long.
- If this sentence had been at the beginning of the list, this very moment would have occurred approximately five minutes ago.
- The whole point of this sentence is to make clear what the whole point of this sentence is.
- Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am master of my fate and captain of my soul.
- I was born in a log cabin built with my own two hands.
- Always remember to form plurales correctly.
- This is the penultimate sentence in this paragraph. "This" is the penultimate word in this sentence.
- This sentence is wondering when somebody's actually going to ask a question.
- Does this count?
- This sentence is a non sequitur. This sentence is not a non sequitur.
- Irrationality is the square root of all evil.
- At the last costume party I didn't go to, I went as the Invisible Man.
- This sentence four words.
- Honk if your horn is broken.
- This sentence has an error in the and.
- This sentence has a grammatical error with the placement of and.
- I never end a sentence with the word "and".
- "Them" is NEVER the subject of a sentence.

## Puns, wordplays and related madness

- Is reading in the bathroom considered Multi-Tasking?
- Two wrongs do not make a right. ... but three lefts do.
- Endless love: Stevie Wonder and Ray Charles playing tennis.
- Two can live as cheaply as one ... for half as long.

- Debate: What worms are to a fisherman.
- Mischief: Sitting Bull's daughter.
- Liability: A talent for fibbing.
- Alien: What Mom would suspect had invaded her house if she spotted a child-sized creature cleaning up after itself.
- Bathroom: A room used by the entire family, believed by all except Mom to be self-cleaning.
- Handi-wipes: Pants, shirt-sleeves, drapes, tablecloths, etc.
- Hindsight: What mom experiences from changing too many diapers.
- Homemade bread: An object of fiction, somewhat akin to the fountain of youth and the golden fleece.
- Makeup: Lipstick, eyeliner, blush, etc. Which, curiously, makes mom look better while making her 11-year-old daughter "look like a tramp."
- Overstuffed recliner: Dad.
- Your "diligence factor" may be too high if you keep trying those techniques that were recommended by management consultants during the latest pendulum swing.
- 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- Eagles may soar, but weasels are never sucked into jet engines.
- Doctors say that those who are cheerful resist disease better than those that are grumpy.
- I guess that means the surly bird gets the germ.
- How many divorced men does it take to screw in a light bulb? ... None. The sockets go with the house.
- He's not dead; he's electroencephalographically challenged.
- Question: What do you call 144 broken eggs? ... Gross.
- A recent report stated that over 50 million Americans are overweight. Those figures, of course, are rounded.
- A fellow once sat up all night wondering where the sunshine comes from. ... Finally, it dawned on him.
- Laughing stock: Cattle with a sense of humor.
- Rehab is for quitters.
- Did you know how many people have trouble with fractions? ... Five out of three.
- Don't take life too seriously. ... Nobody ever gets out alive.
- A closed mouth gathers no feet.
- Have you heard about the new Political Trivial Pursuit game?... All questions; no answers.
- Say, is "person-person" the politically correct term for "mailman?"
- Fight truth decay. ... study the Bible daily.
- Do not wait for a hearse to take you to church.
- If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.
- A recent poll found that 87 percent of Americans think they will go to heaven. In a related study, 44 percent said they believed heaven exists.
- Entropy isn't what it used to be.

- By the time our children are old enough not to say or do anything in public to annoy or embarrass us, they have reached an age when the things we routinely do and say annoy and embarrass them.
- Computer malfunction: The faulty interface is between the chair and the keyboard.
- The Theology professor asked the student, "what is the opposite of joy?" "Sadness," said the student. "And the opposite of depression?" "Elation." "And how about the opposite of woe?" "I believe that would be giddy up."
- A biologist and a mathematician watch a couple enter an empty house. Later, they observe three people leaving the house. The biologist's conclusion: they reproduced. The mathematician's conclusion: if exactly one person goes into the house it will again be empty.
- "Pieces of seven," "pieces of seven," squawked the parrot. It was only a one-bit parrot-y error.
- Did you know that in Japanese, tofu translates roughly into whale snot?
- Why don't we have cultured oil anywhere ... instead of only crude oil.
- What do owls sing as they scowl in a really bad rainstorm? ... "To wet to woo."
- Time is that attribute of the universe which keeps everything from happening at once. Lately it hasn't been working so well.
- Did you hear what happened to Frigidaire? ... Kelvinator.
- What do you get when you cross a mafia boss with an Economist? ... An offer you can't understand.
- What phobia is a fear of being asked "Who goes there?" ... Friendorphobia.
- What is fear of meeting a fat man in a red suit in a confined room for hanging clothes? ... Santaclaustrophobia.
- What is fear of the force? ... Obiewancanobieaphobia.
- What is fear of people named Phoebe? ... Phoebiaphobia.
- Test: To see if your mission on earth is complete. ... If you are still alive, it isn't.
- Did you hear about the three ministers who were talking about their common problem with bats in the belfry of the church? The first: "I shot at them with a shotgun; but it only spoiled the woodwork." The second: "I tried a more humane approach, netting them and releasing them 100 Km away. But they beat me back to the church!" The third (who was looking pretty smug): "I caught them, and baptized and confirmed each one. I haven't seen them since."
- Is an organization a home for wayward accordions?
- If, at first, you don't succeed, click "undo."
- Do you know the problem with French immersion? They don't hold them under long enough.
- How do you know if you are a geek? Your computer cost \$6,000 and your car cost \$500.
- French gourmet BBQ: haute dog.
- Divorce: the transformation from a duet to a duel.
- The groundskeeper at a large cemetery stated proudly in his resume: "I have 10,000 people under me."
- Two cows were gossiping. Said one: "I herd it through the bo-vine."
- If a pig is sold to the pawn shop, is it a ham-hock?
- What do you call a fly with no wings? ... A walk.
- DAM: Mothers Against Dyslexia.

- Did you know Zsa Zsa Gabor has a new perfume? It is called "Arrested." ... Apparently you just slap it on.
- A news report indicated that women taking zinc during pregnancy had healthier babies. ... This should galvanize support for vitamins containing zinc, I suppose. Is this irony, ore what?
- Is a cartographer a guy who takes pictures of his car?
- Then is a foe-tographer one who takes pictures of his enemies?
- And is a stenographer one who takes pictures of his secretary?
- And is a faux-tographer one who takes pictures of life's embarrassing moments?
- "Support bowling! Get your kids off the streets and into the alleys."
- Several Scientists were nominated for the Nobel Prize. They discovered and calibrated with dental equipment the smallest particles known to man. ... They were known as "The Graders of the Flossed Quark."
- How many Vulcans does it take to change a light bulb? ... Approximately 1.000000000000
- How many efficiency experts does it take to change a light bulb? ... None. Efficiency experts only replace dark bulbs.
- There is a restaurant called "The Moon." ... Good food, but no atmosphere.
- What do you call a midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison? ... A small medium at large.
- What is the difference between writing about reality and writing fiction? Fiction has to make sense.

## Definitions

AARDVARK: Strenuous labor.

ABJECT TERROR: Facing a female Klingon during PMS week.

ADVIL: (n) device used to habber thigs on.

AIBOHPHOBIA: An irrational fear of palindromes.

HEALTH: The slowest possible rate of dying.

OVERWEIGHT: (adj) Seduced by the chocolate side of the force.

REDUNDANCY: An airbag in a politician's car.

UNFAIR: If life is unfair, why can't it be unfair in my favor?

WITLAG: The delay between hearing and comprehension of a joke.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY: A cars logbook.

ABSENTEE: A missing golf accessory.

ADAMANT: The very first insect.

ADORN: What comes after the darkest hour.

AROMATIC: Auto pilot for archers.

CLIMATE: What you do with a ladder.

CABBAGE: Taxi fare.

FAUCET: What you do when the tap wont turn on.

ODIOUS: A not very good poem.

STALEMATE: A husband who has lost his ardour.

## Taglines

- "Modems Are Cool" by V.bis & Baudhead"
- The Silent Majority of today are the slaves of tomorrow.
- Hasten to laugh at life ... lest you be obliged to weep.
- E-mail Error Message: Mail not found ... Electrocute Sysop? (Y/n).
- I think we may be in for a bad spell of wether.
- Falling doesn't kill people. ... It's the deceleration trauma.
- Do hungry crows have ravenous appetites?
- Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?
- If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?
- Is there such a thing as a closet claustrophobic?
- There was a man who entered a local paper's pun contest.
- He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win.
- Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.
- She was only a moonshiner, but I loved her still!
- If you stomp gripes, do you get whine?
- Military Intelligence is an oxymoron.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Why isn't phonetic spelled "fonetik?"
- Is a sleeping bag a nap sack?
- Chemist: "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the precipitate."
- The cat-lovers will hate me for these:
- If you toss a young cat out the window is that "Kitty Litter?"
- How do you make a cat bark? Douse it with gasoline and throw in a lighted match. ... Woof!
- What do you have when you have a lawyer up to his neck in concrete? Not enough concrete.
- What mean person said there should be an "s" in lisp?
- Always remember, you are unique, just like everybody else.
- Is a pirate ship a thugboat?
- Give me ambiguity or give me something else!
- Did you hear the news? A suicidal twin killed her sister by mistake.
- He who laughs last thinks slowest.
- "Very funny Scotty. Now beam down my clothes!"
- Consciousness: that annoying period between naps.
- Do they make dog biscuits from collie flour?
- The time for action is past! NOW is the time for the senseless bickering.
- Failure is at the end of the path of least persistence.
- Toad: It is what happens to an illegally parked frog.

## The psychiatric hotline's voice messaging system

- If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 repeatedly.
- If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2.



- If you have multiple personalities, please press 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line until we can trace the call.
- If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press.
- If you are delusional and occasionally hallucinate, please be aware that the thing you are holding on the side of your head is alive and about to bite off your ear.
- If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press. No one will answer.

## Literal answers to rhetorical questions

People commonly ask empty rhetorical questions which rarely receive any sort of sensible answer. When you have had your surfeit of poetical whimsy and are ready for some good, hard facts, come here to be set straight. The world would be much improved if those engaging in windy musings were more often brought up short by a nice, sharp definition or a pointed rebuke. Even the fantastical William Shakespeare, asking himself “Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?” goes on (admittedly at excessive length) to list a number of reasons for answering in the negative.

Of course, some questions are so ill-framed as to admit of no sensible answer. Example: Where have you been all my life? It so happens that this question has never been addressed to me; but if it were I should be at a loss to detail the many addresses at which I have resided and worked during the span of existence of some other person, even if I knew that person's precise date of birth. Such idle musings are best ignored. However, one can learn much by discovering facts which provide satisfactory answers to questions one might suppose at first glance to be pointless. This page is devoted to the pursuit of such answers.

**What is so rare as a day in June?** - June having 30 days, it is clear that days in April, September, and November are precisely as “rare,” or as common, though they are slightly less common than days in January, March, May, July, August, October, and December. Days in February are the least common, of course, so it is nonsensical to consider June days as particularly rare.

**Where are the snows of yesteryear?** - If the question refers to the melted product of last winter's snowfall, the answer can sometimes be derived by analyzing the volume of water in the catch basins of dams located on streams downhill from the point of original snowfall. More precise measures may be taken of those snows which contribute to glaciers which move at regular rates ranging from a few centimeters to a hundred meters per year. The easiest place to locate such snow, however, is in the extreme arctic and antarctic regions, where, although snow is very rare and sparse, it remains satisfactorily frozen and fixed in place indefinitely.

**How high the moon?** - It varies between 356,000 and 407,000 km in distance from the surface of the earth, its average distance being 384,400 km.

**What shall we do with a drunken sailor?** - D. Kolb and E.K.E. Gunderson's study, “Alcoholism in the United States Navy” reports that attempts to prevent,

diagnose and rehabilitate sailors suffering from alcohol-related problems are to a measurable degree superior to the older approach of simple hospitalization (published in *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 183-194).

**Who wrote the Book of Love?** - René of Anjou, King of Naples 1435-1480, wrote and illustrated his *Book of Love* (*Le couer d'amours espris*) some time after 1473 while living idly in Provence.

**Tell me why the ivy twines.** - Not all ivies do twine, of course: some are mere creeping vines. However, climbing ivies such as are commonly seen covering academic buildings maximize their exposure to light by using twining tendrils to affix themselves to other plants and objects in order to gain altitude and escape their shade.

**Would you like to swing on a star?** - Even supposing that I were to wish to do such a thing, it would be quite impossible. Swinging requires that the force of gravity be exerted in the direction opposite to the pivot of the pendulum, whereas if one were somehow to succeed in attaching a pendulum to even so small a star as a white dwarf the predominant pull of gravity toward the star would convert any such attempt into a rapid vertical plunge toward its surface and almost immediate death by evaporation.

**How long has this been going on?** - Alan Sandage calculated the age of the universe as  $(10 \pm 1.5) \times 10^9$  years. The upper limit of this estimate is 18 billion years, with a probable error of 10%.

**What is to be done?** - I find that the Filofax A5 System Organizer efficiently tracks my appointments with a minimum of fuss and is generally superior to the personal information management software products so widely touted by computer enthusiasts.

**What's up, Doc?** - Presuming that the doctor addressed is a physician, one must assume that the question refers to the identity of the topmost parts of the human body, in which case the short answer is the frontal lobe of the brain, the skull, the scalp, and--if any--the hair.

**How are you going to keep them down on the farm after they've seen Paris?** - Administered commodity prices resulting in an average profit per farmer of no more than \$50,000 per annum should be adequate to discourage profligate trips to France.

**Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?** - No one well informed, of course, since the writer in question died in 1941; but during her lifetime she was known to have a sharp tongue, and many persons had reason to fear her wit.

**Where have all the flowers gone?** - Generally the petals of the flowering parts of plants wither and fall off to decay in the surrounding soil while the remainder is converted into fruiting bodies. However, the blossoms of early-flowering fruit trees such as plums and cherries are particularly subject to the destructive effects of spring rains.

**How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.** - Though the poet neglects to enumerate them, providing instead a mere list, a simple inventory establishes that--if

we omit the purely hypothetical posthumous final one--Elizabeth Barrett loved Robert Browning in precisely six ways.

## Merry Christmas – from the legal beagles

- I. Though we, the "Greeter," wish you well / In our Holiday Entreaty, We limit all your claims, Dear Friend / (Hereinafter called the "Greetee").
- II. We wish you dreams of Sugar Plums / And dancing Christmas Lights, But if these Fancies come to Naught / You have no Vested Rights.
- III. In no case shall we be at fault / In Implied Claims of Fitness, And all Writs of Depression must / Be Sworn before a Witness.
- IV. Although our Approbations / Are Warranted full free Of Defects in Sincerity / There is no Guarantee.
- V. Whenever there's a Conflict / These, our Contract Terms, will rule; The "Greetee" then is on his own / To have a Happy Yule.
- VI. We hope that You, Your Kith and Kin / Find Christmas Viability; But if You don't, note now that We / Decline all Liability.
- VII. So if you don't hear Sleigh Bells ring, / Or smell the fresh cut Pines, You have, "Greetee," Released our Firm, / Successors, and Assigns.
- VIII. And if Our Heartfelt Christmas Wish / By Counter Claim is marred, We may, at our Sole Option, / Repossess this Christmas Card.

## Some cowboy wisdom

- The only way to drive cattle fast is slowly.
- A person who agrees with all your palaver is either a fool, or he is gettin' ready to skin ya.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over on itself and put it back in your pocket.
- Never take another man's bet. He wouldn't be offering it if he didn't know somethin' you don't.
- A body can pretend to care, but they can't pretend to be there.
- Don't get mad at somebody who knows more 'n you do. It ain't their fault.
- When you're tryin' somethin' new, the fewer people who know about it, the better.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.

## Bedtime story anyone?

*[As Churchill once said, when being corrected for ending a sentence with a preposition, "this is the kind of pedantry up with which I will not put."]*

SON: Daddy, will you read me a story?

DAD: O.K. How about this one?

SON: No, Mommy read that one already.

DAD: This one?

SON: No.

DAD: This one?

SON: No

DAD: Any of these?

SON: No, Mommy read me all of those.

DAD: I'll go downstairs and find one then.

DAD: (returning) Here's a book about a far away land called - Australia!

SON: Gee, Dad. What did you bring me that book to be read to out of from about Down Under up for?

## Buttered cat power (1)

What if you attach a buttered piece of bread, butter-side up to a cat's back and toss them both out the window? Will the cat land on its feet? Or will the butter splat on the ground? Well, here is the illustrious response: Even if you are too lazy to do the experiment yourself you should be able to deduce the obvious result. The laws of butterology demand that the butter must hit the ground, and the equally strict laws of feline aerodynamics demand that the cat cannot smash its furry back. If the combined construct were to land, nature would have no way to resolve this paradox. Therefore it simply does not fall. That's right you clever mortal (well, as clever as a mortal can get), you have discovered the secret of antigravity! A buttered cat will, when released, quickly move to a height where the forces of cat-twisting and butter repulsion are in equilibrium. This equilibrium point can be modified by scraping off some of the butter, providing lift, or removing some of the cat's limbs, allowing descent. Most of the civilized species of the Universe already use this principle to drive their ships while within a planetary system. The loud humming heard by most sighters of UFOs is, in fact, the purring of several hundred tabbies. The one obvious danger is, of course, if the cats manage to eat the bread off their backs they will instantly plummet. Of course the cats will land on their feet, but this usually doesn't do them much good, since right after they make their graceful landing several tons of red-hot starship and a crew of really annoyed aliens crash on top of them.

## Collective nouns

- a hassle of errands,
- a magnum of hit-men,
- a quarrel of lawyers,
- a shortage of dwarves,
- a sulk of teenagers,
- a plunder of goons.
- an encroachment of fence-builders.
- a fascination of on-lookers/listeners.
- an embellishment of fishermen.
- a treachery of spies.
- a thrombosis of heart specialists.
- a vagary of impediments.
- a minuscule of sub-atomic particles.
- a conflagration of arsonists/pyromaniacs.

- an assassination of gangsters.
- a mixture of pharmacists.
- an incantation of witches/wizards/warlocks.
- a density of meatheads.
- an obfuscation of philosophers/politicians/economists.

## Your graduate thesis work

*Scene:* It's a fine sunny day in the forest; and a rabbit is sitting outside his burrow, tippy-tapping on his lap

top. Along comes a fox, out for a walk.

Fox: "What are you working on?"

Rabbit: "My thesis."

Fox: "Hmmmmm. What is it about?"

Rabbit: "Oh, I'm writing about how rabbits eat foxes."

(incredulous pause)

Fox: "That's ridiculous! Any fool knows that rabbits don't eat foxes!"

Rabbit: "Come with me and I'll show you!"

They both disappear into the rabbit's burrow. After a few minutes, gnawing on a fox bone, the rabbit returns to his lap top and resumes typing. Soon a wolf comes along and stops to watch the hard working rabbit.

(Tippy-tap, tippy-tap, tippy-tippy-tap).

Wolf: "What's that you are writing?"

Rabbit: "I'm doing a thesis on how rabbits eats wolves."

(loud guffaws).

Wolf: "You don't expect to get such rubbish published, do you?"

Rabbit: "No problem. Do you want to see why?"

The rabbit and the wolf go into the burrow, and again the rabbit returns by himself. This time he is patting his stomach. He goes back to his typing.

(Tippy-tap, tippy-tap, tippy-tippy-tap).

Finally a bear comes along and asks, "What are you doing?"

Rabbit: "I'm doing a thesis on how rabbits eats bears."

Bear: "Well that's absurd!"

Rabbit: "Come into my home and I'll show you."

*Scene:* Inside the rabbit's burrow. In one corner, there is a pile of fox bones. In another corner is a pile of wolf bones. On the other side of the room a huge lion is belching and picking his teeth.

*MORAL:*

It doesn't matter what you choose for a thesis topic.

It doesn't matter what you use for your data.

It doesn't even matter if your topic makes sense.

What MATTERS is who you have for a thesis advisor.

## Antagonyms

Describes single words that have meanings that contradict each other.

- Anabasis: A military advance vs. A military retreat
- Anon : Immediately [Archaic] or soon vs. Later
- Anxious: Full of mental distress because of apprehension of danger or misfortune [in effect, seeking to avoid] (We were anxious about the nearby gunshots.) vs. 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.) vs. Obvious (The solution to the problem was apparent to all.)
- Assume: To actually have (To assume office) vs. To pretend to have (To assume an air of confidence)
- Avocation: A hobby vs. a regular occupation [and one could say it's a triple antonym 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 vs. Awe-inspiring [typically, a feeling of admiration]
- Bound: Moving ("I was bound for Chicago") vs. Unable to move ("I was bound to a post", or less literally, "I was bound to my desk")
- Bull: A solemn edict or mandate vs. Nonsense or worthless information
- Chuff: Elated vs. Unhappy
- Cite, Citation: For doing good (such as military gallantry) vs. for doing bad (such as from a traffic policeman)
- Cleave: To adhere tightly vs. To cut apart
- Comprise: To be included in vs. To contain entirely (The United States is comprised of 50 states; The 50 states comprise the United States) [Some will argue with the latter usage, including me; however, such use has become commonplace and some sources list it without comment.]
- Cut: get in (as in line or queue) vs. get out (as in a school class)
- Dust: To remove dust vs. To apply dust (as in fingerprinting)
- Enjoin: To order someone to do something vs. To stop someone from doing something [such as in law by an injunction]
- Fast: Moving rapidly vs. Unable to move ("I was held fast to my bed.")
- Fearful: Causing fear vs. Being afraid
- Goods: [Slang] good things vs. bad things ("I have the goods from the warehouse robbery, but I'm worried the police have the goods on me.")
- Hysterical: Being overwhelmed with fear [in some cases] vs. Being funny
- Incorporate: When a village is incorporated, it is formed, but when it is incorporated into a city, the village is destroyed
- Inflammable [a pseudo-antonym!]: Burns easily vs. [the incorrect assumption by many that the prefix in- makes it mean:] Does not burn [Only the first definition is correct; the risk of confusion has removed this word from gasoline trucks!]
- Lease, Let, Rent: [in essence] To loan out for money vs. To "borrow" for money
- Let: [Archaic] To hinder vs. To allow
- License: Liberty or permission to do something vs. 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 vs. An omission or error due to carelessness

- Policy: Required activity without exception (University policy) vs. An optional course of action (our government's policy regarding the economy)
- Practiced: Experienced, expert (I am practiced in my work) vs. Inexperienced effort (The child practiced coloring)
- Prescribe: To lay down a rule vs. To become unenforceable
- Quite: Completely vs. Not completely (e.g., quite empty [totally empty]; quite full [not completely full, just nearly so])
- Ravel: to disentangle or unravel vs. to tangle or entangle
- Recover: hide away (cover again) vs. bring out [hyphenated] (The dinosaur bones were exposed by the flood but then re-covered with dirt, hiding them again; centuries later, the paleontologists recovered them by removing the dirt.)
- Release: let go vs. hold on (lease the property again) [hyphenated as re-lease]
- Replace: Take away (replace the worn carpet) vs. Put back (replace the papers in the file)
- Repress: hold back vs. put forth (press again) [hyphenated]
- Reprove: rebuke (reprove a colleague's work) vs. support (re-prove a scientist's theory)
- Reside: to stay put vs. [Slang] to change places (change teams) [hyphenated as re-side] [N.B.: This is also a heteronym!]
- Resign: to quit a contract vs. to sign the contract again [hyphenated as re-sign] [N.B.: This is also a heteronym!]
- Restive: refusing to move (forward) (a restive horse) vs. Restless (moving around)
- Restore [in the following use]: The painting was said to be a fake, so the museum re-stored it in the warehouse. When it was later found to be real, the museum restored it to its place in the gallery.
- Riot: Violent disorder vs. Revelry {Consider what is meant when one says, "It was a riot!"}
- Rival: An opponent vs. (Archaic) A companion or associate
- Rock: disturb (rock the boat) vs. pacify (rock the baby's crib)
- Sanction: Support for an action (They sanctioned our efforts.) vs. A penalty for an action (The Congressman was sanctioned for inappropriate behavior.)
- Sanguine: (Now poetic) Causing or delighting in bloodshed [according to contributor, also describes a person worked up into a bloody rage] vs. A person hopeful or confident of success [essentially someone calm about something]
- Screwed: [Slang, vulgar] Had a good experience (We screwed around all night.) vs. To have a bad experience (I was screwed by that cheater.)
- Secreted: Having put out, released vs. Placed out of sight [N.B.: This word is also a heteronym!]
- Shank: (Informal) The early part of a period of time (It was just the shank of the evening when the party began.) vs. (Informal) The latter part of a period of time (It was the shank of the evening when the party ended.)
- Shop: To search with the intent to buy ("I shopped for a book at several stores.") vs. To search with the intent to sell ("I shopped my manuscript to several publishers.")
- Skin: to cover with a skin vs. to remove outer covering or skin
- Strike out: An ending, as in "The batter struck out." vs. A beginning, as in "I thought it was time to strike out on my own." Also, a strike in bowling occurs when there is complete contact between ball and wood (of the pins), whereas a strike in

baseball occurs when there is complete absence of contact between ball and wood (of the bat).

- Terrific: (Informal) Extraordinarily good vs. Causing terror

### **Antagonistic phrases, usually informal**

These are phrases that (probably through corruption) have come to mean the opposite of what they should mean if taken literally.

- Could care less: (Used as if it were synonymous with “could not care less.”) One has no interest at all
- Like never before: totally amateurish or vs. with great skill (She's dancing like she's never danced before.)
- Look out for: see Watch out for
- Near miss: A hit close enough to achieve the effect vs. narrowly falling short of the objective
- Watch out for: A positive statement meaning try to find or partake of vs. A negative statement meaning avoid (Watch out for this movie.)

### **Pairs of phrases, usually informal, -- how can they mean the same?**

Fat chance; slim chance: (Both mean “not too likely”)

### **Confusing words (should we call them “confusonyms”?)**

Daily: 5 days a week vs. 6 days a week vs. 7 days a week (for example, the “daily” newspaper)

### **To have or to have not**

These terms are confusing and have opposite meanings depending on usage.

Shelled Having the shell removed (shelled pecans) vs. Enclosed in a shell (tiny, shelled marine animals)

## **Toddler’s rules of ownership**

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
8. If I think it's mine, it's mine.
9. If it's yours and I steal it, it's mine.

Whoops! These aren't a toddler's rules... They're just part of Microsoft's business plan.



## Noah and the Lord

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said: "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and all the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few Godly people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build Me an Ark. " And in a flash of lightning he delivered the specifications for an Ark. "OK," said Noah, fumbling with the blueprints. "Six months, and it starts to rain," warned the Lord.

"You'd better have that Ark completed, or learn how to swim for a very long time. " And six months passed. The skies began to cloud up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping. And there was no Ark. "Noah," said the Lord, "where is the Ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!" cried Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn't meet code. So I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system. My neighbors objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had a big problem getting enough wood for the Ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince the U. S. Fish and Wildlife that I needed the wood to save the owls. But they wouldn't let me catch any owls. So no owls. Then the carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer.

Now we have 16 carpenters going on the boat, and still no owls. Then I started gathering up the animals, and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind. Just when I got the suit dismissed, EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being.

Then the Army Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe. Right now I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over how many Croatians I am supposed to hire, the IRS has seized all my assets claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country, and I just got a notice from the state about owing some kind of use tax. I really don't think I can finish your Ark for at least another five years," Noah wailed. Suddenly, the sky began to clear and the sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky.

Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you're not going to destroy the Earth?" Noah asked, hopefully. "No," said the Lord sadly, "The Government already has. "

## The peon

Physicists have an extremely diverse range of hobbies. Though they traditionally enjoy such outdoor activities as llama hunting and SCUBA running (entering marathons while donning the SCUBA gear, flippers and all), the recent trend has been towards a more challenging task: predicting and naming elementary particles prior to their discovery.

If Hideki Yukawa can predict the existence of the muon before it was ever seen, I too can follow in a similar fashion. I propose the possibility of a new particle - the *peon*.

The peon is a rather simple particle and by far the coolest. Just like all good particles, it has an evil twin brother, the anti-peon, where a collision between the two results in an annihilation into ambivalence:

It will be the heaviest of the heavy elementary particles, in a group known as the carryons. Topping the scales at an incredible 2045 MeV (mostly because of its beer gut), it is composed of even smaller particles known as quarks. Quarks, as most good people know, are of six types: up, down, strange, charmed, bottom, and top. The existence of the peon depends on the existence of two new quarks, the *good* and *evil* quarks.

It is one of the most elusive of the elementary particles, so it will be extremely difficult to locate. Most likely, peons will be found hitching a ride on gravity waves, which are tough to measure as it is. Steps have already been taken to find these waves. In 1969, Joseph Weber developed what came to be known as the Weber Bar. With this device he had hoped to lure the peons, known for their lack of morals) for a drink or two, but Weber ran into problems as other nonethical particles (especially those leptons) kept riding through on their Harley waves, causing too many disturbances in his bar. It became impossible to pinpoint the peon in the midst of such a ruckus.

The bubble chamber offers the best hope for finding the peon. The bubble chamber is a large container filled with liquid hydrogen. As charged particles zip through it they leave a path of angry ionized hydrogen atoms. Much can be learned about the particles by examining this path and by interviewing the upset atoms. However, to find the peon, one replaces the liquid hydrogen with cold lager and indeed, the path left by the peon will resemble a drunken stupor.

## Schubert's unfinished symphony

A company president was given a ticket for a performance of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. Since she was unable to go, she gave the ticket to one of her efficiency reviewers. The next morning she asked how he had enjoyed it. Instead of a few observations about the symphony in general, he handed her a formal memorandum which read as follows:

1. For a considerable period, the oboe players had nothing to do. Their number should be reduced and their work spread over the whole orchestra, avoiding peaks of inactivity.
2. All 12 violins were playing identical notes. This seems to be unneeded duplication, and the staff of this section should be cut. If a volume of sound is really required, this could be accomplished with the use of an amplifier.
3. Much effort was involved in playing the semiquavers. This appear to be an excessive refinement, and it is recommended that all notes be rounded up to the nearest quaver. If this were done, it would be possible to use para-professionals instead of experienced musicians.
4. No useful purpose is served by repeating with horns the passage that has already been handled by strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated then the concert could be reduced from two hours to twenty minutes.
5. The symphony had two movements. If Mr. Schubert didn't achieve his musical goals by the end of the first movement, then he should have stopped there.
6. In light of the above, one can only conclude that had Mr. Schubert given attention to these matters, he probably would have had time to finish the symphony.

## Why men can't win

If you put a woman on a pedestal and try to protect her from the rat race, you are a male chauvinist

If you stay home and do the housework, you are a wimp

If you work too hard, there is never any time for her.

If you don't work enough, you are a good for nothing bum.

If she has a boring repetitive job with low pay, this is exploitation

If you have a boring repetitive job with low pay, you should get off your ass and find something better.

If you get a promotion ahead of her, that is favouritism.

If she gets job ahead of you, it's equal opportunity

If you mention how nice she looks, it's sexual harassment.

If you keep quiet, it's male indifference.

If you cry, you are a wimp.

If you don't, you are an insensitive bastard.

If you make a decision without consulting her, you are a chauvinist.

If she makes a decision without consulting you, she's a liberated woman

If you ask her to do something she doesn't enjoy, that's domination

If she asks you, it's a favour.

If you appreciate the female form and frilly underwear, you are a pervert.

If you don't, you are gay.

If you like a woman to shave her legs and keep in shape, you are a sexist.  
If you don't, you are unromantic

If you try to keep yourself in shape, you are vain.  
If you don't, you are a slob.

If you buy her flowers, you are after something.  
If you don't, you are not thoughtful.

If you are proud of your achievements, you are big headed.  
If you don't, you are not ambitious.

If she has a headache, she is tired.  
If you have a headache, you don't love her anymore.

If you want it too often, you are oversexed.  
If you don't, there must be someone else.

## Silicon valley slang

- Academic Placenta --- The last of one's academic ideology that exists in your first years as a professional in the real world.
- Angry Garden Salad --- A poorly designed user interface where one action on it produces an odd graphical effect on other parts of the display without much understanding.
- Authortisement --- Presentation given or book published that is a subtle plug to hire the author as a consultant. This is often done with the "New Technology Seminars" around Silicon Valley.
- B.A.D. (Broken As Designed) --- A product fails to perform as expected, because the company making it intentionally did it that way (either from misunderstanding, or on purpose) e.g. Windows 95's auto-redial being limited to 100 redials.
- Banana Problem --- What you call something that you don't expect will take a lot of effort for less technically-knowledgeable types (i.e. big dumb gorillas) to handle. Usually referred in increments of bananas such as "One Banana" for very easy and "Two Banana" for typically easy. Example: "What's taking them so long to do that upgrade? That's a two banana problem at most."
- BCBS (Big Company, Big School) --- A project or relationship between a high profile company and school usually trying to suppress any small, independent development. The majority of the work produced is akin to the last two letters of the abbreviation. Example: "The result of the Boeing/ MIT project was just a bunch of BCBS!"
- "Big Banging" --- Creating a single product which takes in features of two or more products. This is true especially in software. It is considered one of the most challenging efforts in engineering. Example: "After the buyout, we are now 'big banging' the two flagship products into a single release."
- Bloatware --- 1) Software that has had excessive features that a minority of users access. Usually happens on the third major release of the package. 2) A software

package that comes with demos of other software packages making the installation process longer.

- Boat Anchor --- Computer so obsolete, It no longer Serves a purpose (i.e. Apple III's)
- Booboo --- Someone just out of college, especially an engineer, placing too much reckless artistic flair or academic emphasis in commercial development. This usually shows one does not have real world economic factors in mind. Example: "The engineering crew is now a bunch of Booboos writing design specs after the stock options fell through last month." Origin: The cartoon character Yogi Bear's younger bear friend. See also NCG
- Buzzword Specialist --- Someone who knows and can impress management and customers with an astounding knowledge of industry buzzwords, but has no real working knowledge of the technology. See also Marketing Puke
- Cappuccino Sipper --- Someone with too much pure academic / theoretical development background. They see software being an entity on its own without any immediate implementation. "Cap. Heads" usually work with lots of CASE tools, statistical analysis packages and an excess of graphical visualization tools (usually running on very powerful and expensive workstations). They prefer languages like: SmallTalk, LISP, pure ANSI C++ and (of course!)experimental programming languages. One considers the actual product to be someone's else's work that "... just makes the theory into reality."
- Chartware --- Software that exists only on an overhead projector and the mind of the presenter.
- Chat-fly (a.k.a. Cyber-barfly) --- A lady who hangs out in on-line chat rooms sweet talking others to buy her time to keep on-line. Operates in a similar manner to ladies hanging out at bars and having others buy them drinks.
- Cluster F\*\*k --- many things going wrong at the same time resulting from one action.
- Code 18 --- An error made by the user. Refers to 18 inches from the computer display. A synonym for PEBCAK
- Command Line Weenie or Liner --- One who prefers using the command line instead of Point 'n' Click.
- Compile Time Activities --- Anything done while waiting for code to finish compiling.
- C.R.A.P. --- Stands for Cheap Redundant Assorted Products. Time and time again you see a bad product do well even though there is a product on the market better in every way but costs 5% to 15% more. The cheaper product does better since the market has little knowledge of judging it's quality so the cheaper / inferior product sells better.
- Critical Path --- The task of a project that is an absolute to get it finished. It is like a self warning from a someone deeply involved in a project and cannot be disturbed. Destruction will happen if anybody dares to enter their office/room. In many outfits, it is used as a way to warn people not to disturb AT ALL!!!!
- Curry --- A really in-demand and innovative technique or technology. This term mostly used when it is being used to something of much larger scope. Example: "That new kernel modification was just the curry needed to meet the new specifications." Origin: Refers to the original root of this word being "spice mix".
- Dead Tree Edition --- A paper hardcopy of a report.
- "Deadfish, Idaho" --- A fictional American mid-west town that is viewed to be the worse-case condition market spot for mass produced products. It is know for several qualities like: very "normal" and typical people without imagination nor innovation,

anyone with creative ability is feared and small independent efforts of any type are considered "cult". It is also source for some of the most innovative talent in Silicon Valley that left since they were feared and thus invalidated by the status quo of the town. Example: "Well this interactive CD is a great product, but how are we going to package it so it isn't burned in the parking lots of Deadfish, Idaho."

- Demo Monkey --- When a marketing puke has to demo a product, but hasn't a clue how it works, s/he will recruit a programmer or QA Puke to run a demo. After awhile, the better demo givers are called Demo Monkeys by the Suits
- Down Time --- A term that originally came out of the industrial era and mean that the machine was broken and so one couldn't work. Now it means that the network is so slow it takes at least 15 minutes for my favorite Web page to show up; might as well be at the beach doing something productive.
- DRI --- Directly Responsible Individual. Usually said as in, "The DRI for product release."
- Drowndex --- an convention that is so large and organized, no real innovations are presented, only incremental improvements.
- Drump --- (dumpy lump) typically, a middle-aged, pot-bellied, sexually frustrated, single person who has given up on dating. They have accepted a life of living alone for only one's career and personal hobbies.
- "Enabled" --- A yuppie management term that means someone has been given the necessary resources to perform a task.
- The (Evil) Empire of the North --- Any big software company in the Pacific Northwest who takes pot shots at Silicon Valley.
- Extended Beta --- The Production Release will be 'Real Soon Now'.
- Facer --- anyone, most commonly a salesperson or public speaker, that is able to wax interest to create a positive reaction to the one they are talking with at any moment. They are very good at not having their intention or own feelings chalk up the scene.
- FCS (First Customer Ship) --- to many investors, when a company becomes real buy shipping a product for the first time.
- "the Five and Dime" --- refers to American telephone area code 510. It covers the east San Francisco Bay area, most notably Oakland and Berkeley, and is commonly used by telco and telcom workers.
- Forced Coolness (or Forced Hip) --- an artificial company image that makes them appeal to the "younger, with-it generation" when in fact the company's culture and/or management are definitely not that style.
- Forced Downgrade --- demoted (usually from executive level job) to a totally meaningless job or position with the intentions of the person being forced to quit to avoid contract disputes or other litigation.
- Four-O-Four (404) --- Isn't where you are looking for it. Origin: the error code given to a web browser when the requested page isn't found.
- F.Y.I.F.V. --- Acronym ("F\*\*k You! I'm fully vested!") A very common term in Silicon Valley Start-ups. Means that ones holdings are totally held without any penalties off loosing it if they leave the company. In other words, they are rich.
- F.R.E.D. --- Acronym (F\*\*king Ridiculous Electronic Device) used to name your computer or answer machine or what ever electrical device you have a found affection for.

- "G word, the" --- Among programmers, refers to the goto command which is commonly associated with bad programming form and spaghetti code. Almost a taboo to use.
- Geeking, Double --- using two computers at the same time. Hence, triple geeking is using three computers at once.
- Generation (what kind of hacker you are) --- First Generation hackers (born 1950 to 1969) usually have one word handles (i.e. Stealth, Sunspot, Matrix) , second generation hackers (born 1970 to 1989) have two word handles (i.e. PhiberOptic, Snake Lord, Acid Run) while the baby hackers (born after 1989) are using phrases to describe themselves (i.e. Enter the Night, Midnight LightningStroke and Reaching for Stars).
- Genius Killer --- an executive that tries to suppress innovation for fear that it will interrupt cash flow of an established product.
- "grepping" --- to search for something in a very methodical manner. Origin: from the Unix line command grep (short for "get repetitively"). The command would search through a bunch of files looking for specific string in them.
- "hacker type" --- an undisciplined engineer that does technology for ones own idle curiosity and fulfilment.
- Hacking --- quickly completed without much understanding to apparent short term results.
- Hand Holding --- Tech support done solely to give a customer confidence about what they are doing. They already know how to do something but they just want to have someone around with more experience to relieve pressure of being the most knowledgeable one in the group. Example: "Flying to the plant for the new unit was just hand holding since they already have been trained how to use it."
- Hand-Off Manager --- Doesn't complain when you get in late, and allows you to do the project "your way" since he respects your abilities and knows you'll get it done ahead of schedule if just left alone. A lot of the time, if you get a manager like this, you might wonder if you even have a manager.
- Hands-On Manager --- A manager who still does a little coding just to keep in touch with reality.
- High-Visibility Position --- If you screw up, you'll get fired and everyone will know. Be careful about accepting jobs that are described using this term.
- I/O Error --- Error cause by an I gnorant O perator. A technical support term to label such operator in conversation. It sounds like a computer thing, but we're really saying, "Hey, an Ignorant Operator." in discussion. Origin: Name sake of the term meaning Input/Output Error.
- I-d-10-t error --- (Otherwise known as the idiot error) When a 'puter illiterate whines that something isn't working because either A) It's not plugged in. or B) it's not "Exactly" the way it looked yesterday.
- "In the Stocks" --- 1) Having a job or assignment where one has to be on the company's site for a full 40 hour week. Typically to one that is used to "off-site" jobs. 2) Moving from contracting to a full time, salary position for career "safety". Example: "Ever since coming back from that trip back east, she's been 'in the stocks' to finish up the project."
- "In the Zone" --- One who so busy at writing software or any other development effort, they completely shut out all other communication in the process by putting all of their attention to it.

- Initiative --- Deliberately disobeying a destructive order from your manager and being right in the long run (like the original Mac engineers who put in a greater RAM capacity than Steve Jobs permitted).
- Kid Sibling Management --- A style of decision making where one almost always follows the logic of the person whom the manager replaced. One does not use their own experience, if they have any, and solely follows position precedents. Origin: Akin to one acting like a big brother or sister since oneself is not established enough.
- Lasagna Syndrome --- writing a piece of software with too many dialog boxes overlapping each other to complete a task.
- Legacy Media --- 1) the "old press" as in radio, television but especially newspapers. 2) anything on web sites that follows media presentation styles of older medias to much restricting the capability of the media it is presented upon . Example: That is web site is so legacy media in form since it reads like a newspaper. 3) something that is presented where the receiver is not contributing to content and is totally passive
- Lemming --- 1) an executive or company in general that only produces products solely on a customer demand basis without taking any initiative to lead product innovation. 2) a poorly responding or falling mouse.
- "Let's Discuss That Off-Line" --- A term typically used in the middle of a heated meeting. It usually means there is someone in the room and it's easier to talk behind their backs. Be concerned if you're the one who's not invited to this "off-line discussion".
- "a Little Short On RAM" --- A reference for when one does not possess the mental capacities that are required for the task at hand.
- LOPSOD --- Short for "Long On Promises, Short On Delivery". A product with a lot of hype and not living to its created expectations upon shipment.
- Loser Error --- Errors caused by a user who blames most of their work related problems on the computer.
- "Losing Our Virginity" --- Refers to the first time you gave up equity in the company to a VC investor.
- Lumpy --- an overweight, over-intellectual, introverted person who hangs out at trade shows and sci-fi conventions. Usually turns into a Drump in later life.
- "Magic Smoke" --- The substance you see escape out of computers right after they stop working. In actuality, it is the electrical hardware burning out. This condescending joke has come about to explain to the naive that there is "magic smoke" inside the computer chips that is placed in there during manufacture that makes it all work. That is why there are so many big tanks by semiconductor fabs. Those tanks hold the "magic smoke" for the chips.
- Management by Spreadsheet --- Very mindless and irresponsible decision making where one's data comes solely from poorly weighted statistics; usually from a general purpose statistical package. Example: Someone is laid off because they have the highest salary in the group. By the spreadsheet, a savings is made. In reality, the productivity of the groups falls since the most productive, thus cost effective, person is lost.
- Meeting Engineer --- A person who spends more time in meetings than doing actual work. Those who fall into this category usually have either out-of-date technical skills or none in the first place. This person will tend to complain about how they never have time to get any work done since they're in meetings all the time.
- Middles, Three Deadly --- These are in order: middle manager, middle class and middle aged. In most cases, one out of three is unavoidable. If you get two out of



three, it should be of concern. Three out of three -- Panic!! -- and make sure you get something out of your mid-life crisis.

- Middle School Dance --- A condition where two pieces of equipment are both waiting for the other to initiate communication thus resulting in no exchange at all. This occurs mostly during peer-to-peer system integration or software networking. Origin: Reflects typical adolescent school social where everyone is so self-conscience, no one will initiate by asking someone to dance.
- Milker --- a consultant or contractor who pulls out a task over an unneeded length of time solely to get more money without continually adding value.
- Marketing Puke --- anyone, not necessarily a marketing person, who lacks a fundamental understanding of a product or market and works solely off buzzwords, catch phrases or analogies. See also Buzzword Specialist
- NCG --- (New College Graduate) typically a very impressionable person on their first professional job with a great deal of zeal and willingness to do anything.
- Nerve Center --- the place in the company where the most communication and decisions occur to make it run.
- Network Pirate --- Someone who harasses other people on the network, usually within a company's LAN, just to get their jollies. This person will brazenly look at other peoples' files (if not password protected), and generally do obnoxious things, such as sending unwanted sound files to your computer at the most embarrassing of times.
- "Nine to Five Code" --- Software that is ordinary and plain. It has not real innovation and just gets the job done. Origin: Notes the time of day that it is written on a regular business schedule.
- "Out of the Garage" --- A very Silicon Valley term denoting a company has moved into its first real office and is now "professional". To this day, many high-tech companies start in residential areas and then move to an office where resources are more accessible (i.e. data-lines, office floor space, storage, etc.) as they grow. Origin: The Garage that Hewlett-Packard was started in Palo Alto, CA during the 1930's.
- Overgrad --- Someone in a full-time, salaried professional position that still uses academic politics and attitudes. The core of this attitude is the mistake of assuming popularity make for career progress. Examples of these actions are: expressing concern in strong voice while not having ability nor actions to follow through, false affinity for others to forward themselves and using ones personality and charm to forward their position without any personal production. Good executives are able to identify and layoff these types when productivity stops. Origin: From the phrase "Not over graduation yet."
- Parade --- travelling over long distances to demonstrate products.
- PEBCAK --- Stands for "Problem Exists Between Chair And Keyboard". Acronym slang for idiot operator errors used by tech support people trying to make it sound sophisticated to the user.
- Pencil In --- tentatively planned but no commitment made.
- Pin Bender --- Shoddy Technician
- PITA Fee --- An "extended service fee" or "additional delivery cost" added on a bill or invoice done when the customer has been a total "Pain in the A\*s"
- Ponytails --- Refers to those in creative/art director positions. They are mostly seen in design, post-production, game and entertainment business in or around Silicon Valley. Example: "Well, here's the script, let's run it by the ponytails".

- Prairie Dogging --- The event of everyone in their cubicles to get out of their chairs, stand up on their toes and peer over the tops of their cubicles to see what is happening. Usually comes from a big fight or something of the same magnitude. You usually just see a lot of other eyes and foreheads if you're one of the "prairie dogs".
- Pro-Active --- Much overused term in Silicon Valley. This means that one should handle situations before they turn into flaps, although it is all-too-often used by managers to "delegate" work to subordinates that they themselves should actually be doing.
- Profile-digger (a.k.a. Cyber-golddigger) --- A lady who goes over on-line chats, personal bios and profiles of services like AOL, Matchmaker, Well, CompuServe and others for the sole meaning of finding a single, rich man to latch-on to and spend their money in a one way relationship.
- Programmer's Butt --- Also called "bubble butt" outside of the high-tech field. This is what programmers get from long hours of coding combined with using pizza as their staple food. Shows why programmers must occasionally enjoy the fresh air or join a health club.
- QA Pukes --- What software engineers sometimes use to refer to their Quality Assurance (QA) department. Testers and QA personnel often get no respect at a lot of the high-tech companies in Silicon Valley since the software engineers consider themselves technically superior to QA and because the QA folks have been known to find bugs at the most inopportune moments, like two hours before Golden Master.
- Quadruplitory Development --- The phenomenon of four different engineers being assigned to the same task, in complete ignorance of each other.
- Real Programming --- writing software with no debugging facilities at all. Code is built up from a single, simple operation to incremental complexity 'til the desired function is achieved. Famous systems were made through this method since there were no tools yet created to debug them.
- Re-Start Up --- A company who's initial business plan failed but still has the resources to change direction in attempt to survive.
- RFR --- A requirement for a product to get funding for development. If a product looks like it will make you REALLY F\*CKINGRICH, it's referred to as RFR and gets funded.
- RFS --- Mean in a exasperated term when the product will ship REALLY F\*CKING SOON. Example: "RFS, okay? Can we kill this meeting and just let me get back to programming, will ya?"
- RTFM --- Stands for "Read the F\*\*king Manual". A very common term exchanged between technical support people. This expression indicates that the answer to a problem could be found by reading the manual supplied with the hardware/software in question.
- Scarecrow Technology --- A hyped-up piece of technology that when examined and used, has no uniqueness nor value other than image. Example: "That so called secret object-oriented technology was only a bunch of database requests inside a button click and ended up being Scarecrow Technology during the buyout talks."
- Schedule-Driven --- A product that's going to be shipped by a certain date whether or not its ready and whether or not the QA folks approve of it.
- Screen-Saver Face --- The look one gets when they have been bored to the point of just shutting off their brain.

- Self-Starter --- Doesn't need orders to operate. Also means that people have enough confidence in him/her that he/she gets in when he/she feels like it (at a reasonable time, of course - say noon?).
- SEP --- A term used for bug, bad business policy or other general snafu, usually implemented despite your advise, that is ignored because you are powerless to fix it. Origin: Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
- Shareware Girl --- the one lady that is everybody's darling.
- Sheeple --- Short for "Sheep People". 1) Groups who reactively act from saturation advertising, fads, trends and need to go along with the crowd. 2) Those who let "group think" affect their decisions instead of their own individualism. 3) The nickname given to those who's purchasing habits matching that of large demographics by 80% or greater.
- Shelfware --- Software that is so worthless it remains in the shrink-wrapped box on the shelf above your desk.
- Shovelware --- CD-ROMs that have no content organisation at all. The data was just blindly copied on and requires an excessive amount of searching to find something useful.
- Show --- Trade show where products are exhibited.
- "Singing 'Daisy'..." --- The final action of a computer when it is being brought down for good; most notably for large miniframe or mainframe computers. Origin: The scene from 2001:A Space Odyssey as the HAL computer was being shut down and it was singing "Daisy".
- Skeet --- A handheld device or small desktop unit either so faulty or obsolete that it is only good for skeet shooting (e.g. akin to clay ducks thrown in the air for shotgun firing practice). Example: "Ever since the release of the Newton 2000, the old 100's are skeet."
- SLIRK --- Stands for "Smart Little Rich Kid". A very bratty, pretentious, young child with great technical prowess using daddy's money for "toys." These types become either fantastic entrepreneur / engineers or totally renegade, technical criminals upon becoming of age.
- Smoke Test --- The first time electrical power is applied to a printed circuit board. If the board does not smoke from a short or overload, it has passed the Smoke Test.
- Sneakernet --- When data is transferred between workstations by copying it to a floppy and walking it to the intended workstation.
- Spaghetti Code --- Software whose execution path is so tangled and confusing it is almost impossible to understand. Often brought about by overuse of >the G word.
- Start-Up --- a company starting from the ground up. A new name is formed, people recruited and something is created.
- STBY --- Stands for "Sucks to be you". Usually said when the person you are talking to really screwed up.
- Strawman (a.k.a. Strawdog) --- a proposal that everyone expects to fail but it gets your group noticed. Example: "This is just a strawman proposal to see if we can generate any interest from the marketing weenies."
- "the Suits" --- After a start-up gets to a certain size, "the suits" start to drift in with the supposed purpose of expanding the company. These are the sales/marketing/finance types that wear a buttoned-down shirt and tie in a high-tech company when even the CEO doesn't. Be careful with these types around as they tend to be very political and backstabbing, motivated by money, not by the passion of technology. Example: In Apple Computer, Jobs/Wozniak were

technologists and visionaries, Scully was "the suit". Similar in some ways to a Marketing Puke.

- Synergy --- two or more people getting together to do a job without anyone knowing the overall skills needed.
- Team Player --- An engineer with no backbone who just "yes"es everything at a design review. Can also mean someone who gets in early and makes coffee for everyone else. The latter definition is more desirable when it is being applied to you.
- Techno-Babble --- words which are specifically arranged in such a way that any educated person will see the fact that the definition of techno-babble is a "conglomeration of co-descriptive informative verbs, adjectives and nouns" To the un-educated these techno-babble phrases, like the one describing this definition, were meant to overwhelm the newbie as to resist the weak spirited in the computer industry thus creating a cult feeling to those "in the know".
- Ten Dollar Solution --- Anything that works infinitely better than that "new thing" and the superior technology is at least 30 years old.(i.e. trying to follow a ballgame on a Real Audio plugin vs. a ten dollar transistor radio).
- Theory Design (a.k.a. Scientific Design, Generalization Engineering, Head-in-the-clouds Development) --- An often ill-fated development method that doesn't result in a product since too much generalization and theory was used. It usually comes about when one just "stops and thinks" way too often. Thus, confrontation of reality is lost by not attacking nor experimenting with the problem. Many developers do this after a series of product failures and thus "gun shy" of implementation. Example: "Instead of just trying the different equipment configurations, he was just calling everyone he knew, formed a group opinion and delayed the project for a week. We needed to call in another engineer to recover from his Theory Design."
- Think Time --- This is what a human when he/she gets an "idle event". One usually has a lot of this type of time during a long compiler or a slow network connection.
- Thunk --- 1) software calling older software of a smaller word size. 2) Using an older mindset out of convenience --especially with management decisions.
- "Three A.M. Code" --- Software written in a very original, hackly or unorthodox manner. It is usually innovative breaking a lot of the "rules" of good design in order to get a product shipping. See also curry. Origin: The time of day code like this is usually written.
- "Throw it over the wall" --- Get your part of some project done, then pass it off to the next group that has to worry about it (or most likely, review it.) Mostly used when there is little contact or communication with the other group. Example: We'll get that new design finished, then throw it over the wall to the next group to look at.
- TLA departments --- Short for "Three Letter Acronym". A department of a company that does not have any apparent function at all. Groups like this are usually created by trendy management fads.
- Tofu --- made too general in use or appearance for anything specific.
- Tofu Syndrome --- making software or a product so general and portable that it does not take any advantage of special features of the machine it is being run on.
- Torpedo --- an unproductive person going to a rival organization, sometimes with encouragement.
- Triority --- The three things your manager would have you do at once.
- Uninstalled --- Fired or laid off. Example: "Jeff was here last week, but he was uninstalled on Monday."

- Valley Wash-Out --- one in the high-tech business who had an established career in the Valley and moved their career elsewhere by taking: a cut in pay, a more "secure" position, or "gave up on the scene". They are easily spotted by their dramatization of how much better it is where they are and how tough it is out here.
- Vapourware (or "vaporware" as you Americans spell it) --- soft/hardware that has been advertised for months but isn't available in any shape or form.
- Visionary --- A term usually applied to industry opinion leaders like Steve Jobs and Bills Gate. Although it can mean someone who has the ability to see into the future and/or can envision a brilliant new technology, it usually means someone who sees the value in the work other people have done.
- VRBS --- (Virtual Reality Bulls\*\*t) any talk about a technology so far reaching, no immediate application can be created.
- Waldo --- a demo given with great showmanship for a product with little innovation or creativity.
- "The Way" --- 1) Having a very instant, zen-like understanding of a problem and how to solve it. 2) Possessing the ability to know how to write complex software and complete it without any rewriting or major adjustment.
- Worder --- anyone who use personal computers only for writing, just like a typewriter machine.
- WOMBAT --- Stands for "Waste of Money Brains and Time". Is suitable to describe a person, product or project.
- "You're good." --- a very high compliment one engineer can give to another. It simply states that one's work is appreciated and you can create very well.
- Zapping --- The lowest form of software programming know to mankind. It involves altering the assembly code in hex format after it has been output from a compiler or assembler. Done typically when there is a compiler bug, the proper data is not being generated or original source code has been lost. Origin: akin to static electricity "zaps". You are pretty much working at the same level as a static discharge on a memory circuit.

## You became 30-something when...

- You start looking at teenagers as "them".
- You don't wear your work-out shoes to the gym.
- Not being a parent is a minority position in your social circles.
- The hairstyles in your high school yearbook look dated.
- "Classic Rock" stations play tunes that were new when you started college.
- You attend a showing of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and realize half the girls are underage for you.
- An old girlfriend is reacquainted and she cannot remember why she dumped you.
- No one sells software that runs your first computer.
- Youth groups you attended want you as a leader.
- You have the money for all the cool stuff you dreamed about doing when in school.
- The urge to say "Turn that music down!" goes through you mind.
- Most of your old teachers have transferred to different schools.
- Those "little brats" you remember are now in college.
- Relatives now listen and give advice instead of criticism.

- Most of the models you meet are younger than you.
- Driving down a residential street makes you think of mortgages instead looking for chicks.
- Instead of "girls" it is now "women".
- Some amusement park rides make you feel sick.
- It is biologically possible for one of your dates to be an age where you could have fathered her right after your puberty.
- Police don't do the "young driver tail" on you anymore.
- MTV starts to get blurry.
- "I better start to care for this body.", comes in mind.
- You smacked yourself when you realized you said, "When I was your age..."
- Your parents start to hint about grandchildren.
- A high school catch-phrase you scream out leaves a few teenagers in earshot clueless.
- Your current job is in no way related to your degree.
- The amount of candles on your birthday cake no longer match your age since it is too much work.
- Half of your video collection is no longer shown on television.
- You no longer "jump and scream" for a trendy political cause anymore but in fact look at the other side of the issue.
- All the "in crowd" from your high school class has met with their karma.
- Most of your shirts button at the collar.
- You have paid off at least one car loan in full.
- All the new albums you purchase have 'Greatest Hits' in the title.
- Meeting the woman of your dreams has you wanting to keep her!
- You don't know what you want for Christmas anymore.
- You look forward to Christmas so you can talk with your family instead of getting presents.
- Quiet weekends start to sound really nice.
- The idea of riding a skateboard down a gnarly hill starts you thinking, "Am I nuts?".
- The sensible cars you always laughed at as lame; one is sitting in your driveway.
- You start pulling out the music you used to listen to, and wonder why ... (not all, mind you, just about 1/2 of them).
- You're as old as Star Trek.
- A pension plan actually seems like a good idea!
- High schoolers are wearing the styles you parents wore as children.
- You are proud of your lawn mower.
- Your best friend is dating someone half their age ... and isn't breaking any laws.
- You sing along with elevator music.
- You make (and keep) an appointment with the dentist..
- You have a party, and the neighbors don't even realize it.
- You refer to your \$2500 stereo as "The Hi-fi."
- Your childhood toys are now in a museum.
- Many of your co-workers were born the same year you last got a raise.
- A 19 or 20 year-old sees the television you've had since college and asks, "What's that big knob on the TV for?"
- Your bedtime is based on the time the TV news is over.

## Drinking at work

While most companies refrain from allowing consumption of alcohol on the premises, there are some arguments for changing that policy.

- It's an incentive to show up.
- It reduces stress.
- It leads to more honest communications.
- It reduces complaints about low pay.
- It cuts down on time off because you can work with a hangover.
- Employees tell management what they think, not what management wants to hear.
- It helps save on heating costs in the winter.
- It encourages carpooling.
- Increases job satisfaction because if you have a bad job you don't care.
- It eliminates vacations because people would rather come to work.
- It makes fellow employees look better.
- It makes the cafeteria food taste better.
- Bosses are more likely to hand out raises when they are merry.
- Salary negotiations are a lot more profitable.
- No one will remember your strip act at the Christmas Party.

## Food spoilage checklist

- **THE GAG TEST** - Anything that makes you gag is spoiled (except for leftovers from what you cooked for yourself last night).
- **EGGS** - When something starts pecking its way out of the shell, the egg is probably past its prime.
- **DAIRY PRODUCTS** - Milk is spoiled when it starts to look like yogurt. Yogurt is spoiled when it starts to look like cottage cheese. Cottage cheese is spoiled when it starts to look like regular cheese. Regular cheese is nothing but spoiled milk anyway and can't get any more spoiled than it is already.
- **MAYONNAISE** - If it makes you violently ill after you eat it, if the mayonnaise is spoiled.
- **FROZEN FOODS** - Frozen foods that have become an integral part of the defrosting problem in your freezer compartment will probably be spoiled - (or wrecked anyway) by the time you pry them out with a kitchen knife.
- **MEAT** - If opening the refrigerator door causes stray animals from a three-block radius to congregate outside your house, the meat is spoiled.
- **LETTUCE** - Lettuce is spoiled when you can't get it off the bottom of the vegetable crisper without a pan scourer.
- **CANNED GOODS** - Any canned goods that have become the size or shape of a football should be disposed of. Carefully.
- **EXPIRATION DATES** - This is NOT a marketing ploy to encourage you to throw away perfectly good food so that you'll spend more on groceries. Perhaps you'd benefit by having a calendar in your kitchen.

- BREAD - Sesame seeds and Poppy seeds are the only officially acceptable "spots" that should be seen on the surface of any loaf of bread. Fuzzy and hairy looking white or green growth areas are a good indication that your bread has turned into a pharmaceutical laboratory experiment.
- FLOUR - Flour is spoiled when it wiggles.
- SALT - It never spoils.
- CEREAL - It is generally a good rule of thumb that cereal should be discarded when it is two years or longer beyond the expiration date.
- RAISINS - Raisins should not be harder than your teeth.
- UNMARKED ITEMS - You know it is well beyond prime when you're tempted to discard the Tupperware along with the food. Generally speaking, Tupperware containers should not burp when you open them.
- CARROTS - A carrot that you can tie a clove hitch in is not fresh.
- WINE - It should not taste like salad dressing.
- POTATOES - Fresh potatoes do not have roots, branches, or dense, leafy undergrowth.
- DIP - If you can take it out of its container and bounce it on the floor, it has gone bad.
- GENERAL RULE OF THUMB - Most food cannot be kept longer than the average life span of a hamster. Keep a hamster in your refrigerator to gauge this.

## Things you will never hear

An Air Stewardess - "Make-up?"  
 A Chief Executive - "Sorry!"  
 A Liberal - "No!"  
 The Pope - "Darling"  
 A Truck Driver - "Fluffy"  
 An Amnesiac - "Remember..."  
 A Reporter - "Uneventful"  
 An Historian - "I"  
 A Mathematician - "Approximately"  
 A Door-To-Door Salesman - "Goodbye"  
 A Blind Lifeguard - "Shark!"  
 A Builder - "Finished!"  
 A Spin Doctor - ""  
 A Modern Artist - "...meaningless."  
 A Forensic Pathologist - "Missing?"  
 A Student - "Breakfast"  
 A Therapist - "Freak!"  
 A Computer Programmer - "We..."  
 A Public Relations Officer - "Personally"  
 A Fly-On-The-Wall Documentary Maker - "Cut!"  
 A Philosopher - "Whatever!"



## Cowboy logic

- There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- If you find yourself in a hole the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- Never smack a man who's chewin' tobacco.
- It doesn't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.
- Never ask a barber if he thinks you need a haircut.
- Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter or a person, don't be suprised if they learn their lesson.
- When you're throwin' your weight around, be ready to have it thrown around by somebody else.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back.
- Always take a good look at what you're about to eat. It's not so important to know what it is, but it's critical to know what it was.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.
- A smartass just doesn't fit in a saddle.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.

## The cat test

To identify emotionally disturbed individuals accurately, Algozzine, Foster, and Kaufman (1979) developed the CAT TEST. This simple, yet novel test is easily administered by professionals, parents, and aides. It involves three simple steps. (1) place testee in empty room facing far wall; (2) place cat into center of room, close and latch door; (3) after 10 minutes, open the door. Algozzine, et. al., note that the CAT TEST allows fine discriminations between subclassifications of emotional disturbance. They offer the following guidelines for interpretation of results.

1. OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE - four neat, meticulous piles of fur to be found in the corners of room - cat alive, but cold.
2. SOCIALIZED DELINQUENT - fur scattered randomly about room and on testee - cat alive, still cold.
3. MANIC/DEPRESSIVE (MANIC STAGE) - pieces of cat scattered randomly about room - cat terminated.
4. MANIC/DEPRESSIVE (DEPRESSIVE STAGE) - pieces of testee scattered randomly about room - emotional stability of cat suspect.
5. PARANOID REACTION - testee cowering in far corner of room - cat alive and sleeping in center of room.
6. PSYCOPATHOLOGY - only evidence of cat is skin, wrapped loosely about testee's head - cat assumed terminated.

7. SCHIZOPHRENIC REACTION - testee in center of room carrying on long existential discussion with cat - cat alive, but confused.
8. NEUROTIC REACTION - testee asking cat for advise about migraine headache - cat alive and still confused.
9. CATATONIC REACTION - testee in corner of room with back arched, hair on end, hissing and refusing to acknowledge presence of cat - cat alive, confused, and hyperactive.

## General Motors and Bill Gates

At COMDEX Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated:

*If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon*

General Motors addressed this comment by released the statement: *"Yes, but would you want a car to crash twice a day?"* Additionally GM stated:

- Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car.
- Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just: ACCEPT, RESTART and DRIVE ON.
- Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre would cause your car to stop and fail and you would have to RE-INSTALL the engine.
- You could only have one person in the car at a time ..... unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But, then you would still have to buy more seats ..... and possibly also a "Multi-User Licence".
- Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the Sun, was reliable, 5 times as fast, twice as easy to drive ..... but would only run on 5% of roads.
- The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower.
- The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "GENERAL CAR DEFAULT" warning light.
- New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.
- The airbag system would say "Are you sure?" before going off.
- If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened!!

## Just like highly skilled employees

Start with a cage containing five apes. In the cage, hang a banana on a string and put stairs under it. Before long, one ape will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana, but as soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the apes with ice cold water.

After a while, another ape makes an attempt with the same result - all the apes are sprayed with cold water.

Turn off the cold water. If, later, another ape tries to climb the stairs, the other apes will try to prevent it even though no water sprays them.

Now, move one ape from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new ape sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror, all of the other apes attack him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five apes and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm.

Again, replace a third original ape with a new one. The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well. Two of the four apes that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest ape.

After replacing the fourth and fifth original apes, all the apes which have been sprayed with cold water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no ape ever again approaches the stairs.

Why not? "Because that's the way it's always been around here."

## Politically correct terms

Lazy	Motivationally deficient.
Fat	Horizontally challenged.
Fail	Acheive a deficiency.
Dishonest	Ethically disoriented.
Bald	Folliclely impaired.
Clumsy	Uniquely coordinated.
Body Odor	Nondiscretionary fragrance.
Alive	Temporarily metabolically abled.
Worst	Least best.
Wrong	Differently logical.
Ugly	Cosmetically different.
Unemployed	Involuntarily leisured.
Short	Vertically challenged.
Dead	Living impaired.
Vagrant	Nonspecifically destinationed individual.
Spendthrift	Negative saver.
Serial-Killer	Person with difficult-to-meet needs.
Stoned	Chemically inconvenienced.
Pregnant	Parasitically oppressed.
Ignorant	Knowledge-based non-possessor.

## Player's guide for keeping conductors in line

If there were a basic training manual for orchestra players, it might include ways to practice not only music, but one-upmanship. It seems as if many young players take pride in getting the conductor's goat. The following rules are intended as a guide to the development of habits that will irritate the conductor. (Variations and additional methods depend upon the imagination and skill of the player).

1. Never be satisfied with the tuning note. Fussing about the pitch takes attention away from the podium and puts it on you, where it belongs!
2. When raising the music stand, be sure the top comes off and spills the music on the floor!
3. Complain about the temperature of the rehearsal room, the lighting, crowded space, or a draft. It's best to do this when the conductor is under pressure!
4. Look the other way just before cues!
5. Never have the proper mute, a spare set of strings, or extra reeds... Percussion players must never have all their equipment!
6. Ask for a re-audition or seating change! Ask often! Give the impression you're about to quit! Let the conductor know you're there as a personal favor!
7. Pluck the strings as if you are checking tuning at every opportunity, especially when the conductor is giving instructions! Brass players: drop mutes! Percussionists have a wide variety of dropable items, but cymbals are unquestionably the best because they roll around for several seconds!
8. Loudly blow water from the keys during pauses (Horn, Oboe and Clarinet players are trained to do this from birth).
9. Long after a passage has gone by, ask the conductor if your C# was in tune. This is especially effective if you had no C# or were not playing at the time! (If he catches you, pretend to be correcting a note in your part!)
10. At dramatic moments in the music (while the conductor is emoting) be busy marking your music so that the climaxes will sound empty and disappointing!
11. Wait until well into a rehearsal before letting the conductor know you don't have the music!
12. Look at your watch frequently! Shake it in disbelief occasionally!
13. Tell the conductor, "I can't find the beat!" Conductors are always sensitive about their "stick technique", so challenge it frequently!
14. Ask the conductor if he has listened to the Bernstein recording of the piece! Imply that he could learn a thing or two from it! Also good: ask "Is this the first time you've conducted this piece?"
15. When rehearsing a difficult passage, screw up your face and shake your head indicating that you'll never be able to play it! Don't say anything: make him wonder!
16. If your articulation differs from that of others playing the same phrase, stick to your guns! Do not ask the conductor which is correct until backstage just before the concert!
17. Find an excuse to leave rehearsal about 15 minutes early so that others will become restless and start to pack up and fidget!
18. During applause, smile weakly or show no expression at all! Better yet... nonchalantly put away your instrument! Make the conductor feel he is keeping you from doing something really important!

## Are you ready to have a baby?

### **MESS TEST**

Smear peanut butter on the sofa and curtains. Now rub your hands in the wet flower bed and rub on the walls. Place a fish stick behind the couch and leave it there all summer. Obtain a 55-gallon box of Legos. (If Legos are not available, you may substitute roofing tacks or broken bottles.) Have a friend spread them all over the house. Put on a blindfold. Try to walk to the bathroom or kitchen. Do not scream (this could wake a child at night).

### **GROCERY STORE TEST**

Borrow one or two small animals (goats are best) and take them with you as you shop at the grocery store. Always keep them in sight and pay for anything they eat or damage.

### **DRESSING TEST**

Obtain one large, unhappy, live octopus. Stuff into a small net bag making sure that all arms stay inside.

### **FEEDING TEST**

Obtain a large plastic milk jug. Fill halfway with water. Suspend from the ceiling with a stout cord. Start the jug swinging. Try to insert spoonfuls of soggy cereal (such as Fruit Loops or Cheerios) into the mouth of the jug while pretending to be an airplane. Now dump the contents of the jug on the floor.

### **NIGHT TEST**

Prepare by obtaining a small cloth bag and fill it with 8 to 12 pounds of sand. Soak it thoroughly in water. At 8:00 PM begin to waltz and hum with the bag until 9:00 PM. Lay down your bag and set your alarm for 10:00 PM. Get up, pick up your bag, and sing every song you have ever heard. Make up about a dozen more and sing these too until 4:00 AM. Set alarm for 5:00 AM. Get up and make breakfast. Keep this up for 5 years. Look cheerful.

### **PHYSICAL TEST**

Obtain a large bean-bag chair and attach it to the front of your clothes. Leave it there for 9 months. Now remove 10% of the beans. Purchase a newspaper. Go home and read it quietly for the last time.

### **FINAL ASSIGNMENT**

Find a couple who already have a small child. Lecture them on how they can improve their child's discipline, patience, tolerance, toilet training, and table manners. Suggest many ways they can improve. Emphasize to them that they should never allow their children to run wild. Enjoy this experience. It will be the last time you will have all the answers.

## Truths about life that little children have learned

- No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.

- If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- Reading what people write on desks can teach you a lot.
- Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac.
- Never hold a dustbuster and a cat at the same time.
- School lunches stick to the wall.
- You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- The best place to be when you are sad is in Grandma's lap.

## Glossary of PC messages

- It says: "Press Any Key" - It means: "Press any key you like but I'm not moving."
- It says: "Press A Key" - (This one's a programmers joke. Nothing happens unless you press the "A" key.)
- It says: "Fatal Error. Please contact technical support quoting error no. 1A4-2546512430E" - It means: "... where you will be kept on hold for 10 minutes, only to be told that it's a hardware problem."
- It says: "Installing program to C:\<Directory>...." - It means: "... And I'll also be writing a few files into C:\windows and C:\windows\system where you'll NEVER find them."
- It says: "Please insert disk 11" - It means: "Because I know darn well there are only 10 disks."
- It says: "Not enough memory" - It means: "I don't CARE if you've got 64MB of RAM, I want to use the bit below 640K."
- It says: "Cannot read from drive D:...." - It means: "... However, if you put the CD in right side up..."
- It says: "Please Wait...." - It means: "... Indefinitely."
- It says: "Directory does not exist...." - It means: ".... any more. Whoops."
- It says: "The application caused an error. Choose Ignore or Close." - It means: "...Makes no difference to me, you're still not getting your work back."

## Musical quotes

- A musicologist is a man who can read music but can't hear it. -- Sir Thomas Beecham
- After playing the violin for the cellist Gregor Piatigorsky, Albert Einstein asked, "Did I play well?" You played relatively well," replied Piatigorsky.
- Anton Bruckner wrote the same symphony nine times, trying to get it just right. He failed. --Edward Abbey
- Art is long and life is short; here is evidently the explanation of a Brahms symphony. --Edward Lorne

- Beethoven always sounds to me like the upsetting of a bag of nails, with here and there also a dropped hammer. --John Ruskin
- Classical music is the kind we keep thinking will turn into a tune. -- Kin Hubbard
- Harpists spend ninety percent of their lives tuning their harps and ten percent playing out of tune. --Igor Stravinsky
- Hell is full of musical amateurs. -- George Bernard Shaw
- I am amazed at radio DJ's today. I am firmly convinced that AM on my radio stands for Absolute Moron. I will not begin to tell you what FM stands for. -- Jasper Carrott
- I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to. -- Elvis Presley
- I know only two tunes: one of them is Yankee Doodle and the other one isn't. -- Ulysses S. Grant
- I love Wagner, but the music I prefer is that of a cat hung up by its tail outside a window and trying to stick to the panes of glass with its claws. --Charles Baudelaire
- I wrote a song, but I can't read music so I don't know what it is. Every once in a while I'll be listening to the radio and I say, "I think I might have written that." -- Steven Wright
- If Beethoven had been killed in a plane crash at the age of 22, it would have changed the history of music... and of aviation. -- Tom Stoppard
- If the reader were so rash as to purchase any of Bela Bartok's compositions, he would find that they each and all consist of unmeaning bunches of notes, apparently representing the composer promenading the keyboard in his boots. Some can be played better with the elbows, others with the flat of the hand. None require fingers to perform or ears to listen too. --Frederick Corder
- In the first movement alone, I took note of six pregnancies and at least four miscarriages. --Sir Thomas Beecham on Bruckner's Seventh Symphony
- Men profess to be lovers of music, but for the most part they give no evidence of it in their opinions and lives that they have heard it. It would not leave them narrow-minded and bigoted. -- Thoreau
- Military justice is to justice what military music is to music. -- Groucho Marx
- Most rock journalism is people who can not write interviewing people who can not talk. -- Frank Zappa
- Mozart died too late rather than too soon. --Glenn Gould
- Music expresses that which can not be said and on which it is impossible to be silent. -- Victor Hugo
- Music is essentially useless, as is life. -- George Santayana
- Music was invented to confirm human loneliness. -- Lawrence Durrell
- Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. -- Berthold Auerbach
- Music with dinner is an insult both to the cook and the violinist. -- G. K. Chesterton
- No good opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible. -- W. H. Auden
- Of all noises, I think music is the least disagreeable. -- Samuel Johnson
- Only sick music makes money today. -- Nietzsche
- Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thoughts. -- Percy Shelley
- Rossini would have been a great composer if his teacher had spanked him enough on his backside. --Ludwig van Beethoven
- Schoenberg is too melodious for me, too sweet. --Bertolt Brecht
- Sir Thomas Beecham was once asked if he had played any Stockhausen. "No", he replied, "but I have trodden in some".

- The chromatic scale is what you use to give the effect of drinking a quinine martini and having an enema simultaneously. --Philip Larkin
- The sound of a harpsichord - two skeletons copulating on a tin roof in a thunderstorm. --Sir Thomas Beecham
- The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, "Is there a meaning to music?" My answer would be, "Yes." And "Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?" My answer to that would be, "No." -- Aaron Copland
- There are more bad musicians than there is bad music. --Isaac Stern
- There is no feeling, except the extremes of fear and grief, that does not find relief in music. -- George Eliot
- Too many pieces of music finish too long after the end. -- Igor Stravinsky
- Wagner's music is better than it sounds. -- Mark Twain
- What can you do with it? It's like a lot of yaks jumping about. --Sir Thomas Beecham on Beethoven's Seventh Symphony
- When music fails to agree to the ear, to soothe the ear and the heart and the senses, then it had missed the point. -- Maria Callas

## A child's lament

- 4 Years Old My Daddy can do anything.  
 5 Years Old My Daddy knows a whole lot.  
 6 Years Old My Daddy is smarter than your Dad.  
 8 Years Old My dad doesn't know exactly everything.  
 10 Years Old In the olden days when my Dad grew up, things were different.  
 12 Years Old Oh well, naturally, Father doesn't know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood.  
 14 Years Old Don't pay any attention to my Father. He is so old fashioned.  
 21 Years Old Him? Lord, he's so hopelessly out of date.  
 25 Years Old Dad knows a little about it, but then he should, because he's been around so long.  
 30 Years Old Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he's had a lot of experience.  
 35 Years Old I'm not going to do a single thing until I talk to Dad.  
 40 Years Old I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise and had a world of experience.  
 50 Years Old I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him.

Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was.

## Dog proverbs

- Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot about little puppies.
- In dog years I'm dead
- Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear.
- The dog's kennel is not the place to keep a sausage.



- Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend, and inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
- The scientific name for an animal that doesn't either run from or fight its enemies is lunch.
- To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs.
- A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.
- Did you ever walk into a room and forget why you walked in? I think that is how dogs spend their lives.
- Did you hear about the dyslexic agnostic insomniac who stays up all night wondering if there really is a Dog?
- I think animal testing is a terrible idea; they get all nervous and give the wrong answers.
- I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves.
- No animal should ever jump up on the dining-room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation.
- Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul - chicken, pork, half cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!
- I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult.
- Some days you're the dog, some days you're the lamp post.
- If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons.
- You enter into a certain amount of madness when you marry a person with pets.
- Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.
- Women and cats will do as they please and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.
- In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.
- There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.
- When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem.
- Cat's Motto: No matter what you've done wrong, always try to make it look like the dog did it.
- Money will buy you a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.
- No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does.
- A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.
- Man is a dog's idea of what God should be.
- The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.
- He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion
- Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

## Why chickens cross the road according to the US Army

### **Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)**

The purpose is to familiarize the chicken with road-crossing procedures. Road-crossing should be performed only between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Solo chickens must have at least three miles of visibility and a safety observer.

### **Special Forces Command**

The chicken crossed at a 90 degree angle to avoid prolonged exposure to a line of communication. To achieve maximum surprise, the chicken should have performed this maneuver at night using NVGs (night vision goggles), preferably near a road bend in a valley.

### **Personnel Command (PERSCOM)**

Due to the needs of the Army, the chicken was involuntarily reassigned to the other side of the road. This will be a 3-year controlled tour and we promise to give the chicken a good-deal assignment afterwards. Every chicken will be required to do one road-crossing during its career, and this will not affect its opportunities for future promotion.

### **Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)**

Despite what you see on CNN, I can neither confirm nor deny any fowl performing acts of transit. Questions? Please see the SSO.

### **Army Foreign Technology Center**

This event will need confirmation; we need to repeat it using varied chicken breeds, road types, and weather conditions to confirm whether it can actually happen within the parameters specified for chickens and the remote possibility that they might cross thruways designated by some as 'roads.'

### **Fort Rucker**

The chicken should log this as a GCC sortie only if road-crossing qualified. The crossing updates the chicken's 60-day road-crossing currency only if performed on a Monday or Thursday or during a full moon. Instructor chickens may update currency any time they observe another chicken cross the road.

### **Forces Command (FORSCOM)**

The purpose is not important. What is important is that the chicken remained under the OPCON (operational control) of USCINCTRANS (U.S. Commander in Chief, Transportation Command) and did not CHOP to the theater on the other side of the road. Without CHOPing the chicken was able to achieve a seamless road-crossing with near perfect, real-time in-transit visibility.

### **Theater Air Control Center (TACC)**

We need the road-crossing time and the time the chicken becomes available for another crossing.

### **Command Post**

What chicken?

## **Tower**

The chicken was instructed to hold short of the road. This road incursion incident was reported in a Hazardous Chicken Road-Crossing Report (HCRCR). Please re-emphasize that chickens are required to read back all hold short instructions.

## **Army Materiel Command (AMC)**

Recent changes in technology, coupled with today's multipolar strategic environment, have created new challenges in the chicken's ability to cross the road. The chicken was also faced with significant challenges to create and develop core competencies required for this new environment. STRICOM has been asked to develop a Virtual Intensive Chicken Trainer Using ADA Language (VICTUALS). Anticipated fielding of this device will possibly benefit the Army After Next (AAN) and certainly the NAATNA, (Next Army After The Next Army) initiatives. AMC's Chicken Systems Program Office (CSPO), in a partnering relationship with the client, helped the chicken by rethinking its physical distribution strategy and implementation processes. Using the Poultry Integration Model (PIM) CSPO helped the chicken use its skills, methodologies, knowledge capital and experiences to align the chicken's people, processes and technology in support of its overall strategy within a Program Management framework. The CSPO convened a diverse cross-spectrum of road analysts and retired chickens along with MITRE consultants with deep skills in the transportation industry to engage in a two-day itinerary of meetings in order to leverage their personal knowledge and capital, both tacit and explicit, and to enable them to synergize with each other in order to achieve the implicit goals of delivering and successfully architecting and implementing an enterprise-wide value framework across the continuum of poultry cross-median processes. The meeting was held in a park-like setting enabling and creating an impactful environment which was strategically based, mission-focused, and built upon a consistent, clear, and unified Mission Need Statement and aligned with the chicken's mission, vision, and core values. This was conducive towards the creation of a total business integration solution. The Chicken Systems Program Office helped the chicken change to continue meeting its mission.

## **Dog's dictionary**

**LEASH:** A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

**DOG BED:** any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

**DROOL:** Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

**SNIFF:** A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop.

**RUBBISH BIN:** A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose.

If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

**BICYCLES:** Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

**DEAFNESS:** This is a malady which affects dogs when their person want them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

**THUNDER:** This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

**WASTEBASKET:** This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrapper. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home

**SOFAS:** Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

**BATH:** This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

**LEAN:** Every good dogs's response to the command "Sit!!!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

**BUMP:** The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

**GOOSE BUMP:** A maneuver to use as a last resort when the Regular Bump doesn't get the attention you require.....especially effective when combined with The Sniff. See above.

**LOVE:** Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

## More aphorisms

- Incontinence Hotline...Can you hold, please?
- Lysdexia: a peech imspediment we live to learn with...
- If only women came with pull-down menus and on-line help.
- Would the Standing Committee please sit down?
- 43.3% of statistics are meaningless!
- The difference between tax avoiding and evasion is 10 Years.

- Circular Definition: see Definition, Circular.
- A.A.A.A.A. - An organization for drunks who drive.
- Madness takes its toll; please have exact change...
- It said "Insert disk #3", but only two will fit.
- For a REAL sponge cake, BORROW all the ingredients.
- Bacon & eggs - Hens are involved but pigs are committed.
- Which is the non-smoking lifeboat?
- |||||/////\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ The domino effect at work.
- Originality is the art of concealing your sources.
- Just fill out one simple form to win a Tax Audit!
- Paper clips are the larval stage of coat hangers.

## Some time-honoured truths

- One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.
- One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.
- To be intoxicated is to feel sophisticated but not be able to say it.
- Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.
- The older you get, the better you realize you were.
- I doubt, therefore I might be.
- Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.
- Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.
- Women like silent men, they think they're listening.
- Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
- A fool and his money are soon partying.
- Do pediatricians play miniature golf on Wednesdays?
- Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?
- Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery.
- If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?
- If work is so terrific, how come they have to pay you to do it?
- If you're born again, do you have two bellybuttons?
- If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry?
- If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?
- Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?

## Numbers of the Beast

660	Approximate number of The Beast
DCLXVI	Roman numeral of The Beast
666.000000	Number of the High Precision Beast
0.666	Number of the Millibeast
/ 666	Beast Common Denominator

0.005015	Reciprical of the Beast.
666i	Imaginary number of The Beast
1010011010	Binary number of The Beast
443556	Square of the Beast
2.8235	Log of the beast
6.5913	Ln Beast
1.738E289	Anti-log of the beast
6.66E2	Scientific number of the Beast
29A	Hexadecimal number of the Beast
666!	Factorial of the Beast
1-666	Area code of The Beast
00666	Zip code of The Beast
666@hell.org	E-mail address of the beast
www.666.org.html	web-page of the Beast
1-900-666-0666	Live Beasts! One-on-one pacts! Call Now! Only \$6.66/minute.
\$665.95	Retail price of The Beast
\$55.50	Monthly cost of the Beast in twelve easy equal monthly instalments
\$699.25	Price of The Beast plus 5% state sales tax
\$769.95	Price of The Beast with all accessories and replacement soul
\$656.66	WalMart price of The Beast
\$646.66	Next week's WalMart price of The Beast
Phillips 666	Gasoline of The Beast
Route 666	Way of The Beast (Highway to Hell)
666 Minutes	Weekly news program about the Beast
666 F	Oven temperature for roast Beast
664 & 668	Neighbours of the Beast
666k	Retirement plan of The Beast
666 mg	Recommended Minimum Daily Requirement of Beast
6.66 %	5 year CD interest rate at First Beast of Hell National Bank, \$666 minimum deposit.
Lotus 6-6-6	Spreadsheet of The Beast
Word 6.66	Word Processor of The Beast
i66686	CPU of The Beast
666-I	BMW of The Beast
665.99999973	Intel Pentium number of the Beast
666 Sunset Strip	Old T. V. series about the Beast soon on Nick-At-Nite
DSM-666 (revised)	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of The Beast
Windows 666	Bill Gates' personal Beast

## Alliterated prodigal son

### The Final Fixing of the Foolish Fugitive

Feeling footloose, fancy-free and frisky, this feather-brained fellow finagled his fond father into forking over his fortune. Forthwith, he fled for foreign fields and frittered his farthings feasting fabulously with fair-weather friends. Finally, fleeced by those folly filled fellows and facing famine, he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy farm-lot. He fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments.

"Fooyey! My father's flunkies fare far fancier," the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, frankly facing fact.

Frustrated from failure and filled with forebodings, he fled for his family. Falling at his father's feet, he floundered forlornly. "Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited further family favors . . ."

But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged his flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

But the fugitive's fault finding frater , faithfully farming his father's fields for free, frowned at this fickle forgiveness of former falderal. His fury flashed, but fussing was futile.

His foresighted father figured, "Such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivities? The fugitive is found! Unfurl the flags! With fanfare flaring, let fun, frolic and frivolity flow freely, former failures forgotten and folly forsaken. Forgiveness forms a firm foundation for future fortitude."

## Management responses to dead horses

Dakota Indian tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a colloquial dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in modern organizations, we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

- buying a stronger whip
- changing riders
- saying things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse"
- appointing a committee to the study the horse
- arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses
- increasing the standards to ride dead horses
- appointing a tiger team to revive the dead horses
- creating a training session to increase our riding ability
- comparing the state of dead horses in today's environment
- passing a resolution declaring: "This horse is not dead"
- blaming the horses' ancestry
- harnessing several dead horses for increased speed
- declaring that "No horse is too dead to beat"
- providing additional funding to increase the horse's performance
- do a study to see if contractors can ride it cheaper
- declare the horse is better, faster and cheaper dead
- form a quality circle to find uses for dead horses
- revisit the performance requirements for dead horses
- say that this horse was procured with cost as the independent variable
- promote the dead horse to a supervisory position

## Courses for women

1. Silence, the Final Frontier: Where No Woman Has Gone Before.
2. The Undiscovered Side of Banking: Making Deposits.
3. Combating the Imelda Marcos Syndrome: You Do Not Need New Shoes Everyday.
4. Parties: Going Without New Outfits.
5. Man Management: Discover How Minor Household Chores Can Wait Until after the game.
6. Bathroom Etiquette I: Men Need Space in the Bathroom Cabinet Too.
7. Bathroom Etiquette II: His Razor Is His.
8. Valuation: Just Because It's Not Important to You . . .
9. Communication Skills I: Tears-The Last Resort, Not the First.
10. Communication Skills II: Thinking Before Speaking.
11. Communication Skills III: Getting What You Want, Without Nagging.
12. Driving a Car Safely: A Skill You CAN Acquire.
13. Party Etiquette: Drinking Your Fair Share.
14. Telephone Skills: How to Hang Up.
15. Introduction to Parking.
16. Advanced Parking: Reversing Into A Space.
17. Overcoming Anal Retentive Behaviour: Leaving the Towels on the Floor.
18. Water retention: Fact or Fat.
19. Cooking I: Bringing Back Bacon, Eggs and Butter.
20. Cooking II: Bran and Tofu are Not For Human Consumption.
21. Cooking III: How Not to Inflict Your Diets on Other People.
22. Compliments: Accepting Them Gracefully.
23. PMS: Your Problem . . . Not His.
24. Dancing: Why Men Don't Like To.
25. Sex-It's For Married Couples Too.
26. Classic Clothing: Wearing Outfits You Already Have.
27. Household Dust: A Harmless Natural Occurrence Only Women Notice.
28. Integrating Your Laundry: Washing It All Together.
29. Ballet: For Women Only.
30. Oil and Gas: Your Car Needs Both.
31. Learning to Go in Public Restrooms.
32. Appreciating the Humour of the Three Stooges.
33. "Do These Jeans Make My Butt Look Big?"-Why Men Lie.
34. TV Remotes: For Men Only.
35. Sexy Lingerie For Any Occasion.

## Religion and toys

### *Comparison of Religious Theory in the Late 20th Century*

Capitalism	He who dies with the most toys, wins.
Hari Krishna	He who plays with the most toys, wins.
Catholicism	He who denies himself the most toys, wins.
Anglican	They were our toys first.



Greek Orthodox	No, they were OURS first.
Branch Davidians	He who dies playing with the biggest toys, wins.
Atheism	There is no toy maker.
Polytheism	There are many toy makers.
Evolutionism	The toys made themselves.
Church of Christ, Scientist	We are the toys.
Communism	Everyone gets the same number of toys, and you go straight to hell if we catch you selling yours.
B'Hai	All toys are just fine with us.
Amish	Toys with batteries are surely a sin.
Taoism	The doll is as important as the dumptruck.
Mormonism	Every boy can have as many toys as he wants.
Voodoo	Let me borrow that doll for a second.
Hedonism	To heck with the rule book!? Let's play!
Hinduism	He who plays with bags of plastic farm animals, loses.
7th Day Adventist	He who plays with his toys on Saturday, loses.
Church of Christ	He whose toys make music, loses.
Baptist	Once played, always played.
Jehovah's Witnesses	He who sells the most toys door-to-door, wins.
Pentecostalism	He whose toys can talk, wins.
Existentialism	Toys are a figment of your imagination.
Confucianism	Once a toy is dipped in the water, it is no longer dry.
Non-denominationalism	We don't care where the toys came from, let's just play with them.
Agnosticism	It is not possible to know whether toys make a bit of difference.

## Wisdom of the ages

- People who live in glass houses shouldn't cavort nude on top of the piano doing gorilla impersonations.
- A rose by any other name would stick you just as bad and draw just as much blood when you grab a thorn.
- It takes fewer muscles to smile than to frown, and fewer still to ignore someone completely.
- The best laid plans of mice and men are worth just as much.
- I believe no problem is so large or so difficult that it can't be blamed on somebody else.
- I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows. And a foundation leaks and a ball game gets rained out and a car rusts and...
- Follow your dream! Unless it's the one where you're at work in your underwear during a fire drill.
- Always take time to stop and smell the roses... and sooner or later, you'll inhale a bee.
- Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me, either, just leave me alone.

- It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal the neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
- A handy telephone tip: Keep a small chalkboard near the phone. That way, when a salesman calls, you can hold the receiver up to it and run your fingernails across it until he hangs up.
- Into every life some rain must fall. Usually when your car windows are down.
- How much of a tip to leave in a restaurant is always a controversial question. I usually recommend half a crouton, or for special service, throw in that little sprig of parsley.
- If genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration, I wind up sharing elevators with a lot of bright people.
- If I won the lottery, I wouldn't be one of those people who immediately quit their jobs. I'd make my boss's life a living hell for a week or two first.
- Winning isn't everything. Winning and gloating and rubbing their noses in it... that's everything!
- I don't know about art, but I know what makes me say, "\$2000 for that piece of junk?! Are you nuts?!"
- Somewhere, over the rainbow...that's where the airline will find my luggage.
- It's a small world. So you gotta use your elbows a lot.
- Keep your nose to the grindstone and your shoulder to the wheel... it's cheaper than plastic surgery.
- This land is your land. This land is my land. So stay on your land.

## Alexander the Great

The armies of Alexander the Great were greatly feared in their day, but there was one problem that they had that almost defeated them. Alexander could not get his people to staff meetings on time. He always held the meetings at 6.00 p.m. each day after the day's battle was done, but frequently his generals either forgot or let the time slip up on them and missed the 6.00 p.m. staff meeting. This angered Alexander very much, to say the least!

So he called in his research team and set up a project to develop a method of determining the time at 6.00 p.m. each day. There were no clocks in those days, at least none that could be carried around. The smallest was a giant water clock "Find a way for my staff to determine the hour of the day, or at least when it gets to be 6.00 p.m.," he said, "Cost is no object."

A study was instituted and, with several brain-storming sessions, his staff came up with the following idea. In a land some distance away, there grew a bush whose berries contained a type of dye that changed colour at 6.00 p.m. each evening. They found that by dyeing strips of cloth and issuing them to the generals, they could see when it was 6.00 p.m. by the colour change, and could consistently get to the 6.00 p.m. meetings on time. Needless to say this pleased Alexander very much.

It was then turned over to his marketing group to come up with a name for this new invention as Alexander saw definite market potential in the strips.

"It can be worn on the wrist and can be easily watched for the colour change," said one junior executive. "I therefore propose to call it the *Wrist Watch*." This name was immediately discarded for being too bland and obvious.

Another man suggested that since it could be worn in the navel and could be observed by just looking down, it should be called the *Navel Observatory*. This idea was rejected immediately as being too weird and too technical sounding for the general public.

A junior vice-president suggested that since it could be worn around the neck and would insure that you would be informed when it reached 6.00 p.m., it should be called the *Six O'Clock Noose*, but this was rejected as too threatening.

Finally the senior vice president, who up to now had been silent, spoke and rendered his decision. "We shall call it a timeband, and in honor of the Great Alexander, it shall be known as ... *Alexander's Rag Timeband!*

## Definitions

- Arachnoleptic Fit (n.) The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
- Beelzebug (n.) Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at 3 in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- Bozone (n.) The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- Cashtration (n.) The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
- Caterpallor (n.) The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.
- Decaflon (n.) The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- Dopelar effect (n.) The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when you come at them rapidly.
- Extraterrestaurant (n.) An eating place where you feel you've been abducted and experimented on. Also known as ETry.
- Faunacated (adj.) How wildlife ends up when its environment is destroyed. Hence faunacatering (n.), which has made a meal of many species.
- Foreploy (n.) Any misrepresentation or outright lie about yourself that leads to sex.
- Grantartica (n.) The cold, isolated place where arts companies without funding dwell.
- Hemaglobe (n.) The bloody state of the world.
- Intaxication (n.) Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- Kinstirpation (n.) A painful inability to move relatives who come to visit.
- Lullabuoy (n.) An idea that keeps floating into your head and prevents you from drifting off to sleep.

## Rivalry of the roses

### **Lancastrian quote:**

Remember every Lancastrian has two things for Yorkshire folk:

1. Two short planks under his arm to show what they are all as thick as
2. A soft spot. (Generally the quicksands in Morcambe Bay)

### **Riposte.....**

Don't know the difference between a Yorkshireman and a Lancastrian. As far as I am aware, Lancashire is just another name for the West Coast of Yorkshire!!

## Airline quotes

*Occasionally, airline attendants make an effort to make the "in-flight safety lecture" a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:*

- "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane..."
- "Your seat cushions can be used for floatation, and in the event of an emergency water landing, please take them with our compliments."
- "We do feature a smoking section on this flight; if you must smoke, contact a member of the flight crew and we will escort you to the wing of the airplane."
- "Smoking in the lavatories is prohibited. Any person caught smoking in the lavatories will be asked to leave the plane immediately."
- Pilot - "Folks, we have reached our cruising altitude now, so I am going to switch the seat belt sign off. Feel free to move about as you wish, but please stay inside the plane till we land... it's a bit cold outside, and if you walk on the wings it affects the flight pattern."
- And, after landing: "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
- As we waited just off the runway for another airliner to cross in front of us, some of the passengers were beginning to retrieve luggage from the overhead bins. The head attendant announced on the intercom, "This aircraft is equipped with a video surveillance system that monitors the cabin during taxiing. Any passengers not remaining in their seats until the aircraft comes to a full and complete stop at the gate will be strip-searched as they leave the aircraft."
- Once on a Southwest flight, the pilot said, "We've reached our cruising altitude now, and I'm turning off the seat belt sign. I'm switching to autopilot, too, so I can come back there and visit with all of you for the rest of the flight."
- As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice comes over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella..WHOA..!"
- "Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area. Please place the bag over your own mouth and nose before assisting children or adults acting like children."

- "As you exit the plane, please make sure to sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses." "Last one off the plane must clean it."
- And from the pilot during his welcome message: "We are pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry... Unfortunately none of them are on this flight...!"
- An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, give a smile, and a "Thanks for flying XYZ airline." He said that in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for this little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no Ma'am," said the pilot, "what is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land or were we shot down?"
- Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day. During the final approach the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant came on the PA and announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seatbelts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"
- Another flight Attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."
- From a Southwest Airlines employee.... "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX to YYY. To operate your seatbelt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seatbelt, and if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised. In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with two small children, decide now which one you love more.
- Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but they'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

## American political quotes

- I resent your insinuations.
- No man is an Ireland.
- If we don't make some changes, the status quo will remain the same.
- We're going to have the best-educated American people in the world.
- I support efforts to limit the terms of members of Congress, especially members of the House and members of the Senate.
- If Lincoln were alive today, he'd roll over in his grave.
- We do not have censorship. What we have is a limitation on what newspapers can report.
- Candidly, I cannot answer that. The question is too suppository.
- Outside of the killings in Washington DC, we have one of the lowest crime rates in the nation.

- Let's jump off that bridge when we come to it.
- To be demeaned like that is an exercise in fertility.
- I deny the allegations, and I defy the allegators.
- If somebody's gonna stab me in the back, I want to be there.
- When you're talking to me, keep your mouth shut.
- Let's do this in one foul swoop.
- I want to thank each and every one of you for having extinguished yourselves in this session.
- I would like to take this time to reirritate my remarks.
- The average age of a 7 year old in this state is 13.
- I hate to confuse myself with the facts.
- We have a permanent plan for the time being.
- Family planning has many misconceptions.
- The people in my district do not want this highway bypass, no matter if it goes through or around the city.
- My knowledge is no match for his ignorance.
- As long as I am in the Senate, there will not be a nuclear suppository in our state.
- These numbers are not my own; they are from someone who knows what he's talking about.
- People planning on getting into serious accidents should have their seat belts on.
- In 1994, Americans stand on the horns of an enema.

## Feline physics

- **Law of Cat Inertia** - A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force - such as the opening of cat food, or a nearby scurrying mouse.
- **Law of Cat Motion** - A cat will move in a straight line, unless there is a really good reason to change direction.
- **Law of Cat Magnetism** - All blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.
- **Law of Cat Thermodynamics** - Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.
- **Law of Cat Stretching** - A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.
- **Law of Cat Sleeping** - All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved, and as comfortable as possible for the cat.
- **Law of Cat Elongation** - A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.
- **Law of Cat Obstruction** - A cat must lay on the floor in such a position to obstruct the maximum amount of human foot traffic.
- **Law of Dinner Table Attendance** - Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.
- **Law of Rug Configuration** - No rug may remain in its naturally flat state for very long.
- **Law of Obedience Resistance** - A cat's resistance varies in proportion to a human's desire for her to do something.

- **First Law of Energy Conservation** -Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will, therefore, use as little energy as possible.
- **Second Law of Energy Conservation** -Cats also know that energy can only be stored by a lot of napping.
- **Law of Refrigerator Observation** - If a cat watches a refrigerator long enough, someone will come along and take out something good to eat.
- **Law of Electric Blanket Attraction** - Turn on an electric blanket and a cat will jump into bed at the speed of light.
- **Law of Random Comfort Seeking** - A cat will always seek, and usually take over, the most comfortable spot in any given room.
- **Law of Bag/Box Occupancy** - All bags and boxes in a given room must contain a cat within the earliest possible nanosecond.
- **Law of Cat Embarrassment** - A cat's irritation rises in direct proportion to her embarrassment times the amount of human laughter.
- **Law of Milk Consumption** - A cat will drink his weight in milk, squared, just to show you he can.
- **Law of Furniture Replacement** - A cat's desire to scratch furniture is directly proportional to the cost of the furniture.
- **Law of Cat Landing** - A cat will always land in the softest place possible; often the mid-section of an unsuspecting, reclining human.
- **Law of Fluid Displacement** - A cat immersed in milk will displace her own volume, minus the amount of milk consumed.
- **Law of Cat Disinterest** - A cat's interest level will vary in inverse proportion to the amount of effort a human expends in trying to interest him.
- **Law of Pill Rejection** - Any pill given to a cat has the potential energy to reach escape velocity.
- **Law of Cat Composition** - A cat is composed of Matter + Anti-Matter + It Doesn't Matter.

## Cowboy's guide to life

- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm. The colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't.
- It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning.
- Never ask a barber if you need a haircut.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Don't worry about bitin' off more'n you can chew; your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger'n you think.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.

- Generally, you ain't learnin' nothing when your mouth's a-jawin'.
- Tellin' a man to git lost and makin' him do it are two entirely different propositions.
- If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there with ya.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- When you give a personal lesson in meanness to a critter or to a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.
- When you're throwin' your weight around, be ready to have it thrown around by somebody else.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back.
- Always take a good look at what you're about to eat. It's not so important to know what it is, but it's sure crucial to know what it was.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back into your pocket.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.

## What I have learned

- It is better to be occasionally cheated than perpetually suspicious.
- Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- There is no right way to do the wrong thing.
- Knowledge is like a garden; if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.
- Needing a man is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time you need him, chances are you won't be needing him again.
- If you can't be the tablecloth, don't be the dishcloth
- I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow isn't looking good either.
- I don't have an attitude problem. You have a perception problem.
- Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky and I thought to myself, "Where the heck is the ceiling?!"
- I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
- Am I getting smart with you? ....How would you know?
- On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.
- You're slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.
- I don't suffer from stress. I'm a carrier.
- There are two rules for ultimate success in life: (1) Never tell everything you know.
- Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
- Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons, for you are crunchy and taste good with ketchup.
- Someday we'll look back on all this and plow into a parked car.
- There are very few personal problems that cannot be solved through a suitable application of high explosives.
- You'll never be the man your mother was!
- Don't hate yourself in the morning -- sleep till noon.
- Good news is just life's way of keeping you off balance.



- Grellb's Reminder: Eighty percent of all people consider themselves to be above average drivers.
- God did not create the world in 7 days, God messed around for 6 days and then pulled an all-nighter.

## Buttered cat power (2)

### **Feline Butterology Theory**

If you drop a buttered piece of bread, it will fall on the floor butter-side down. If a cat is dropped from a window or other high and towering place, it will land on its feet.

But what if you attach a buttered piece of bread butter-side up to a cat's back, and toss them both out the window? Will the cat land on its feet? Or will the butter splat on the ground?

Even if you are too lazy to do the experiment yourself you should be able to deduce the obvious result. The laws of butterology demand that the butter must hit the ground, and the equally strict laws of feline aerodynamics demand that the cat cannot smash its furry back. If the combined construct were to land, nature would have no way to resolve this paradox. Therefore it simply does not fall.

That's right, you clever mortal (well, as clever as a mortal can get), you have discovered the secret of antigravity! A buttered cat will, when released, quickly move to a height where the forces of cat-twisting and butter repulsion are in equilibrium. This equilibrium point can be modified by scraping off some of the butter, providing lift, or removing some of the cat's limbs, allowing descent.

Most of the civilised species of the Universe already use this principle to drive their ships while within a planetary system. The loud humming heard by most sighters of UFOs is, in fact, the purring of several hundred tabbies.

The one obvious danger is, of course, that if the cats manage to eat the bread off their backs they will instantly plummet. Of course the cats will land on their feet, but this usually doesn't do them much good, since right after they make their graceful landing several tons of red-hot starship and very annoyed aliens crash on top of them.

### **Flaws In the Flying Cat Theory: A Response**

A logical analysis of the BFAD (Buttered Feline Antigravity Drive) propulsion theory clearly demonstrates the impossibility of such a system.

Let us begin with a simple analysis.

1. Buttered bread must fall butter side down.
2. A cat always lands on its feet.

While both theorems are indisputable, the oracle offers no proof of the construct. The oracle implies that anyone who would test this construct would immediately find the secret of BFAD. This is clearly nonsense.

Let us assume a normal Einsteinian universe (although a Euclidean universe would serve our purposes just as well, the Einsteinian is cheaper and drinks are readily available).

To test BFAD, one must procure:

Bread, butter (margarine, for some reason, will not work), a cat, a strapping device

Let us assume that all of these are readily available. Attach the strapping device to the cat.

See? No cat.

What has happened? We have run up against an a priori universal law. By a priori, we mean that it takes priority over either the Buttered Bread Principle or the Law of Feline Landings. What happens is that the instant a strapping device and a cat occupy the same four dimensional space, the cat disappears. Now, this can easily be tested, and has been repeatedly. There are two schools of thought about this phenomenon.

The first holds that a cat and a strapping device are constituted out of different fundamental building blocks. According to this theory, a cat is constituted primarily of superquarks, (called meows by current theorists). These superquarks demonstrate qualities that are both atomic (constituted as they are of groupings of normal quark particles) and feline (because these quarks exhibit characteristic of "charmed" or "lucky" particles). Again, according to this theory, strapping materials are fashioned out of non-charmed particles. Bringing the two together causes one or the other to cancel out. One aspect of this theory that has not been sufficiently explained to date is the fact that it is always the cat, not the strapping device, that disappears.

The second school of thought, and it is one that appears to be gaining ground in academic circles today, holds that cats are, in fact, super-intelligent pan-dimensional beings who exist in our four dimensional universe only because there is plenty of good food and a lot of creatures stupid enough to provide the food, along with plenty of attention. Whenever a strapping device appears, the cat simply opens a door to a different series of dimensions, and goes on an extended tour.

According to this theory, purring is a cat's way of maintaining a constant balance cycling across multiple dimensions. This school holds that antigravity is impossible, but that theoretically, a REALLY good grip on a cat, while reaching for a strapping device, could result in our ability to cross dimensions with ease (barring scratches, that is). Pessimists argue that if there was anything really interesting in those other dimensions, cats wouldn't spend so much time here, so why ask for a good scratching?

## The Turbo-Encabulator in industry

For a number of years now work has been proceeding in order to bring to perfection the crudely conceived idea of a machine that would not only supply inverse reactive current for use in unilateral phase detractors, but would also be capable of automatically synchronising cardinal grammeters. Such a machine is the Turbo-Encabulator. Basically, the only new principle involved is that instead of power being generated by the relative motion of conductor and fluxes, it is produced by the nodal interaction of magneto-reluctance and capacitive directance.

The original machine had a base-plate of malleable aluminite, surmounted by a pre-fabulated logarithmic casing in such a way that the two main spurving bearings were in a direct line with the pentametric fan. The latter consisted simply of six hydrocoptic marzlevanes, so fitted to the ambifacient lunar van shaft that side fumbling was effectively prevented. The main winding was of the normal lotus-o-delta type placed in panendemic semiboloid slots in the stator, every seventh conductor being connected by a non-reversible termic pipe to the differential girdlespring on the up end of the grammeters.

Forty-one manestically placed grouting brushes were arranged to feed into the rotor slipstream in a mixture of high S-value phenylhydrobenzamine and 5% ruminative tetryliodohexamine. Both these liquids have specific pericosities given by  $p = 2.5C^{6.7n}$  where  $n$  is the diathetical evolute of retrograde temperature phase disposition, and  $C$  is Cholmondeley's annular grillage coefficient. Initially,  $n$  was measured with the aid of a metapolar refractive pilfrometer<sup>1</sup>, but up to the present date, nothing has been found to equal the transcendental hopper dadoscope<sup>2</sup>.

Electrical engineers will appreciate the difficulty of nubing together a regurgitative pugwell and a supramitive wennel-sprocket. Indeed, this proved to be a stumbling-block to further development until, in 1942, it was found that the use of anhydrous nangling pins enabled the kryptonastic bolling shims to be tankered.

The early attempts to construct a sufficiently robust spiral decommutator largely failed because of a lack of appreciation of the large quasi-piestic stresses in the gremlin studs; the latter were specifically designed to hold the roffit bars to the spamshaft. When, however, it was discovered that wending could be prevented by a simple addition to the jiving sockets, almost perfect running was secured. The operating point is maintained as near as possible to the h.f. rem peak by constantly fromaging the bitumogeneous spandrels. This is a distinct advance on the standard nivelsheave in that no dremcock oil is required until after the phase detractors have been remissed.

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

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

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

## Hilden flange gonad

*Ton flongen dongen!*

Ya Lillehammer ton harbin! Morten Harkett kul fassbinder mangatak, kontek tutak Christopher Biggins, ton deffo. Hardenschaw? Kul fastback. Pony-trekking antiphon kul metaphor, nol harden farden. Sven, sven dooit agen ton doggy doggy mulingorst. Dag Hammaskjold bykoping Benny ton Crossroads hek Bjorn mitten Agnetha Falskog, dansin quin tek a chans onmey wort aloo, silveri silveri bube toob.

Smorgasbord ton harpic? Smul ton ton harpic! Heim inda mude furdansin, ruemansin, heida geffin itup tornite. Dooleys ton groovy morgasmo bebi. Hellengorst mit horn helmet viking beserker Dale Winton astart.

Gdansk gdonya gday. Horden stull mirden un flirten

Eisland Haagen Dasz hek lager. Thor Heyedahl James Gosling! “Duvet! Duvet!”. Schurden shaffen, Bingen bongen der donut fistik. Ethel Murman ton Thora Hird gerfisten doggy doggy. Smertrios Bullbag - tadi tidi tikit ton tiki tah to doo. VRML Jurassic Park-mungous g-plan Ikea Gustav Gustavson. Yarden huh de flee? Ta cunning ton Moira Andersen hawkbin.

Scribina “Der Dier Ton Warg”; kul 35 bilbo wag. Thomas Tallis Herm? Kori de doodah didi dum didi doo yon yuppy. Du Kieslowski.

OK Do ki chilbro. Haaden schelmhorst mi Hurm Paag ton oxy-ten. Fjorden dildo ton teki teki. Contek Tuden con fhrrhrhrh calamine. Chortle chortle hag dag de wag flag. Smeerio ton butter. Fallacio irko. Harden beerden du hargenflek ton tutak a ki. Smaki smaki.

*Hierdo brunwal: 2kk Freier, 1996*

## Simplicity in all things

In response to Le Win and du Bois (*Logarithmic and Arrhythmic Expression of a Physiological Function*  $\omega$ , JIR 37:4), one should notice that from Eq. 63 and using elementary trigonometry we could write  $a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos t$  where  $a$  is the number of Spanish onions per minute,  $b$  is the number of albino hamsters,  $c$  is the area covered by the goats (by the Shadrach, Moshach and Abednego criteria), and  $t$  is the temperature (in degrees Kelvin) of the snack-bar after it has reached 5% shrinkage. It then turns out that  $n$  (in Corollary 17) should equal 4, making an L-shaped cake cut.

Bearing in mind that a small dose of aspirin causes the effects reported by Zwickoloff and de la Fôret (a yet unpublished result from Spitz and Schlitz),  $\omega$  should not be confined as stated in Lemma 9, thus allowing for values under 0.64. The aforementioned caveat also underestimates the rôle played by conductive lint in the phased mode of the distribution. This universal material, found in varieties identified by use of the “Grey” spectrum (ordinary, or “plain” grey being the most common - at a

wavelength of  $84.898 \times 10^3$  Ångstroms), has a negative effect on the collection of nucleic data, especially in its grey-blue variety.

Overall, the assumed value-set for  $\omega$  has a complex affinity to the large amounts of dried E.coli, vegetative yeast cells and/or diatoms that abound in the experimental domain, a factor that gives the mix-fraction of OH radicals and H<sub>2</sub>O in the interstellar dust emulations experienced a much higher order, approaching a limit of  $3.7 \text{ mm} \pm 0.21$ . This last observation, combined with the lint quanta results alluded to (with the interpretation of Wien's Law giving a blackbody quantum of  $2.329 \times 10^{-13} \text{ erg}$  - using the S-wave function opposed so vehemently by Heisenberg) leads us to conclude that  $\omega$  is actually a lower-case derivative of  $\mathbf{W}$ .

This result does not pre-empt further analysis in the alternate direction. Associative group theoretic methods demands that, for absolute confirmation, the fact that  $\mathbf{W}$  is an upper-case integral of  $\omega$  must also be displayed

## How to handle stress

- Jam 39 tiny marshmallows up your nose and try to sneeze them out.
- Use your Mastercard to pay your Visa.
- Pop some popcorn without putting the lid on.
- When someone says "Have a good day!", tell them that you have other plans.
- Find out what a frog in a blender really looks like.
- Forget the Diet Center and send yourself a "candygram."
- Make a list of things to do that you've already done.
- Dance naked in front of your pets.
- Put your toddler's clothes on backwards and send him off to pre-school as if nothing's wrong.
- Retaliate for tax woes by filling out your tax forms with Roman Numerals.
- Tattoo "Out to Lunch" on your forehead.
- Tape pictures of your boss on watermelons and pumpkins and launch them from high places.
- Leaf through a National Geographic and draw underwear on the natives.
- Go shopping. Buy everything. Sweat in it. Return it the next day.
- Buy a subscription to Sleezoid Weekly and send it to your boss' wife.
- Pay your electric bill in pennies.
- Drive to work in reverse.
- Relax by mentally reflecting on your favorite episode of "The Flintstones" during that important finance meeting.
- Sit naked on a hard boiled egg.
- Refresh yourself: put your tongue on a cold steel guardrail.
- Tell your boss to blow it out his mule and let him figure it out.
- Polish your car with ear wax.
- Read the dictionary upside down and look for secret messages.
- Start a nasty rumor and see if you recognize it when it comes back to you.
- Bill your doctor for the time spent in the waiting room.
- Braid the hair in each nostril.

- Write a short story, using Alphabet Soup.
- Lie on your back eating celery... using your navel as a salt dipper.
- Stare at people through the tines of a fork and pretend they're in jail.
- Make up a language and ask for directions.

## Administratium

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

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

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

## Impure mathematics

Wherein it is related how that polygon of womanly virtue, young Polly Nomial (our heroine) is accosted by that notorious villain Curly Pi, and factored (oh, horror!!).

Once upon a time  $(1/t)$  pretty Polly Nomial was strolling across a field of vectors when she came to the boundary of a singularly large matrix. Now, Polly was convergent and her mother had made it an absolute condition that she never enter such an array without her brackets on. Polly, however, who had changed her variables that morning and was feeling particularly badly behaved, ignored this condition on the basis that it was insufficient, and made her way amongst the complex elements. Rows and columns closed in from all sides. Tangents approached her surface. She became tensor and tensor. Quite suddenly, two branches of a hyperbola touched her at a singular point. She oscillated violently, lost all sense of directrix, and went completely divergent. As she reached a turning point, she tripped over a square root that was protruding from the ERF and plunged headlong down a steep gradient. When she rounded off once more, she found herself inverted, apparently alone, in a non-euclidean space.

She was being watched, however. That smooth operator, Curly Pi, was lurking innerproduct. As his eyes devoured her curvilinear coordinates, a singular expression

crossed his face. He wondered, was she still convergent? He decided to integrate improperly at once.

Hearing a common fraction behind her, Polly rotated and saw Curly Pi approaching with his power series extrapolated. She could see at once by his degenerate conic and dissipative terms that he was bent on no good.

"Arcsinh," she gasped.

"Ho, ho," he said. "What a symmetric little asymptote you have. I can see your angles have a lot of secs."

"Oh sir," she protested, "keep away from me. I haven't got my brackets on."

"Calm yourself, my dear," said our suave operator. "Your fears are purely imaginary."

"i,i," she thought, "perhaps he's not normal but homologous."

"What order are you?" the brute demanded.

"Seventeen," replied Polly.

Curly leered. "I suppose you've never been operated on."

"Of course not," Polly replied quite properly; "I'm absolutely convergent."

"Come, come," said Curly. "Let's off to a decimal place I know and I'll take you to the limit."

"Never," gasped Polly.

"Abscissa," he swore, using the vilest oath he knew. His patience was gone.

Cushing her over the coefficient with a log until she was powerless, Curly removed her discontinuities. He stared at her significant places and began smoothing out her points of inflection. Poor Polly. The Algorithmic Method was now her only hope. She felt his hand tending to her asymptotic limit. Her convergence would soon be gone forever.

There was no mercy, for Curly was a heavyside operator. Curly's radius squared itself; Polly's loci quivered. He integrated by parts. He integrated by partial fractions. After he cofactored, he performed Runge-Cutta on her. The complex beast even went all the way around and did a contour integration. Curly went on operating until he had satisfied her hypothesis, then he exponentiated and became completely orthogonal.

When Polly got home that night, her mother noticed that she was no longer piecewise continuous, but had been truncated in several places. But it was too late to differentiate now. As the months went by, Polly's denominator increased monotonically. Finally she went to l'Hopital and generated a small but pathological function which left surds all over the place and drove Polly to deviation.

***The moral of our sad story is this:***

*"If you want to keep your expressions convergent,  
never allow them a single degree of freedom ..."*

## Weird units of measure

Are you fed up with physics? Do you need some excitement or variation? Try changing your standard units to more enjoyable ones. Then you can revel yourself in knowing that almost no one else understands what the gibberish you write down means (but a

small group of geeks, just like the Klingon speakers, them sick wire-cords). Then you can cover up outcomes that you don't particularly like.

## Time

- A microcentury is a useful unit, about 52.5 min, close to a "standard" lecture period of 50 minutes.
- Easy to remember is also the nanocentury: one nanocentury is about pi seconds (3.156 sec. to be approximately exact).
- The micro-Fortnight is approximately a second (1.2 is better).

## Speed

- An Ångström per week is 165 attometres a second.
- A unit of speed is the  $7.26013114 * (\text{SQRT}(G*h/c)/m_p)$ , where G is Universal Gravitation constant, h is Planck's constant, c is the speed of light, and  $m_p$  is the mass of a proton. This unit is equal to 1 m/s.
- The speed of light (c) is 1.80 tera furlongs per fortnight (or 1.80 furlongs per pico-fortnight).

## Distance

- The pico-parsec is about 30.8 kilometres.

## Volume

- One teaspoon is 1.6 barn mega-parsecs.
- The Hubble-barn is about 13 litres, depending on your current favourite value for Hubble's constant (H). This is the volume of a straw that has the cross-sectional area of a barn (a nuclear physics cross-sectional area equal to 100 square femtometres, roughly the size of a largish nucleus) and a length equal to the radius of the universe (given by  $H^{-1}c$ ).
- If you use the old value of H, 55 km/s/Mpc, you get 17 litres. The extreme value of H near 100 reduces this by half. The current value is  $40 < H < 100$  so a median value would give about 13 litres.
- The fact that a gallon milk jug has the same volume as a straw with the area of a medium sized nucleus such as Silicon that reaches to the end of the universe is one way to visualize just how small and how big those two numbers really are.

## Work

- An appropriate unit of work is the "barn-yard-atmosphere" (equal to  $9.3 * 10^{-24}$  Joules)

## F-System

- In this system we already have a unit of time, the fortnight (ft), a unit of length, the furlong (fl). Now, to get a unit of force and mass we take the following path: we use two electrical units, the farad (f) and the Faraday (F).



- In this system the unit of current is the Faraday/fortnight (F/ft), and the unit of potential difference is the Farady/farad (F/f). Thus the unit of power is (F<sup>2</sup>/(f ft)) and the unit of energy is the (F<sup>2</sup>/f). Finally, the unit of mass is, of course, (F<sup>2</sup> ft<sup>2</sup>)/(f fl<sup>2</sup>), or square Faradays square fortnights per square furlong farad. This unit is about 2.3 atto kg.

### Other Thoughts

- You could measure the gas mileage of a car in inverse acres. To calculate the inverse gas mileage, you drive as far as you can with one gallon, then you make a very long skinny hose whose length is the distance you drove and whose volume is exactly one gallon. You then measure the area of the cross-section of the interior of this hose in acres. Now take the reciprocal.

### Finally

- If you ever encounter a teacher who says, "use any units, just carry them through the calculations," then you know what to do: use the above. (Example units of ampere-turn/(furlong \* fortnight \* fortnight). **You** calculate what this was.) Another possibility in this situation is saying, "the answer is 12.7 Meulens, where the Meulen is defined via this problem."

## Top things I'd do if I ever became an Evil Overlord

1. My Legions of Terror will have helmets with clear plexiglass visors, not face-concealing ones.
2. My ventilation ducts will be too small to crawl through.
3. My noble half-brother whose throne I usurped will be killed, not kept anonymously imprisoned in a forgotten cell of my dungeon.
4. Shooting is *not* too good for my enemies.
5. The artifact which is the source of my power will not be kept on the Mountain of Despair beyond the River of Fire guarded by the Dragons of Eternity. It will be in my safe-deposit box. The same applies to the object which is my one weakness.
6. I will not gloat over my enemies' predicament before killing them.
7. When I've captured my adversary and he says, ``Look, before you kill me, will you at least tell me what this is all about?" I'll say, ``No." and shoot him. No, on second thought I'll shoot him then say ``No."
8. After I kidnap the beautiful princess, we will be married immediately in a quiet civil ceremony, not a lavish spectacle in three weeks' time during which the final phase of my plan will be carried out.
9. I will not include a self-destruct mechanism unless absolutely necessary. If it is necessary, it will not be a large red button labelled ``Danger: Do Not Push". The big red button marked ``Do Not Push" will instead trigger a spray of bullets on anyone stupid enough to disregard it. Similarly, the ON/OFF switch will not clearly be labelled as such.
10. I will not interrogate my enemies in the inner sanctum -- a small hotel well outside my borders will work just as well.

11. I will be secure in my superiority. Therefore, I will feel no need to prove it by leaving clues in the form of riddles or leaving my weaker enemies alive to show they pose no threat.
12. One of my advisors will be an average five-year-old child. Any flaws in my plan that he is able to spot will be corrected before implementation.
13. All slain enemies will be cremated, or at least have several rounds of ammunition emptied into them, not left for dead at the bottom of the cliff. The announcement of their deaths, as well as any accompanying celebration, will be deferred until after the aforementioned disposal.
14. The hero is not entitled to a last kiss, a last cigarette, or any other form of last request.
15. I will never employ any device with a digital countdown. If I find that such a device is absolutely unavoidable, I will set it to activate when the counter reaches 117 and the hero is just putting his plan into operation.
16. I will never utter the sentence ``But before I kill you, there's just one thing I want to know.''
17. When I employ people as advisors, I will occasionally listen to their advice.
18. I will not have a son. Although his laughably under-planned attempt to usurp power would easily fail, it would provide a fatal distraction at a crucial point in time.
19. I will not have a daughter. She would be as beautiful as she was evil, but one look at the hero's rugged countenance and she'd betray her own father.
20. Despite its proven stress-relieving effect, I will not indulge in maniacal laughter. When so occupied, it's too easy to miss unexpected developments that a more attentive individual could adjust to accordingly.
21. I will hire a talented fashion designer to create original uniforms for my Legions of Terror, as opposed to some cheap knock-offs that make them look like Nazi stormtroopers, Roman footsoldiers, or savage Mongol hordes. All were eventually defeated and I want my troops to have a more positive mind-set.
22. No matter how tempted I am with the prospect of unlimited power, I will not consume any energy field bigger than my head.
23. I will keep a special cache of low-tech weapons and train my troops in their use. That way -- even if the heroes manage to neutralize my power generator and/or render the standard-issue energy weapons useless -- my troops will not be overrun by a handful of savages armed with spears and rocks.
24. I will maintain a realistic assessment of my strengths and weaknesses. Even though this takes some of the fun out of the job, at least I will never utter the line ``No, this cannot be! I AM INVINCIBLE!!!" (After that, death is usually instantaneous.)
25. No matter how well it would perform, I will never construct any sort of machinery which is completely indestructible except for one small and virtually inaccessible vulnerable spot.
26. No matter how attractive certain members of the rebellion are, there is probably someone just as attractive who is not desperate to kill me. Therefore, I will think twice before ordering a prisoner sent to my bedchamber.
27. I will never build only one of anything important. All important systems will have redundant control panels and power supplies. For the same reason I will always carry at least two fully loaded weapons at all times.
28. My pet monster will be kept in a secure cage from which it cannot escape and into which I could not accidentally stumble.
29. I will dress in bright and cheery colors, and so throw my enemies into confusion.

30. All bumbling conjurers, clumsy squires, no-talent bards, and cowardly thieves in the land will be pre-emptively put to death. My foes will surely give up and abandon their quest if they have no source of comic relief.
31. All naive, busty tavern wenches in my realm will be replaced with surly, world-weary waitresses who will provide no unexpected reinforcement and/or romantic subplot for the hero or his sidekick.
32. I will not fly into a rage and kill a messenger who brings me bad news just to illustrate how evil I really am. Good messengers are hard to come by.
33. I won't require high-ranking female members of my organization to wear a stainless-steel bustier. Morale is better with a more casual dress-code. Similarly, outfits made entirely from black leather will be reserved for formal occasions.
34. I will not turn into a snake. It never helps.
35. I will not grow a goatee. In the old days they made you look diabolic. Now they just make you look like a disaffected member of Generation X.
36. I will not imprison members of the same party in the same cell block, let alone the same cell. If they are important prisoners, I will keep the only key to the cell door on my person instead of handing out copies to every bottom-rung guard in the prison.
37. If my trusted lieutenant tells me my Legions of Terror are losing a battle, I will believe him. After all, he's my trusted lieutenant.
38. If an enemy I have just killed has a younger sibling or offspring anywhere, I will find them and have them killed immediately, instead of waiting for them to grow up harboring feelings of vengeance towards me in my old age.
39. If I absolutely must ride into battle, I will certainly not ride at the forefront of my Legions of Terror, nor will I seek out my opposite number among his army.
40. I will be neither chivalrous nor sporting. If I have an unstoppable superweapon, I will use it as early and as often as possible instead of keeping it in reserve.
41. Once my power is secure, I will destroy all those pesky time-travel devices.
42. When I capture the hero, I will make sure I also get his dog, monkey, ferret, or whatever sickeningly cute little animal capable of untying ropes and filching keys happens to follow him around.
43. I will maintain a healthy amount of skepticism when I capture the beautiful rebel and she claims she is attracted to my power and good looks and will gladly betray her companions if I just let her in on my plans.
44. I will only employ bounty hunters who work for money. Those who work for the pleasure of the hunt tend to do dumb things like even the odds to give the other guy a sporting chance.
45. I will make sure I have a clear understanding of who is responsible for what in my organization. For example, if my general screws up I will not draw my weapon, point it at him, say ``And here is the price for failure," then suddenly turn and kill some random underling.
46. If an advisor says to me ``My liege, he is but one man. What can one man possibly do?", I will reply ``This." and kill the advisor.
47. If I learn that a callow youth has begun a quest to destroy me, I will slay him while he is still a callow youth instead of waiting for him to mature.
48. I will treat any beast which I control through magic or technology with respect and kindness. Thus if the control is ever broken, it will not immediately come after me for revenge.
49. If I learn the whereabouts of the one artifact which can destroy me, I will not send all my troops out to seize it. Instead I will send them out to seize something else and quietly put a Want-Ad in the local paper.

50. My main computers will have their own special operating system that will be completely incompatible with standard IBM and Macintosh powerbooks.
51. If one of my dungeon guards begins expressing concern over the conditions in the beautiful princess' cell, I will immediately transfer him to a less people-oriented position.
52. I will hire a team of board-certified architects and surveyors to examine my castle and inform me of any secret passages and abandoned tunnels that I might not know about.
53. If the beautiful princess that I capture says ``I'll never marry you! Never, do you hear me, NEVER!!!", I will say ``Oh well" and kill her.
54. I will not strike a bargain with a demonic being then attempt to double-cross it simply because I feel like being contrary.
55. The deformed mutants and odd-ball psychotics will have their place in my Legions of Terror. However before I send them out on important covert missions that require tact and subtlety, I will first see if there is anyone else equally qualified who would attract less attention.
56. My Legions of Terror will be trained in basic marksmanship. Any who cannot learn to hit a man- sized target at 10 meters will be used for target practice.
57. Before employing any captured artifacts or machinery, I will carefully read the owner's manual.
58. If it becomes necessary to escape, I will never stop to pose dramatically and toss off a one- liner.
59. I will never build a sentient computer smarter than I am.
60. My five-year-old child advisor will also be asked to decipher any code I am thinking of using. If he breaks the code in under 30 seconds, it will not be used. Note: this also applies to passwords.
61. If my advisors ask ``Why are you risking everything on such a mad scheme?", I will not proceed until I have a response that satisfies them.
62. I will design fortress hallways with no alcoves or protruding structural supports which intruders could use for cover in a firefight.
63. Bulk trash will be disposed of in incinerators, not compactors. And they will be kept hot, with none of that nonsense about flames going through accessible tunnels at predictable intervals.
64. I will see a competent psychiatrist and get cured of all extremely unusual phobias and bizarre compulsive habits which could prove to be a disadvantage.
65. If I must have computer systems with publically available terminals, the maps they display of my complex will have a room clearly marked as the Main Control Room. That room will be the Execution Chamber. The actual main control room will be marked as Sewage Overflow Containment.
66. My security keypad will actually be a fingerprint scanner. Anyone who watches someone press a sequence of buttons or dusts the pad for fingerprints then subsequently tries to enter by repeating that sequence will trigger the alarm system.
67. No matter how many shorts we have in the system, my guards will be instructed to treat every surveillance camera malfunction as a full-scale emergency.
68. I will spare someone who saved my life sometime in the past. This is only reasonable as it encourages others to do so. However, the offer is good one time only. If they want me to spare them again, they'd better save my life again.
69. All midwives will be banned from the realm. All babies will be delivered at state-approved hospitals. Orphans will be placed in foster-homes, not abandoned in the woods to be raised by creatures of the wild.

70. When my guards split up to search for intruders, they will always travel in groups of at least two. They will be trained so that if one of them disappears mysteriously while on patrol, the other will immediately initiate an alert and call for backup, instead of quizzically peering around a corner.
71. If I decide to test a lieutenant's loyalty and see if he/she should be made a trusted lieutenant, I will have a crack squad of marksmen standing by in case the answer is no.
72. If all the heroes are standing together around a strange device and begin to taunt me, I will pull out a conventional weapon instead of using my unstoppable superweapon on them.
73. I will not agree to let the heroes go free if they win a rigged contest, even though my advisors assure me it is impossible for them to win.
74. When I create a multimedia presentation of my plan designed so that my five-year-old advisor can easily understand the details, I will not label the disk "Project Overlord" and leave it lying on top of my desk.
75. I will instruct my Legions of Terror to attack the hero en masse, instead of standing around waiting while members break off and attack one or two at a time.
76. If the hero runs up to my roof, I will not run up after him and struggle with him in an attempt to push him over the edge. I will also not engage him at the edge of a cliff. (In the middle of a rope-bridge over a river of molten lava is not even worth considering.)
77. If I have a fit of temporary insanity and decide to give the hero the chance to reject a job as my trusted lieutenant, I will retain enough sanity to wait until my current trusted lieutenant is out of earshot before making the offer.
78. I will not tell my Legions of Terror "And he must be taken alive!" The command will be "And try to take him alive if it is reasonably practical."
79. If my doomsday device happens to come with a reverse switch, as soon as it has been employed it will be melted down and made into limited-edition commemorative coins.
80. If my weakest troops fail to eliminate a hero, I will send out my best troops instead of wasting time with progressively stronger ones as he gets closer and closer to my fortress.
81. If I am fighting with the hero atop a moving platform, have disarmed him, and am about to finish him off and he glances behind me and drops flat, I too will drop flat instead of quizzically turning around to find out what he saw.
82. I will not shoot at any of my enemies if they are standing in front of the crucial support beam to a heavy, dangerous, unbalanced structure.
83. If I'm eating dinner with the hero, put poison in his goblet, then have to leave the table for any reason, I will order new drinks for both of us instead of trying to decide whether or not to switch with him.
84. I will not have captives of one sex guarded by members of the opposite sex.
85. I will not use any plan in which the final step is horribly complicated, e.g. "Align the 12 Stones of Power on the sacred altar then activate the medallion at the moment of total eclipse." Instead it will be more along the lines of "Push the button."
86. I will make sure that my doomsday device is up to code and properly grounded.
87. My vats of hazardous chemicals will be covered when not in use. Also, I will not construct walkways above them.
88. If a group of henchmen fail miserably at a task, I will not berate them for incompetence then send the same group out to try the task again.

89. After I capture the hero's superweapon, I will not immediately disband my legions and relax my guard because I believe whoever holds the weapon is unstoppable. After all, the hero held the weapon and I took it from him.
90. I will not design my Main Control Room so that every workstation is facing away from the door.
91. I will not ignore the messenger that stumbles in exhausted and obviously agitated until my personal grooming or current entertainment is finished. It might actually be important.
92. If I ever talk to the hero on the phone, I will not taunt him. Instead I will say this his dogged perseverance has given me new insight on the futility of my evil ways and that if he leaves me alone for a few months of quiet contemplation I will likely return to the path of righteousness. (Heroes are incredibly gullible in this regard.)
93. If I decide to hold a double execution of the hero and an underling who failed or betrayed me, I will see to it that the hero is scheduled to go first.
94. When arresting prisoners, my guards will not allow them to stop and grab a useless trinket of purely sentimental value.
95. My dungeon will have its own qualified medical staff complete with bodyguards. That way if a prisoner becomes sick and his cellmate tells the guard it's an emergency, the guard will fetch a trauma team instead of opening up the cell for a look.
96. My door mechanisms will be designed so that blasting the control panel on the outside seals the door and blasting the control panel on the inside opens the door, not vice versa.
97. My dungeon cells will not be furnished with objects that contain reflective surfaces or anything that can be unravelled.
98. If an attractive young couple enters my realm, I will carefully monitor their activities. If I find they are happy and affectionate, I will ignore them. However if circumstance have forced them together against their will and they spend all their time bickering and criticizing each other except during the intermittent occasions when they are saving each others' lives at which point there are hints of sexual tension, I will immediately order their execution.
99. Any data file of crucial importance will be padded to 1.45Mb in size.
100. Finally, to keep my subjects permanently locked in a mindless trance, I will provide each of them with free unlimited Internet access.

### **Another 50 .....**

1. I will not order my trusted lieutenant to kill the infant who is destined to overthrow me -- I'll do it myself.
2. I will not waste time making my enemy's death look like an accident -- I'm not accountable to anyone and my other enemies wouldn't believe it.
3. I will make it clear that I *do* know the meaning of the word ``mercy"; I simply choose not show them any.
4. My undercover agents will not have tattoos identifying them as members of my organization, nor will they be required to wear military boots or adhere to any other dress codes.
5. I will design all doomsday machines myself. If I must hire a mad scientist to assist me, I will make sure that he is sufficiently twisted to never regret his evil ways and seek to undo the damage he's caused.

6. If my supreme command center comes under attack, I will immediately flee to safety in my prepared escape pod and direct the defenses from there. I will not wait until the troops break into my inner sanctum to attempt this.
7. Even though I don't really care because I plan on living forever, I will hire engineers who are able to build me a fortress sturdy enough that, if I am slain, it won't tumble to the ground for no good structural reason.
8. Any and all magic and/or technology that can miraculously resurrect a secondary character who has given up his/her life through self sacrifice will be outlawed and destroyed.
9. I will see to it that plucky young lads/lasses in strange clothes and with the accent of an outlander shall REGULARLY climb some monument in the main square of my capital and denounce me, claim to know the secret of my power, rally the masses to rebellion, etc. That way, the citizens will be jaded in case the real thing ever comes along.
10. I will not employ devious schemes that involve the hero's party getting into my inner sanctum before the trap is sprung.
11. I will offer oracles the choice of working exclusively for me or being executed.
12. I will not rely entirely upon ``totally reliable" spells that can be neutralized by relatively inconspicuous talismen.
13. I will make the main entrance to my fortress standard-sized. While elaborate 60-foot high double- doors definitely impress the masses, they are hard to close quickly in an emergency.
14. I will never accept a challenge from the hero.
15. I will not engage an enemy single-handedly until all my soldiers are dead.
16. If I capture the hero's starship, I will keep it in the landing bay with the ramp down, only a few token guards on duty and a ton of explosives set to go off as soon as it clears the blast-range.
17. No matter how much I want revenge, I will never order an underling ``Leave him. He's mine!"
18. If I have equipment which performs an important function, it will not be activated by a lever that someone could trigger by accidentally falling on when fatally wounded.
19. I will not attempt to kill the hero by placing a venomous creature in his room. It will just wind up accidentally killing one of my clumsy hencemen instead.
20. Since nothing is more irritating than a hero defeating you with basic math skills, all of my personal weapons will be modified to fire one more shot than the standard issue.
21. If I come into possession of an artifact which can only be used by the pure of heart, I will not attempt to use it regardless.
22. The gun turrets on my fortress will not rotate enough so that they may direct fire inward or at each other.
23. If I decide to hold a contest of skill open to the general public, contestants will be required to remove their hooded cloaks and shave their beards before entering.
24. Prior to kidnapping an older male scientist and forcing him to work for me, I will investigate his offspring and make sure that he has neither a beautiful but naive daughter who is willing to risk anything to get him back, nor an estranged son who works in the same field but had a falling-out with his father many years ago.
25. Should I actually decide to kill the hero in an elaborate escape-proof deathtrap room (water filling up, sand pouring down, walls converging, etc.) I will not leave him alone five-to-ten minutes prior to ``imminent" death, but will instead

- (finding a vantage point or monitoring camera) stick around and enjoy watching my adversary's demise.
26. Rather than having only one secret escape pod, which the hero can easily spot and follow, I'll simultaneously launch a few dozen decoys to throw him off track.
  27. Prison guards will have their own cantina featuring a wide variety of tasty treats that will deliver snacks to the guards while on duty. The guards will also be informed that accepting food or drink from any other source will result in execution.
  28. I will not employ robots as agents of destruction if there is any possible way that they can be re-programmed or if their battery packs are externally mounted and easily removable.
  29. Despite the delicious irony, I will not force two heroes to fight each other in the arena.
  30. All members of my Legions of Terror will have professionally tailored uniforms. If the hero knocks a soldier unconscious and steals the uniform, the poor fit will give him away.
  31. I will never place the key to a cell just out of a prisoner's reach.
  32. Before appointing someone as my trusted lieutenant, I will conduct a thorough background investigation and security clearance.
  33. If I find my beautiful consort with access to my fortress has been associating with the hero, I'll have her executed. It's regrettable, but new consorts are easier to get than new fortresses and maybe the next one will pay attention at the orientation meeting.
  34. If I am escaping in a large truck and the hero is pursuing me in a small Italian sports car, I will not wait for the hero to pull up along side of me and try to force him off the road as he attempts to climb aboard. Instead I will slam on the brakes when he's directly behind me. (A rudimentary knowledge of physics can prove quite useful.)
  35. My doomsday machine will have a highly-advanced technological device called a capacitor in case someone inconveniently pulls the plug at the last second. (If I have access to REALLY advanced technology, I will include a back-up device known as a battery.)
  36. If I build a bomb, I will simply remember which wire to cut if it has to be deactivated and make every wire red.
  37. Before spending available funds on giant gargoyles, gothic arches, or other cosmetically intimidating pieces of architecture, I will see if there are any valid military expenditures that could use the extra budget.
  38. The passageways to and within my domain will be well-lit with fluorescent lighting. Regrettably, the spooky atmosphere will be lost, but my security patrols will be more effective.
  39. If I'm sitting in my camp, hear a twig snap, start to investigate, then encounter a small woodland creature, I will send out some scouts anyway just to be on the safe side. (If they disappear into the foliage, I will not send out another patrol; I will break out the napalm.)
  40. I will instruct my guards when checking a cell that appears empty to look for the chamber pot. If the chamber pot is still there, then the prisoner has escaped and they may enter and search for clues. If the chamber pot is not there, then either the prisoner is perched above the lintel waiting to strike them with it or else he decided to take it as a souvenir (in which case he is obviously deeply disturbed and poses no threat). Either way, there's no point in entering.



41. As an alternative to not having children, I will have lots of children. My sons will be too busy jockeying for position to ever be a real threat, and the daughters will all sabotage each other's attempts to win the hero.
42. If I have children and subsequently grandchildren, I will keep my three-year-old granddaughter near me at all times. When the hero enters to kill me, I will ask him to first explain to her why it is necessary to kill her beloved grandpa. When the hero launches into an explanation of morality way over her head, that will be her cue to pull the lever and send him into the pit of crocodiles. After all, small children like crocodiles almost as much as Evil Overlords and it's important to spend quality time with the grandkids.
43. If one of my daughters actually manages to win the hero and openly defies me, I will congratulate her on her choice, declare a national holiday to celebrate the wedding, and proclaim the hero my heir. This will probably be enough to break up the relationship. If not, at least I am assured that no hero will attack my Legions of Terror when they are holding a parade in his honor.
44. I will order my guards to stand in a line when they shoot at the hero so he cannot duck and have them accidentally shoot each other. Also, I will order some to aim above, below, and to the sides so he cannot jump out of the way.
45. My dungeon cell decor will not feature exposed pipes. While they add to the gloomy atmosphere, they are good conductors of vibrations and a lot of prisoners know Morse code.
46. If my surveillance reports any un-manned or seemingly innocent ships found where they are not supposed to be, they will be immediately vaporized instead of brought in for salvage.
47. I will classify my lieutenants in three categories: untrusted, trusted, and completely trusted. Promotion to the third category will be awarded posthumously.
48. Before ridiculing my enemies for wasting time on a device to stop me that couldn't possibly work, I will first acquire a copy of the schematics and make sure that in fact it couldn't possibly work.
49. Ropes supporting various fixtures will not be tied next to open windows or staircases, and chandeliers will be hung way at the top of the ceiling.
50. When the rebel leader challenges me to fight one-on-one and asks, ``Or are you afraid without your armies to back you up?" My reply will be, ``No, just sensible."

## Wright-isms

- A beautiful woman moved in next door. So I went over and returned a cup of sugar. "You didn't borrow this." "I will."
- A friend of mine is into Voodoo Acupuncture. You don't have to go. You'll just be walking down the street, and.....ooooohhhhhh, that's much better...
- A friend of mine once sent me a post card with a picture of the entire planet Earth taken from space. On the back it said, "Wish you were here."
- A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths.
- A man committed suicide by overdosing on decongestant tablets. All they found was a pile of dust.
- A metaphor is like a simile.

- A skunk walked by and my odor eaters went berserk with blood lust. They tripped me, escaped from my loafers, and chased the skunk up a tree. My feet were still hot and sweaty, so I bought wind socks.
- After they make styrofoam, what do they ship it in?
- All of the people in my building are insane. The guy above me designs synthetic hairballs for ceramic cats. The lady across the hall tried to rob a department store...with a pricing gun. She said, "Give me all of the money in the vault, or I'm marking down everything in the store."
- All the plants in my house are dead---I shot them last night. I was teasing them by watering them with ice cubes.
- Any closet is a walk-in closet if you try hard enough.
- Cross country skiing is great if you live in a small country.
- Curiosity killed the cat, but for a while I was a suspect.
- Despite decades of market research, markets proliferate and there's no cure in sight.
- Did you sleep well? No, I made a couple of mistakes.
- Do you think that when they asked George Washington for ID that he just whipped out a quarter?
- Doing a little work around the house. I put fake brick wallpaper over a real brick wall, just so I'd be the only one who knew. People come over and I'm gonna say, "Go ahead, touch it...it feels real."
- Driving hasn't been the same since I installed the funhouse rearview mirrors.
- Droughts are because god didn't pay his water bill.
- Even snakes are afraid of snakes.
- Ever notice how irons have a setting for \*permanent\* press? I don't get it...
- Every day, the hummingbird eats its own weight in food. You may wonder how it weighs the food. It doesn't. It just eats another hummingbird.
- Every so often, I like to stick my head out the window, look up, and smile for a satellite picture.
- Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.
- For a while I didn't have a car...I had a helicopter...no place to park it, so I just tied it to a lamp post and left it running...[slow glance upward]
- For my birthday I got a humidifier and a de-humidifier...I put them in the same room and let them fight it out.
- Four years ago... No, it was yesterday. Today I... No, that wasn't me. Sometimes I... No, I don't.
- Get a bunch of those 3-D glasses and wear them at the same time. Use enough to get it up to a good, say, 10 or 12-D.
- He asked me if I knew what time it was. I said, "Yes, but not right now."
- He was a multi-millionaire... Wanna know how he made all of his money? ... He designed the little diagrams that tell which way to put batteries in...
- Horses just naturally have Mohawk haircuts.
- How many people does it take to change a searchlight bulb?
- How young can you die of old age?
- I bought a cheap piece of land... It was on someone else's property.
- I bought a dog the other day...I named him Stay. It's fun to call him... "Come here, Stay! Come here, Stay!" He went insane. Now he just ignores me and keeps typing.
- I bought a house, on a one-way dead-end road. I don't know how I got there.
- I bought a million lottery tickets. I won a dollar.

- I bought a self learning record to learn Spanish. I turned it on and went to sleep; the record got stuck. The next day I could only stutter in Spanish.
- I bought my brother some gift-wrap for Christmas. I took it to the Gift Wrap department and told them to wrap it, but in a different print so he would know when to stop unwrapping.
- I bought some powdered water, but I don't know what to add to it.
- I broke a mirror in my house. I'm supposed to get seven years of bad luck, but my lawyer thinks he can get me five.
- I broke my arm trying to fold a bed. It wasn't the kind that folds.
- I brought a mirror to Lovers' Lane. I told everybody I'm Narcissus.
- I can remember the first time I had to go to sleep. Mom said, "Steven, time to go to sleep." I said, "But I don't know how." She said, "It's real easy. Just go down to the end of tired and hang a left." So I went down to the end of tired, and just out of curiosity I hung a right. My mother was there, and she said "I thought I told you to go to sleep."
- I can't stop thinking like this.
- I couldn't find the remote control to the remote control.
- I daydreamed that I was falling and, just before I hit the ground, I fell asleep.
- I didn't get a toy train like the other kids. I got a toy subway instead. You couldn't see anything, but every now and then you'd hear this rumbling noise go by.
- I eat swiss cheese from the inside out.
- I eat swiss cheese. But I only nibble on it. I make the holes bigger.
- I forgot and left the lighthouse on all night. Next day the sun wouldn't rise.
- I got a calculator and now I can't add without it. I got a spellchecker and I can't write without it anymore. I got a blowdryer and now my hair won't dry on its own.
- I got a chain letter by fax. It's very simple. You just fax a dollar bill to everybody on the list.
- I got a garage door opener. It can't close. Just open.
- I got a new shadow. I had to get rid of the other one -- it wasn't doing what I was doing.
- I got food poisoning today. I don't know when I'll use it.
- I got my driver's license photo taken out of focus on purpose. Now when I get pulled over the cop looks at it (moving it nearer and farther, trying to see it clearly)...and says, "Here, you can go."
- I got up one morning and couldn't find my socks, so I called Information. She said, "Hello, Information." I said, "I can't find my socks." She said, "They're behind the couch." And they were!
- I got up one morning, couldn't find my socks, so I called Information. She said, "Hello, Information." I said, "I can't find my socks." She said, "They're behind the couch." And they were!
- I had amnesia once or twice.
- I had fried octopus last night. You have to be really quiet when you eat it. Otherwise, it emits a cloud of black smoke and falls on the floor.
- I had just received my degree in Calcium Anthropology... The study of milkmen.
- I had my coathangers spayed.
- I had some eyeglasses. I was walking down the street when suddenly the prescription ran out.
- I had to stop driving my car for a while...the tires got dizzy.

- I hate it when my foot falls asleep during the day because that means it's going to be up all night.
- I have a decaffeinated coffee table. You'd never know it to look at it.
- I have a hobby...I have the world's largest collection of sea shells. I keep it scattered on beaches all over the world. Maybe you've seen some of it...
- I have a map of the united states .... it's original size ... it says one mile equals one mile.
- I have a microwave fireplace in my house...The other night I laid down in front of the fire for the evening in two minutes.
- I have an answering machine in my car. It says, "I'm home now. But leave a message and I'll call when I'm out."
- I have the oldest typewriter in the world. It types in pencil.
- I have two very rare photographs. One is a picture of Houdini locking his keys in his car. The other is a rare photograph of Norman Rockwell beating up a child.
- I heard that in relativity theory space and time are the same thing. Einstein discovered this when he kept showing up three miles late for his meetings.
- I hooked up my accelerator pedal in my car to my brake lights. I hit the gas, people behind me stop, and I'm gone.
- I installed a skylight in my apartment...The people who live above me are furious!
- I invented the cordless extension cord.
- I just got out of the hospital. I was in a speed reading accident. I hit a book mark and flew across the room.
- I know the guy who writes all those bumper stickers. He hates New York.
- I like to fill my tub up with water, then turn the shower on and act like I'm in a submarine that's been hit.
- I like to go to art museums and name the untitled paintings... Boy With Pail... Kitten On Fire.
- I like to reminisce with people I don't know ...
- I like to skate on the other side of the ice ...
- I like to torture my plants by watering them with ice cubes.
- I liked "Slaughterhouse 5", but I can't find the first four anywhere.
- I locked my keys in the car the other day. But it was alright, I was still inside.
- I lost a button hole today.
- I love to go shopping. I love to freak out salespeople. They ask me if they can help me, and I say, "Have you got anything I'd like?" Then they ask me what size I need, and I say, "Extra medium."
- I made a chocolate cake with white chocolate. Then I took it to a potluck. I stood in line for some cake. They said, "Do you want white cake or chocolate cake?" I said, "yes".
- I met this wonderful girl at Macy's. She was buying clothes and I was putting Slinkies on the escalator.
- I moved into an all-electric house. I forgot and left the porch light on all day. When I got home the front door wouldn't open.
- I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.
- I play the harmonica. The only way I can play is if I get my car going really fast, and stick it out the window. I put a new engine in my car, but forgot to take the old one out. Now my car goes 500 miles per hour. The harmonica sounds \*amazing\*.

- I plugged my phone in where the blender used to be. I called someone. They went "Aaaaahhhh..."
- I put contact lenses in my dog's eyes. They had little pictures of cats on them. Then I took one out and he ran around in circles.
- I put hardwood floors on top of wall-to-wall carpet.
- I put instant coffee in a microwave oven and almost went back in time.
- I put my air conditioner in backwards. It got cold outside. The weatherman on TV was confused. "It was supposed to be hot today."
- I rented a lottery ticket. I won a million dollars. But I had to give it back.
- I replaced the headlights in my car with strobe lights, so it looks like I'm the only one moving.
- I saw a bank that said "24 Hour Banking", but I don't have that much time.
- I saw a close friend of mine the other day... He said, "Stephen, why haven't you called me?" I said, "I can't call everyone I want. My new phone has no five on it." He said, "How long have you had it?" I said, "I don't know... my calendar has no sevens on it."
- I saw a man with a wooden leg, and a real foot.
- I saw a sign: "Rest Area 25 Miles". That's pretty big. Some people must be really tired.
- I saw a small bottle of cologne and asked if it was for sale. She said, "It's free with purchase." I asked her if anyone bought anything today.
- I saw a subliminal advertising executive, but only for a second.
- I spent all my money on a FAX machine. Now I can only FAX collect.
- I spilled spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.
- I stayed up all night playing poker with tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died.
- I still have my Christmas Tree. I looked at it today. Sure enough, I couldn't see any forests.
- I took a course in speed reading. Then I got Reader's Digest on microfilm. By the time I got the machine set up, I was done.
- I took a course in speed waiting. Now I can wait an hour in only ten minutes.
- I took lessons in bicycle riding. But I could only afford half of them. Now I can ride a unicycle.
- I used to be a narrator for bad mimes.
- I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn't park anywhere near the place.
- I want to start a car repair shop. I have already got the air for the tires.
- I was born by Caesarian section...but not so you'd notice. It's just that when I leave a house, I go out through the window.
- I was going 70 miles an hour and got stopped by a cop who said, "Do you know the speed limit is 55 miles per hour?" "Yes, officer, but I wasn't going to be out that long..."
- I was going to tape some records onto a cassette, but I got the wires backwards. I erased all of the records. When I returned them to my friend, he said, "Hey, these records are all blank."
- I was in a job interview and I opened a book and started reading. Then I said to the guy, "Let me ask you a question. If you are in a spaceship that is traveling at the speed of light, and you turn on the headlights, does anything happen?" He said, "I don't know." I said, "I don't want your job."
- I was in Macy's store in New York, putting slinkies on the escalators.

- I was in the first submarine. Instead of a periscope, they had a kaleidoscope. "We're surrounded."
- I was in the grocery store. I saw a sign that said "pet supplies". So I did. Then I went outside and saw a sign that said "compact cars".
- I was once arrested for walking in someone else's sleep.
- I was once walking through the forest alone. A tree fell right in front of me -- and I didn't hear it.
- I was reading the dictionary. I thought it was a poem about everything.
- I was sad because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet. So I said, "Got any shoes you're not using?"
- I was trying to daydream, but my mind kept wandering.
- I washed a sock. Then I put it in the dryer. When I took it out, it was gone.
- I watched the Indy 500, and I was thinking that if they left earlier they wouldn't have to go so fast.
- I wear my heart on my sleeve. I wear my liver on my pant leg.
- I went camping and borrowed a circus tent by mistake. I didn't notice until I got it set up. People complained because they couldn't see the lake.
- I went down the street to the 24-hour grocery. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey, the sign says you're open 24 hours." He said, "Yes, but not in a row."
- I went into this bar and sat down next to a pretty girl. She looked at me and said, "Hey, you have two different colored socks on." I said, "Yeah, I know, but to me they're the same because I go by thickness."
- I went over to the neighbor's and asked to borrow a cup of salt. "What are you making?" "A salt lick."
- I went to a 7-11 and asked for a 2x4 and a box of 3x5's. The clerk said, "ten-four."
- I went to a fancy french restaurant called "Deja Vu." The headwaiter said, "Don't I know you?"
- I went to a garage sale. "How much for the garage?" "It's not for sale."
- I went to a general store. They wouldn't let me buy anything specifically.
- I went to a haunted house, looked under the kitchen table, and found spirit gum.
- I went to a restaurant that serves "breakfast at any time". So I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance.
- I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart.
- I went to the bank and asked to borrow a cup of money. They said, "What for?" I said, "I'm going to buy some sugar."
- I went to the cinema, and the prices were: Adults \$5.00, children \$2.50. So I said, "Give me two boys and a girl."
- I went to the eye doctor and found out I needed glasses for reading. So, I got some flip-up contact lenses.
- I went to the hardware store and bought some used paint. It was in the shape of a house. I also bought some batteries, but they weren't included.
- I went to the museum where they had all the heads and arms from the statues that are in all the other museums.
- I went to this restaurant last night that was set up like a big buffet in the shape of an Ouija board. You'd think about what kind of food you want, and the table would move across the floor to it.
- I worked in a health food store once. A guy came in and asked me, "If I melt dry ice, can I take a bath without getting wet?"

- I wrote a few children's books...not on purpose.
- I wrote a song, but I can't read music so I don't know what it is. Every once in a while I'll be listening to the radio and I say, "I think I might have written that."
- I xeroxed a mirror. Now I have an extra xerox machine.
- I xeroxed my watch. Now I can give away free watches.
- I xeroxed my watch. Now I have time to spare.
- I'm moving to Mars next week, so if you have any boxes...
- I'm so tired...I was up all night trying to round off infinity.
- I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done.
- I'm writing an unauthorized autobiography.
- I've been doing a lot of abstract painting lately, extremely abstract. No brush, no paint, no canvas, I just think about it.
- If a word in the dictionary were misspelled, how would we know?
- If all the nations in the world are in debt, where did all the money go?
- If God dropped acid, would he see people?
- If you can wave a fan, and you can wave a club, can you wave a fan club?
- If you can't hear me, it's because I'm in parentheses.
- If you had a million Shakespeares, could they write like a monkey?
- If you put pasta shells to your ear, can you hear the soup?
- If you saw a heat wave, would you wave back?
- If you take a oriental and turn him around so he faces west, does he become disoriented?
- If you tell a joke in the forest, but nobody laughs, was it a joke?
- If you were going to shoot a mime, would you use a silencer?
- If you write the word "monkey" a million times, do you start to think you're Shakespeare?
- If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.
- In my house on the ceilings I have paintings of the rooms above...so I never have to go upstairs.
- In my house there's this light switch that doesn't do anything. Every so often I would flick it on and off just to check. Yesterday, I got a call from a woman in Germany. She said, "Cut it out."
- In school, every period ends with a bell. Every sentence ends with a period. Every crime ends with a sentence.
- In the Roadrunner cartoon, the coyote has been chasing him for 25 years. I'd like to see him finally get right up to him and go "Sorry, I thought you were someone else."
- Is "tired old cliché" one?
- Is my car the only one in America where someone breaks in and turns up my radio every time I park?
- It doesn't matter what temperature the room is, it's always room temperature.
- It only rains straight down. God doesn't do windows.
- It's a fine night to have an evening.
- It's a good thing we have gravity or else when birds died they'd just stay right up there. Hunters would be all confused.
- It's a small world, but I wouldn't want to have to paint it.
- Last week I forgot how to ride a bicycle.
- Last year I went fishing with Salvador Dali. He was using a dotted line. He caught every other fish.

- Last year we drove across the country. We switched on the driving...every half mile...We had one cassette tape to listen to on the entire trip...I don't remember what it was.
- My aunt gave me a walkie-talkie for my birthday. She says if I'm good, she'll give me the other one next year.
- My dental hygienist is cute. Every time I visit, I eat a whole package of Oreo cookies while waiting in the lobby. Sometimes she has to cancel the rest of the afternoon's appointments.
- My friend has a baby. I'm recording all the noises he makes so later I can ask him what he meant.
- My friend Sally is a nudist. I went to her house. The closets have no doors. The walls are covered with see-through wallpaper.
- My friend Sam has one leg. I went to his house. I couldn't go up the stairs.
- My friend Winnie is a procrastinator. He didn't get his birth mark til he was eight years old.
- My girlfriend asked me how long I was going to be gone on this tour. I said, "the whole time."
- My girlfriend does her nails with white-out. When she's asleep, I go over there and write misspelled words on them.
- My grandfather gave me a watch. It doesn't have any hands or numbers. He says it's very accurate. I asked him what time it was. You can guess what he told me.
- My grandma says she has eyes in the back of her head... I hope it's not hereditary.
- My house is made out of balsa wood, so when I want to scare the neighborhood kids I lift it over my head and tell them to get out of my yard or I'll throw it at them.
- My house is on the median strip of a highway. You don't really notice, except I have to leave the driveway doing 60 MPH.
- My neighbor has a circular driveway...he can't get out.
- My roommate got a pet elephant. Then it got lost. It's in the apartment somewhere.
- My school colors were clear. We used to say, "I'm not naked, I'm in the band."
- My socks DO match. They're the same thickness.
- My theory of evolution is that Darwin was adopted.
- My watch is three hours fast, and I can't fix it. So I'm going to move to New York.
- On the other hand, you have different fingers.
- One night a jet flew a little bit too close to my house. I was walking from the living room to the kitchen, and the stewardess told me to sit down.
- One night I came home very late. It was the next night.
- One night I walked home very late and fell asleep in somebody's satellite dish. My dreams were showing up on TV's all over the world.
- One time a cop pulled me over for running a stop sign. He said, "Didn't you see the stop sign?" I said, "Yeah, but I don't believe everything I read."
- One time the power went out in my house and I had to use the flash on my camera to see my way around. I made a sandwich and took fifty pictures of my face. The neighbors thought there was lightning in my house.
- Referring to a glass of water: - I mixed this myself. Two parts H, one part O. I don't trust anybody!
- Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time.
- Sally plays strip poker. Whenever she loses, she has to put something on.
- She had a face lift, tummy lift, and buttock lift, and now she's two feet off the ground.



- Smoking cures weight problems...eventually...
- So then I filled the humidifier with wax and left it on. Now everything in my house is shiny.
- So, do you live around here often?
- Someone sent me a postcard picture of the earth. On the back it said, "Wish you were here."
- Sponges grow in the ocean. That just kills me. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be if that didn't happen.
- The Bermuda Triangle got tired of warm weather. It moved to Alaska. Now Santa Claus is missing.
- The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and doesn't stop until you get to work.
- The judge asked, "What do you plead?" I said, "Insanity, your honour, who in their right mind would park in the passing lane?"
- The original Mickey Mouse cartoon was in Mouse, with English subtitles.
- The other day somebody stole everything in my apartment and replaced it with an exact replica...
- The other night I came home late, and tried to unlock my house with my car keys. I started the house up. So, I drove it around for a while. I was speeding, and a cop pulled me over. He asked where I lived. I said, "right here, officer". Later, I parked it on the freeway, got out, and yelled at all the cars, "Get out of my driveway!"
- The sign said "eight items or less". So I changed my name to Les.
- The sky is falling...no, I'm tipping over backwards.
- The Stones, I love the Stones. I watch them whenever I can. Fred, Barney...
- The sun got confused about daylight savings time. It rose twice. Everything had two shadows.
- The sun never sets on the British Empire. But it rises every morning. The sky must get awfully crowded.
- There aren't enough days in the weekend.
- There was a power outage at a department store yesterday. Twenty people were trapped on the escalators.
- There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore looking like an idiot.
- There's a pizza place near where I live that sells only slices... in the back you can see a guy tossing a triangle in the air...
- They say we're 98% water. We're that close to drowning...[picks up his glass of water from the stool]...I like to live on the edge...
- This isn't all true.
- Tinsel is really snakes' mirrors.
- Today I dialed a wrong number... The other person said, "Hello?" and I said, "Hello, could I speak to Joey?" ... They said, "Uh... I don't think so... he's only 2 months old." I said, "I'll wait."
- Trees that grow in smoggy cities are needed to make carbon paper.
- Two babies were born on the same day at the same hospital. They lay there and looked at each other. Their families came and took them away. Eighty years later, by a bizarre coincidence, they lay in the same hospital, on their deathbeds, next to each other. One of them looked at the other and said, "So. What did you think?"
- What are imitation rhinestones?
- What do batteries run on?

- What's another word for Thesaurus?
- When I die, I'm leaving my body to science fiction.
- When I get bored I go to a Seven-Eleven and ask for a two-by-four and a box of three-by-fives.
- When I get real bored, I like to drive downtown and get a great parking spot, then sit in my car and count how many people ask me if I'm leaving.
- When I go, I'm flying Air Bizarre. It's a good airline. You buy a one way round trip ticket. You leave any Monday, and they bring you back the previous Friday... That way you still have the weekend.
- When I turned two I was really anxious, because I'd doubled my age in a year. I thought, if this keeps up, by the time I'm six I'll be ninety.
- When I was 10, my pa told me never to talk to strangers. We haven't spoken since.
- When I was a baby, I kept a diary. Recently, I was rereading it. It said, "Day 1 -- Still tired from the move. Day 2 -- Everybody talks to me like I'm an idiot."
- When I was a little kid we had a sand box. It was a quicksand box. I was an only child....eventually.
- When I was crossing the border into Canada, they asked if I had any firearms with me. I said, "Well, what do you need?"
- When I was in boy scouts, I slipped on the ice and hurt my ankle. A little old lady had to help me across the street.
- When I was little, my grandfather used to make me stand in a closet for five minutes without moving. He said it was elevator practice.
- When I woke up this morning my girlfriend asked me, "Did you sleep good?" I said, "No, I made a few mistakes."
- Whenever I'm in Champaign, I listen to the great music on Rock 107, and when I'm out of town, they mail it to me...
- Which of the Himalayas is the shortest?
- Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?
- Winny and I lived in a house that ran on static electricity...If you wanted to run the blender, you had to rub balloons on your head. If you wanted to cook, you had to pull off a sweater real quick.
- Winny would spend all of his time practicing limbo... He got pretty good... He could go under a rug...
- Yesterday I found out what doughnuts are for. You put them on doughbolts. They hold dough airplanes together. For kids, they make erector sets out of play-dough.
- Yesterday I parked my car in a tow-away zone...when I came back the entire area was missing.
- Yesterday I saw a chicken crossing the road. I asked it why. It told me it was none of my business.
- Yesterday I told a chicken to cross the road. It said, "what for?"
- You can't have everything. Where would you put it?
- You know how it is when you decide to lie and say the check is in the mail, and then you remember it really is? I'm like that all the time.
- You know how it is when you go to be the subject of a psychology experiment, and nobody else shows up, and you think maybe that's part of the experiment? I'm like that all the time.
- You know how it is when you're reading a book and falling asleep, you're reading, reading...and all of a sudden you notice your eyes are closed? I'm like that all the time.

- You know how it is when you're walking up the stairs, and you get to the top, and you think there's one more step? I'm like that all the time.

## Comparison of scientists

### **Fire!**

A physicist and a mathematician are in the faculty lounge having a cup of coffee when, for no apparent reason, the coffee machine bursts into flames. The physicist rushes over to the wall, grabs a fire extinguisher, and fights the fire successfully.

The same time next week, the same pair are there drinking coffee and talking shop when the new coffee machine goes on fire. The mathematician stands up, fetches the fire extinguisher, and hands it to the physicist, thereby reducing the problem to one already solved...

### **Measurement Techniques**

A mathematician, a physicist and an engineer are each given 50 pounds to measure the height of a building.

The mathematician buys a ruler and a sextant, and by determining the angle subtended by the building a certain distance away from the base, he establishes the height of the building.

The physicist buys a heavy ball and a stopwatch, climbs to the top of the building and drops the ball. By measuring the time it takes to hit the bottom, he establishes the height of the building.

The engineer puts forty pounds into his pocket. By slipping the doorman the other ten, he establishes the height of the building.

### **Conclusions...**

A Mathematician, a Biologist and a Physicist are sitting in a street cafe watching people going in and coming out of the house on the other side of the street. First they see two people going into the house. Time passes. After a while they notice three persons coming out of the house.

The Physicist: "The measurement wasn't accurate."

The Biologist: "They have reproduced".

The Mathematician: "If now exactly one person enters the house then it will be empty again."

### **Another fire!**

A physicist, an engineer and a mathematician were all in a hotel sleeping when a fire broke out in their respective rooms. The physicist woke up, saw the fire, ran over to his desk, pulled out his CRC, and began working out all sorts of fluid dynamics equations. After a couple minutes, he threw down his pencil, got a graduated cylinder out of his suitcase, and measured out a precise amount of water. He threw it on the fire, extinguishing it, with not a drop wasted, and went back to sleep.

The engineer woke up, saw the fire, ran into the bathroom, turned on the taps full-blast, flooding out the entire apartment, which put out the fire, and went back to sleep.

The mathematician woke up, saw the fire, ran over to his desk, began working through theorems, lemmas, hypotheses, you-name-it, and after a few minutes, put down his pencil triumphantly and exclaimed, "I have \*proven\* that I \*can\* put the fire out!" He then went back to sleep.

## **Breakdown**

Four engineers were travelling by car to a seminar, when unfortunately, the vehicle broke down.

The chemical engineer said "Obviously, some constituent of the fuel has caused this failure to occur."

The mechanical engineer replied "I disagree, I would surmise that an engine component has suffered a catastrophic structural failure."

The electrical engineer also had a theory. "I believe an electrical component has ceased to function, thereby causing an ignition malfunction."

The software engineer thought for some time. When at last he spoke he said "What would happen if we all got out and then got back in again?"

## **Einstein's Room Mates**

Einstein dies and goes to heaven only to be informed that his room is not yet ready. "I hope you will not mind waiting in a dormitory. We are very sorry, but it's the best we can do and you will have to share the room with others." he is told by the doorman (say his name is Pete). Einstein says that this is no problem at all and that there is no need to make such a great fuss. So Pete leads him to the dorm. They enter and Albert is introduced to all of the present inhabitants.

"See, Here is your first room mate. He has an IQ of 180!"

"Why that's wonderful!" says Albert. "We can discuss literature!"

"And here is your second room mate. His IQ is 150!"

"Why that's wonderful!" says Albert. "We can discuss mathematics!"

"And here is your third room mate. His IQ is 100!"

"That's wonderful! We can discuss the latest plays at the theatre!"

Just then another man moves out to capture Albert's hand and shake it.

"I'm your last room mate and I'm sorry, but my IQ is only 80."

Albert smiles back at him and says, "So, where do you think interest rates are headed?"

## **Howitzers**

When considering the behaviour of a howitzer:

- A mathematician will be able to calculate where the shell will land.
- A physicist will be able to explain how the shell gets there.
- An engineer will stand there and try to catch it.

## **Travel Games**

A Programmer and an Engineer were sitting next to each other on an airplane. The Programmer leans over to the Engineer and asks if he wants to play a fun game. The Engineer just wants to sleep so he politely declines, turns away and tries to sleep. The Programmer persists and explains that it's a real easy game. He explains, "I ask a question and if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5. Then you ask a question and if I don't know the answer I'll pay you \$5." Again the Engineer politely declines and tries to sleep.

The Programmer, now somewhat agitated, says, "O.K., if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5 and if I don't know the answer I pay you \$50!" Now, that got the Engineer's attention, so he agrees to the game. The Programmer asks the first question, "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" Then Engineer doesn't say a word and just hands the Programmer \$5.

Now, it's the Engineer's turn. He asks the Programmer, "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down on four?" The Programmer looks at him with a puzzled look,

takes out his laptop computer, looks through all his references and after about an hour wakes the Engineer and hands the Engineer \$50. The Engineer politely takes the \$50 turns away and tries to return to sleep.

The Programmer, a little miffed, asks, "Well what's the answer to the question?" Without a word, the Engineer reaches into his wallet, hands \$5 to the Programmer, turns away and returns to sleep.

### **Lost Balloonist**

A man flying in a hot air balloon realizes he is lost. He reduces his altitude and spots a man in a field down below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says, "Yes, you're in a hot air balloon, about 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am. How did you know?"

"Everything you told me is technically correct, but it's of no use to anyone."

The man below says, "You must be in management."

"I am. But how did you know?"

"You don't know where you are, or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position you were before we met, but now it's my fault."

## Murphy's law applied to music

- Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it will.
- The Murphy Philosophy: Smile. Tomorrow will be worse.
- O'Toole's Commentary: Murphy was an optimist.
- Murphy's Law Extended: If a series of events goes wrong, it will do so in the worst possible sequence.
- Evans' and Bjorn's Law: No matter what goes wrong, there is always someone who knew it would.
- Murphy's Eighth Law: If everything seems to be going well, you have overlooked something.
- Trotter's Law of Percussion Music: Percussionists will consistently lose their music as a concert approaches. Corollary: All parts will be lost at least once, and percussionists will not admit to losing any music until they are caught faking the parts.
- The Uncertainty Principle: The location of all auxiliary percussion instruments cannot be known simultaneously. Corollary: If a lost percussion item is found, another will disappear.
- Percussion Will Travel Principle: On every band trip one important piece of percussion equipment will be left at the school.
- Percussion Won't Travel Principle: On every band trip one important piece of percussion equipment will be left at the performance site.
- Diminishing Quality Rule to the Percussion Won't Travel Principle: At any festival one piece of percussion equipment will be switched with that of another school. Corollary: The one you take back will be of lower quality.
- Law of Lost Drumsticks: Percussionists will lose sticks. Corollaries: 1. Percussionists always claim the sticks were stolen. 2. The lost sticks will be found the day after new ones are bought.

- Stidman's Law of Doors: The largest of the timpani is always four inches wider than the door to the auditorium.
- Murphy's Law on Instruments: An instrument always breaks at the worst possible time. Corollary: The instrument will belong to a first chair player.
- Baldwin's Law: Instruments are easier to break than to fix.
- Wyszowski's Law: Anything will work if you fiddle with it long enough.
- Principles of Instrument Repair: 1. The screwdriver of the correct size will be missing when it is needed to tighten a woodwind key. 2. When replacing a woodwind pad, all available pads will be the wrong size. 3. When a pad is accidentally dropped it will roll to the least accessible part of the bandroom.
- Law of Diminishing Repairs: After restoring one key on a woodwind instrument, three others will malfunction.
- Mouthpiece Inertia Principle: Brass mouthpieces are easier to jam than to dislodge.
- Halbrosk's Axiom: A stuck key will work perfectly when the repairman tries it.
- Law of Selective Operation: Brass valves will stick on contest days. Corollaries: They will not stick when the conductor tries them. They will stick again when the student resumes playing.
- Richard's Complimentary Rule of Ownership: If you keep anything long enough you can throw it away. If you throw anything away, you will need it the next day.
- Communication Principle: When a conductor gives students letters for parents, 15% will be left on music stands, 25% will be inside the music, 15% will rot in instrument cases, 15% will be left in lockers, 15% will crawl under the student's bed, and 15% of the parents will receive the letter.
- Tillis' Organisational Principle: If you file it, you'll know where it is but never need it. If you don't file it, you'll need it but never know where it is.
- Rollin's Rule of Organisation: The more you plan, the greater is the confusion when things go wrong.
- Copier Breakdown Principle: Copiers will break down when there is only one more copy to make.
- Left-Right Principle: At least one person is out of step in any one march. Corollary: It is usually the same person.
- Reeley's Principle: Any piece you select as a closing number will have a final note one step higher than the first trumpet can play.
- Small Band Dilemma: The drum major is always the best trumpet player.
- Bogan's Law of Bus Trips: Bus breakdowns always occur on the longest trips.
- Travelling Amnesia Principle: Forgetful students always forget something.
- RT + 1 Principle: The scheduled return time of any trip will be one hour earlier than the actual return. Corollary: This happens even when you pad the return time with an extra hour.
- RT + 3 Principle: You will have to wait at least another two hours for the last parent to pick up a child.
- Blind Leading the Blind Principle: Band members playing correctly will always follow the players who are playing incorrectly.
- Murphy's Law of Small Band Sight-Reading: Invariably, the melody will be in an instrument you do not have. Corollaries: Cues will not be provided. If they are provided, they will be in the parts of your weakest section.
- Bidewell's Score Maxim: You will have to conduct from a condensed score.
- Murphy's Music Stand Principle: The music stand you get will wobble.

- Reely's Adaptation of Rap's Law of Inanimate Reproduction: If you take a music stand down and put it up enough times, eventually you will have two of them.
- Two Principles of Diminishing Concentration: Secretaries always interrupt rehearsal when concentration levels are at their peak. Players late for rehearsal are always those who sit in the centre of the band.
- Horn's Law of Teachers' Meetings: After-school meetings always occur on the day of an important after-school rehearsal.
- Missing Mute Principle: At least one mute will vanish from the brass section at any rehearsal.
- Extended Rest Theorem: The longer the rests, the less likely a section will enter after them.
- Contest Pronunciation Principle: If a name can be mispronounced as the programme is being introduced, it will.
- Two Recruiting Ratio Principles: For every student wanting to play clarinet, there will be six who want to play alto sax. For every student wanting to play alto sax, there will be seven who want to play snare drum.
- The "There's Another Hole in the Dam" Principle: Fix one spot in the music and another spot falls apart.
- Alternate Amnesia Axiom: Any alternate fingerings taught will be promptly forgotten.
- Lost and Found Principle of Music Folders: At least one music folder will be left on a music stand after each rehearsal. Corollaries: It will usually be the same player. If it is not the same player, there will be no name in the folder.
- Say It Again Sam Law: Even if everything is explained perfectly, there will still be a question. Corollary: You will have just answered the question one minute before it was asked.
- Beginning Players Concert Law: There will be one video camera for every three beginning musicians.
- Premature Deafness Ratio: A conductor's hearing loss is directly proportional to how many percussionists are started each year.
- McMurray's Programme Principle: At least one name will be left off the concert programme. Corollary: It will be the child of the headteacher.
- McMurray's Second Programme Rule: If there are two ways to spell a name, the wrong one will be selected.
- Murphy's Law of Clapping: If the audience can clap at the wrong time, they will.
- Two Principles of Cymbal Cuing: Cue the cymbal player or he will not enter. Cue the cymbal player and he still will not enter.
- Law of Selective Acoustics: The percussion section always sounds loudest where the judges are sitting. It cannot be heard from the podium.
- Hatch's Law of Clarinet Squeaks: Clarinet squeaks always occur in the most exposed sections of the music.
- Fillmore's March Law: If a march can be rushed, it will. Corollary: A march rushes in proportion to a band's inability to play it quickly.
- The Play It Again Sam Axiom: At concert festivals, three other bands will play your toughest piece. Corollary: All three perform before you do, and play it better.
- Surprise Symphony Principle: At least one section of the music which sounded perfect in rehearsal will go haywire.

- The Punctuality Paradox: Give a strongly-worded lecture about punctuality and you will be late to the next performance.
- Bidewell's Transition Principle: You are never as good as the previous conductor.
- Anderson's Solution: When in doubt, blame problems on the previous conductor.
- The Lowest Common Denominator Principle: After a concert, parents rave about the pop selection played and say nothing about the test piece.
- The Least Credible Sentence in Conducting: One more time.