

adversity

(ad vur sih tee)

Picture this: Adverse City



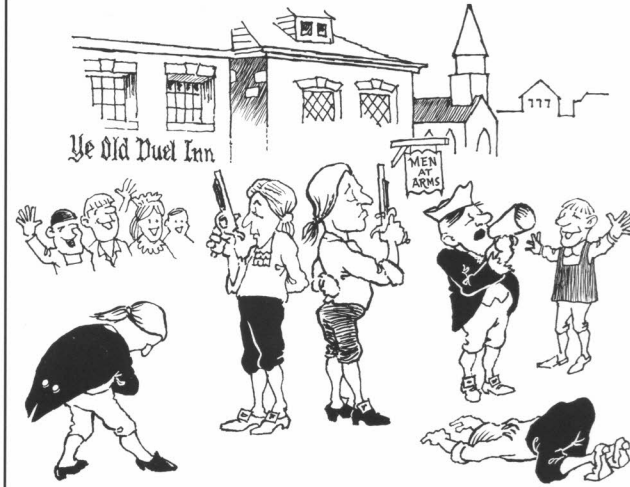
Adversity in Adverse City.

2

adulation

(aj uh lay shun)

Picture this: a duel nation



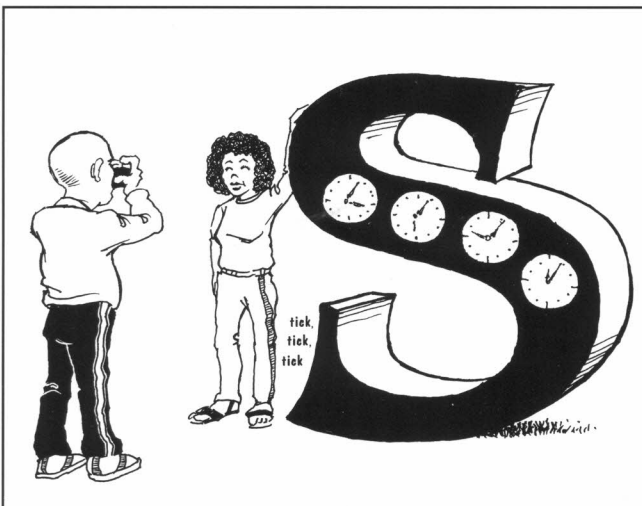
In a duel nation, duelers receive adulation.

1

aesthetic

(es thet ik)

Picture this: S that tick



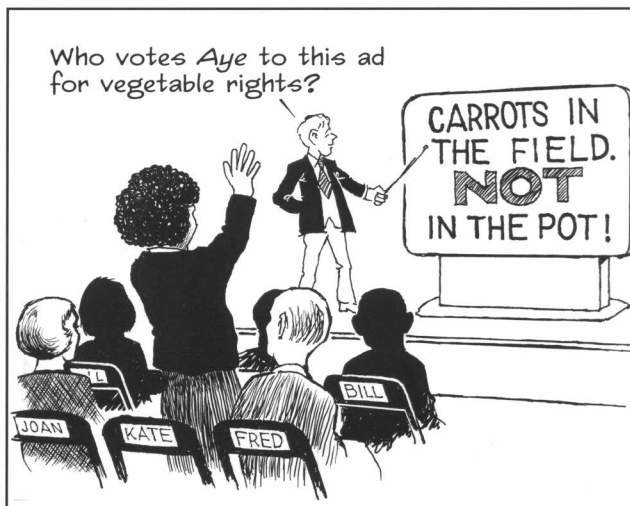
Oh beautiful S! That tick tickles my aesthetic sense.

4

advocate

(ad vuh kayt)

Picture this: ad vote Kate



In an ad vote Kate advocates vegetable rights.

3

## adversity

poverty; misfortune

- Some people believe that **adversity** improves the character, making one a stronger and more understanding person.
- During a war, civilians as well as soldiers usually experience **adversity**.
- The stoic philosophers of ancient Greece believed that facing **adversity** calmly is a great virtue.

## aesthetic

pertaining to art or beauty

- To be successful, an interior decorator needs to have a well-developed **aesthetic** sense.
- A well-designed house combines practical and **aesthetic** elements so that it is pleasing both to look at and to live in.
- **Aesthetics** is a branch of philosophy that studies such questions as what makes something beautiful.

## adulation

flattery; admiration

- Rock stars often receive widespread **adulation** for a short period of time.
- On some college campuses there are movements to place less stress on intercollegiate athletics so that good students would receive as much **adulation** as good athletes.
- After World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower received so much **adulation** for leading the Allies to victory that it helped him be elected president of the United States.

## advocate

urge; plead for

- The government of the United States **advocates** democracy as the best political system for all countries.
- People who **advocate** increased immigration to Australia argue that the country has enough resources to support far more people than it does now.
- The **advocates** of a higher minimum wage supported their case by saying that it is nearly impossible for a person to survive on the present minimum wage.

# affirmation

(af ur may shun)

Picture this: a firm mate



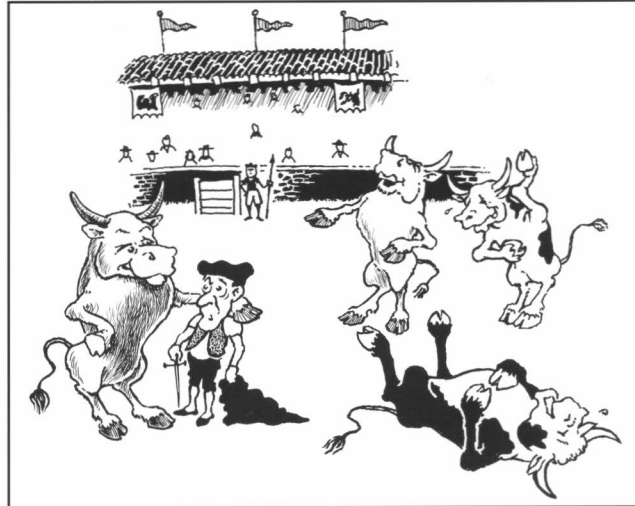
A firm mate makes an affirmation.

6

# affable

(af uh bul)

Picture this: Af a bull



Af, a bull so affable—his “bull mates” think him laughable.

5

# alleviate

(uh lee vee ayt)

Picture this: a leaf he ate



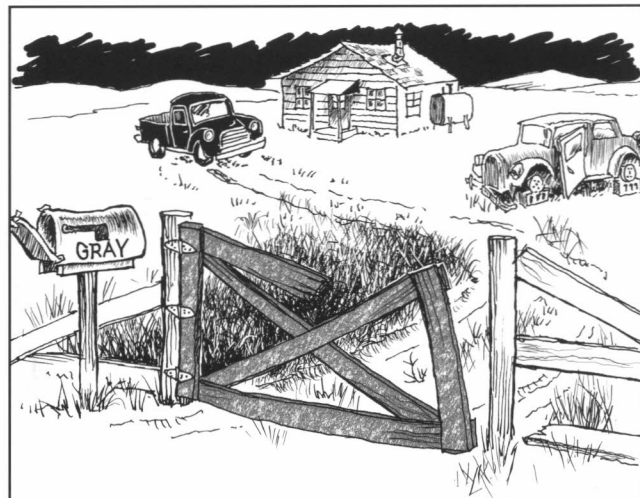
A leaf he ate to alleviate his hunger.

8

# aggregate

(ag rih git)

Picture this: a gray gate



Beyond a gray gate lies the aggregate wealth of Gray's estate.

7

## affirmation

assertion; confirmation

- Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is an **affirmation** of our loyalty to our country.
- Many religions require converts to make an **affirmation** of belief in the teachings of their new religion.
- Our principal, Mr. Delaney, asked each of us to make an **affirmation** of our determination to make our best effort in all our subjects.

## alleviate

relieve; make more bearable

- The United Nations is working to **alleviate** poverty in the world.
- Many people find that exercise is a good way to **alleviate** the effects of stress.
- To **alleviate** traffic congestion, cities such as London and Singapore impose a fee on motorists driving into downtown areas during busy periods.

## affable

easily approachable; warmly friendly

- Judges at beauty contests often choose one of the contestants as the most **affable**.
- People who work in sales are frequently **affable** individuals who enjoy talking to many types of people.
- The young teacher was so **affable** he became his students' friend but lost their respect.

## aggregate

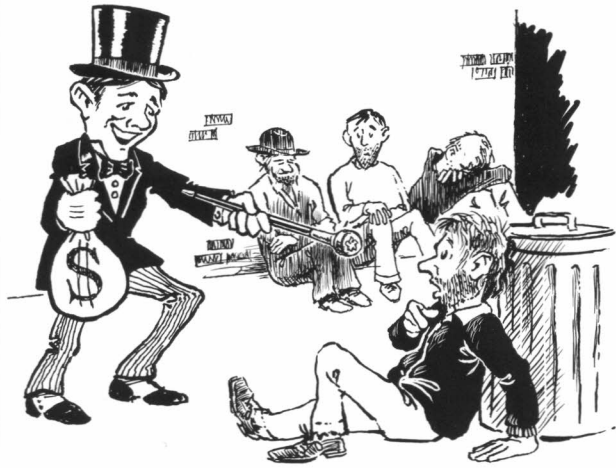
total

- The Roman Empire was an **aggregate** of many states under the Emperor.
- The **aggregate** wealth of a country includes the assets of individuals, companies, and other organizations.
- The **aggregate** strength of the various branches of the U.S. armed services is immense.

altruistic

(al troo is tik)

Picture this: Al True his stick



Al True—his stick selects those he's altruistic to.

10

ambivalence

(am biv uh luns)

Picture this: am Bea Valens

I really don't like this one . . . However, on further consideration . . . And then again . . . the red one does look . . . On the other hand . . .



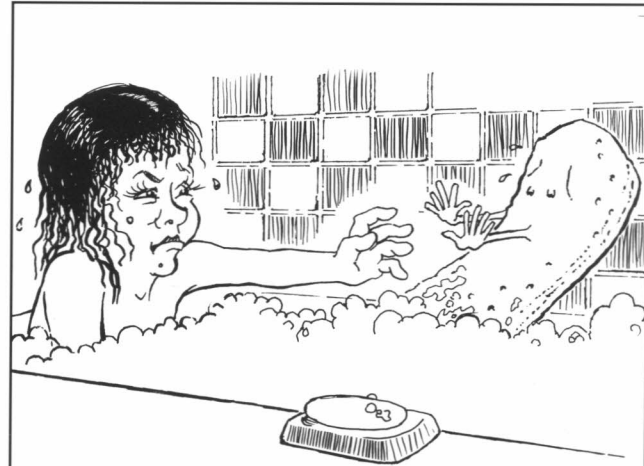
"I am Bea Valens and ambivalence is my motto."

12

aloof

(uh loof)

Picture this: a loofa



A loofa being aloof.

9

ambiguous

(am big yoo us)

Picture this: am big you us



"Who should say 'I am big?' You? Us? It's not ambiguous who is bigger!"

11

## altruistic

unselfishly generous; concerned for others

- When one country gives aid to another country it is generally for reasons that are not entirely **altruistic**.
- Many people are attracted to teaching for **altruistic** reasons rather than financial ones.
- A mother's love is often cited as an example of **altruism**.

## ambivalence

the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes

- Because he knew that teaching gives a steady income whereas writing usually does not, it was with considerable **ambivalence** that he gave up teaching to become a freelance writer.
- Joan was attracted to Ted, so she finally agreed to a date with him; however, she did so with some **ambivalence** because of his reputation for being self-centered.
- Sal was **ambivalent** about whether to try out for the football team or the soccer team because he enjoyed playing each sport equally.

## aloof

apart; reserved

- Shy individuals usually like to remain **aloof** in large gatherings of people.
- The new student was **aloof** for a few weeks, adjusting to her new classmates.
- Some managers remain **aloof** from their workers, while others prefer to be "one of the gang."

## ambiguous

unclear or doubtful in meaning

- When writing an essay, try to avoid making **ambiguous** statements.
- The language used in advertising is often deliberately **ambiguous**.
- Homonyms—words that sound the same but mean different things—are sometimes **ambiguous** when used in speech; *pair/pare/pear* is an example of this.

# anarchist

(an ur kist)

Picture this: Anna kissed



Anna kissed a brave young Czar who saved her from an anarchist.

14

# amorphous

(uh mor fus)

Picture this: am Orphous



"I am Orphous, an amorphous mass of dust and gas."

13

# antagonism

(an tag uh niz um)

Picture this: ant tag on

Destroy all humans!



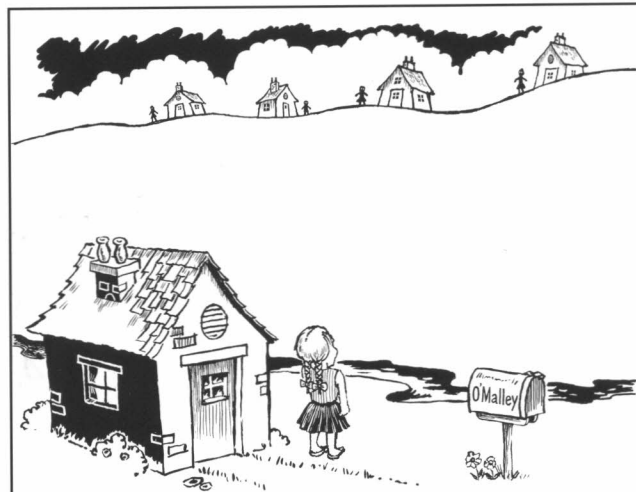
Antagonism from ants with tags on them.

16

# anomaly

(uh nom uh lee)

Picture this: Ann O'Malley



Ann O'Malley, the only girl who lived in the valley, was an anomaly.

15

## anarchist

a person who seeks to overturn the established government; an advocate of abolishing authority

- Governments regard **anarchists** as dangerous because they represent a threat to the existence of the state.
- **Anarchists** generally believe that governments infringe on rights that human beings enjoy naturally.
- Mr. Jones, our principal, seems to regard any student who argues for letting students have a voice in the running of the school as an **anarchist**.

## antagonism

actively expressed hostility

- **Antagonism** developed between the twins, Bill and John, after they discovered that each of them had asked the same girl to the dance.
- According to psychologists, some **antagonism** between siblings is natural as each child seeks parental affection and approval.
- Jason knew that he might **antagonize** his history teacher if he criticized her teaching methods, but he decided that he had no choice because he wasn't learning much in the class.

## amorphous

formless; lacking shape or definition

- This modern painting is **amorphous**; I can't figure out what it's supposed to be.
- The company's plan to expand is at present **amorphous**, but it should begin to take shape at a series of meetings next month.
- This essay is so **amorphous** that it isn't possible to determine its main argument.

## anomaly

irregularity

- An **anomaly** in a person's heartbeat should be investigated by a physician.
- The Earth's atmosphere causes **anomalies** in telescopic observation of other planets.
- Because Fred had always come to work on time, his boss regarded it as an **anomaly** when he arrived an hour late one day.

antidote

(an tih dote)

Picture this: **Aunty dotes**



Aunty dotes on her goats that carry antidotes to places remote.

18

antediluvian

(an tih duh loo vee un)

Picture this: **Aunty dill luvin'**



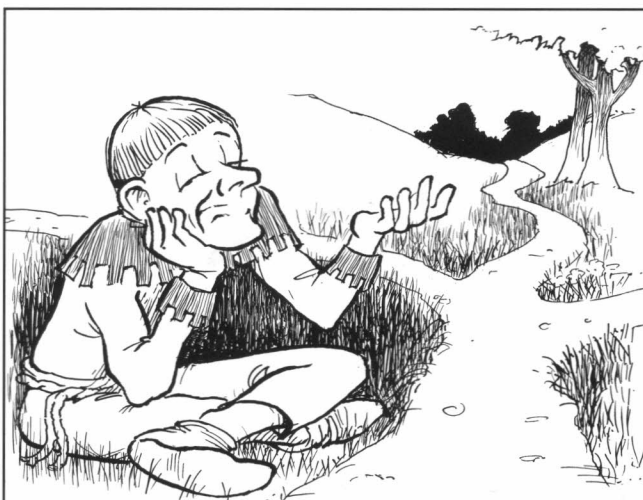
Aunty Lil, a dill luvin' lady, reads tales of antediluvian times.

17

apathy

(ap uh thee)

Picture this: **a path he**



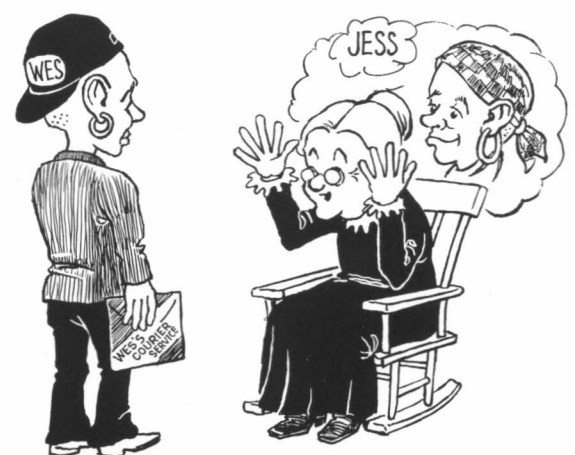
By a path he sat in apathy.

20

antiquated

(an tih kway tid)

Picture this: **Aunty equated**



Aunty equated Wes with her old flame Jess. What an antiquated mind.

19

## antidote

medicine to counteract a poison or disease; something that relieves a harmful effect

- Researchers are trying to find an **antidote** for the common cold, but so far they have had only limited success.
- Doctors often say that the best **antidote** for most human ills is time.
- If you are bitten by a snake, you should try to note its appearance so that the correct **antidote** can be prescribed based on what species of snake bit you.

## apathy

lack of interest or concern

- Voter **apathy** in the United States is so great that in most elections less than half of the eligible voters turn out to cast their votes.
- **Apathy** about social and political issues often occurs when people feel that these issues do not directly concern them.
- After many years of trying without success to become manager, Harry became **apathetic** about striving to get ahead in his career.

## antediluvian

antiquated; extremely old

- The origins of Egypt are lost in the mists of **antediluvian** times.
- Young people today regard black and white TV as an **antediluvian** form of technology.
- “Mom,” Tina said to her mother, “your ideas are so **antediluvian**. Today, all the girls are getting tattoos.”

## antiquated

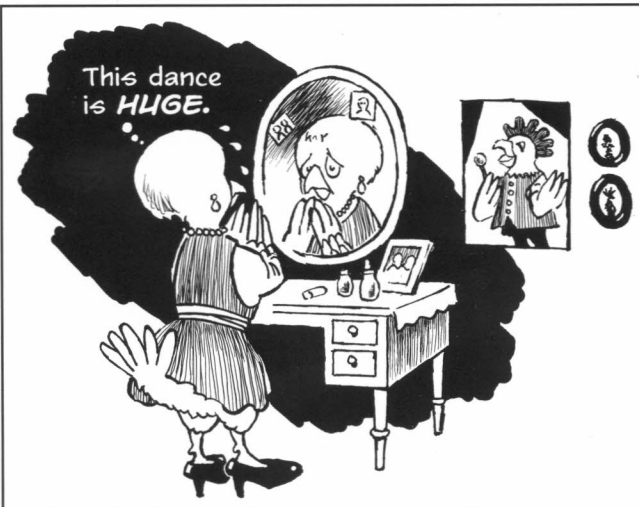
old-fashioned; obsolete

- Most people regard the phonograph as an example of an **antiquated** technology.
- Some famous writers prefer to use an **antiquated** typewriter rather than a computer.
- Although they employed technology that would be considered **antiquated** today, the engineers who designed the Egyptian pyramids were able to cut and move stones weighing thousands of tons each.

# apprehension

(ap rih hen shun)

Picture this: a **pre-hen**



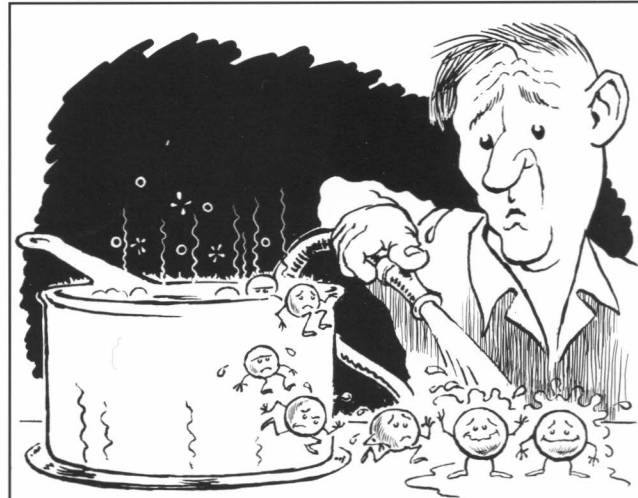
A **pre-hen**, like a pre-teen, feels **apprehension**.

22

# appease

(uh pee-z)

Picture this: a **peas**



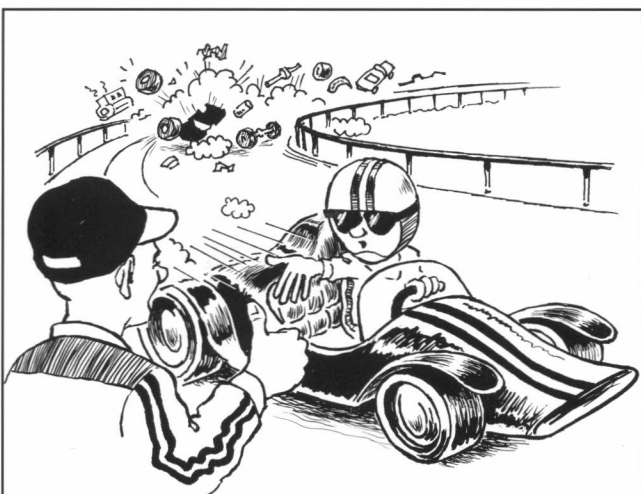
Appeasing a pot of **peas**.

21

# ardent

(ahr dent)

Picture this: **are dents**



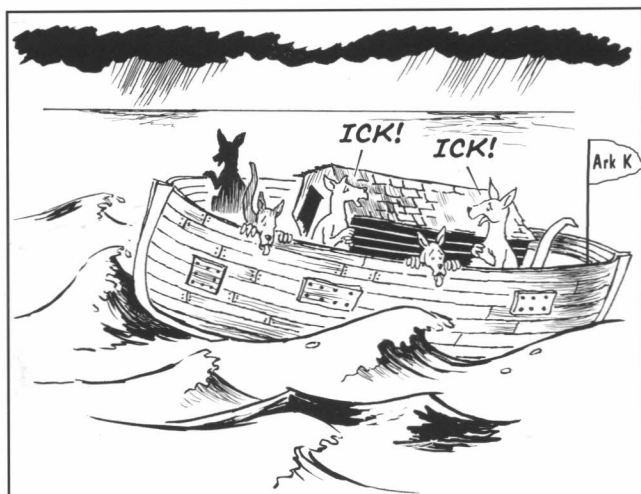
"**Are dents** on it?" asks the **ardent** racer.

24

# archaic

(ahr kay ik)

Picture this: **ark K—ick!**



Sick kangaroos on **archaic ark K—“Ick!”** is all they can say.

23

## apprehension

fearful anticipation of the future; dread

- Most people think about their own eventual death with **apprehension**.
- The students facing the SAT are full of **apprehension** because their future depends on how well they perform on this test.
- Many people are filled with **apprehension** when they have to speak before a large group of people.

## ardent

intense; passionate; zealous

- **Ardent** Democrats and Republicans usually vote for the persons nominated by their parties.
- Even the most **ardent** supporters of freedom of speech believe there must be some limitations on what people are allowed to say.
- An **ardent** environmentalist, Senator Wood voted for the bill even though it meant a loss of jobs for his state in the mining industry.

## appease

pacify or soothe; relieve

- To **appease** liberals in his party who were unhappy with his conservative policies, the president appointed a liberal to the Supreme Court.
- The candy bar that Candy ate **appeased** her hunger.
- In order to **appease** the angry voters, Congress voted to reduce taxes.

## archaic

ancient; out of date

- The typewriter is regarded by many people today as an **archaic** form of technology.
- The words *thou* and *thee* are examples of **archaic** English.
- Students often complain that they have trouble understanding Shakespeare's English because it is **archaic**.

# artifact

(ahr tuh fakt)

Picture this: **art a fact**



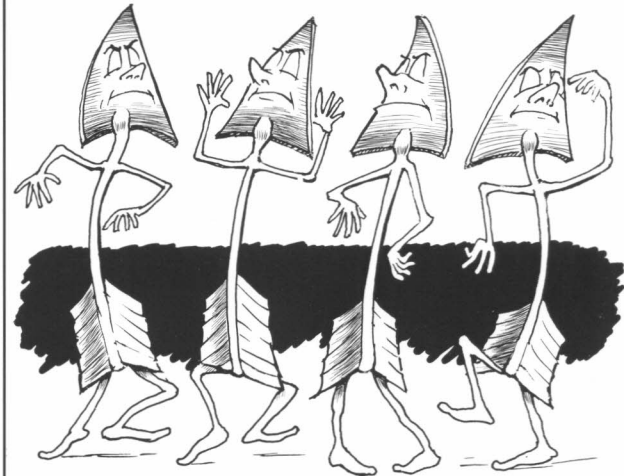
"Art—a fact of life in all eras," says Ann, with the **artifact** in her hands.

26

# arrogance

(ar uh guns)

Picture this: **Arrow Dance**



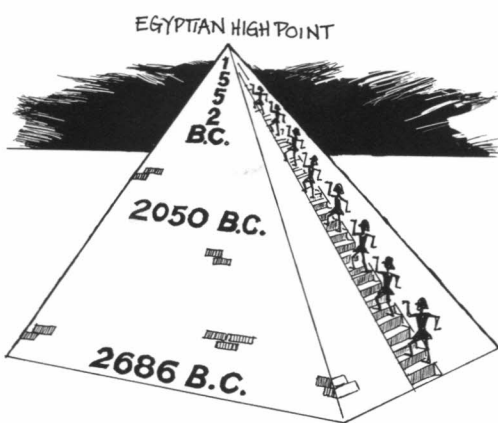
At the **Arrow Dance**, arrows illustrate **arrogance**.

25

# ascendancy

(uh sen dun see)

Picture this: **Ascend Dance**



Doing the **Ascend Dance** to **ascendancy**.

28

# artisan

(ahr tih zen)

Picture this: **art is sin**



"**Art is sin**," says the Puritan to the **artisan**.

27

## artifact

object made by human beings

- Our history class decided to make a time capsule, so we gathered various **artifacts** from our everyday life, put them in a steel box, and buried them in the schoolyard.
- The pyramids of Egypt are the largest **artifacts** left by ancient humans.
- From **artifacts** left by the people of an ancient civilization, scientists can build a picture of how those people lived.

## ascendancy

controlling influence; domination

- If one country gains **ascendancy** in a region of the world, its neighbors often band together to try to prevent it from gaining even more power and influence.
- During the early part of the twentieth century, Nazism was in **ascendancy** in Germany.
- Over the past decade or so, China has been gaining **ascendancy** among Asian nations.

## arrogance

pride; haughtiness

- Although he is one of the richest people in America, Sam tries to avoid giving an appearance of **arrogance**; he drives a compact car and eats in fast-food restaurants.
- People from rich countries visiting poor countries sometimes display **arrogance**, believing themselves to be superior to the local people.
- Shy people are sometimes accused of **arrogance** because they seem haughty and aloof.

## artisan

manually skilled worker;  
craftsman as opposed to artist

- Potters are **artisans** who can earn a good living by making things that are both useful and attractive.
- Even in this age of mass production, there is a demand for goods, such as high-quality furniture, that can only be produced by skilled **artisans**.
- **Artisans** normally earn more money than laborers because they have skills that are in greater demand.

aspire

(uh spy ur)

Picture this: a spire



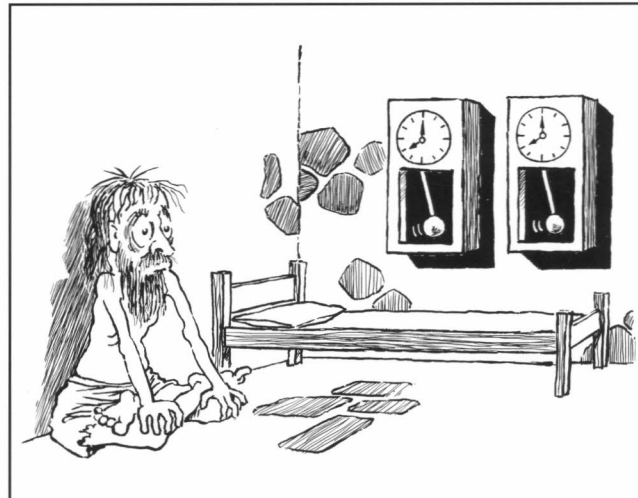
They **aspire** to build a **spire** of straw and wire for the man with the lyre.

30

ascetic

(uh set ik)

Picture this: a set tick



Here sits an **ascetic** with a **set** of **ticking** clocks.

29

audacious

(aw day shus)

Picture this: all day shush



All day long he says "Shush" to **audacious** climbers making a fuss.

32

assuage

(uh swayj)

Picture this: as Sue aged



As Sue aged, only a sage could **assuage** her rage.

31

## aspire

seek to attain; long for

- Many people **aspire** to be successful novelists, but few succeed.
- When he was a high school student, Bill Clinton **aspired** to be president.
- Malaysia **aspires** to be a developed country by the year 2020.

## audacious

daring; bold

- His plan was an **audacious** one—to climb Mt. Everest solo.
- President Kennedy set one of the most **audacious** goals of all time when he said that America should land a man on the moon and return him safely to Earth before 1969.
- Japan's plan at the start of World War II was **audacious**—strike at America quickly before it could build up its military strength.

## ascetic

practicing self-denial; austere

- The monk led an **ascetic** life, spending most of his time in prayer and eating only as much as necessary to stay alive.
- Some religions encourage their followers to practice **asceticism** as a way to purify themselves.
- Some writers lead an **ascetic** existence when they work on a book, living simply and spending nearly all of their time writing.

## assuage

ease or lessen; satisfy; soothe

- After the long and bitter fight for control of the company, the new CEO felt that it was important to **assuage** the angry feelings of all the parties involved.
- The dying soldier's pain was **assuaged** by the painkiller that the nurse gave him.
- There's nothing better than cold, pure water to **assuage** your thirst.

# autonomous

(aw tah nuh mus)

Picture this: **aw Tono must**



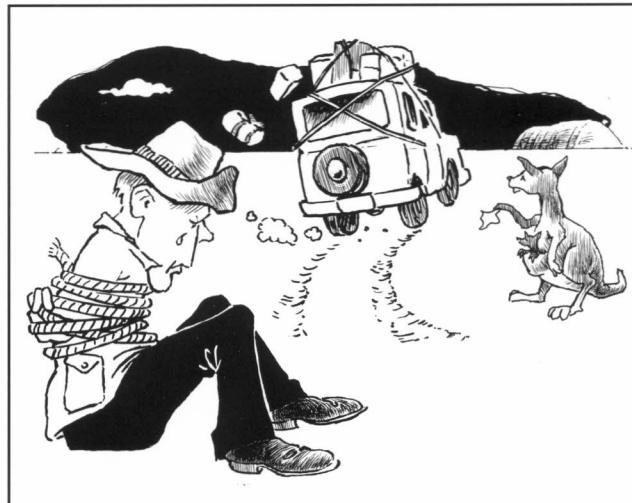
Aw! Tono must rely on guano, but at least it's **autonomous**.

34

# austere

(aw steer)

Picture this: **Aussie tear**



An Aussie sheds an **Aussie tear**: "It'll be an **austere** year without my outback gear."

33

# aversion

(uh vur zhen)

Picture this: **a version**



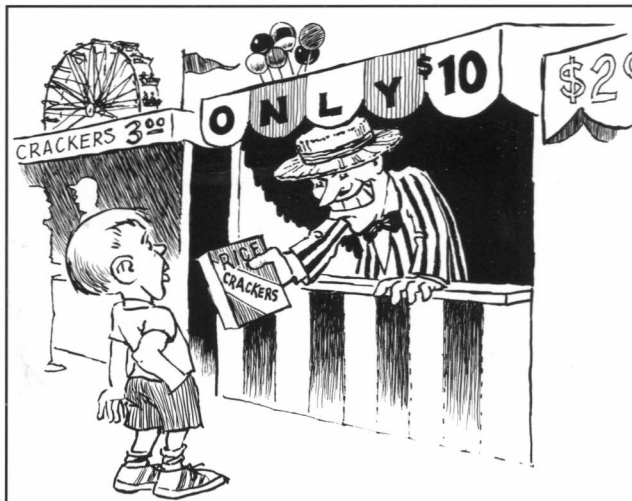
He has an **aversion** to a **version** of baked sturgeon cooked by his wife, a plastic surgeon.

36

# avarice

(av uh rihs)

Picture this: **have a rice**



"**Have a rice** cracker; you're in luck—it's only ten bucks!" (What **avarice**!)

35

## autonomous

self-governing

- In the American system of government, states are not **autonomous**; many powers are reserved to the central government.
- After the fall of the Soviet Union, many of its former republics became **autonomous** nation-states.
- With the issuance of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the United States asserted its right to be an **autonomous** nation.

## aversion

firm dislike

- I have an **aversion** to spicy food because it upsets my stomach.
- Sue has such an **aversion** to cigarette smoke that she can't stand being in a room in which even one person is smoking.
- An **aversion** to spiders is found in people all over the world.

## austere

forbiddingly stern; severely simple and unornamented

- I enjoy the **austere** beauty of the Arizona desert.
- Monasteries are **austere** places designed to encourage prayer and reflection.
- Schoolmasters in colonial America generally were **austere** figures who inspired fear in their students.

## avarice

greediness for wealth

- According to psychologists, many gamblers are motivated not by **avarice** but by a need for excitement.
- It was not **avarice** that motivated Joe to work hard to become wealthy so much as a desire for financial security.
- Although Lou was not really an **avaricious** person, he did find the idea of winning the twenty million dollar lottery prize attractive.

belie

(bih lie)

Picture this: **bee lie**



The **bee** tells a **lie** that **belies** its nasty sting.

beguile

(bih guy il)

Picture this: **be guy ill**

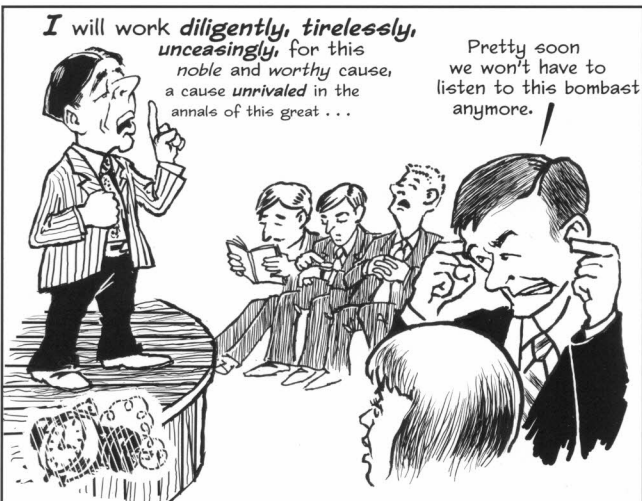


“You’ll **be** a **guy** who is **ill** and **beguile** the nurse from Brazil.”

bombastic

(bom bas tik)

Picture this: **bomb’s tick**



The **bombastic** speaker doesn’t hear the **bomb’s tick**.

bolster

(bowl stur)

Picture this: **bowl stir**



In the **bowl**, **stir** the batter to **bolster** the boys’ morale!

## belie

contradict; give a false impression

- The small size of the Australian funnel web spider **belies** the deadliness of its venom.
- His kind words were **belied** by his angry tone and expression.
- Ms. Johnson's small size **belies** the ferocity with which she can scold a student who doesn't hand in an assignment on time.

## bombastic

pompous; using inflated language

- Today, **bombastic** speeches are criticized for their pomposity, but in the past many people enjoyed them as entertainment.
- A **bombastic** piece of writing may impress some readers, but others will surely conclude that its author is an insincere and pretentious person.
- Be careful of putting all the SAT-type words you've learned into your essays; you might think they sound impressive, but your teacher will probably say that your writing is **bombastic**.

## beguile

charm; mislead or delude

- The conman **beguiled** my mother with a sob story about how his child needed money for an operation.
- Many British soldiers enlisted in the army in World War I because they were **beguiled** by the idea of taking part in a quick and glorious victory.
- A good magician uses a number of tricks to **beguile** his audience into believing that what they're seeing is real.

## bolster

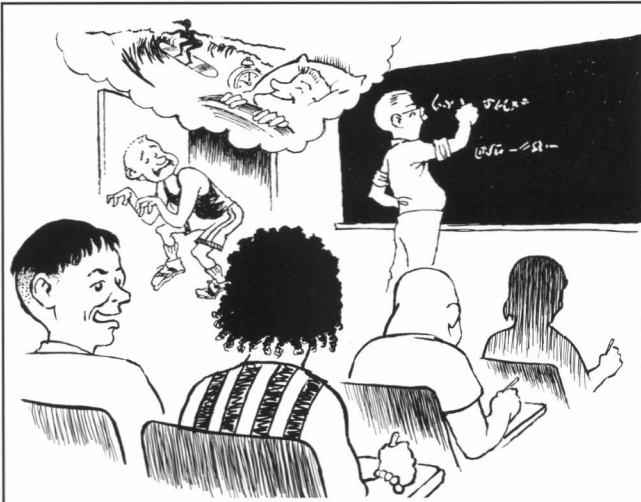
support; reinforce

- Knowing a lot of difficult words will **bolster** your confidence when you take the SAT.
- A good manager knows when to criticize an employee and when to **bolster** his or her confidence with praise.
- Britain and its allies were **bolstered** by the entry of the United States into World War II in 1941.

calculated

(kal kyuh lay tid)

Picture this: **calculate** Ted



"I calculate Ted is late for calculus for no calculated reason—just California dreamin'."

42

capricious

(kuh prish us)

Picture this: **Capri**



Off the isle of **Capri**, capricious dolphins play at three.

44

braggart

(brag ert)

Picture this: **brag** art



The **Brag Art** Exhibition of braggart art.

41

candor

(kan dur)

Picture this: **can** door



"A can with a door? Honestly, I didn't do it!" he says with candor.

43

## calculated

deliberately planned

- Baseball managers sometimes take **calculated** risks, such as calling for a double-steal.
- The comedian's performance appeared unrehearsed; however, we found out later that every line was carefully **calculated** to get a laugh from the audience.
- I was disappointed to find out that Bill's every move was **calculated** to win our boss's favor and make me look bad.

## capricious

unpredictable; fickle

- "The weather has been **capricious** recently," Bill said, "so, I think I'll skip the picnic I planned with my friends and just order a pizza."
- My cat is a **capricious** eater; every day she wants something different to eat.
- Science operates on the assumption that the laws of nature are not **capricious**.

## braggart

boaster

- Mandy's mom turned into a bit of a **braggart** after her daughter made the all-state soccer team.
- **Braggarts** are annoying—especially when their boasts turn out to be correct!
- Our basketball team has a **braggart** who says that no one can outshoot her from either the field or the free throw line.

## candor

frankness; open honesty

- It's unrealistic to expect people to speak with **candor** at all times.
- It seems to be human nature to expect **candor** from others when we speak to them but not to also expect it from ourselves.
- Talk show hosts are good at getting guests to speak **candidly** about their lives.

coalesce

(koh uh les)

Picture this: coal-less



The “coal-less” people of Coalsville finally coalesce around the coal strike issue.

46

charlatan

(char luh tun)

Picture this: Charlotte Tan



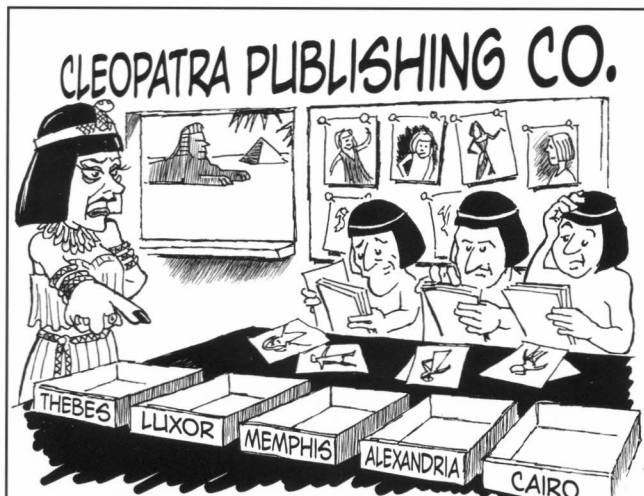
Charlotte Tan with a charlatan.

45

compile

(kum pile)

Picture this: come pile



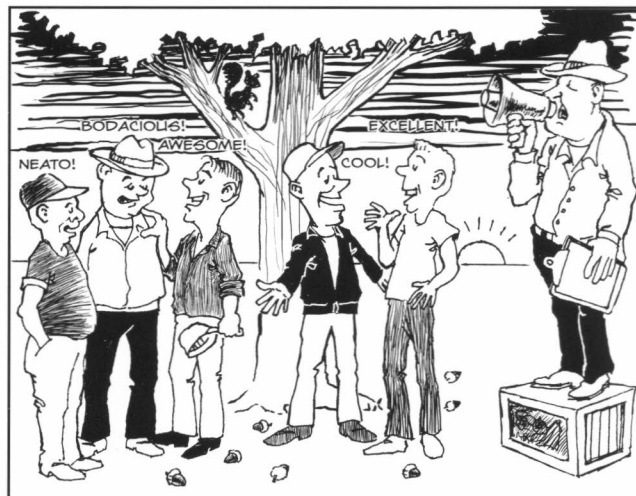
“Come, pile up your files and compile *The Styles of the Nile!*”

48

colloquial

(kuh low kwee ul)

Picture this: call oak we all



When we hear the call to the oak, we all speak in colloquial terms.

47

## coalesce

combine; fuse

- To work together successfully, military units must **coalesce** to become a group of like-minded individuals.
- The United States began to **coalesce** as a nation during the early nineteenth century as the experiences of many groups were communicated around the country.
- Our business plan began to **coalesce** in our minds after several discussions.

## compile

assemble; gather; accumulate

- Newspapers **compile** information from many sources in order to give readers a wide view of what is happening in the world.
- After every season, the batting average and other statistics for every player in Major League Baseball are **compiled**.
- A good prosecutor **compiles** evidence steadily until a convincing case is made of the defendant's guilt.

## charlatan

a quack; pretender to knowledge

- Jack pretended to be a linguist with a vast knowledge of foreign languages; however, he was exposed as a **charlatan** when he couldn't even tell us the meaning of *au revoir*.
- The history of medicine is filled with **charlatans** who promised cures for incurable illnesses.
- A **charlatan** sold me a watch worth \$5 for \$50.

## colloquial

pertaining to conversational or common speech

- **Colloquial** speech helps the members of a group of people to identify themselves as different from others.
- **Colloquial** words and expressions should not be used in formal English.
- "OK" is an American **colloquial** expression that is used around the world.

# conflagration

(kon fluh gray shun)

Picture this: **con flag ration**



A **con flag ration** after the prison flag **conflagration**.

50

# complacency

(kum play sen see)

Picture this: **come place cents he**



"Come, place your cents on Clancy. He is set to win," he says with **complacency**.

49

# cordial

(kor jil)

Picture this: **cord Jill**



"I've cut the **cord**, Jill!"  
(Relations are no longer **cordial**.)

52

# confound

(kun found)

Picture this: **con found**



What the **con found** confounds him.

51

# conflagration

great fire

- During World War II, Allied bombing of Tokyo caused a **conflagration** in that city.
- The retreating army started a **conflagration** in order to destroy supplies that could be used by the advancing forces.
- Firefighters in large cities with many high-rise buildings must be careful not to allow a small fire to spread quickly and become a **conflagration**.

# cordial

gracious; heartfelt

- Despite being separated, Bill and Laura still have **cordial** relations with one another.
- The principal gave the new teachers a **cordial** welcome at the teacher orientation.
- Diplomats work hard to maintain **cordial** relations with their colleagues from other countries so that disputes can be discussed in a friendly atmosphere.

# complacency

self-satisfaction; smugness

- **Complacency** among employees is a problem sometimes faced by managers of successful companies.
- Some experts believe that Japanese industry became **complacent** after its great success in the 1980s.
- Health workers urged parents to guard against **complacency** and make sure that their children are immunized against measles and other infectious diseases.

# confound

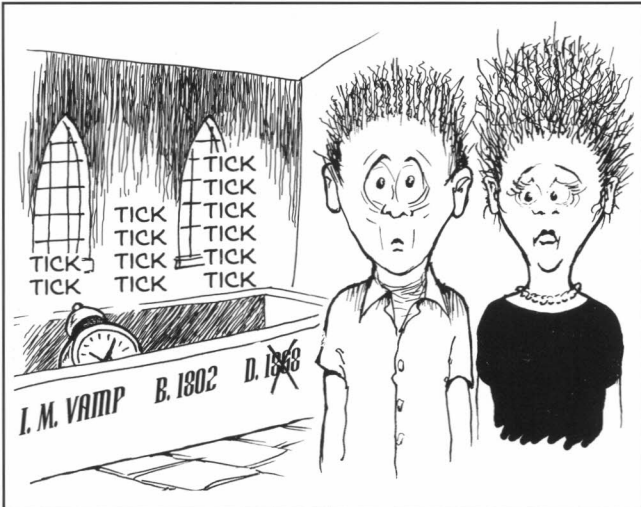
confuse; puzzle

- Until Louis Pasteur discovered germs, the origin of many diseases **confounded** scientists.
- The American watching a cricket match in Britain was **confounded** by the complex rules of the game.
- Many statements that students make in their essays are **confounding** to teachers because they are poorly written.

# cryptic

(krip tik)

Picture this: **crypt tick**

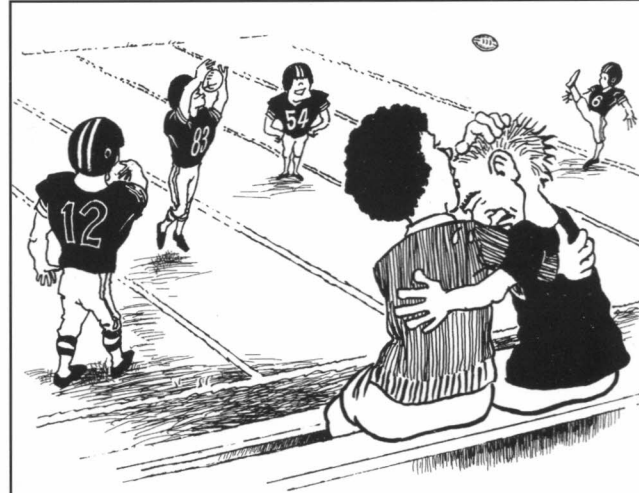


A cryptic crypt tick.

# criterion

(kri tihr ee un)

Picture this: **cry tear on**

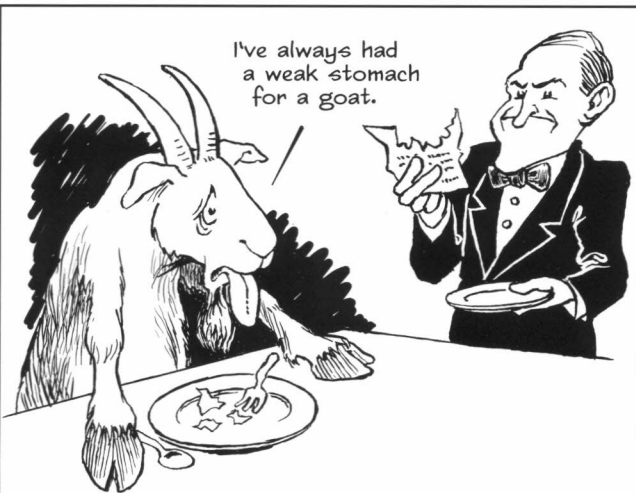


"You didn't meet the **criterion** for the team? Come, cry a **tear on** my shoulder."

# debilitate

(dih bill ih tayt)

Picture this: **the bill it ate**



The **bill it ate** debilitates the billy goat.

# culpable

(kul puh bul)

Picture this: **cool pebble**



Sue's **cool pebble** is missing, and Beth is **culpable**.

## cryptic

mysterious; hidden; secret

- The only reply Mrs. Thomas got from her daughter Jessica when she asked her where she had been was a **cryptic** "Out."
- Sharon got her essay back and was surprised to see that her teacher had written only a **cryptic** comment: "Hmm."
- The historian believed that he had found a **cryptic** message buried in the old text.

## debilitate

weaken; enfeeble

- During very hot weather it's important to drink plenty of water so as not to become **debilitated** as a result of dehydration.
- Diseases **debilitate** many people in Africa who don't have adequate nutrition and lack access to modern medicine.
- Injuries sustained in automobile accidents **debilitate** thousands of people in the United States each year.

## criterion

standard used in judging

- One **criterion** of a good vocabulary-building book is that words are reinforced in the student's mind.
- Many universities include the ability to write clear and correct English as one of their admissions **criteria**.
- Studies show that the most important **criterion** students use in judging the effectiveness of a teacher is his or her knowledge of the subject.

## culpable

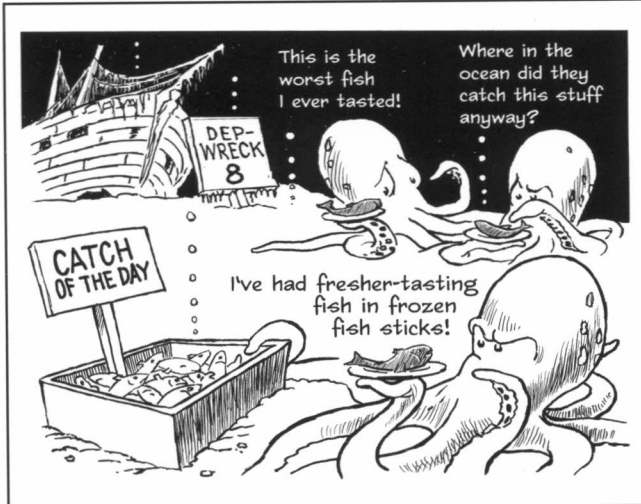
deserving blame

- The police investigation narrowed down the list of suspects to three people, one of whom was considered most likely to be **culpable**.
- Suspects cannot be held unless there is reasonable evidence that they are **culpable**.
- The principal found Jim **culpable** of cheating on the exam and suspended him from school for a week.

# deprecate

(dep rih kayt)

Picture this: **Dep-Wreck 8**



Near **Dep-Wreck 8**, they **deprecate** the "Catch of the Day."

58

# derivative

(dih rih vuh tiv)

Picture this: **dear river**



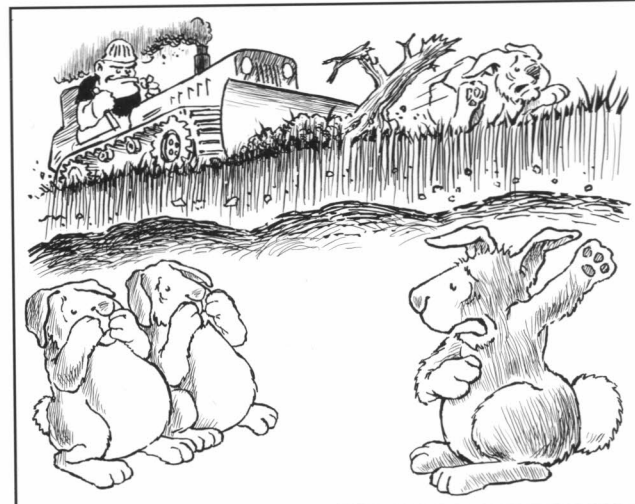
"Dear river, from you all creeks are **derivative!**"

60

# depravity

(dih prahv ih tee)

Picture this: **deep rabbit he**



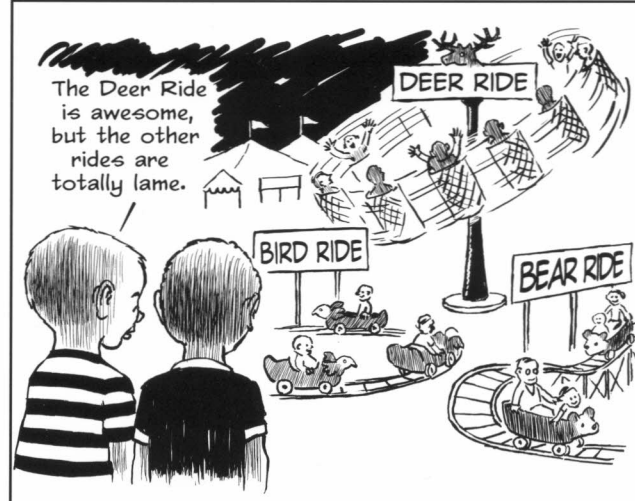
**Deep** in the **rabbit** warren, **he** tells them a tale of **depravity**.

57

# deride

(dih ride)

Picture this: **Deer Ride**



They **deride** all rides except for the **Deer Ride**.

59

## deprecate

express disapproval of; belittle

- Linda enjoyed her creative writing class because her teacher never **deprecated** the stories she wrote, but instead always praised what was good about them.
- Bob Dylan's singing was **deprecated** by many people; nevertheless, he became one of the most famous singers in the history of popular music.
- After the principal **deprecated** the new teacher in front of her class, the students lost their respect for her.

## derivative

unoriginal; derived from another source

- Few works of art are truly original; nearly all are **derivative** in that they use the ideas and styles of earlier works.
- American Impressionism is a **derivative** style; American artists adapted European Impressionism to create a new style.
- Critics agree that the new novel is merely **derivative**, offering nothing new in either style or content.

## depravity

extreme corruption; wickedness

- War often brings out the most extreme forms of **depravity** in human beings, such as the use of torture.
- Many people believe that without civilization humanity would sink into **depravity**.
- The citizens' committee on censorship decided that no form of **depravity** should be portrayed in the newspaper.

## deride

ridicule; make fun of

- Attempts to use radio waves for long-range communication were **derided** by early twentieth-century physicists as impossible.
- Every time Larry tried to diet, his friends **derided** his effort to lose weight as futile.
- Some people **deride** the study of art as a waste of time.

# diligence

(dihl uh juns)

Picture this: **dill gents**

Remember, every pickle in a jar of Dill Gents must be perfectly pickled.



Dill gents pickled with **diligence**.

62

# digression

(di gresh un)

Picture this: **tigress shun**



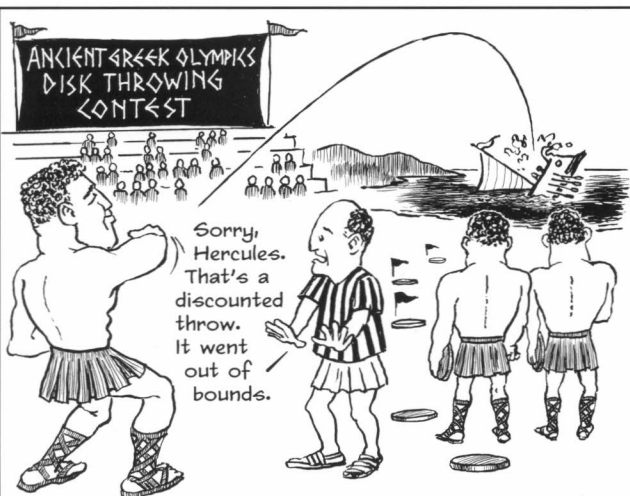
When you make a safari **digression**, there's a **tigress** you should **shun**.

61

# discount

(dis kount)

Picture this: **disc count**



Sorry, Hercules. That's a discounted throw. It went out of bounds.

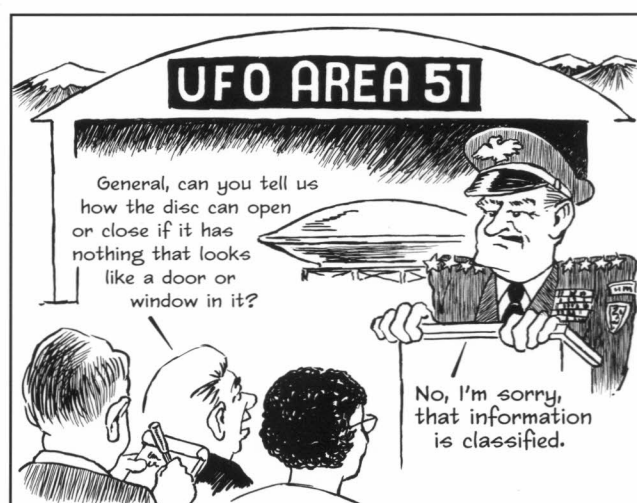
He must **discount** the throw in the **disc count**.

64

# disclose

(dih skloz)

Picture this: **disc close**



General, can you tell us how the disc can open or close if it has nothing that looks like a door or window in it?

No, I'm sorry, that information is classified.

"How does the **disc close**? I cannot **disclose** that information."

63

## diligence

steadiness of effort;  
persistent hard work

- Learning a foreign language requires **diligence** on the part of a student.
- **Diligence** is only one of the requirements for success; another is the application of intelligence.
- Work **diligently** in all your subjects so that you can reach your full potential.

## discount

disregard; dismiss

- Until someone saw him having dinner with a woman in a restaurant, the students **discounted** the rumor that the school's oldest bachelor, Mr. Leonard, was going to be married.
- The report **discounted** the story he was told because it contradicted all the other information he had about the situation.
- People who work for intelligence services such as the CIA must learn what information they should **discount** and which they should analyze carefully.

## digression

wandering away from the subject

- Some students in history class think Mr. Romano's **digressions** are a waste of time, but I enjoy them because I learn interesting facts that aren't in the textbook.
- Avoid **digressions** when you write an essay; teachers expect your writing to be focused and free of irrelevant information.
- The judge instructed the witness to stop **digressing** and stick to the main events in her account of the incident.

## disclose

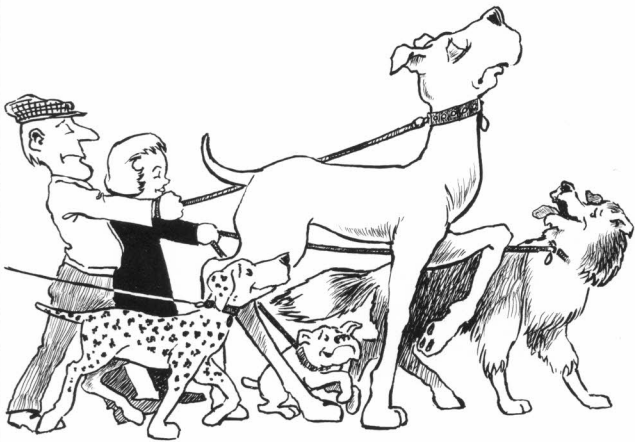
reveal

- For tax purposes, the government requires that anyone earning an income **disclose** its source.
- A journalist can sometimes obtain information from a person if the journalist agrees not to **disclose** the source of that information.
- Aunt Becky has never **disclosed** the name of the man she was going to be married to thirty years ago but who died in a car crash just before the wedding.

disdain

*(dis dayne)*

Picture this: **this Dane**



This Dane has **disdain** for the Collie, the Pug, and the Dalmatian.

66

discriminating

*(dih skrim uh nay ting)*

Picture this: **disc criminal**



A **disc criminal** with **discriminating** taste.

65

disputatious

*(dis pyuh tay shush)*

Picture this: **dispute ate us**



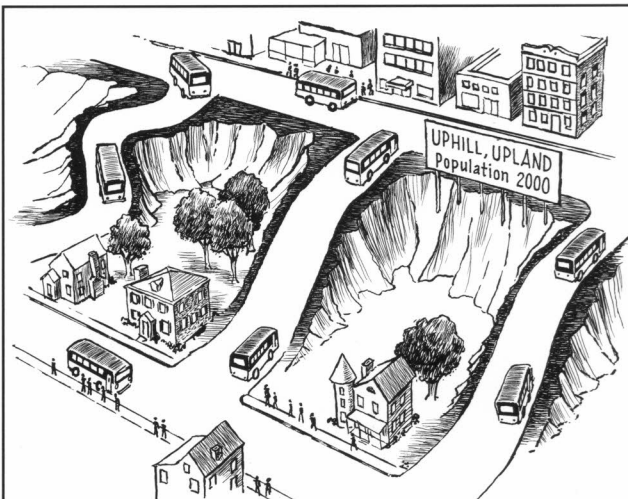
Our **disputatious** dates liked to **dispute** while they **ate** with us.

68

disinclination

*(dis in kluh nay shun)*

Picture this: **this incline nation**



In **this incline nation**, folks have a **disinclination** to walk uphill.

67

## disdain

scorn

- The soldier was treated with **disdain** by his comrades because he fled the battle after the first shot was fired.
- Dishonest individuals are regarded with **disdain** by most people.
- In summarizing what the convicted man had done, the judge made no attempt to hide her **disdain** for a person who would abandon his own children.

## disputatious

argumentative; fond of arguing

- Mary seems naturally **disputatious**; she takes an extreme position on every issue.
- Phil has hardly a **disputatious** bone in his body; he'll agree with practically everything you say.
- The **disputatious** customer disagreed with everything that she was told by the manager.

## discriminating

able to see differences

- A **discriminating** reader, Ms. Hansen chooses books that have been highly praised by respected reviewers.
- Lucy's parents want her to become more **discriminating** in her choice of boyfriends.
- Gail has **discriminating** taste in chocolate; she can tell with one bite if a piece of chocolate is high quality.

## disinclination

a lack of inclination; reluctance

- Mr. Tanner's son Ike told his father that he had a **disinclination** to spend a beautiful Saturday afternoon mowing the lawn. His father's reply was "That's fine, as long as you understand that I will then have a **disinclination** to pay your allowance this week."
- Arthur, a slightly built young man, has a **disinclination** to participate in sports involving physical contact.
- I have a **disinclination** to help you because you didn't help me when I was having difficulties.

divergent

(dih vur junt)

Picture this: **Di** verge gent



Di on the **verge** of going with a **gent** on a **divergent** path.

70

dissent

(dih sent)

Picture this: **this** scent



This **scent** causes him to **dissent**.

69

dogmatic

(dawg mat ik)

Picture this: **dog** mat tick

We ticks are the superior species, so get ready for an **all-out attack** when fido gets back!



**Dogmatic** views from a **dog** mat tick.

72

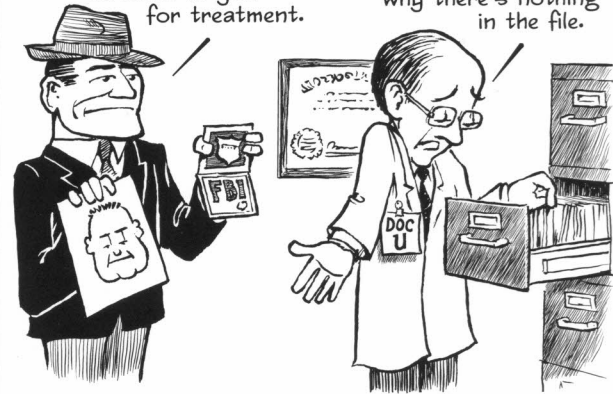
document

(dok yuh ment)

Picture this: **Doc U** meant

This man was stabbed in a fight, and we think he came to you for treatment.

I *always* document such cases. I don't know why there's nothing in the file.



**Doc U** meant to **document** the case.

71

## divergent

varying; going in different directions from the same point

- Sandra and Peter took **divergent** approaches to solving the equation, but both arrived at the correct answer.
- Paul and Sylvester were good friends in high school, but their lives took **divergent** paths after high school: Paul enlisted in the Navy and sails around the world, while Sylvester has settled down in our hometown.
- It's often more interesting to listen to a discussion between experts with **divergent** views than to a discussion in which similar views are expressed.

## dogmatic

opinionated; arbitrary

- A good book reviewer is flexible and not **dogmatic** in his or her views about what makes a book worthwhile.
- A good scientist can't be **dogmatic** in evaluating evidence.
- One goal of education is to make people less **dogmatic** and more open to different viewpoints.

## dissent

disagree

- No one **dissented**, so the motion was passed unanimously.
- Courage is often required for a person to **dissent** from the opinion of the majority.
- Justice Smith wrote the **dissenting** opinion for the minority.

## document

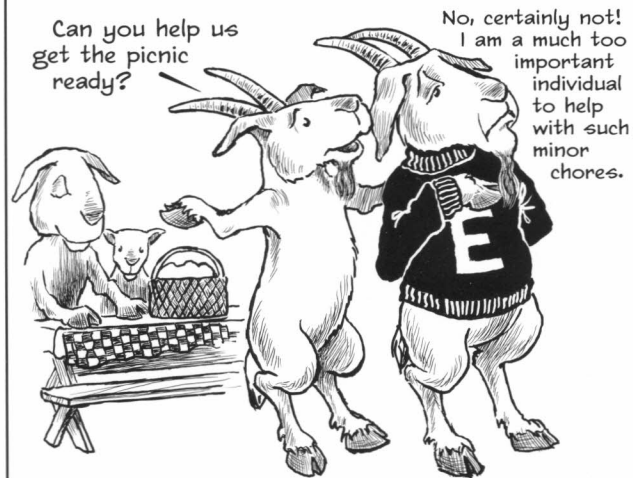
provide written evidence

- The job of a biographer is made easier if the subject has **documented** his or her life.
- The historical society has started a project to **document** the history of our town.
- Dad likes to **document** our summer vacation trips by recording highlights with his video camera.

# egotism

(ee go tiz um)

Picture this: **E** goat is him



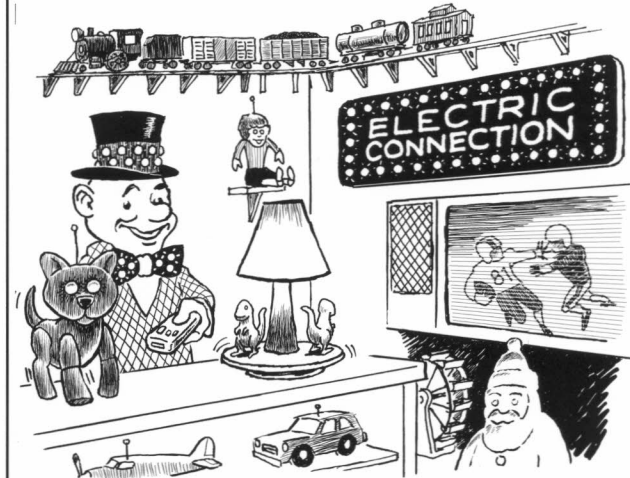
The main concern of **E** goat is himself.  
What egotism!

74

# eclectic

(ih klek tik)

Picture this: **e**lectric



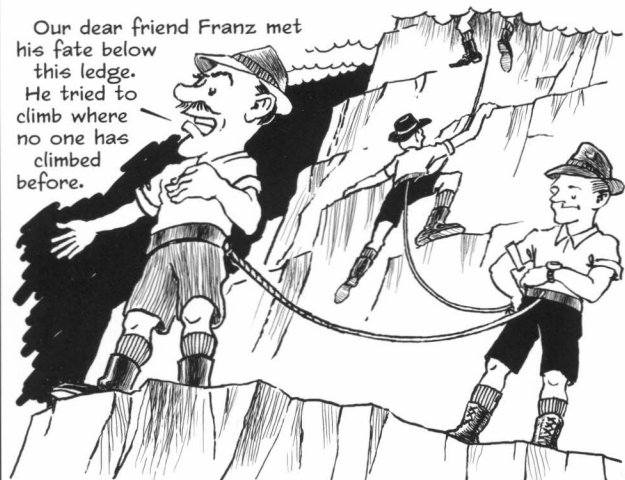
An **e**clectic collection at Electric Connection.

73

# elegy

(el uh jee)

Picture this: **a** ledge **h**e



On a ledge, he delivers an elegy.

76

# elated

(ee lay ted)

Picture this: **e**el ate **T**ed



Elated swimmers swam as the eel ate Ted.

75

## egotism

excessive self-importance; conceit

- A good definition of growing up is losing your **egotism** and becoming more concerned about the needs of other people.
- It could be hard to avoid **egotism** if you get straight As, have the lead in the school play, received a perfect score on the SAT, and have been selected for the all-state basketball team.
- Some people are so **egotistical** that they hardly listen to what other people say, preferring instead to talk almost constantly.

## elegy

poem or song expressing grief

- Deeply saddened by the death of his young son, the poet Ben Johnson wrote an **elegy** to him.
- P. B. Shelley's poem "Adonais" is an **elegy** mourning the death of John Keats at the age of twenty-five.
- One of the great **elegies** in American literature is Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs in the Dooryard Bloom'd," a moving poem for President Abraham Lincoln.

## eclectic

composed of elements drawn from diverse sources

- Lionel has an **eclectic** collection of model trains from all over the world.
- The works of the writer Isaac Asimov demonstrate that he had remarkably **eclectic** interests; they cover practically every subject imaginable, from Shakespeare to nuclear physics.
- Dr. McAllister owns an **eclectic** collection of art from all over the world.

## elated

overjoyed; in high spirits

- The new author was **elated** to see her first book in print.
- I was **elated** when my son phoned me to say that his wife had delivered a healthy baby girl.
- The members of our debating team were **elated** when they won the state high school debating championship.

# embellish

(em bel ish)

Picture this: **Em bell**



Em's bell is embellished with relish.

78

# elusive

(ih loo ziv)

Picture this: a loose sieve



A loose sieve being elusive.

77

# enmity

(en mih tee)

Picture this: **N mitt he**



The **N mitt he** wears causes enmity.

80

# emulate

(em yuh layt)

Picture this: **Em you're late**



"Em, you're late! Must you emulate girls who make their dates wait?"

79

## embellish

adorn; ornament; add fictitious detail

- Sarah **embellished** her living room with vases she had collected in her travels all over the world.
- According to a recent survey, nearly half of all job applicants admit to **embellishing** their qualifications.
- A journalist should not **embellish** a story to make it more interesting to the reader.

## enmity

ill will; hatred

- A feud within a family sometimes causes greater **enmity** than one between people who aren't related.
- The U.S. Civil War caused great **enmity** between North and South that persists in some forms to this day.
- No **enmity** exists between the two rivals for the middleweight boxing championship, but each boxer does have a healthy respect for the skills of the other.

## elusive

hard to grasp; tending to evade capture

- My brother, an enthusiastic surfer, goes out to the ocean with his board every weekend in search of the **elusive** "perfect wave."
- Evidence for the existence of intelligent life outside of Earth has proved **elusive**.
- "Alley Cat" Al is an **elusive** fellow; first he escaped from police custody, then he eluded a statewide manhunt.

## emulate

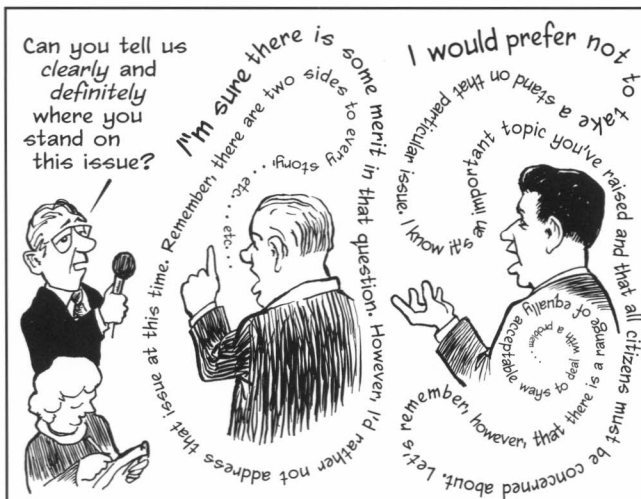
imitate; strive to equal or excel

- In Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare," the reader is asked to **emulate** the tortoise; the lesson is, "Slow and steady wins the race."
- Jim's mother wanted her son to **emulate** his father Jumbo Jim in all but one area—his tendency to overeat.
- After Sharon finishes her medical training, she plans to **emulate** her father and become a general practitioner in a rural area.

# equivocal

(ih kwiv uh kul)

Picture this: **equally vocal**

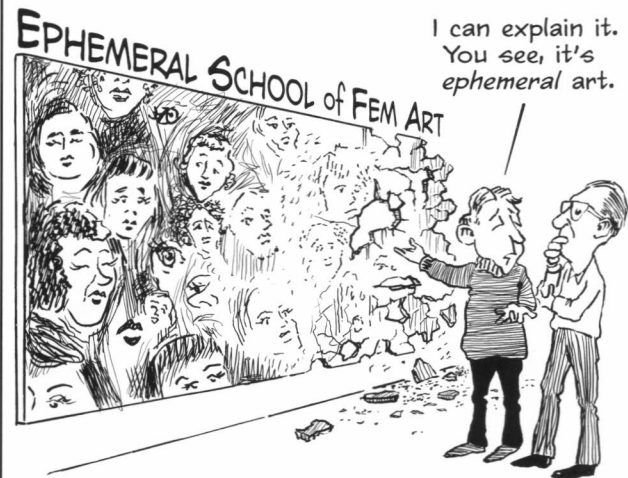


The **equivocal** candidates are **equally vocal**.

# ephemeral

(ih fem ur ul)

Picture this: **a fem mural**



A fem mural that's **ephemeral**.

# evanescent

(ev uh nes unt)

Picture this: **even a scent**

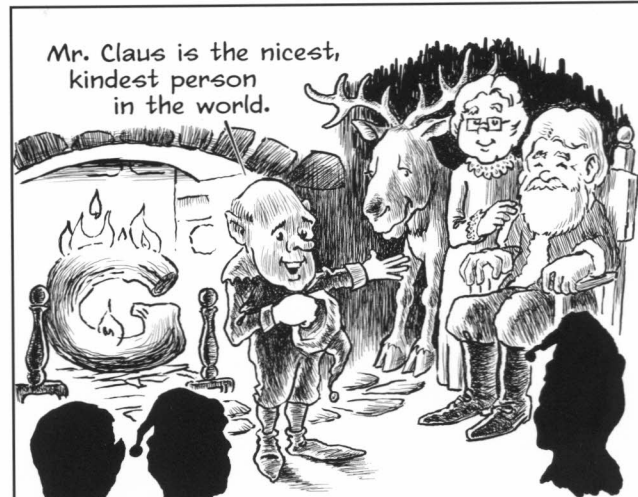


Even a scent of **Evanescent** will drive men crazy.

# eulogy

(yoo luh jee)

Picture this: **Yule Log G**



By a hearth with the glowing **Yule Log G** he delivers a glowing **eulogy**.

## equivocal

unclear in meaning;  
intentionally misleading

- Debaters normally can't take an **equivocal** position if they want to win; they must take a definite position either for or against the motion proposed.
- The judge demanded that the witness give a definite "yes" or "no" answer, but received only an **equivocal** "maybe."
- Politicians sometimes give **equivocal** responses to questions in order to avoid having their position on an issue "pinned down."

## evanescent

fleeting; vanishing

- Thoughts are often **evanescent**, coming into the mind for an instant and then vanishing as quickly as they came.
- Tim joined a monastery because he believes that worldly happiness is **evanescent**, whereas spiritual happiness is eternal.
- The artist is trying to capture the **evanescent** play of sunlight on the surface of the lake.

## ephemeral

short-lived; fleeting

- Most of the writing that appears in newspapers is **ephemeral**.
- In comparison to the billions of years that the universe has existed, the life of each living thing seems **ephemeral**.
- Much slang is **ephemeral**, but some words—such as *phony*—become part of standard English.

## eulogy

expression of praise

- At the funeral of her beloved grandmother, Donna read a **eulogy** she had written to her.
- Jim gave what might well be the shortest **eulogy** in history at his friend's funeral: "He was a pretty cool dude."
- This biography of Abraham Lincoln isn't merely a **eulogy** to him; it examines his weaknesses as well as the qualities that made him a great president.

exemplary

(ig zem pluh ree)

Picture this: exempt Larry



"Let's exempt Larry from exams since he's got exemplary grades."

86

exalt

(ig zawlt)

Picture this: X Salt



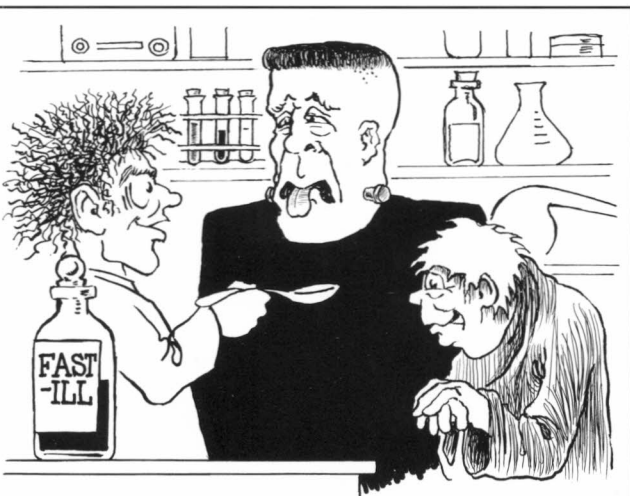
X Salt is exalted to Superior Salt Status.

85

facilitate

(fuh sil ih tayt)

Picture this: "Fast-III" it ate



"Fast-III" it ate to facilitate their illness experiment.

88

exuberance

(ig zoo bur uns)

Picture this: X, you bear ants



"X, you bear ants!" he says with exuberance.

87

## exemplary

serving as a model; outstanding

- Although I don't agree with the book's argument, I admit that it's written in an **exemplary** manner.
- The town council voted to recognize Ms. Miller's thirty years of **exemplary** service as town clerk with a special ceremony.
- My English teacher said that my essay was **exemplary** and that he would read it to the class to illustrate the qualities of a good essay.

## facilitate

help bring about; make less difficult

- To **facilitate** the investigation into its hiring practices, the company made its personnel records available to government officials.
- The governor's order that nonessential vehicles stay off the roads **facilitated** the movement of relief supplies into the flooded area.
- The dictator refused to **facilitate** UN inspections of his country's nuclear weapons.

## exalt

raise in rank or dignity; praise

- The combat hero was **exalted** in his hometown when he returned home from the war.
- Having been made Bishop at the age of forty, Father Watson believed he would one day reach the **exalted** position of Cardinal.
- When the College of Cardinals selects a Pope, he is **exalted** above all other Roman Catholics.

## exuberance

joyful enthusiasm; overflowing abundance

- Pat could hardly contain her **exuberance** after she saw her score on the SAT; it meant she would be accepted at the college she always wanted to attend.
- When Ted finally got the chance to play in a college football game after spending three years as backup quarterback, he played with so much **exuberance** that he inspired his team to a come-from-behind victory.
- The book reviewer hailed the new novel as "celebrating the vitality, **exuberance**, and optimism of the American people."

# fanaticism

(*fuh nat ih siz um*)

Picture this: **fanatic is Em**



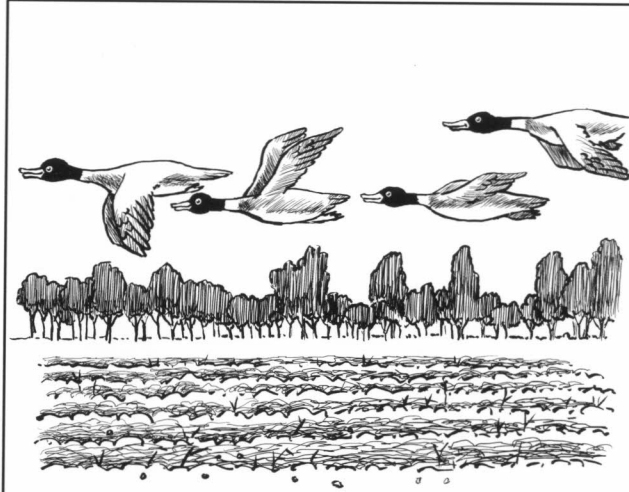
What a **fanatic** is Em!  
Her **fanaticism** knows no bounds.

90

# fallow

(*fal oh*)

Picture this: **fowl low**



Fowl fly **low** over a **fallow** field.

89

# feasible

(*fee zuh bul*)

Picture this: **fees a bull**



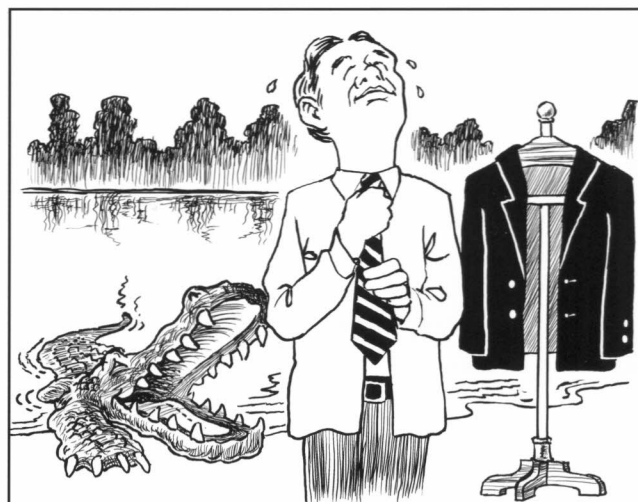
It's not **feasible** to pay **fees** to a **bull**.

92

# fastidious

(*fa stid ee us*)

Picture this: **fast hideous**



A **fastidious** dresser about to come to a **fast**, **hideous** end.

91

## fanaticism

excessive enthusiasm; extreme devotion to a belief or cause

- Moderates believe that **fanaticism** is dangerous because it divides people into opposing, often hostile, groups.
- Miranda's **fanaticism** in imitating the dress of her favorite pop singer is beginning to worry her parents.
- Uncle Jim is a **fanatical** follower of the Chicago Cubs baseball team; he attends nearly every game, even away games.

## feasible

practical; possible

- The outlawing of alcoholic beverages during Prohibition proved not to be **feasible**, and thus the Twenty-First Amendment to the Constitution was approved, repealing the Eighteenth Amendment, which had banned such beverages.
- The proposal to colonize Mars is not **feasible** because it does not include realistic plans for ensuring that the people who settle there would be able to survive in the event supplies from Earth were disrupted.
- The plan to guarantee every person a minimum yearly income of \$30,000 is not politically **feasible**.

## fallow

plowed but not sowed; uncultivated

- The field has lain **fallow** for so many years that people are beginning to wonder if its owner is planning to sell it to property developers.
- On the first day of class, Professor Williams looked out at the faces of the freshmen in his literature class, and thought, "The minds of these students are like **fallow** fields waiting for me to plant in them the seeds of knowledge."
- Mr. Jones decided to let ten acres of his farmland lie **fallow** this year.

## fastidious

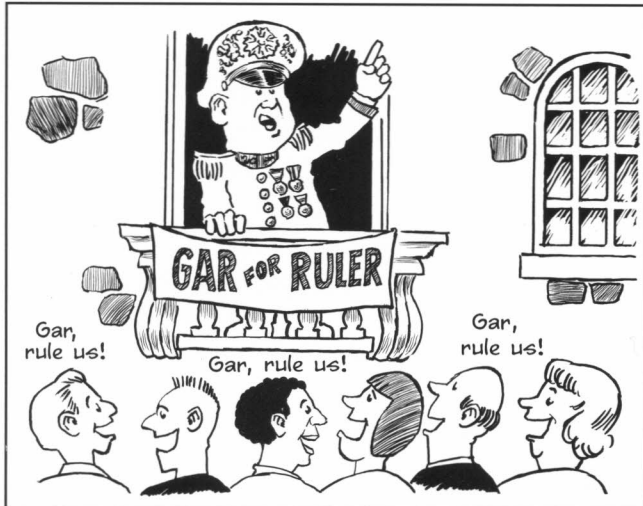
difficult to please; really careful

- The **fastidious** editor spent an hour considering the placement of a single comma.
- John is a very unusual teenager—he's **fastidious** in keeping his room neat.
- A **fastidious** housekeeper, Doris vacuums the living room carpet daily.

**garrulous**

*(gar uh lus)*

Picture this: **Gar rule us**



“Gar, rule us!”  
shouts the garrulous crowd.

94

**furtive**

*(fir tiv)*

Picture this: **fir tiff**



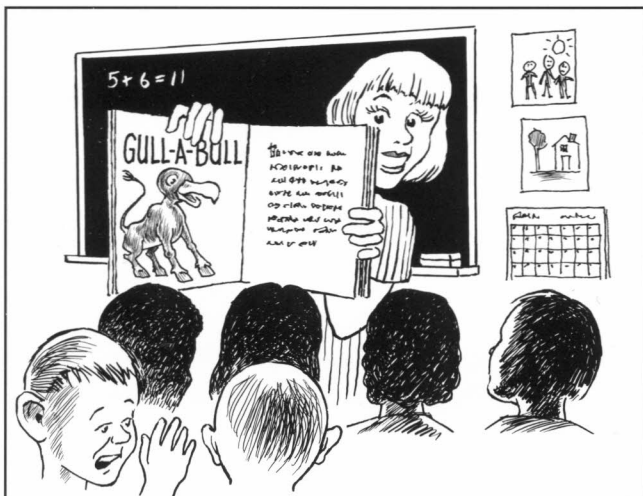
A fir tiff is a furtive affair.

93

**gullible**

*(gul uh bul)*

Picture this: **gull-a-bull**



“If you believe in the gull-a-bull,  
you must be gullible!”

96

**gregarious**

*(gri gar ee us)*

Picture this: **Greg Arius**



Greg Arius and his gregarious ways.

95

## garrulous

talkative; wordy

- The psychologist is good at encouraging reserved individuals to open up and talk about their problems; sometimes, in fact, they become so **garrulous** that she has trouble getting a word in herself.
- The normally **garrulous** actress was speechless when it was announced that she had won the Academy Award for best actress.
- I ran into an old friend who is so **garrulous** that I missed my dentist appointment listening to her updates on what our mutual friends have been doing.

## gullible

easily deceived

- The new teacher was so **gullible** that she fell for one of the oldest excuses in the book: “Sorry, ma’am, I can’t hand in my homework on time because my dog chewed it up.”
- The saying, “Never give a sucker an even break,” means that one should not hesitate to take advantage of someone who is **gullible**.
- John is definitely **gullible**: He believes the e-mail message he received saying that he was the lucky winner of a villa in France is genuine.

## furtive

sneaky; secretive

- During the SAT test last week, I saw a student take a **furtive** glance at an electronic dictionary he had apparently snuck into the test center.
- The man’s **furtive** behavior in the department store attracted the attention of the security guards, who suspected that he was planning to shoplift.
- The children crept **furtively** down the stairs on Christmas Eve, hoping to see their presents and perhaps even catch a glimpse of Santa Claus.

## gregarious

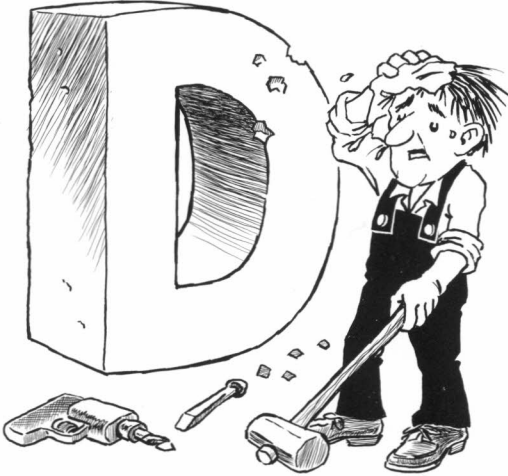
sociable

- Although human beings seem to be a generally **gregarious** species, some individuals prefer solitude.
- Some studies suggest that girls tend to be more **gregarious** than boys.
- Oliver is generally **gregarious**, but sometimes he enjoys taking some time to be alone and reflect on things.

hardy

(har dee)

Picture this: **hard D**



"Gee, this is a **hard D** to crack—talk about **hardy!**"

98

hamper

(ham pur)

Picture this: **hamper**



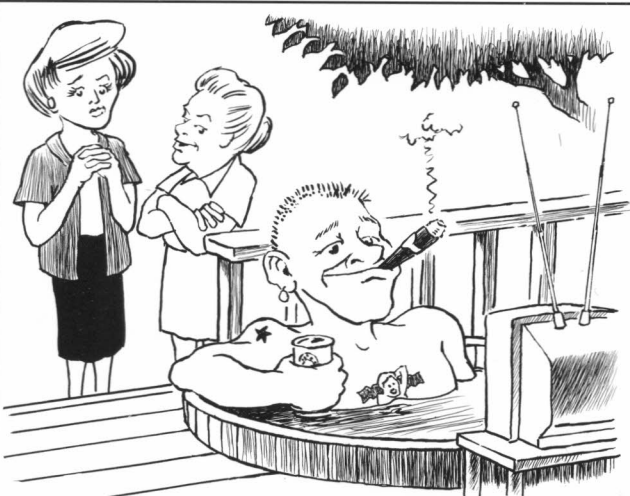
A dirty **hamper** in the camper will **hamper** their holiday plans.

97

hedonist

(hed n ist)

Picture this: **heed Don is**



"Take **heed!** **Don** is a **hedonist!**"

100

haughtiness

(haw tee ness)

Picture this: **haw, teen S**



"Haw, haw, haw—**teen S** displays such **haughtiness!**"

99

## hardy

strong; sturdy

- The first European settlers in America had to be **hardy** to survive the harsh winters.
- A football running back must be **hardy** enough to take repeated poundings from opposing defenders.
- Health care workers are concerned about **hardy** strains of bacteria that are evolving a resistance to antibiotics.

## hedonist

one who believes that pleasure is the sole aim in life

- As a young man, Charles was a **hedonist**, but as he grew older he became more interested in spiritual matters.
- “Eat, drink, and be merry” is a pretty good summary of a **hedonist’s** philosophy.
- Saint Augustine abandoned the **hedonistic** pursuits of his youth to pursue the spiritual life.

## hamper

obstruct; make more difficult

- My attempts to lose weight are **hampered** by the fact that my wife is an excellent cook.
- Mandy’s performance on the math test was **hampered** because her attention was focused on the handsome new student sitting next to her.
- Coast Guard vessels trying to reach the sinking ocean liner were **hampered** by high seas in the area.

## haughtiness

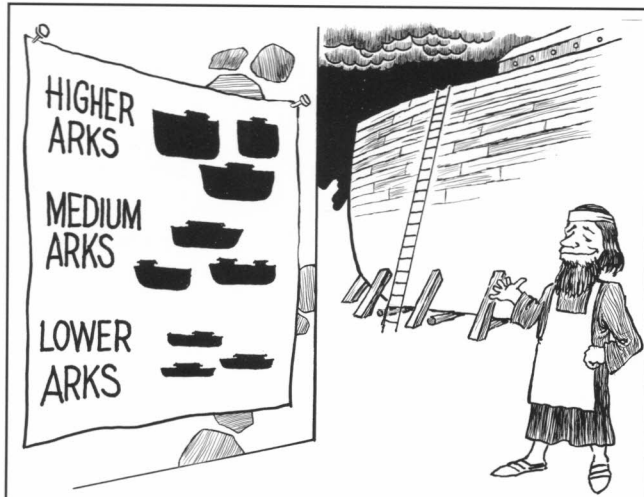
pride; arrogance

- The headwaiter in the fancy French restaurant is so **haughty** you would think that he was not a waiter but America’s leading French cook.
- Tired of the **haughtiness** of their overbearing boss, the employees decided to complain about her to the CEO of the company.
- People generally expect royalty to behave with considerable **haughtiness**.

# hierarchy

(hi uh rar key)

Picture this: **higher ark he**



A **higher ark he** built in the **hierarchy** of arks.

102

# heresy

(hair uh see)

Picture this: **Hair-a-Sea**



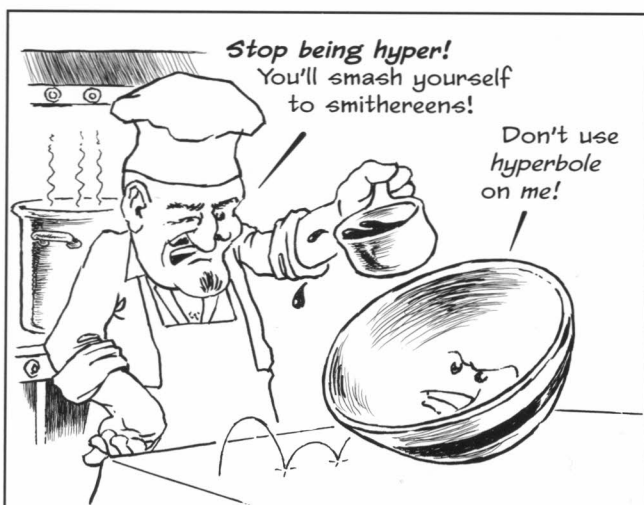
In the little village of **Hair-a-Sea**, it's **heresy** not to have hair.

101

# hyperbole

(hi pur buh lee)

Picture this: **hyper bowl**



Using **hyperbole** on a **hyper bowl**.

104

# homogeneous

(ho mo jean ee us)

Picture this: **home O genius**



"O, you're a **home O genius**! I just love your **homogeneous O homes**."

103

## hierarchy

arrangement by rank or standing

- Some people believe that life is organized as a **hierarchy**, with plants at the bottom, animals in the middle, and human beings at the top.
- As Sally advanced in her career, moving steadily up the company **hierarchy**, she found that many of her colleagues envied her success.
- Every country has a social **hierarchy** based on the status possessed by each individual.

## hyperbole

exaggeration; overstatement

- “I agree with you when you say that I’m very pretty,” Julie said to her boyfriend. “However, I think you’re using a bit of **hyperbole** when you say I’m the prettiest girl in the *world*.”
- Writers sometimes use **hyperbole** to create “larger-than-life” characters.
- Advertisements often use **hyperbole** to persuade people to buy products: “This revolutionary new product will change your life forever.”

## heresy

opinion contrary to popular belief

- The view that organized sports are a waste of time probably would be regarded as **heresy** by a majority of Americans.
- A Ford buyer his entire life, Dad said he felt like he was committing **heresy** when he bought a Toyota last year.
- The research suggesting that students who study at home with proper supervision perform better academically than students who attend school was regarded as **heresy** by the teachers’ union.

## homogeneous

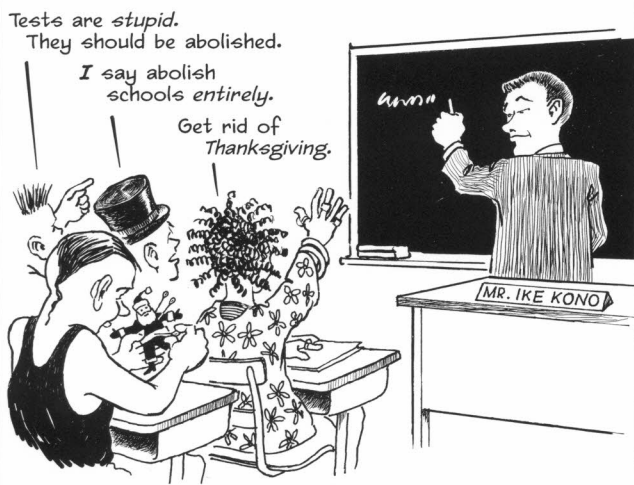
composed of identical parts

- A world with a **homogeneous** population would be a pretty boring place.
- **Homogeneous** grouping of students allows teachers to tailor their lessons for different ability groups.
- In its early history, the United States was a relatively **homogenous** society, but as immigrants arrived from many parts of the world, the population grew more varied.

# iconoclastic

(i kon uh klas tic)

Picture this: **Ike Kono's class**



Iconoclastic students in Ike Kono's class.

106

# hypocritical

(hip uh krit ih kul)

Picture this: **hippo critical**



A **hippo**, **critical** of others, being **hypocritical**.

105

# impeccable

(im pek uh bul)

Picture this: **imp peck a bull**



An **imp** tries to peck a **bull** with **impeccable** manners.

108

# immutable

(ih myoo tuh bul)

Picture this: **a mute table**



An **immutable** fact: There's no talking at a **mute table**.

107

## iconoclastic

attacking cherished traditions

- During the 1960s, many **iconoclastic** young people questioned the accepted beliefs and values of the time.
- The young art critic established her reputation by writing **iconoclastic** articles ridiculing the conservative views of other critics.
- Some **iconoclasts** in the field of education believe that the present education system should be replaced with a new one designed to meet the needs of modern society.

## impeccable

faultless; having no flaws

- Although the work of the research group was **impeccable**, they were unable to identify the source of the problem.
- My fourth grade teacher insisted on **impeccable** penmanship from every student.
- The actress made sure she was dressed **impeccably** for the Academy Awards ceremonies because she knew that reporters would be out in full force, observing every detail of her appearance.

## hypocritical

pretending to be virtuous; deceiving

- Paula believes that her parents are being **hypocritical** in saying that stealing is wrong in view of the fact that they take a towel from every hotel they stay in when they go on vacation.
- The bumper sticker on the vehicle in front of me telling people to “Save the environment!” could be regarded as **hypocritical**, considering that it’s on a gas-guzzling SUV spewing out a lot of pollutants that harm the environment.
- Doris thought that her mother was being **hypocritical** in saying that she shouldn’t be married at the age of nineteen, considering that her mother was married at seventeen.

## immutable

unchangeable

- Most religions teach **immutable** values for their followers to live by.
- Science operates on the assumption that there exist laws of nature that are **immutable**.
- According to the theory of evolution, each species of living thing is not **immutablely** fixed in its nature, but rather in a continual process of change as it adapts to its environment.

incite

(in site)

Picture this: **in sight**



"We have **in sight** the guy who's trying to **incite** a riot."

110

impudence

(im pyuh duns)

Picture this: **imp you dance**



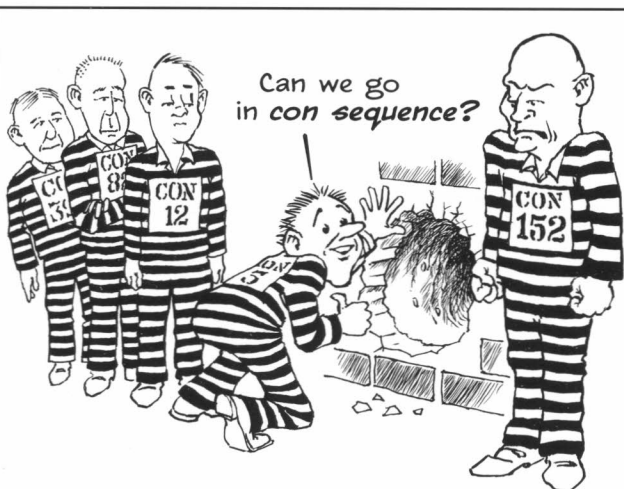
"**Imp**, you dance? Your **impudence** must be punished!"

109

inconsequential

(in kon sih kwen shul)

Picture this: **in con sequence shall**



"It's **inconsequential** how we go, but **in con sequence shall** we go if you insist!"

112

incongruous

(in kong groo us)

Picture this: **in Congress**



**Incongruous** behavior in Congress.

111

## incite

arouse to action

- **Inciting** a riot is a criminal offense because it endangers public safety.
- The seaman was court-martialed for **inciting** mutiny on board the ship.
- The rebels captured a government television station and used it to make broadcasts **inciting** revolution.

## inconsequential

insignificant; unimportant

- “The spelling errors in my essay are **inconsequential** because they don’t affect the meaning,” Susie said to her English teacher.
- Driving home from the supermarket I was involved in an accident; fortunately, however, the damage was **inconsequential**—just a minor dent in the rear bumper.
- Richard believes so strongly that the U.S. national debt should be eliminated that he donated \$1,000 to the Treasury Department; his donation had an **inconsequential** effect on the debt, but it made him feel a little better.

## impudence

offensive boldness

- The famous surgeon became angry with the young doctor for having the **impudence** to question his judgment in the case.
- The dictator punished his adviser for his **impudence** in suggesting that more power should be given to the people.
- The teacher ignored the **impudent** comment, knowing that responding to it would just give the student who made it the attention he was seeking.

## incongruous

not fitting; absurd

- That house built in the design of a ski lodge looks **incongruous** out here in the desert.
- It seems **incongruous** that those beautiful paintings are exhibited in a shoddy, filthy gallery.
- The rattan furniture that looked so good in my house in Florida looks **incongruous** in my new house in Minnesota.

induce

(in doos)

Picture this: **in deuce**



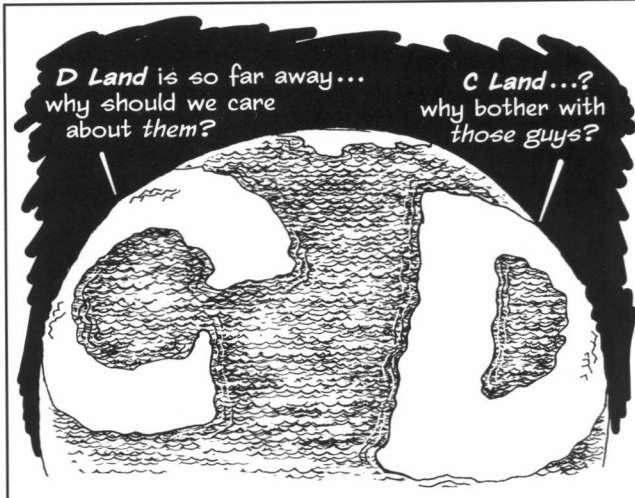
Carved **in the deuce** was a noose to **induce** fear in Bruce.

114

indifferent

(in dif ur unt)

Picture this: **in different**



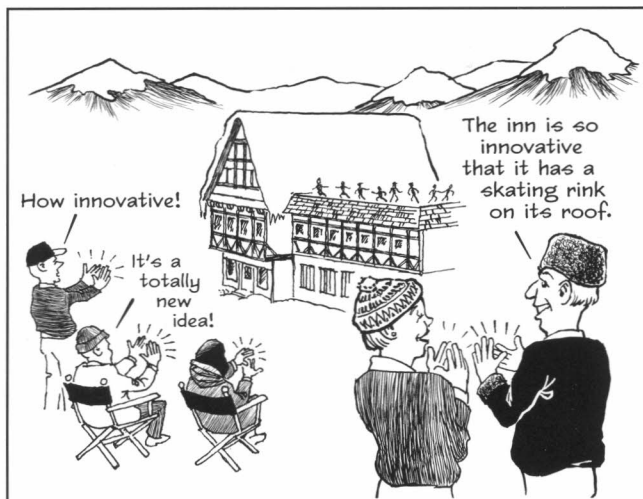
People **in different** lands being **indifferent** to each other.

113

innovation

(in uh vay shun)

Picture this: **inn ovation**



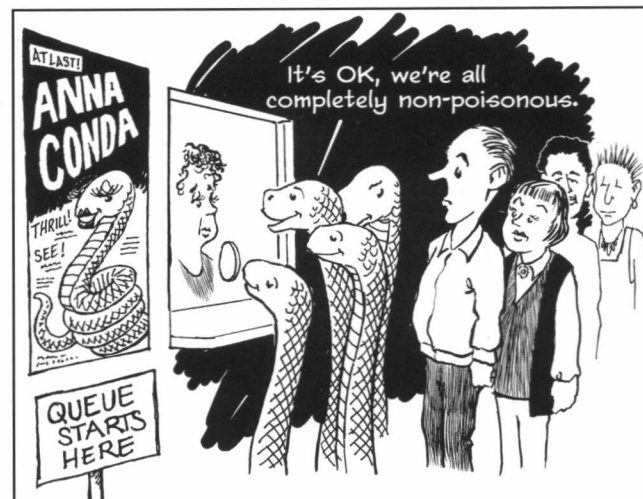
A real **inn ovation** for this inn's **innovation**.

116

innocuous

(ih nok yoo us)

Picture this: **in a queue us**



**In a queue, us** and some **innocuous** snakes.

115

## induce

persuade; bring about

- When he was eight years old, nothing could **induce** Bruce to go near a girl; however, now that he's nineteen, he can't stay away from them.
- Oliver used many strategies to **induce** Gail to marry him, including sending her a present every day.
- A total vegetarian all his life, nothing could **induce** Jason to eat a piece of meat.

## innovation

change; introduction of something new

- The space shuttle was an **innovation** in space flight; however, some experts now believe that a return to older types of spacecraft is advisable because of the problems the shuttle has had.
- One of the great recent **innovations** in communications is twitter.
- Ms. Chambliss won this year's teacher-of-the-year award for her **innovative** and effective approaches to conducting lessons.

## indifferent

unmoved; unconcerned by; mediocre

- Bill is the kind of person who is **indifferent** to his surroundings; he doesn't seem to notice whether he's walking in a beautiful forest or the ugliest section of the city.
- Tired of his son's **indifferent** attitude toward schoolwork, Mr. Kilmer threatened to make him stay home all weekend to catch up with his assignments.
- The usually excellent actor gave an **indifferent** performance in the new play.

## innocuous

harmless; unlikely to provoke strong emotion

- King, my family's German Shepherd, looks ferocious, but I assure you that he's actually **innocuous**.
- Don's illness seemed **innocuous** at first, but it steadily became worse until his life was in danger.
- The fumes might appear **innocuous**—they smell pleasant enough—however, prolonged exposure to them will almost certainly harm your health.

# integrity

(in teg rih tee)

Picture this: **in tea gritty**



"In . . . tea . . . gritty stuff.  
She has no **integrity!**"

118

# intrepid

(in trep id)

Picture this: **in trip heed**



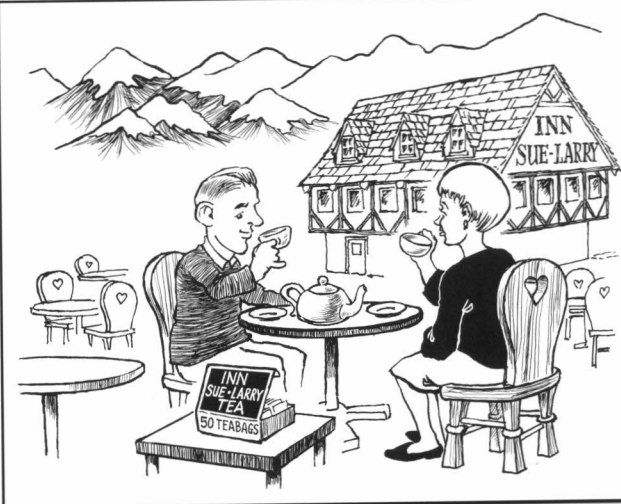
Even the most **intrepid** explorer should,  
**in his trip, heed** warnings.

120

# insularity

(in suh lar ih tee)

Picture this: **Inn Sue-Larry Tea**



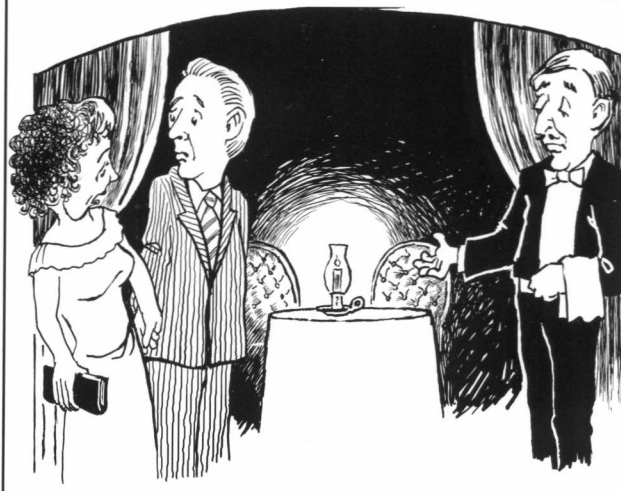
Sue and Larry live in **insularity**  
drinking **Inn Sue-Larry Tea**.

117

# intimidate

(in tim ih dayt)

Picture this: **intimate date**



An **intimate date** tends to **intimidate** her.

119

## integrity

uprightness; wholeness

- The community expects schoolteachers to be individuals of **integrity** whom young people can respect.
- Amber is a person of **integrity**; she could have kept the \$10,000 in the wallet that she found and no one would have been the wiser; instead, she returned the wallet and the money to their rightful owner.
- The bank clerk was believed to be a person of **integrity**—until it was discovered that she had withdrawn \$300,000 from a customer's account and left town during the night.

## intrepid

fearless

- An **intrepid** investor, Mr. Wilcox regularly puts a large part of his savings into high-risk stocks.
- Only a few **intrepid** climbers have dared to scale the sheer wall of Mt. Doom.
- Mary is **intrepid** in pursuing her dream of becoming a published writer; despite having received hundreds of rejections, she submits a new story every week.

## insularity

narrow-mindedness; isolation

- The **insularity** of China during much of its history caused many people in that country to be suspicious of foreigners.
- These native people live an **insular** existence in their remote mountain village.
- Europeans sometimes accuse Americans of **insularity**; they say Americans tend to regard events occurring beyond the borders of their country as having little relevance to them.

## intimidate

frighten; coerce or inhibit by threats

- Don't let the difficult vocabulary on the SAT **intimidate** you; if you study systematically, you can learn most of the words likely to appear on the test.
- The president deployed the Seventh Fleet to **intimidate** the potentially aggressive nation.
- The Maori warriors of New Zealand do a war dance called the haka to **intimidate** their enemies.

jocular

(jok yuh lur)

Picture this: jock caller



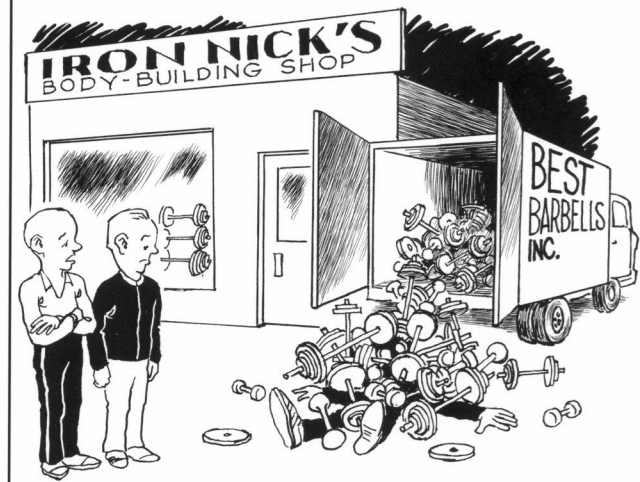
A jock caller says something jocular.

122

ironic

(eye ron ik)

Picture this: Iron Nick



"It's ironic that Iron Nick was flattened by a load of barbells."

121

linger

(ling gur)

Picture this: Lynn Gere



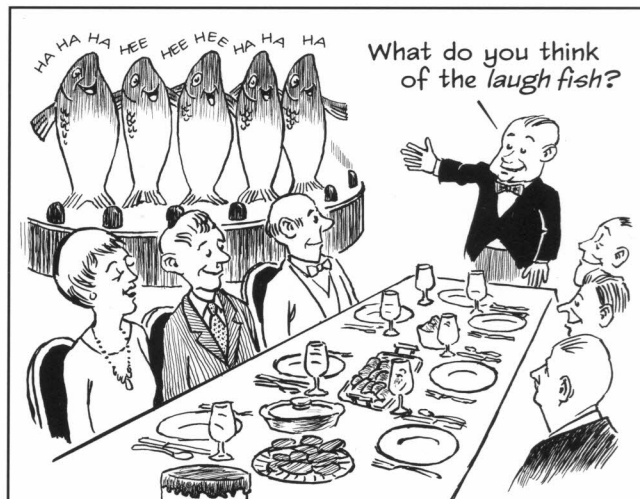
"Lynn Gere loves to linger here."

124

lavish

(lav ish)

Picture this: laugh fish



Laugh fish serenade them at a lavish feast.

123

## jocular

said or done in jest

- The young diplomat closed his tribute to the outgoing ambassador with what he intended to be a **jocular** remark about the ambassador's love of food; the ambassador, however, saw it as an insult.
- Tim's continual **jocular** comments were starting to annoy Sue: "Can't you ever be serious?" she asked.
- We were surprised to see our usually serious math teacher in a **jocular** mood, cracking jokes a-mile-a-minute.

## linger

loiter or dawdle; continue or persist

- Most of the guests left the party at midnight, but Robin and Gwen **lingered** into morning, talking about their different philosophies of life.
- After the funeral, the old woman **lingered** a while at her husband's grave, recalling their long life together.
- The last cold I had **lingered** for so long I thought that I'd have it for the rest of my life.

## ironic

unexpected and contrary  
in outcome

- It was an **ironic** twist of fate for the greatest swimmer in Olympic history—drowning in a swimming pool.
- Isn't it **ironic** that it was the worst student in the English class who later became a distinguished novelist?
- It's **ironic** that Betty, a tireless campaigner against drunk driving, was killed in a car crash caused by a drunk driver.

## lavish

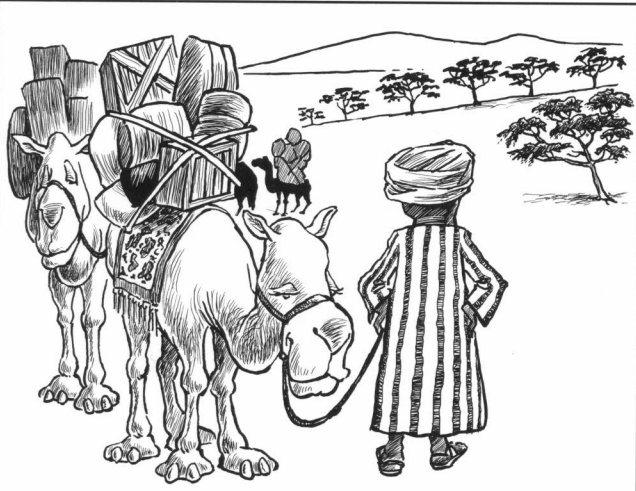
extravagant; wasteful

- When my company makes a million dollars, I'll invite all my employees to a **lavish** dinner to celebrate.
- The young couple regret their **lavish** spending on their honeymoon trip; now they don't have enough money for a down payment on the house they want to buy.
- The salesman entertained his clients **lavishly**, hoping to close the big deal with them.

mercenary

(mur suh ner ee)

Picture this: myrrh scenery



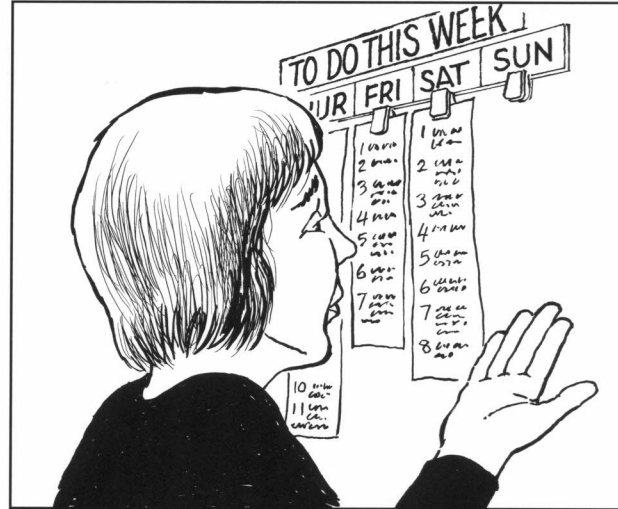
A mercenary Moor stops to admire the myrrh scenery.

126

listless

(list lis)

Picture this: list-less



Lisa is listless because she's "list-less."

125

mitigate

(mit ih gayt)

Picture this: mitt a gate



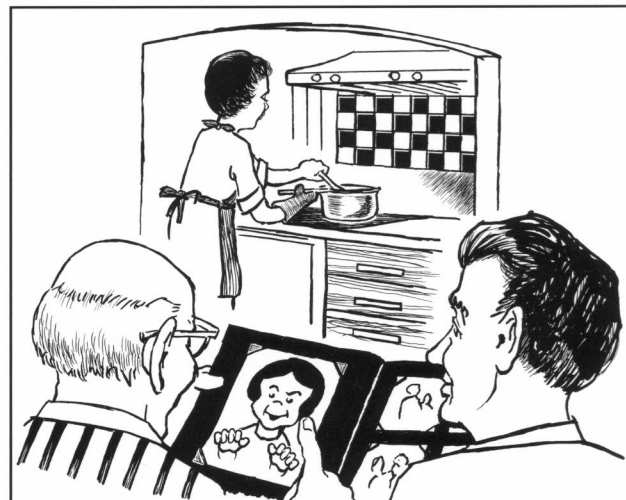
They drop his mitt by a gate to mitigate his anger.

128

meticulous

(mih tik yuh luss)

Picture this: met tickle us



"Her behavior was far from meticulous. Whenever we met, she would tickle us!"

127

## mercenary

interested in money or gain

- The investor's motive in building a resort in the poor country isn't entirely **mercenary**; he believes that a resort will bring employment that will help the local people.
- Responding to critics who complained that he seemed to write for **mercenary** rather than artistic motives, the writer replied, "Even writers have to eat and pay the mortgage."
- Although offers of free services on the World Wide Web may be attractive, there is often a **mercenary** motive behind them: If you sign up for a free service, you're more likely to later sign up for a service that you have to pay for.

## mitigate

moderate in intensity

- The government provided food subsidies to **mitigate** the effects of the depression on the poor.
- Most medicines that can be bought over-the-counter only **mitigate** the effects of an ailment, they don't cure the ailment itself.
- The judge decided that because of the **mitigating** circumstances of the case he would not impose the most severe sentence possible.

## listless

lacking in spirit or energy

- Our football team was **listless** in the first half and fell behind 28 to 7, but in the second half they came back to life and mounted a comeback.
- We were surprised by the band's **listless** performance until we learned that it had been touring for three months straight and its members were exhausted.
- It's such a hot day that everyone is **listless**, just sitting around the house eating ice cream and drinking soda.

## meticulous

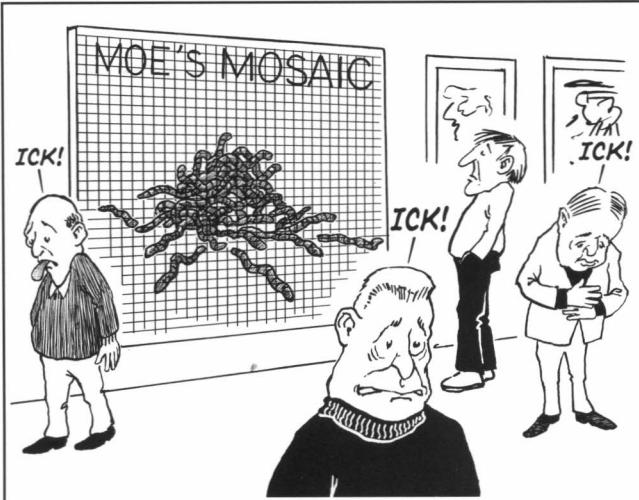
painstaking; excessively careful

- The novelist planned the plot of her novel in **meticulous** detail.
- Mr. Tan's lawn is **meticulous**; he spends two hours every weekend working on it.
- Herb's **meticulous** preparation for the SAT was rewarded with a perfect score.

mosaic

(moh zay ik)

Picture this: **most** say ick



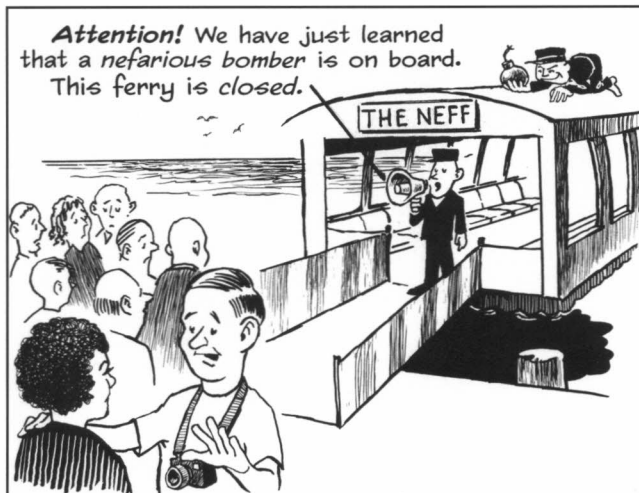
Most say "ick" when they see Moe's icky mosaic.

130

nefarious

(nuh far ee us)

Picture this: **Neff** ferry us



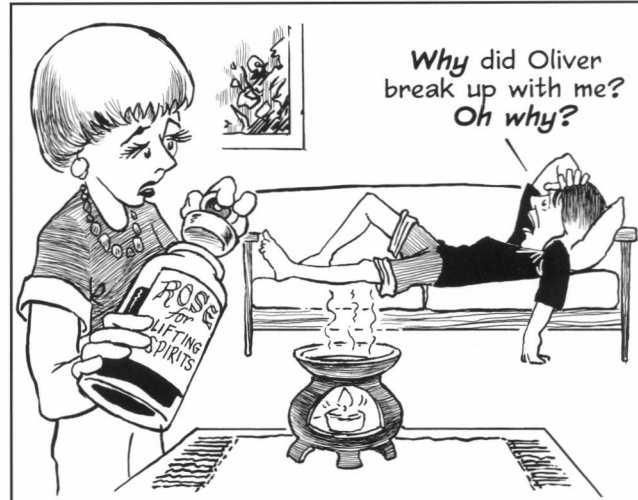
"He can't have the Neff ferry us over—there's a nefarious bomber on board!"

132

morose

(muh rohs)

Picture this: **more** rose



Morose Mary needs more rose.

129

mundane

(mun dayn)

Picture this: **Monday**



A mundane Monday.

131

## mosaic

picture made of colorful small inlaid tiles; something that resembles a mosaic

- In the Roman Empire, floors were decorated with **mosaics** made up of marble slabs of various colors.
- The detective pieced together the clues at the scene of the crime until they formed a **mosaic** that gave him a clear picture of how all the events led to the crime.
- The church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, is famous for its beautiful gold **mosaics**.

## nefarious

very wicked

- The terrorists' **nefarious** plan to bomb the elementary school was uncovered through alert police work.
- The actor, famous for his portrayals of **nefarious** characters, longed to play the "good guy" for a change.
- The hackers' **nefarious** plan was to break into computers in banks around the country and make them crash, causing chaos in the economy.

## morose

ill-humored; sad; gloomy

- Diagnosed with terminal cancer, Ruth refused to become **morose**; instead, she resolved to live the rest of her life to the fullest.
- The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates believed that a person shouldn't become **morose**, even when facing his or her own death.
- Some people become **morose** after someone close to them dies.

## mundane

worldly as opposed to spiritual; everyday; concerned with the commonplace

- Professor Pascal has little time for the **mundane** business of running her laboratory; she leaves that to her assistant so that she can concentrate on research.
- The English teacher asked his students to record not the **mundane** details of their lives but rather their observations and reflections.
- A talented writer can make even a **mundane** topic like brushing your teeth or mowing the lawn interesting.

# notoriety

(no tuh ri ih tee)

Picture this: **Noto Riot he**



For his part in the Noto Riot, he gained instant **notoriety**.

134

# nonchalance

(non shuh lans)

Picture this: **non shell lance**



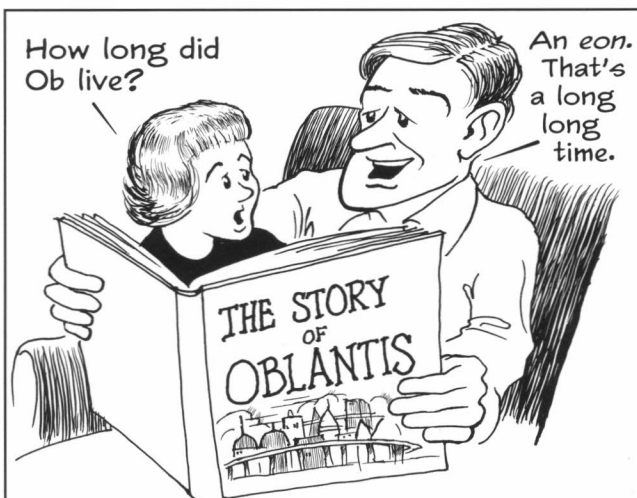
"Shell lance or non shell lance?" he asks with **nonchalance**.

133

# oblivion

(uh bliv ee un)

Picture this: **Ob live eon**



Ob lived an eon before Oblantis fell into **oblivion**.

136

# obliterate

(uh blit uh rayt)

Picture this: **Ob Letter Eight**



In Ob Letter Eight, Oblantis **obliterates** aliens.

135

## notoriety

ill fame (being known widely and unfavorably)

- The student gained **notoriety** on campus for cheating on her final exams.
- Our football team's left defensive end has gained **notoriety** around the conference for his dirty play.
- The writer received **notoriety** in the literary world when it was discovered that he had copied most of the ideas for his best-selling book from a long-forgotten work by another author.

## oblivion

obscurity; forgetfulness

- The scholar's careful research discovered a long-lost manuscript by William Shakespeare, thus rescuing it from **oblivion**.
- Very few writers are remembered past their own generation; most fall into **oblivion**, completely forgotten by both readers and critics.
- Some people believe that after a person dies there is **oblivion**.

## nonchalance

indifference; casual lack of concern

- After being nearly "beamed" by an inside fastball, Luke got up, dusted himself off, and with complete **nonchalance** delivered the game-winning hit on the next pitch.
- Dad acted **nonchalant** about his promotion to vice-president of the company, but we all knew that he was actually very excited about it.
- An appearance of **nonchalance** is required for anyone who wants to be considered "cool."

## obliterate

destroy completely

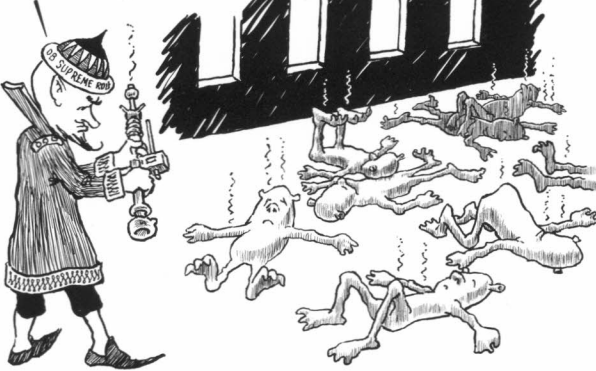
- Rising sea levels threaten to **obliterate** many of the island nations of the world.
- The meteor was **obliterated** when it collided with the Moon.
- After her divorce, Tammy **obliterated** everything she had that reminded her of her ex-husband.

obstinate

(*ob stuh nit*)

Picture this: **Ob stun eight**

You guys were so *obstinate*,  
I had to use level 10  
to knock you out.



“How many aliens did **Ob stun**?”  
“Eight, exactly eight **obstinate** aliens.”

138

obscure

(*ob skyur*)

Picture this: **Ob's cure**

You mean Ob had found a cure  
for the human condition?



Yes, dear, but  
unfortunately  
it was lost  
when Oblantis  
fell into oblivion.

Ob's Cure lost in **obscure** times.

137

orator

(*awr uh tur*)

Picture this: **oar rater**



“The **oar rater** thinks he's an **orator**!”

140

opportunist

(*op ur too nist*)

Picture this: **a port Tunis**



At a port, **Tunis** tourists approach  
an **opportunist**.

139

## obstinate

stubborn; hard to control or treat

- Tim is **obstinate** about one thing: He refuses to go out with his friends until he's completed all of his homework.
- My car is **obstinate**; it refused to start, even though I had tuned the engine a week earlier.
- The **obstinate** toddler clung to her mother, wailing and refusing to get on the bus to go to nursery school.

## orator

public speaker

- Although she was not a particularly good **orator**, people listened closely to Ruth's talk because she spoke about her difficult experiences with complete honesty.
- In the age of television, a politician needs fewer of the skills of the traditional **orator** and more of those of a popular television personality.
- The **orator** held the crowd spellbound with her fascinating speech and exciting way of speaking.

## obscure

indistinct; not easily understood

- The **obscure** writer wrote twenty books before finally capturing the attention of the reading public.
- The meaning of this poem is so **obscure** that even the best critics disagree about it.
- The poet made a reference to an **obscure** fourteenth-century artist that only an art historian would be familiar with.

## opportunist

one who sacrifices principles for gain by taking advantage of circumstances

- During wartime, **opportunists** often profit from shortages of important materials, stockpiling them and later selling them at high prices.
- After the town's water supply became contaminated, **opportunists** began selling bottled water at triple the regular price.
- The lawyer is an **opportunist**; she approaches people injured in car accidents and asks them if they'd like her help in suing other parties involved.

pacifist

(pass uh fist)

Picture this: pass if fist



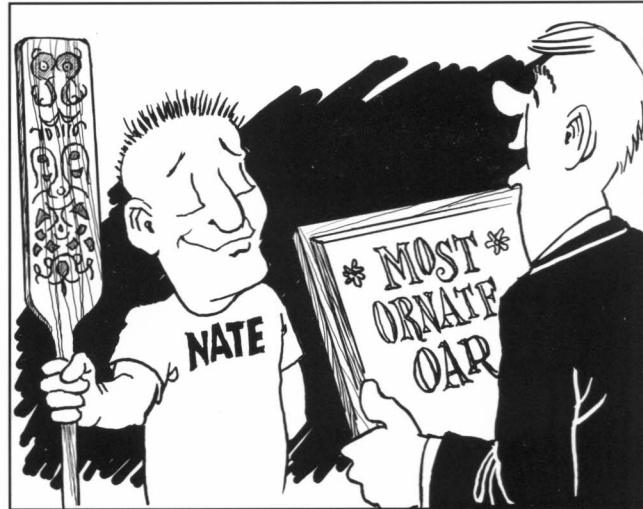
A pacifist must pass if a fist is waved at him!

142

ornate

(awr nayt)

Picture this: oar Nate



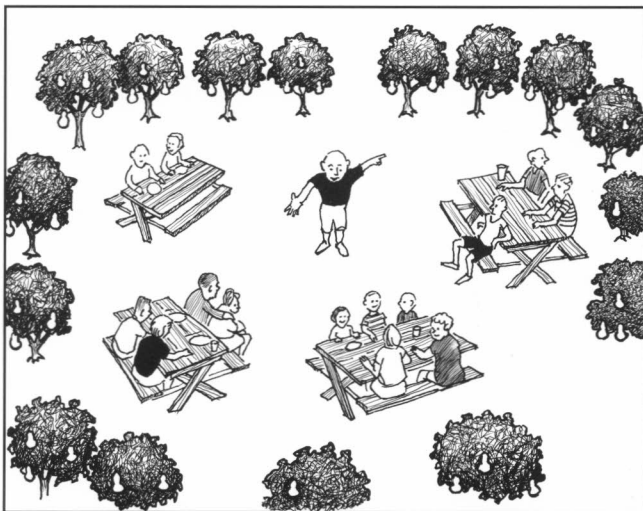
The oar Nate made was very ornate.

141

peripheral

(puh rif ur ul)

Picture this: pear for all



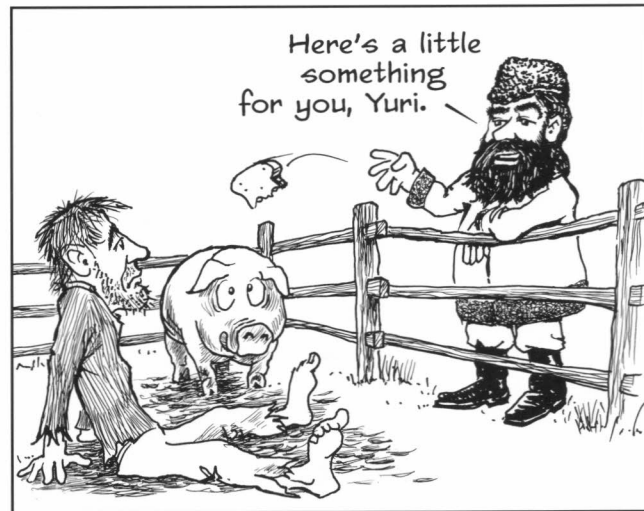
"There's a pear for all on the peripheral pear trees!"

144

penury

(pen yuh ree)

Picture this: pen Yuri



In the pen, Yuri lived in penury.

143

## pacifist

one opposed to force; antimilitarist

- A group of **pacifists** protested peacefully against the war.
- **Pacifists** in Hitler's Germany could do little to prevent that country's conquest of many of its European neighbors.
- One of the best-known **pacifist** churches is the Society of Friends, also called the Quakers.

## peripheral

outer; marginal

- A good manager must be able to decide which tasks must be done very soon and which ones can be put off to later because they're **peripheral**.
- Because the negotiator believed that it was important to build trust between the parties in the dispute, she encouraged them to settle **peripheral** issues before moving on to more important issues.
- Scientists must focus on the essential aspects of what they're studying, excluding anything that is **peripheral**.

## ornate

excessively or elaborately decorated

- Taste in art today tends to prefer straightforward, unadorned design to design that is **ornate**.
- Modern readers tend to prefer writing that is simple and direct to writing that is **ornate**.
- We marveled at the **ornately** carved chair created by the master furniture maker.

## penury

severe poverty; stinginess

- The expense of the long legal battle will reduce both sides to **penury** unless they arrive at a settlement soon.
- During the Great Depression of the early twentieth century, some millionaires lost so much money that they had to live in **penury**.
- Though he had been reduced to **penury** by the bankruptcy of his business, Mr. Ford remained confident that he would soon recover and be wealthy again.

pithy

(pith ee)

Picture this: pit he



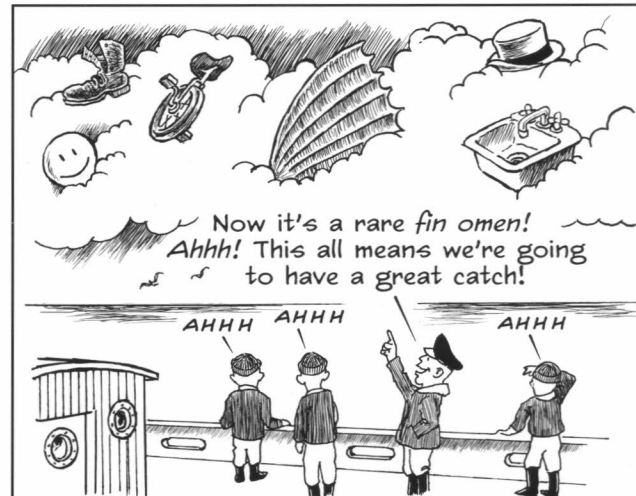
In the pit, he makes a pithy remark.

146

phenomena

(fih nom uh nuh)

Picture this: fin omen—ahhh!



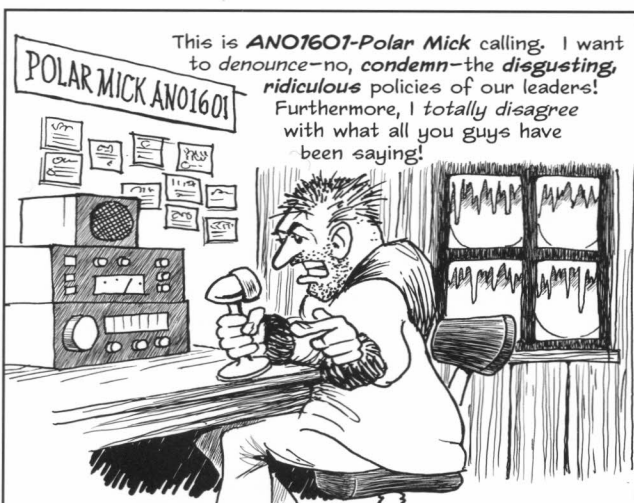
"And now it's a fin omen—ahhh—rare phenomena!"

145

polemical

(puh lem ih kul)

Picture this: polar Mick call



A polemical polar Mick call.

148

placate

(play kayt)

Picture this: play Cate



In the play, Cate must placate an angry mob.

147

## pithy

concise; meaningful;  
substantial; meaty

- The eighteenth-century writer Samuel Johnson is famous for his **pithy** remarks, such as “No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money.”
- In this age of the politics of the “sound bite”—a short statement that can be played on television for a very short period of time—it is important for a candidate to be able to come up with **pithy** statements that express his or her views in a few words.
- Try putting a **pithy** quotation from a well-known person in your essay to capture your reader’s interest.

## polemical

aggressive in verbal attack;  
disputatious

- Rather than reasonably discussing issues of concern to voters, the speakers in the forum gave **polemical** speeches attacking the views of their opponents.
- Senator Smith had been told that the debate would be a reasonable discussion of the issue, but her opponent launched into a **polemical** speech denouncing her position.
- The candidate for office closed the debate with these words: “I had hoped this would be a fair evaluation of the political situation, but instead my opponent has used it as an opportunity for **polemical** attacks on me.”

## phenomena

observable facts; subjects of  
scientific investigation

- Scientists must keep accurate records of the **phenomena** they study.
- Physicists study the **phenomena** of nature in order to discover their underlying laws.
- Scientists use instruments such as telescopes and microscopes to extend the range of human senses so that they can study **phenomena** in nature more comprehensively.

## placate

pacify; lessen the anger of

- To **placate** the angry customer, the store manager gave her a \$100 gift voucher.
- After Bob’s father threatened to take away the keys to his car if he didn’t study for the SAT, Bob **placated** him by studying for an hour.
- Nigel could see that **placating** his boss was not going to be easy; she had a right to be angry with him for his carelessness in forgetting to call their most important client.

pretentious

(prih ten shus)

Picture this: **pretend shush**



“Pretend we’re not here—shush!”  
They avoid **pretentious** people.

150

profusion

(pruh fyoo zhun)

Picture this: **pro fusion**



“A **profusion** of nuclear fusion plants!”  
“Yeah, they’re really **pro fusion** around here.”

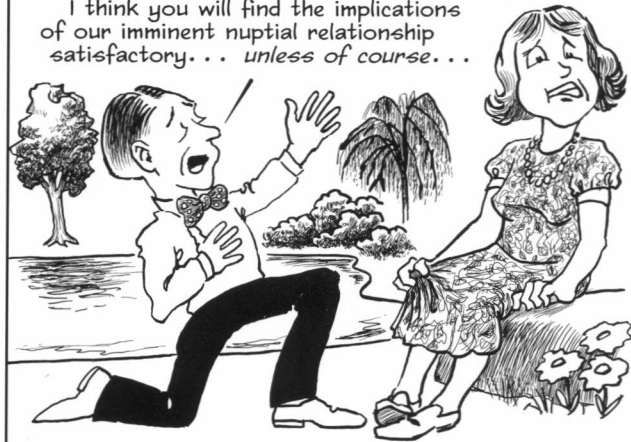
152

ponderous

(pon dur us)

Picture this: **pond her Russ**

Upon careful consideration, however...  
I think you will find the implications  
of our imminent nuptial relationship  
satisfactory... unless of course...



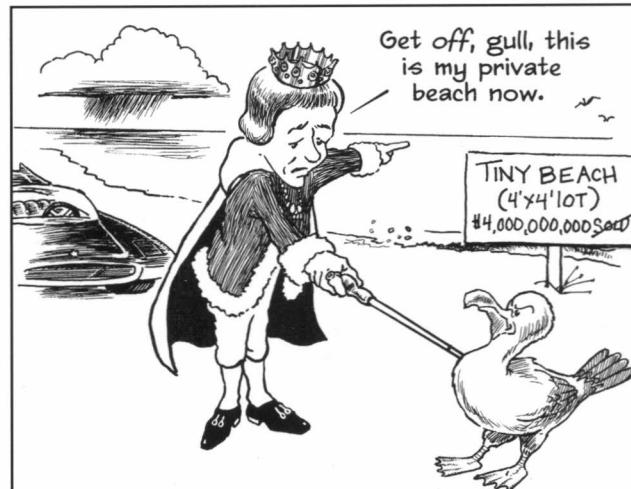
At the pond, her Russ makes a  
**ponderous** proposal.

149

prodigal

(prod ih gul)

Picture this: **prod a gull**



A **prodigal** prince tries to **prod a gull**  
to leave his private beach.

151

## pretentious

pompous; making unjustified claims; outwardly extravagant

- I feel so **pretentious** wearing this \$3,000 suit; I'm used to wearing a pair of jeans and a T-shirt all day.
- By nature reserved and modest, Jill has no interest in a **pretentious** wedding with hundreds of guests.
- We were amazed to see Bob, who has always been such a modest guy, acting in such a **pretentious** way; he's strutting down the street like he owns the whole town.

## profusion

overabundance; excess

- There has been a **profusion** of new car models this year.
- There is such a **profusion** of food at this party that I can't possibly try all the dishes.
- The **profusion** of life on Earth is so great that scientists have been able to study only a small fraction of it in depth.

## ponderous

weighty; unwieldy

- To take his mind off **ponderous** matters of state for a while, the president went to see a movie.
- The amateur comedian was so **ponderous** in his delivery that by the time he got to the punch line of his story he had lost the attention of most of his audience.
- The students soon became bored with the guest speaker's **ponderous** delivery of her speech.

## prodigal

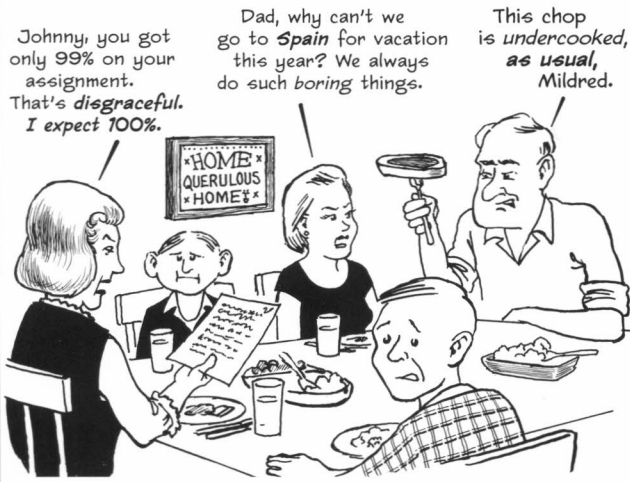
wasteful; reckless with money

- Mr. Larsen was so fed up with his children's **prodigal** spending that he cut their allowances in half.
- The congressman criticized what he called the government's **prodigal** spending and vowed to work for large cuts in the budget.
- Bart's credit card encouraged his **prodigal** spending, which has gotten him deeply into debt.

# querulous

(kwer uh lus)

Picture this: **queer rule us**



Years ago our Grandpa gave a **queer rule** to us: "Be **querulous**!"

154

# quagmire

(kwag mire)

Picture this: **quack Myer**



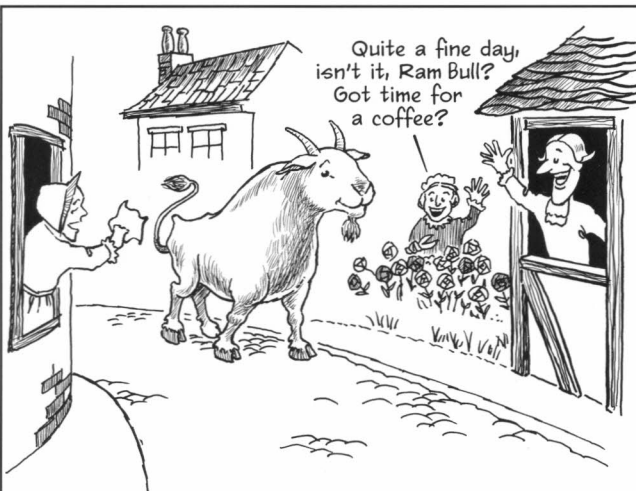
They chase **quack Myer** into a **quagmire**.

153

# ramble

(ram bul)

Picture this: **Ram Bull**



Ram Bull likes to **ramble** 'round town.

156

# quiescence

(kwee es uns)

Picture this: **Qwee Essence**



Qwee Essence brings **quiescence**.

155

## quagmire

soft wet boggy land; complex or dangerous situation from which it is difficult to free oneself

- The expedition faced a choice: Go the long way around the vast swamp and lose precious time or go through it and risk having their vehicles get stuck in a **quagmire**.
- The defense lawyer introduced so much evidence that the trial became bogged down in a **quagmire** of irrelevant information.
- Military leaders feel that involvement in a foreign country could lead the country into a **quagmire**.

## quiescence

state of being at rest; temporary inactivity

- The cease-fire brought a welcome period of **quiescence** in the long-running civil war.
- Many astronomers believe that the universe will one day contract into a tiny point and reach **quiescence**.
- The volcano is **quiescent** now, but when it erupts the village surrounding it will be destroyed.

## querulous

complaining; fretful

- The **querulous** tourist spent most of his time in Europe complaining that Europe wasn't like home.
- Sophie must be naturally **querulous**; she's been complaining throughout our entire class trip to Washington, D.C.
- After six hours of nonstop driving, Ms. Chambers' six kids are becoming **querulous**.

## ramble

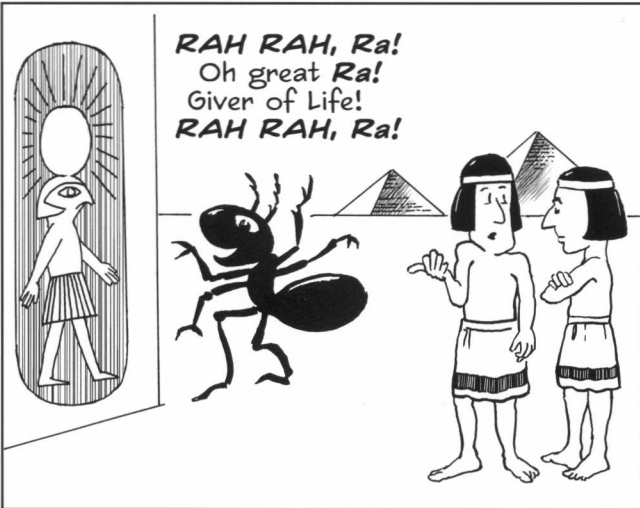
wander aimlessly

- The biographer encouraged her subject to **ramble** on about his childhood, hoping to discover details that would help give an accurate picture of his early life.
- The teacher's comment on Stan's essay: "This long essay **rambles** too much. It needs to be better organized. It can't wander aimlessly from topic to topic."
- The governor's confused, **rambling** explanation did little to help his critics understand why he vetoed the bill that he had continually promised to support during the campaign.

rant

(rant)

Picture this: Ra ant



“By Ra, that ant can rant!”

rancor

(rang kur)

Picture this: rank core

That's *ridiculous*, Xircon! The data clearly establish that the core of this planet ranks high in *xyllithium* in its *heaviest state*!

*Nonsense*, Xirla! You're wrong, as usual. The core definitely ranks highest in pure *xanthium*!

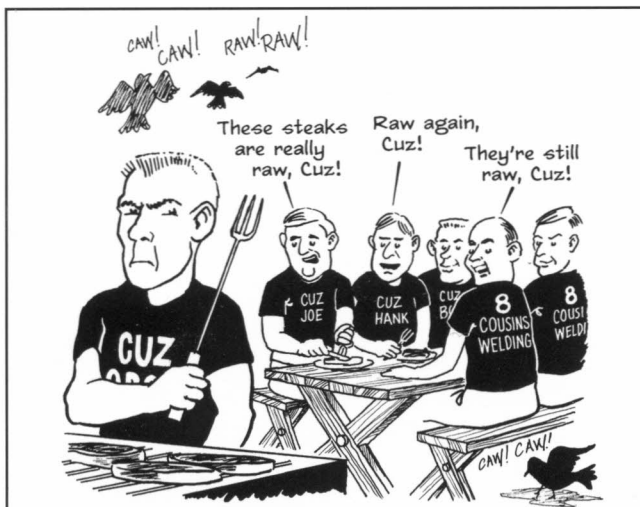


Xircon and Xirla rank the core with rancor.

raucous

(raw kus)

Picture this: raw Cuz

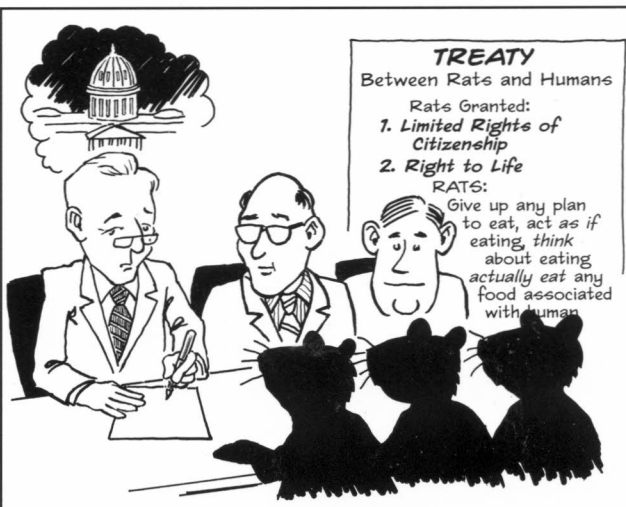


A raucous cry—“The steaks are raw, Cuz!”

ratify

(rat uh fie)

Picture this: rat if I



“I’ll be a rat if I ask them to ratify this treaty.”

## rant

speak in an angry or excited manner; rave

- The principal **rant**ed for an hour at the assembly about the poor behavior of the students.
- In London's Hyde Park, there's a place at which people regularly make speeches **ranting** against the ills of the world.
- It's one thing to **rant** against social injustice; however, it's quite another to actually do something to correct it.

## raucous

harsh and shrill; disorderly and boisterous

- The inexperienced speaker had no idea how to quiet the **raucous** crowd so that she could begin her speech.
- The **raucous** cries of the crows were becoming so annoying to the writer hard at work on his book that he began to eye the shotgun sitting in his gun case.
- The **raucous** crowd at the Super Bowl made it difficult for the players to hear their quarterback calling out signals.

## rancor

bitterness; hatred

- Psychologists say that people taken hostage sometimes feel not **rancor** toward their captors but sympathy.
- As a professional soldier, Colonel Gunn bore no personal **rancor** toward his foe; for him, the enemy was purely a force to be destroyed.
- The husband and wife agreed that they should get a divorce and that the process should be done without **rancor**.

## ratify

approve formally; confirm; verify

- The president's appointment of Judge Jones was **ratified** by the Senate after several days of debate.
- The Constitutional amendment was approved by Congress; however, in order to become part of the Constitution it still must be **ratified** by three-quarters of the state legislatures.
- The U.S. Senate **ratified** the treaty with Albania after a short debate.

raze

(rayz)

Picture this: rays



Hot rays raze the city.

162

ravenous

(rav uh nus)

Picture this: raven us



Sir, Madam, we usually have three entrees to choose from, but the only choice today is baked raven.

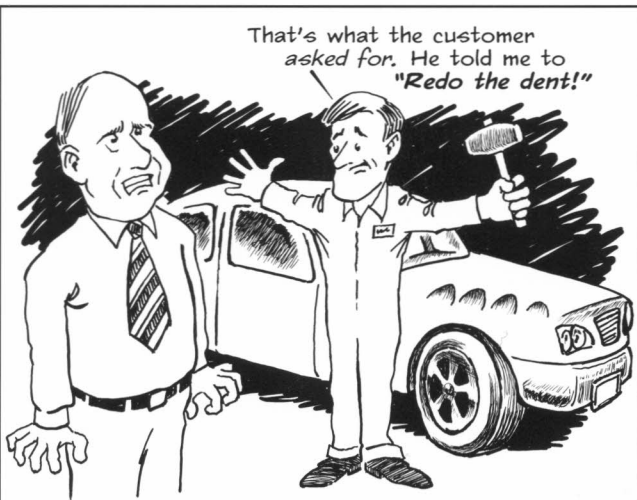
"Then I guess it's baked raven. Us folks are ravenous!"

161

redundant

(rih dun dunt)

Picture this: redone dent



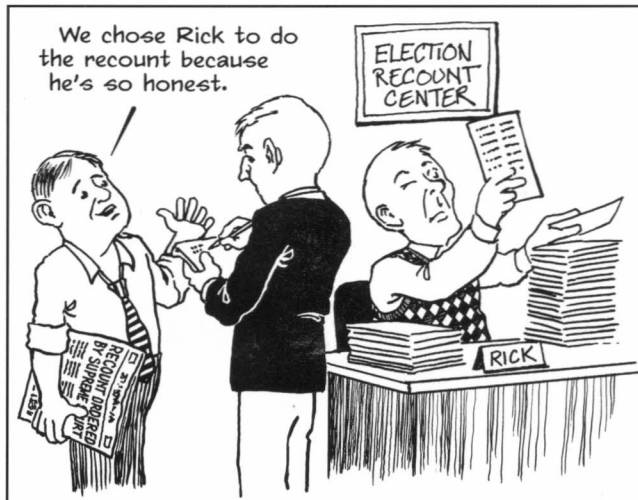
"Isn't a redone dent a little redundant?"

164

recount

(rih kount)

Picture this: Rick count



Recounting how Rick was picked to count the votes in the recount.

163

## raze

destroy completely

- The hotel was **razed** so that an office building could be built on the site.
- Returning after fifty years to the town he grew up in, Jim saw that the houses on his old street had been **razed** and a shopping center had been built on the site.
- Much of San Francisco was **razed** in the great fire of 1906.

## redundant

unnecessary; repetitious;  
excessively wordy

- Legal terms such as “cease and desist” and “null and void” might appear **redundant** to the layperson.
- Is the word “free” in the phrase “free gift” **redundant** since a gift is free by definition?
- Engineers normally design spacecraft with **redundant** systems so that if the primary one fails the secondary one can take over.

## ravenous

extremely hungry

- After her one-week diet of nothing but vegetables, fruit, and rice, Kim was **ravenous**.
- After receiving a taste of fame when she appeared on national television, the young actress became **ravenous** for even greater fame.
- Please start the barbecue—I’m **ravenous**.

## recount

narrate or tell; count over again

- Beth’s grandfather loves to **recount** tales of his boyhood adventures.
- The judge asked the witness to **recount** everything that had happened on the day that the crime was committed.
- The autobiography **recounts** every important event in the senator’s long and distinguished career.

robust

(row bust)

Picture this: row bust



“Row, row, row your bust gently down the stream,” sings the robust rower.

166

rhetorical

(rih tawr ih kul)

Picture this: Rhet oracle

What is the meaning of life?...I'm glad you asked me that...In my great wisdom, I have delved into this complicated matter and reached a conclusion...

... that may be correct under certain conditions.

However, it must be borne in mind that there are many factors to consider, and so we would ask you to keep in mind the distinct possibility of error, and, if not error, at least a degree of uncertainty which...



Rhet questions the oracle and receives a rhetorical response.

165

satirical

(suh tir ih kul)

Picture this: satyr Rick call



“Satyr Rick calls the park people to make a satirical comment.”

168

sage

(sayj)

Picture this: sage

Great sage, tell us, which herb should we put in the pot to bring us wisdom? Is it parsley?

Parsley? No way. Only sage will make you wise.



This sage swears by sage.

167

## robust

vigorous; strong

- The general warned the enemy commander that any attack would be met immediately with a **robust** counterattack.
- A heavyweight boxer must be **robust** enough to withstand the extremely hard punches of his opponents.
- the American Army General George Patton said that America would win the war because its soldiers were more **robust** than those of the enemy.

## satirical

mocking; characterized by  
sarcastic wit to attack  
or expose folly

- Although the students did not intend their **satirical** skit to be insulting to anyone, most of the audience thought it tasteless and offensive.
- **Satirical** writing generally makes fun of a fault in society or in human nature, often with the intention of bringing such faults to people's attention.
- Television programs such as *Saturday Night Live* feature **satirical** comedy that pokes fun at modern society.

## rhetorical

pertaining to effective communication;  
insincere in language; characterized by  
overly elaborate, pompous language

- This line from the Bible uses the **rhetorical** device of repetition of the same word: "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanity; all is vanity."
- **Rhetorical** techniques can be used to make your writing more effective.
- The speech consisted mainly of empty **rhetoric** rather than meaningful ideas.

## sage

person celebrated for wisdom

- Although she didn't consider herself a **sage**, Janice's friends always sought her advice when they encountered a problem in their lives.
- The teachings of the ancient Chinese **sage** Confucius are still greatly respected today.
- I was surprised to hear such **sage** words from such a young person.

scanty

(skan tee)

Picture this: scan tea



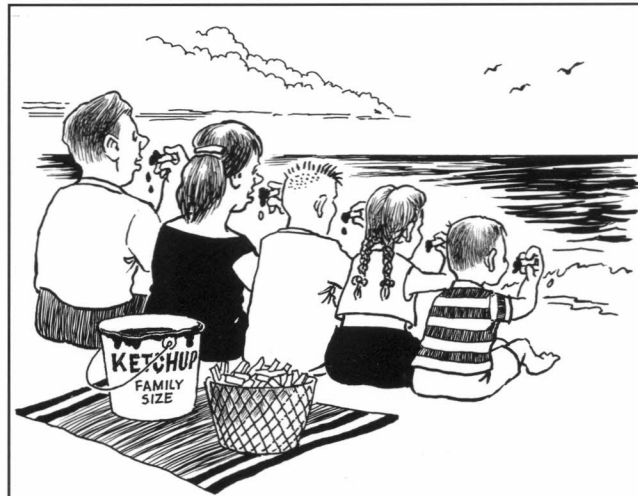
The Tea Police **scan** the **tea** party for **scanty** outfits.

170

saturate

(sach uh rayt)

Picture this: sat shore ate



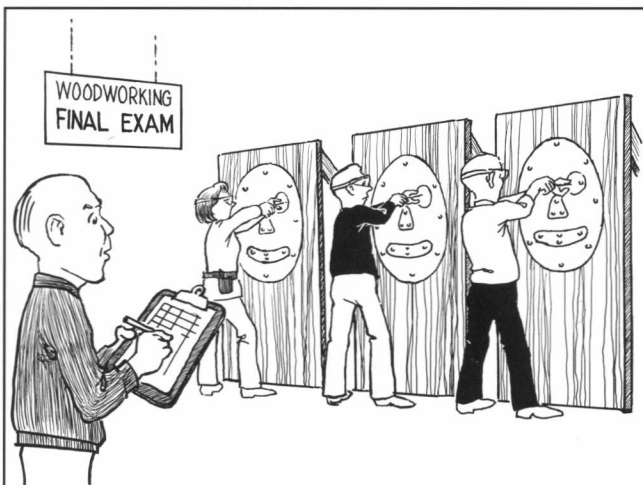
On Saturdays they **sat** on the **shore** and **ate** fries that they'd **saturated** in ketchup.

169

scrutinize

(skroot in ize)

Picture this: screw tin eyes



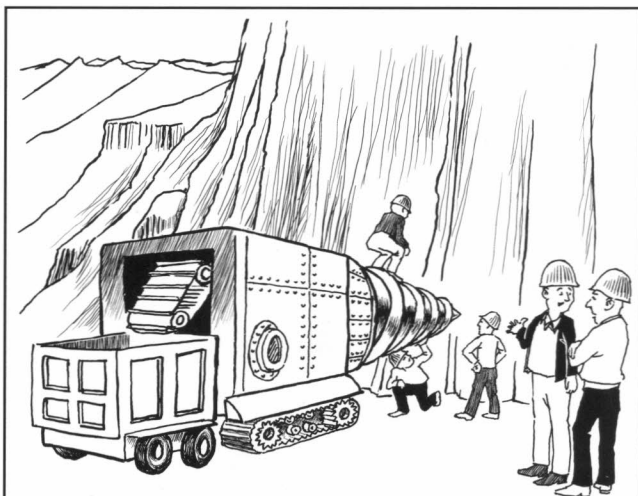
Trainees **screw tin** eyes on the doors while the boss **scrutinizes** their technique.

172

scrupulous

(skroo pyuh lus)

Picture this: screw pull us



“Can this **screw** pull us through?  
We must make a **scrupulous** check!”

171

## scanty

meager; insufficient

- With supplies becoming **scanty**, the commander decided to halt the advance and concentrate on obtaining food, water, and other necessities.
- The country's **scanty** reserves of oil make it dependent on importing oil from other countries.
- The content of Barbara's history essay was so **scanty** that it received a D.

## scrutinize

examine closely and critically

- Mandy **scrutinized** her sister's appearance and then said, "I pronounce you ready to go to the dance. You look great."
- During the interrogation the detective **scrutinized** the suspect's face for an indication that he was not telling the truth about his involvement in the crime.
- The computer programmer **scrutinized** the program that she had written to see if there were any errors in it.

## saturate

soak thoroughly; drench

- The heavy rain before the football game **saturated** the turf, making it difficult for players to execute plays properly.
- I left the sprinkler on overnight by mistake; now the ground is so **saturated** that I can't lie on a blanket on the grass to catch some rays.
- It's so humid that when I go jogging, my shirt becomes **saturated** quickly.

## scrupulous

conscientious; extremely thorough

- Ralph's **scrupulous** preparation for the English test resulted in his receiving a grade of A.
- The groundskeeper at the baseball stadium is **scrupulous** about maintaining the infield grass but doesn't bother much about the outfield grass.
- Coach Ford's preparation of our team for the championship game against State was **scrupulous**; he made sure that every detail was perfectly planned.

# servile

(sur vile)

Picture this: **serve vial**



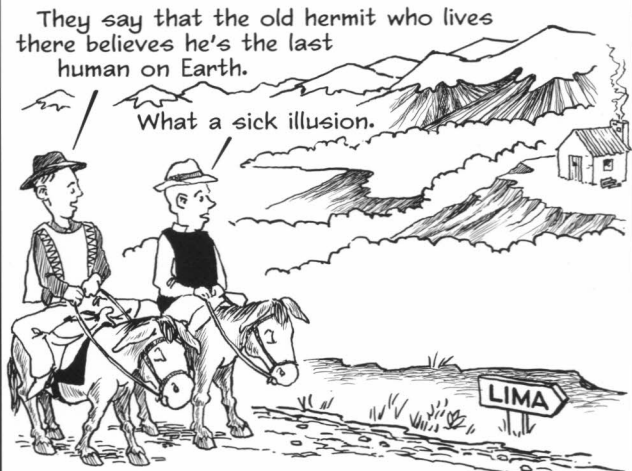
Sir Vile tells his **servile** slave to **serve** the **vial** of poison to his guest.

174

# seclusion

(sih kloo zhun)

Picture this: **sick illusion**



They say that the old hermit who lives there believes he's the last human on Earth.

What a **sick illusion**.

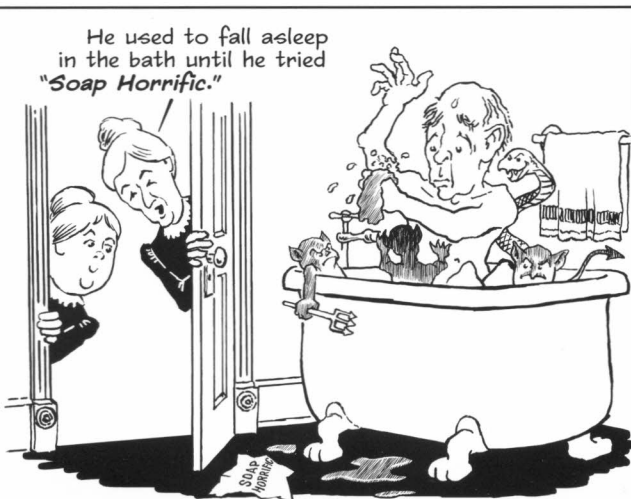
He lives in **seclusion** with his **sick illusion**.

173

# soporific

(sop uh rif ik)

Picture this: **Soap Horrific**



He used to fall asleep in the bath until he tried "**Soap Horrific**."

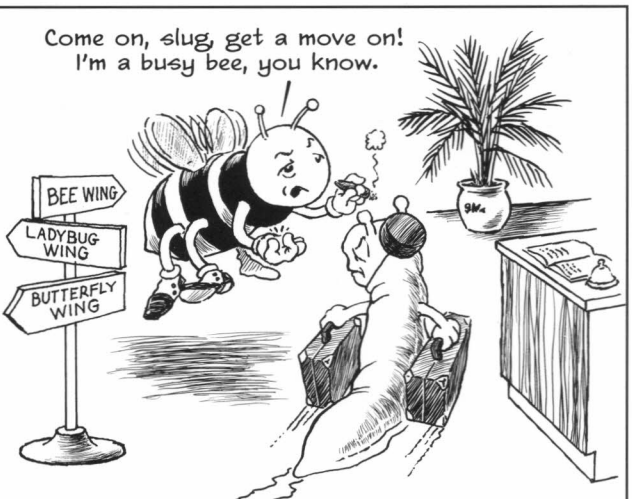
**Soap Horrific**. Soap that's not **soporific**.

176

# sluggish

(slug ish)

Picture this: **slug**



Come on, slug, get a move on!  
I'm a busy bee, you know.

A **sluggish slug** pulls Bee's luggage.

175

## servile

slavish; submissive

- People who are used to being nice are sometimes so **servile** that they are unable to say “No” to an unreasonable request.
- After half the workers in the plant had been laid off, Sally noticed that some employees were becoming **servile** in their relationship with the plant manager.
- Servants in Victorian England were generally expected to be **servile** toward their employers.

## soporific

sleep-causing; marked by sleepiness

- Terri finds nothing more **soporific** than listening to classical music; she’s usually asleep before the end of the first movement of a symphony.
- If you have trouble getting to sleep, try reading a long, boring, **soporific** book.
- A lot of guys find “chick flicks” **soporific** because there’s too much talk and not enough action.

## seclusion

isolation; solitude

- The hermit lives in **seclusion** in a cabin in the mountains.
- Some writers can do their work with others around, but some prefer quiet and **seclusion**.
- The scholar went into **seclusion** so that she could concentrate on finishing her history of mathematics.

## sluggish

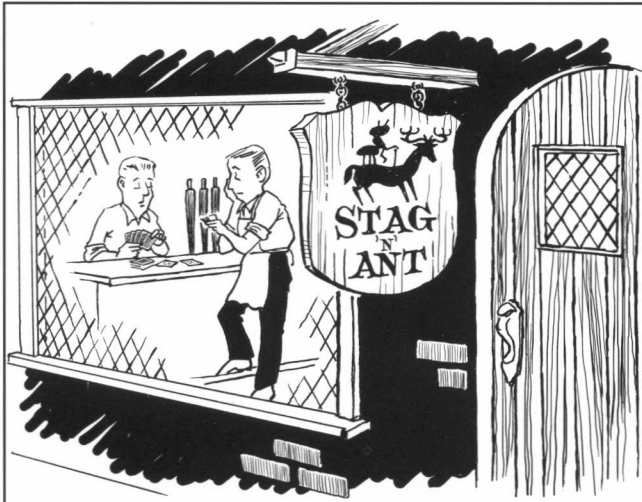
slow; lazy; lacking energy

- The first three laps of the 5,000-meter event were run at a **sluggish** pace, but on the fourth lap the state champion suddenly picked up the pace.
- Because economic growth has been **sluggish**, Congress voted to reduce taxes to try to stimulate spending.
- My car was **sluggish** until I cleaned the carburetor; now it accelerates like a car in a drag race.

stagnant

(stag nunt)

Picture this: Stag 'n' Ant



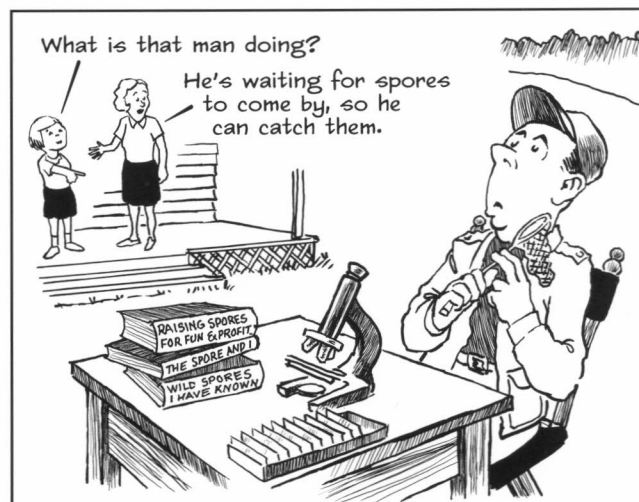
A stagnant business at the Stag 'n' Ant.

178

sporadic

(spuh rad ik)

Picture this: spore addict



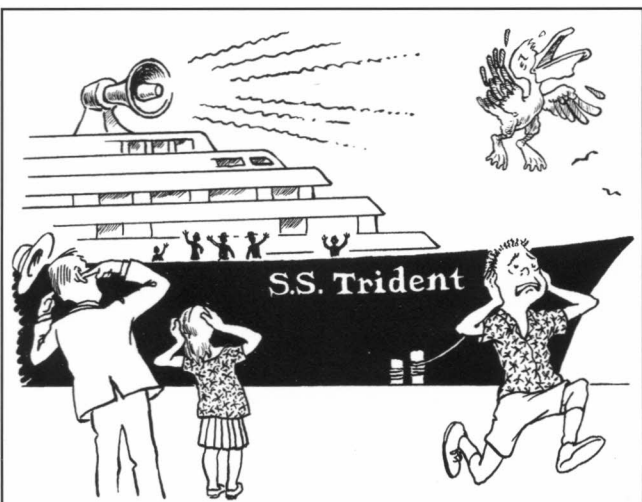
The spore addict waits for sporadic spores.

177

strident

(stride nt)

Picture this: S.S. Trident



The S.S. Trident lets out a strident wail.

180

stolid

(stol id)

Picture this: stole lid



Though someone stole the lid, the chef remains stolid.

179

## stagnant

motionless; stale; dull

- During the long drought, all that was left of Lake Weir was **stagnant** water one foot deep.
- The government reported that economic growth had been **stagnant** during the last quarter of the year and that measures were therefore being considered to stimulate the economy.
- Fewer people have been investing in the stock market recently because it's been **stagnant** the last few months.

## strident

loud and harsh; insistent

- Demands by shareholders for the removal of the chairman of the company from his position became more **strident** after shareholders learned that he had covered up the company's large losses.
- Despite **strident** protests from environmentalists, the plan to build a dam in the conservation area was approved by the government.
- Calls from the alumni for the head football coach to resign grew more **strident** after the team finished with a record of two wins and eleven losses.

## sporadic

occurring irregularly

- The advancing army met **sporadic** enemy resistance, but it used heavy artillery barrages to destroy the few units that were still putting up a fight.
- Although there have only been **sporadic** outbreaks of flu this winter, government health officials are monitoring the situation carefully.
- The military announced that they had taken complete control of the enemy city; however, **sporadic** gunfire could still be heard in some areas.

## stolid

showing little emotion

- Awaiting sentencing, the convicted man could get no hint of his fate from the **stolid** expression on the judge's face.
- Behind the banker's **stolid**, conservative appearance is a man whose hobby is parachuting from airplanes and who uses weekends for nonstop partying.
- The commander, remaining **stolid** despite the heavy casualties his unit had suffered in the assault, ordered a fresh attack.

superficial

(soo pur fish ul)

Picture this: **super facial**



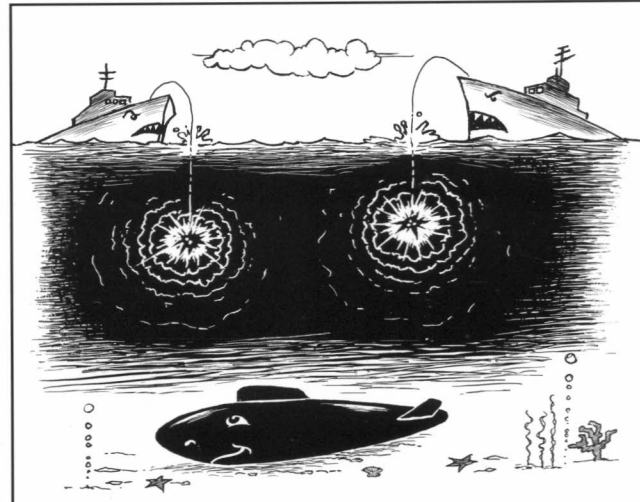
A **super facial** will clear all **superficial** blemishes.

182

subside

(sub side)

Picture this: **sub side**



The **sub** lay on its **side** waiting for the attack to **subside**.

181

surfeit

(sur fit)

Picture this: **Surf It**



At Waikiki's **Surf It**, they are **surfeited** with Surf 'n' Turf.

184

superfluous

(soo pur floo us)

Picture this: **Super Flu us**



"The **Super Flu** left us with **superfluous** tissues."

183

## superficial

concerned only with the obvious;  
shallow; near the surface

- Because his injury was only **superficial**, our quarterback was able to return to the game after receiving some treatment.
- My English teacher expects us to analyze in depth the poems we study; he gives little credit for a **superficial** analysis.
- Only very talented novelists have the ability to give readers more than a **superficial** picture of the characters in their books.

## surfeit

indulge to  
excess in anything

- Between Christmas Day and New Year's Day every year, television viewers are **surfeited** with college football bowl games.
- Tom's appetite for computer games was **surfeited** after he played them practically nonstop over the summer vacation.
- There has been a **surfeit** of movies this year with a female superhero in the leading role.

## subside

settle down; descend; grow quiet

- After the argument, Jean's anger **subsided**, and she apologized to her friend for having been rude.
- The excitement in our school about winning the state football championship has finally **subsided** three months after the victory.
- After the floodwaters **subsided**, the farmer surveyed the damage the flood had caused to his crops.

## superfluous

unnecessary; excessive; overabundant

- When writing your answer on a test, you should avoid **superfluous** comments and just stick to the important points.
- This film has already received hundreds of glowing reviews; any more would be **superfluous**.
- This dessert is made of chocolate ice cream, chocolate mousse, chocolate fudge, and chocolate chips; would some chocolate topping be **superfluous**?

# sycophant

(sik uh funt)

Picture this: **sick of aunt**

I think you're the most handsome, bravest and smartest prince in history. Of course you *still* need my advice, so I want you to raise my spending money to one million a year...



Sick of his aunt—a slick sycophant—he booted her out of his castle.

186

# surreptitious

(sur up tish us)

Picture this: **Sir Repetitious**



I must be surreptitious.  
I must be surreptitious.  
I must be surreptitious.  
I must be surreptitious.  
I must be surreptitious.  
I must be surreptitious.



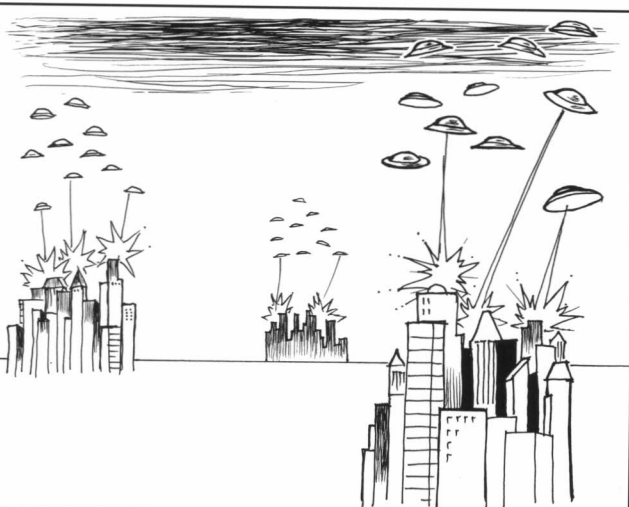
Sir Repetitious in a surreptitious operation.

185

# tenacity

(tuh nas ih tee)

Picture this: **ten a city**



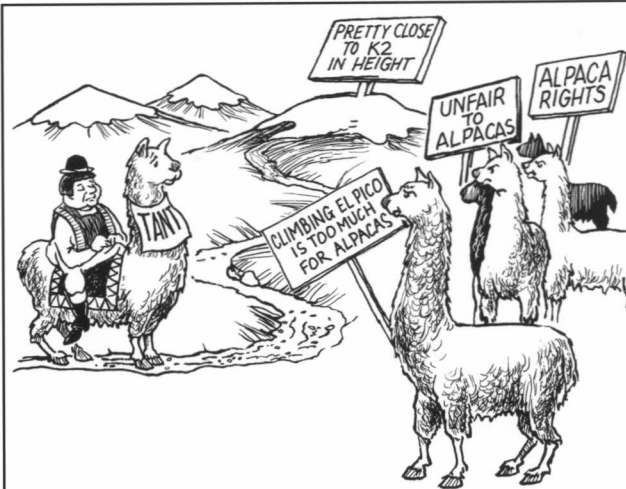
With great **tenacity**, the craft continue their attack, **ten to a city**.

188

# tantamount

(tan tuh mount)

Picture this: **Tant a mount**



Riding **Tant, a mount**, up El Pico in Peru is **tantamount** to saying alpacas' rights are few!

187

## sycophant

self-seeker who tries to gain favor by flattering important people; bootlicker

- Val is a shameless **sycophant**; she is constantly telling her boss that his ideas are the best ideas that anyone has ever had and that he should be the president of the company.
- Hoping to get the best mark in the class, the **sycophant** flattered his teacher at every opportunity.
- Fed up with all the **sycophants** around him always agreeing with everything he said, the CEO screamed at them, "Stop saying 'Yes' to everything I say!" "Yes," they all replied in unison.

## tenacity

firmness; persistence

- If you have enough **tenacity**, you can learn all 200 vocabulary words in this set.
- Carol demonstrated remarkable **tenacity** in achieving her goal of receiving a perfect score on the SAT; she studied for an hour every day for a year, never allowing herself to be distracted.
- Thomas Edison showed incredible **tenacity** in his invention of the lightbulb; he tried thousands of substances in the filament before finding one that worked properly.

## surreptitious

done in a secret way; hidden

- We have to be **surreptitious** in preparing Dad's surprise party so he doesn't become suspicious of what we're doing.
- The movie star made a **surreptitious** exit through the back door of the studio to avoid reporters.
- The intelligence officer **surreptitiously** monitored the enemy naval operation from his hidden observation post.

## tantamount

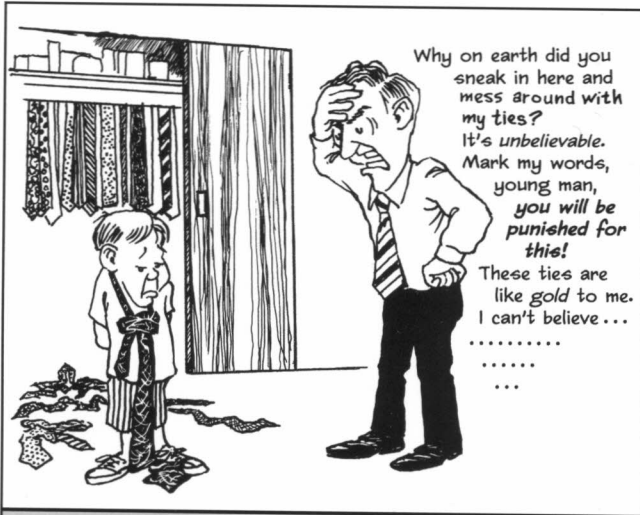
equivalent in effect or value

- In Mr. Rogers' math class, any remark that suggests the slightest bit of disrespect for the wonders of mathematics is regarded as **tantamount** to saying that studying the subject is a waste of time.
- The political party that Mr. Stevens belongs to is so dominant in this county that winning its nomination for an office is **tantamount** to winning the office itself.
- The harsh threat that the government made to the leaders of the neighboring country is **tantamount** to a declaration of war.

tirade

(*tie rayd*)

Picture this: **tie raid**



A tirade at the tie raid.

190

threadbare

(*thred bare*)

Picture this: **Thread Bear**



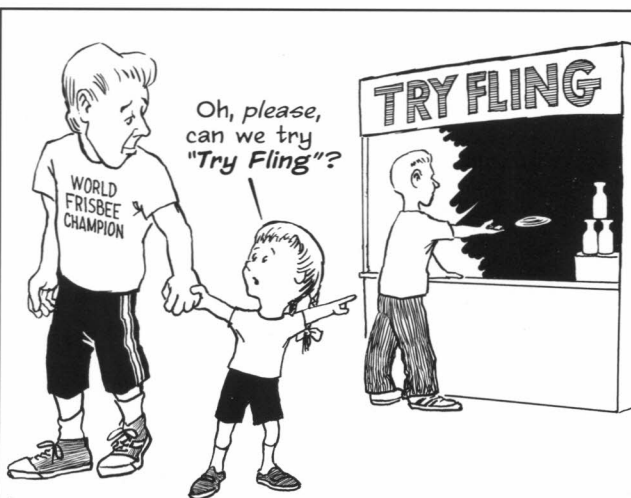
Thread Bear takes orders from **threadbare** customers.

189

trifling

(*try fling*)

Picture this: **Try Fling**



Try Fling is too **trifling** for the Frisbee champ.

192

torpor

(*tore pur*)

Picture this: **tour pour**



During the **tour**, when it started to **pour**, they fell into a deep **torpor**.

191

## tirade

extended scolding; long, angry speech denouncing something

- Fed up with his wife's spending on clothes, Mr. Banks began a **tirade** against modern fashion and the stupidity of people conforming to it.
- The magazine editorial is basically a **tirade** by the retiring publisher against the declining quality of reporting in newspapers and magazines.
- After Simon failed French, his father launched into a **tirade** about how he had a son who was too lazy to study and would never succeed like his father had.

## trifling

trivial; unimportant

- The poet was unconcerned with what he considered the **trifling** fact that his readership consisted of only his wife, her brother, and three friends.
- One thousand dollars may be a **trifling** sum to a millionaire, but to a poor family it's enough money to buy a lot of necessities, such as food and clothing.
- Beth refused her friend's offer to pay back the \$3 she had borrowed for parking, saying three bucks was just a **trifling** amount of money.

## threadbare

worn through till the threads show; shabby and poor

- Jack's wife tells him that wearing **threadbare** suits to work makes him look poor; Jack's reply is, "I will be poor if I have to keep buying new suits."
- Since my favorite sweater has become **threadbare**, I'll have to buy a new one.
- Amber is really good at sewing; she took a **threadbare** dress she got in the second-hand store and made it look practically new.

## torpor

physical or mental inactivity; sluggishness; dormancy

- In the spring, the snake began to recover from its winter **torpor** and went in search of a good breakfast.
- My physics teacher asked the class to shake itself out of its mental **torpor** and really *think* about the problem.
- The hot, humid weather has induced in everyone a **torpor** that makes it difficult to do much of anything at all.

# turmoil

(tur moil)

Picture this: **term oil**



He burns the **term oil**, ignoring the **turmoil** outside.

194

# truncate

(trung kayt)

Picture this: **trunk Kate**



The tree they did **truncate**—so, by the **trunk Kate** wept.

193

# vaporize

(vay puh rise)

Picture this: **vapor eyes**



The girl with **vapor eyes** will **vaporize** you!

196

# uniformity

(yoo nuh form uh tee)

Picture this: **uniform at tea**



They wear the **uniform at tea** to promote **uniformity**.

195

## turmoil

great commotion and confusion

- Adolescence is often regarded as a time of emotional **turmoil**.
- There was **turmoil** in the political party after its most influential and respected member announced that he was quitting the party and joining the opposing party.
- **Turmoil** ensued when a bomb was found under a seat at the rock concert.

## vaporize

turn into vapor

- Military planners are working on a space-based weapon that would be able to **vaporize** entire cities with a burst of high energy.
- After taking measurements of the Sun's high-energy radiation, the space probe plunged toward the Sun's surface and was **vaporized**.
- At the end of the science fiction movie, the hero fired a gigantic ray gun at the hostile aliens, **vaporizing** them.

## truncate

shorten; cut the top off

- When his English teacher handed out the 1,000-page novel for the class to start reading, Larry piped up, "Can't we read the **truncated** version instead?"
- My pleasant conversation with an old friend was **truncated** by an important telephone call.
- Network television officials decided to **truncate** the broadcast of the football game because it had gone on way past the time scheduled for it and would interfere with the broadcast of a feature movie.

## uniformity

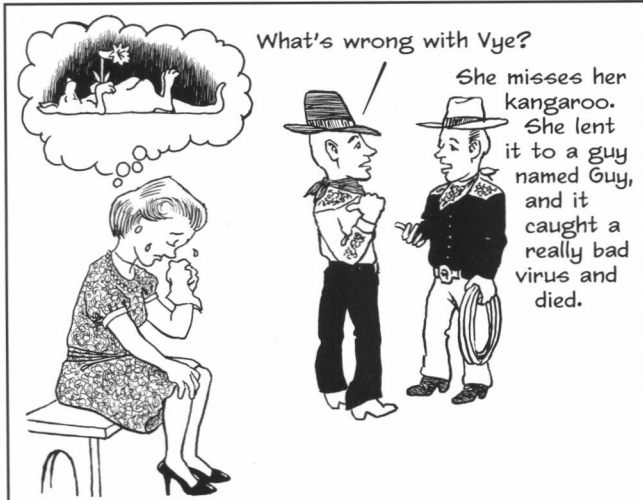
sameness

- The pollster found a great **uniformity** of views on the central issues confronting the nation; on less important issues, however, there was a great diversity of views.
- The editor of the encyclopedia tries to maintain a **uniformity** of style from article to article so that the reader will be able to focus on the information itself rather than on how it's presented.
- The company doesn't expect **uniformity** in dress, but it does expect employees to dress appropriately and not wear outlandish outfits to work.

virulent

(veer yuh lunt)

Picture this: **Vye roo lent**



Poor Vye. The roo she lent Guy got a **virulent** virus and died.

198

virtuoso

(vur choo oh so)

Picture this: **virtue oh so**



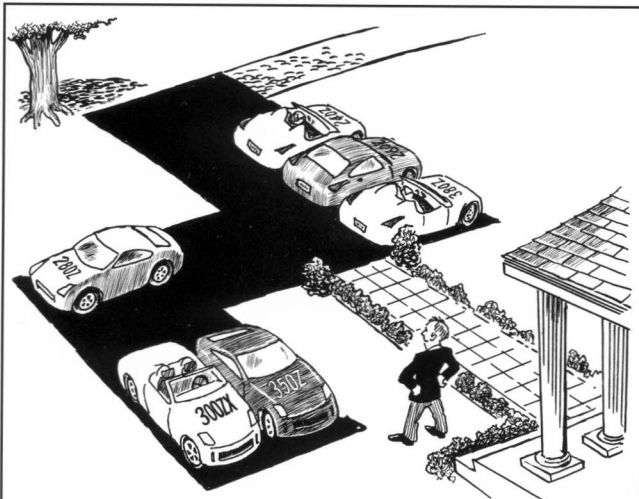
This **virtuoso** has a **virtue oh so** rare—  
he spreads cheer far and near.

197

zealot

(zel ut)

Picture this: **Z lot**



A **Z lot** zealot admires his Zs.

200

whimsical

(hwim zih kul)

Picture this: **whim sickle**



On a **whim** he took up a sickle  
to create **whimsical** shapes.

199

## virulent

extremely poisonous; hostile; bitter

- The **virulent** computer virus spread very rapidly around the world through the World Wide Web.
- A particularly **virulent** strain of flu is spreading rapidly around the world.
- Researchers working with **virulent** microorganisms are required to take many precautions so that the microorganisms don't get out of the laboratory and infect people or animals.

## zealot

fanatic; person who shows excessive zeal

- Senator Smith is a **zealot** when it comes to the issue of conservation; she supports far more measures to protect the environment than anyone else in Congress.
- Uncle Rick could be regarded as a **zealot** when it comes to supporting his political party; he has voted for all the candidates of his party in every election since 1975.
- In his book *The True Believer*, Eric Hoffer argued that political **zealots** are often motivated by a need to compensate for a feeling of personal inadequacy.

## virtuoso

highly skilled artist

- Jimi Hendrix was a guitar **virtuoso** who developed a new style of playing that still influences musicians today.
- The actor gave a **virtuoso** one-man performance: One moment he was an interesting Hamlet, the other a totally believable King Lear.
- Our school's all-state forward turned in a **virtuoso** performance last night, scoring thirty-two points, dishing out eight assists, pulling down twelve rebounds, and forcing six turnovers.

## whimsical

unpredictable; fanciful

- The movie *The Wizard of Oz* displays a **whimsical** sense of humor that appeals to both children and adults.
- When he was feeling **whimsical**, the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov enjoyed writing limericks—short, humorous, often nonsensical verse.
- Sabrina was in one of her **whimsical** moods: "Let's do something different today," she said to her boyfriend. "Let's act out a scene from *Romeo and Juliet* in Mr. Harrison's physics class."