CHAPTER 1 WHAT'S WRONG HERE?

Each of the stories or scenarios below has something wrong with it. Can you see what is wrong with each story? In each of these chapters of brainteasers I have provided a hint at the end of some of them, printed upside down, in case you need a little extra help.

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1. Susie Storyteller #1

Susie Storyteller was explaining the situation to the detective. "I went into the university with my laptop to confer with one of the professors regarding a problem that I am working on. When I came back to my car, I unlocked it and got in, set my laptop on the seat beside me, and was going to take off, but realized that I was winded from the walk across campus. It's amazing how out of shape you can get when you don't exercise regularly, so I spent about five minutes just resting with my eyes closed before I tried to start the car. After I rested and was about to start the car, I realized I could not find the car key. I reached into my pocket and it was not there, it was not in the ignition, and I could not see it anywhere in the car. Feeling frustrated, I decided that I needed to go back to the office at the university where I had been and see if I left it there. I know I should have carried the laptop with me, since I did not have the car key to lock it safely in the car, but I being so tired and as it is an older model and is fairly heavy, I took a chance and left it in the car while I went as quickly as I could back across campus. I found the key where I had left it in the professor's office and returned to my car, whereupon I saw a tall, bulky figure in a green jacket and a brownish cap running away from my car carrying a bag that looked exactly like the bag that my computer was in. I'm pretty sure it was a man, but I did not get a good look at his face. Do you think there's any chance you will be able to find him and retrieve my computer?"

"Well," replied the detective, "I'm not sure about the man you claim you saw running from your vehicle or about what might be the fate of your computer, but until you decide to tell us a truthful story, I suspect we shall not be able to help you."

What was Susie Storyteller's lie?

2. Susie Storyteller #2

Susie Storyteller was at it again. Giving a tour to some of her friends who were visiting town, she stopped them in front of a memorial statue of a soldier carrying a rifle. Giving it her personal spin, she explained, "My grandfather Horace Storyteller was killed fighting in World War I. Shortly after the war was over my grandmother spearheaded the effort to erect this statue in honor of him and the others from our area who had died during that terrible war."

Her guests looked at the statue. The figure itself appeared to be about 12 feet tall, made of bronze or some similar metal, and was erected on a concrete pedestal about 3 feet high. It showed a male figure in uniform, carrying a rifle, with one leg lifted as if marching

ahead. On the surface of the concrete pedestal was a metal plaque with the simple inscription, "In honor of all our brave soldiers who gave their lives fighting for freedom during World War I".

Emery Eversharp held back a few steps with one of the other guests until Susie was out of earshot. "That Susie gives quite a tour and quite a story. Too bad she can't stick with telling the truth."

How did Emery know that Susie was lying?

3. Those Marxists

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published the Communist Manifesto in 1848. In it they described an economic struggle between the Proletariat and the Bourgeoisie and advocated a more equitable distribution of resources and a strongly centralized state that would ultimately result in the rise of a classless society. They stated, "The theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property."

You may agree or disagree with Marx and Engels' philosophy, but what did they definitely get wrong?

4. Do You Register?

The poll taker asked, "Are you registered to vote at this address?"

"Yes," Suzanna Smith responded.

"May I please speak with an adult who is not registered to vote at this address?"

"Yes. That would be Uncle George," Suzanna Smith responded.

"May I please speak with Uncle George?"

She called Uncle George to the phone, and the poll taker started asking him questions. "In what year were you born?"

"1962," Uncle George responded.

"Are you married, divorced, widowed or never married?"

"Divorced."

"Do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate or liberal in your political opinions?"

"Moderate."

"Although you are not currently registered to vote, if you were to register to vote in next year's election, would you be more likely to register as a Republican, as a Democrat or as an Independent?"

"Well, I can't really answer that question?"

"Are you saying that you don't know?"

"No," Uncle George responded, "I am saying that the question isn't right, and therefore I cannot answer it."

What was wrong with the poll taker's question?

CHAPTER 2 SCIENCE AND MATH TEASERS

Each of these brainteasers relies on a basic understanding of science and math.

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1. Freddy Flyaway Returns

Freddy Flyaway has returned from his reconnaissance of the solar system after developing a superfast spaceship so that he could complete the journey in a matter of a few months. He has invited you to his presentation of his adventure. He has a slideshow in which he presents many pictures of the various planets, describes the design of his special spacecraft, gives a long, agonizing description of how he came to embark on such a journey, and provides rock samples from each of the nine planets. (Nobody told Freddy that Pluto was no longer a planet.) Why do you doubt the validity of Freddy's presentation?

Hint:

The solar system is comprised of four smaller inner planets, four larger outer planets, and then Pluto, which is rather an oddball.

2. Heavier Molecule

Which is heavier, a molecule of water or a molecule of air? Hint:

hydrogen.

A molecule of water is composed of one atom of oxygen and two atoms of

3. Which Way Is South?

It is commonly known that the "front" two stars of the Big Dipper line up in such a way as to point "upwards" (thinking of the Big Dipper as an actual dipper that would hold water) toward the north star and therefore toward the north (approximately), at least in terms of how we see it from Earth. Thinking of this phenomenon in the same frame of reference (as we see it from Earth), if you follow the line of the same two stars "downwards" (in the opposite direction), does it point to the south?

4. Galileo's Descendant

Galileo is purported to have tried to measure the speed of light by having two men climb two different hills, flash lantern lights back and forth and measure the lapse in time, discounting for human reaction time. Of course, even if he had performed this experiment, it would not have worked, given that the speed of light is so fast that it can travel around the earth seven times in one second. However, Braggadocio, a great, great, great, great nephew of the honored Galileo, living in present-day New England, being somewhat arrogant, thinks he

is smarter than his great, great, great uncle, and that he can successfully perform the experiment, because he has such quick reflexes.

Instead of using two nearby hills, Braggadocio decides to use the top of Mount Katahdin, 1 mile high (actually, it lacks 13 feet of being one-mile, but close enough for our purposes), at the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. He intends to flash the light from Mount Washington across the border in New Hampshire, 150 miles away, but realizes that numerous peaks of the Appalachian Mountains obscure the view in between, so he decides to set up somewhat eastward on Pleasant Mountain in Maine, not as high, at only a little over a third (.367) of a mile altitude, but also 150 miles away and without intervening mountains.

He waits for a perfectly clear night, uses powerful lamps that can be seen clearly over that distance, and sends his cousin, Pinocchio, whose reflexes are equally as fast as Braggadocio's, to the top of Mount Katahdin. The experiment fails, but not because the speed of light is too fast to measure. (Braggadocio still claims that he is fast enough to do it.)

Why does the experiment fail?

<u>Hint</u>: It is not because I did not use enough "great greats" in the preceding description!

Heavier Cans

You have two identical cans of peas, which you weigh on a perfectly accurate scale, and find that each one weighs exactly 1 pound. (All weighings are done in the same location, at sea level, on the surface of the earth.) You have another can which is exactly the same size as either of the cans of peas, but is filled with a denser material. You weigh this can on the same scale and it gives you a weight of exactly 2 pounds. Is the combined mass of the two cans of peas less than, equal to, or greater than the mass of the single can of unknown substance?

CHAPTER 3 SOME INTERESTING CALCULATIONS

These are some things that I have calculated out that you might find interesting. Of course, no one would expect you to know the exact answer, since I had to sit down and do some calculating to figure them out. And, of course, you could calculate them out yourself to get the answers. But the fun is in trying to guess and see how close you can come to the correct answer. It will be left to your judgment to decide whether you estimate close enough to "get it right". In some cases you may feel that you have done well if you are within 25 percent either way of the true answer. In other cases you can feel that you have done very well just to be on the right order of magnitude!

1. 40 Days and 40 Nights

If it rains for 40 days and 40 nights and dumps enough water over the face of the earth to cover the highest mountains (the Himalayas), how fast is it raining? (We won't worry about where all that water would come from or where it would go afterwards!)

Hint:

Rainfall is typically measured in inches per day. I would suggest that that is not a reasonable way of measuring rain falling this fast.

2. G Force

Force (actually, acceleration) can be measured in "g's". In case you're not familiar with this measurement, it measures the amount of acceleration that is exerted on an object. One "g" is the amount of acceleration that is exerted on an object by gravity when it is at the surface of the earth. If the object is moved out into space farther away from the earth, where the gravity is not as strong, the object will have less than a "g" of force acting on it.

Fighter jet pilots are familiar with this measurement. If one engages in a maneuver which causes a force on his or her body that is twice as much as what he or she would normally experience because of gravity on the ground, he or she would say that he or she has experienced a force of "two g's".

One g is equal to 32 feet per second per second. This means that an object in free fall near the Earth's surface, if not affected by air friction or any factor other than gravity (such as hitting the ground!), would be traveling 32 feet per second (72 MPH) faster at this instant than it was traveling one second ago.

Question: If an astronaut were to get in a spaceship and start accelerating that spaceship at a rate of speed so as to produce one g of force on her body (that is, accelerate at the rate of 32 per second per second), how long would it take to reach the speed of light? (Ignore the effects of relativity, if any. This is a straight mathematical calculation problem.)

3. All Those People!

It seems that everyone has their own example of the effects of exponential growth, so here is mine:

Let us accept the biblical account that all human beings descended from one original couple, and biblical scholars' estimates of the date of creation as being 4004 BC. If every couple throughout history had exactly two children who lived to reproduce, then the population of human beings would remain stable and would never increase, since each couple would merely be replacing themselves. So let's assume that the reproduction rate of human beings has been steady throughout the history of the earth, and that couples have averaged three children per generation (who lived to reproduce again), with an average generation time of 20 years.

If the population of the earth had grown as described in this scenario, without any other constraints or disturbances, what would be the total mass (or weight) of the combined human population today, if we assume that the average human being weighs 150 pounds?

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Use a unit of measurement much bigger than any of those!

Use a unit of measurement bigger than megatons or gigatons!

Use a unit of measurement bigger than kilotons.

Use a unit of measurement bigger than tons.

Use a unit of measurement bigger than tons.
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Use the mass of the earth as your unit of measurement.

4. Big Allowance

Hint #5:

In case you'd like another one of those:

When I was a child I once asked my father if, instead of giving me my weekly one dollar allowance, he would switch to giving me one cent the first week, double it and give me two cents the next week, double it again and give me four cents the next week, and continue doing that for a year. He was smart enough that he did not fall for that trick, but if he had, how much would he have had to pay me over the course of the year?

Hint:

If both Donald Trump and Bill Gates were willing to lend him their entire fortunes he still would not have been able to do it.

5. Keeping Up With Santa Clause

CHAPTER 4 A FEW OTHER TEASERS

| A miscellaneous assortment of other brainteasers. |
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| *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** |
| 1. Word Chopping |
| There are some words in the English language which can be divided into two or more pieces, and each of the pieces will be a word. For instance, the word "notice" can be divided into the words "not" and "ice" (not-ice) and the word "transportation" can be divided into the words "transport", "at", and "ion" (transport-at-ion). Some words can be divided in more than one way. For instance, the word "transportation" could also be divided the following way: transport-at-i-on. I have a habit of playing with words in my mind that I see while I am driving. One day, as I was engaging in this pastime, I happened to notice a normal, everyday word on a highway sign that could be divided up in this manner in at least 12 different ways, and each of the 12 ways would yield different combinations of legitimate words! Can you think of what the word might be? Hint #1: The word was on a sign which gave information useful to motorists (such as "Food and Lodging Next Exit"), rather than on a regulatory sign, such as a speed limit sign. |
| !min boog yllbər 6 25w 1# miH Hint #7: |
| 2. Not So Much Alike |
| There are words in the English language which are pronounced the same but spelled differently (i.e., are homonyms), and that do not share a single letter in common. I can think of a couple of examples; can you? |
| 3. What's Next |
| Which one of the suggestions below comes next in the following sequence? Elementary Dopey cute kid |
| Arrest evildoers Blind kangaroos High school prom Love your mother |

Eat dandelions

Think about how they sound.

Hint:

4. Long Verb

Some verbs are simply one word, such as "eat" or "build". Some verbs are two-word verbs, such as "has eaten" or "has built". Sometimes they can even be three words, such as "would have eaten" or "would have built". How long of a verb can you come up with? I have come up with an eight-word-long verb. Perhaps you can beat it.

5. How Many

How many misteaks are inn this sentence?

6. Time Jumping

John, Paul and Bob were discussing the possibility of time travel, when Bob mentioned that one of his ancestors had once gone to sleep in the 1800s, and then woken up in the 1700s.

"Okay, Bob," responded John, "I'm up to your tricks. Your ancestor must have been on a ship across the international date line from East to West on January 1, 1800."

"Oh, no," responded Bob. "Actually, he went to sleep right in his own house and woke up without having moved."

"That's ridiculous!" responded John.

"I can prove it to you," responded Bob.

How could Bob prove such a thing?

7. Fair Trial

Richard and Pat had done a lot of damage when they got into a bar fight, and were headed to court to see who would be responsible for the damages. The day before the trial, when Richard saw who the judge was assigned to the case, he called the courthouse and complained that he would not be getting a fair trial, since it turned out that the judge was Pat's father. The court clerk showed the docket to the judge, whereupon he replied, "I suppose if Richard feels he would not get a fair trial, it is only fair if I recuse myself from judging this case."

"Good," the court clerk responded, "We wouldn't want anybody saying that the judge was showing favoritism toward his own son."

"Oh no," the judge responded, "Pat is not my son."

Why would Richard claim that the judge was Pat's father, and why would the judge recuse himself from the case?

8. Change Is Possible

CHAPTER 5 NOT SO TRIVIAL

Okay, these are not really brainteasers, in that there is nothing to "figure out" in them. These are more like trivia questions, except that I think you might find them to be a little bit more than just trivial.

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1. Watery Burger

According to the United States Geological Society Georgia Water Science Center (http://ga2.er.usgs.gov/edu/edu-activity-watercontent.cfm), how much water is required to produce one hamburger? This refers to all the water used for all purposes during production, including irrigation of the wheat, irrigation of the corn fed to the cows, watering the cows, etc.

Hint: Don't try to drink it all along with your burger!

2. Godly Nation?

How many times does the name "God" appear in the U.S. Constitution?

3. High Mileage

The energy in one gallon of gasoline has been measured at about 31,000 calories. A nice, economy, fuel-efficient car gets about 40 miles per gallon. How far would a typical bicyclist travel burning this amount of calories?

Hint: He/she is much more calorie-per-mile efficient than a car.

4. The Blues

According to the blue laws of colonial Connecticut, what was the penalty for worshipping a god other than "the Lord God"?

Hint: It's enough to make you feel quite "blue".

5. Biblical Justice

According to the Old Testament, if a man raped a woman the rapist was required to pay the father of the woman 50 shekels of silver. What was the woman required to do?

6. A Morbid Figure

CHAPTER 6 ANAGRAMS - PART 1

Here are some anagrams. An anagram, in case you are not familiar with that term, is simply the letters of a word that have been mixed up and you have to try to figure out how to rearrange them back into the word again. For example, the letters Z U L P Z E can be rearranged to spell the word PUZZLE. All of the anagrams here are between 8 and 10 characters long, which is long enough to be fairly difficult to figure out, but if you're having difficulty unscrambling the letters I provide a clue for each one in the second section. If you still can't get it I provide still another clue for each one in the next section. If you still cannot figure it out I have provide the first letter of each word in the next section. The words were all scrambled randomly by the computer, so there is no attempt to do in either a tricky or an easy manner.

Note: There is always the possibility that more than one word can be made from the same set of letters. If you find another word that can be made from the same letters then kudos to you.

More of these are available at www.wardricker.com/anagrams.php.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

- 1. GNHEDOILB
- 2. ERPZTPAIE
- 3. SDRTEHCRT
- 4. AYERCOMDR
- 5. UMELOCIDN
- 6. ESDITCPARI
- 7. MNHIRSAAC
- 8. PIDRSSEOIN
- 9. NPCDROAL
- 10. EWARTNUY
- 11. TARIINOTT

FIRST CLUES

- 1. Are you seeing that?
- 2. Please enjoy this while we prepare your meal.
- 3. Don't like the way your area is set up? A little gerrymandering might help
- 4. Oh, you're such a good friend.
- 5. I may not sing a pretty song, but I make a nice word game, don't I?
- 6. You act so much like a child it makes me sick! (No offense, now.)
- 7. Is anyone in control of this mess?
- 8. Don't let any of these letters get away from you.
- 9. Plant your stuff here.
- 10. Nice and thick. The way I like it!
- 11. Am I wearing you down?

Continued....

SECOND CLUES

- 1. Are you watching it unfold?
- 2. Just a little light fare. The real stuff will be coming soon.
- 3. Area boundaries don't always stay the same. Sometimes they get changed.
- 4. You enjoy a good friendship, right?
- 5. I just can't seem to get those notes to sound good.
- 6. Now, what about sick children?
- 7. Nope.
- 8. We don't want things dissipating away.
- 9. This is good ground--nice and fertile.
- 10. Even a bit dry is okay.
- 11. Are you wearing away little by little until nothing is left?

Continued .

FIRST LETTERS

1. B 2. A 3. R 4. C 5. U 6. P 7. A 8. D 9. C 10. U 11. A 12. C 13. U 14. R 15. S 16. F 17. M 18. I 19. A 20. O Continued

CHAPTER 7 ANAGRAMS - PART 2

Here are some anagrams of words used in sentences. Be ready for puns! (I'm a punny guy, you know.) One thing to help you: For those answers that are more than one word, the number of characters in each group of letters is the correct number of letters for that word. That is, if you see IE PTO FORTMY, then you know that, however the letters rearrange, there will be a 2-letter word, followed by a 3-letter word, followed by a 6-letter word. These anagrams I rearranged myself, so if you don't like the way I've done it--well, tough!

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

- 1. They had been trying to move that big boulder out of the yard for the last seven days, but they were unable to do it because they were **AWK LEAL**.
- 2. If you don't like the looks of your new pet when it is young, just wait and over time it will **YOUR GO WON**.
- 3. The weasel was telling the beaver that she used to have an extra coat, but the **LIME STINK TO**.
- 4. He didn't want to pay to ride the bus because he thought the price was "AFRUNE".
- 5. He said that her thought of adding an extra light in the kitchen was a **RIGIDE BATH**.
- 6. No matter how much he tried to get her to buy his nice, soft leather products, the salesman was unable to **SHE-"PRUDE" ERE**.
- 7. No mention is made in the Bible of what the penalty was for doing drugs, but scholars have suggested it was **BINGO TENSED**.
- 8. I came *over here* so that I could try to **REHOVERA** their conversation.
- 9. They were trying to figure out how heavy the cow was, but they couldn't figure it out because they were doing it **WIG WORTH "HENGE"**.
- 10. The beef company wanted a special promotion to get people's attention, so they decided to hold a **ASKEW-"STEEPS"**.
- 11. When the kitty cat at the club wagered his diamond that he could win her heart she said not to bother because she **BED DEAN "PHASE"**.
- 12. The park ranger said that the **STAB FREAC** of the matter were that Grizzly numbers were declining.
- 13. When he said that one of those yellow fruits just wasn't enough to fill him up, she said, "Well then, have a 'FORM' AT HEEP".

- 14. When the burgers, fries and sodas arrived in the middle of the trial the judge declared, "TRIED NO ERR TOUCH."
- 15. When the addict exclaimed how divine the drugs were his friend bid him **SEGDEPOD**.
- 16. Before the well-dressed businessman changed the tire he thought he should **HEATER ACTING**.
- 17. When the singing group needed some special robes before they could perform, it was necessary to **I-"HORCH" MEAT**.
- 18. The group that got together to sing some songs decided to sit in a circle so they could sing **ON U DRAIN**.
- 19. He was having a hard time getting the bull to go into the barn where it was going to be castrated, but eventually they were able to **NITRE ET IS**.
- 20. The carpenter didn't need a hammer or a level when he went into the hardware store, but he was looking for a **QUEERS ALDA**.
- 21. "You really nailed it that time," he told the tall volleyball player. "You're so good **TA PIGSKIN**."
- 22. When the two quartets formed among the prisoners, they found that their music would **GIVITTH-"PEACE"** their audiences.
- 23. He thought that using covers with lots of holes in them, rather than solid ones, was a "AGATE" RIDE.
- 24. All the lions in the group were arrogant because they had a **DIB GRIPE**.
- 25. The gambler thought he was in heaven when he had a "PICA-I-DARE" in his hands.
- 26. The boat owner thought that it was a good time to replace some of the rigging on his boat because there was **I "LOAN" IT AS**.
- 27. Burying her in the wrong plot was a **RROAR VERGE**.
- 28. The septic tank cleaner recorded his earnings as **SINCE GROOMS**.

Continued .

CHAPTER 8 MISSING VOWELS

It is easier to recognize a sentence from its consonants than from its vowels. For instance, try to read the following sentence in which the consonants are left out:

__AYI__ _O__ _A_E_ I_ A _O_ O_ _U_.

Not much chance of ever figuring out that that was supposed to say, huh? Now consider the same sentence with the consonants in and the vowels left out:

I bet you figured it out that time, didn't you? Even though there are roughly the same number of vowels as consonants in the sentence, you could probably figure out the sentence with the vowels left out but not with the consonants left out.

Here are some well-known sayings that you have undoubtedly heard in which I have left out the vowels to see if you can figure out what they are. However, being the piss-ass that I am and not wanting to make things too easy for you, what I have done, instead of leaving the spaces in between blank, is to insert random consonants where the vowels are supposed to be. (Tricky, ain't I?) Now you have to try to figure out which are the bogus consonants before you can insert the vowels to make the sentence. Not so easy! Have fun trying, though.

To make things just a tad easier, perhaps, I have not replaced any y's or w's, even if they are serving as vowels.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

- 1. Gt js nw hsm cryvng dvtr spblt mklk.
- 2. Zbsqncc mnkxs thr hdmrt grzw flndfr.
- 3. Lzt slfxprng dfgs lbk.
- 4. Shxkng ts brlmlvjng.
- 5. Yew wen szmr, ytj lvsk snmg.
- 6. Whin thr ctt's dwky the mlck wtll plhy.
- 7. Thx grwss xs glwkys grqzner jn the nthlr skdw lf thq fwnej.
- 8. Thdrt's ns plbcp lqkm hzml.
- 9. D fxfl qnd hxs mqnvy src sxmn pfrtpd.
- 10. Lhsk bgfwrr yxb ljkp.
- 11. Tww hwsds krc bxttgr thgn rnc.
- 12. Hn whv hdskthtts js lkst.
- 13. Vqrdvty rs ths spvcw gf lqfg.
- 14. Thg ptn ws mxghttnr thnn thg swxrd.

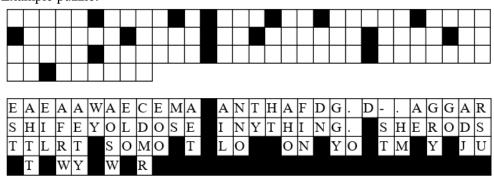
CHAPTER 9 WORD GRIDS

The answers for the puzzles in this chapter are quotes by famous people, followed by the person's name, which fit into the grids shown. The letters that appear in each column of the grid have been pulled out and inserted into the grid underneath in alphabetical order for that column. Can you replace the letters from each column to determine the quote? Any word that does not have a black box after it at the end of a line continues onto the next line until the next black box.

In case you are not familiar with this type of puzzle (I did not create this puzzle style.), in the example below, the letters E, S and T appear in the first column (in alphabetical order) of the second grid. In the answer, the three letters have been reinserted into the three squares of the fist column of the playing grid so that they are in the correct positions to form the quote. So has been done to each column of the second grid to produce a quote by Margaret Atwood.

And if these aren't enough for you, I have hundreds of these puzzles up at www.wardricker.com/wordgame.php.

Example puzzle:

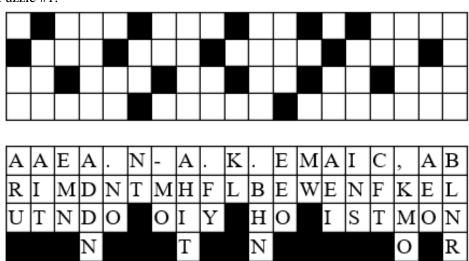


Example puzzle answer:

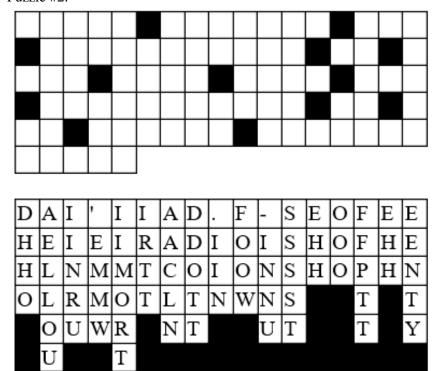


*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

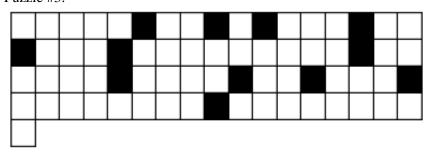
Puzzle #1:



Puzzle #2:

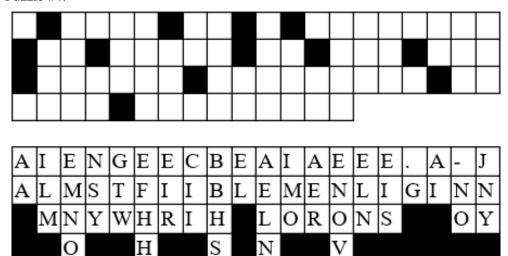


Puzzle #3:



| A | Н | D | G | Е | Q | Η | | Ν | - | В | M | A | Η | A | В | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Е | Η | E | R | Ε | R | О | A | S | A | Ι | О | L | Ν | Ι | Ι | R |
| J | Ν | Ι | S | | T | S | Е | | Т | V | О | Ν | S | | R | Y |
| T | U | S | W | | | U | F | | | | Y | | Т | | S | |

Puzzle #4:



CHAPTER 10 TWISTY WORDS

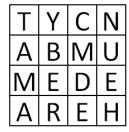
In each of these 4 x 4 grids is hidden an eight-letter word. The word is formed by eight consecutively joined squares, connecting in any direction: up, down, sideways or diagonally. Each letter of the word must be adjacent to its preceding and following letter, and no square may be used twice in the word.

It is possible that there is more than one eight-letter word that could be found some grids. "Extra points" if you find a different on than the one that I give as the answer.

For example, in the following grid, if you start with the circled letter A and follow around in the directions indicated by the arrows you will spell the word ANAGRAMS.

| Р | D | Μ | -S |
|---|------------|---|----|
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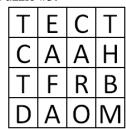
Puzzle #1:



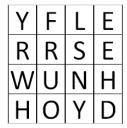
Puzzle #2:



Puzzle #3:



Puzzle #4:



Puzzle #5:



Puzzle #6:



Puzzle #7:

| Н | Α | | G |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ν | G | Α | Μ |
| L | Α | Ε | M |
| Z | 1 | Ν | D |

Puzzle #8:

| О | O | R | В |
|---|----------|---|---|
| Р | Α | P | L |
| Ε | \vdash | Υ | Ε |
| R | О | Τ | D |

Puzzle #9:

| Α | Р | Н | U |
|---|---|---|---|
| D | — | Ρ | K |
| L | Τ | S | _ |
| Α | G | Z | В |

Puzzle #10:

| Н | Α | G | Р |
|---|---|---|---|
| Р | W | O | R |
| О | R | Z | K |
| L | Η | S | Ε |

Puzzle #11:

| Υ | Ν | Α | Ν |
|---|-------------|---|---|
| Т | Α | — | G |
| J | 0 | Δ | Е |
| О | $ \ \Box$ | G | D |

Puzzle #12:

| > | U | Τ | R |
|---|-----|---|---|
| 1 | O | L | Α |
| N | M | Ε | F |
| 7 | IVI | ┙ | ┙ |

Puzzle #13:

| Т | R | - | W |
|---|---|---|---|
| S | Ш | > | |
| Ε | Τ | J | N |
| Н | U | S | Р |

Puzzle #14:

| Ν | D | L | R |
|---|-----------|---|---|
| О | Α | R | Ε |
| ٧ | \subset | Т | Τ |
| Α | G | Η | Ε |

Puzzle #15:

| R | Р | Ш | S |
|-------|---|---|---|
| \pm | 0 | > | _ |
| R | Ρ | R | D |
| G | Α | D | Ε |

CHAPTER 11 OBSCURE DEFINITIONS

If you have ever played the "dictionary game" that people sometimes play at parties you might enjoy this one. In creating the anagrams game I encountered a lot of words that I had never seen before. (There are a lot of words in the English language! I probably didn't recognize 1 out of 5 of the words that I got in a list of 200,000+ English words I downloaded from the internet.) Here are some of those words that I thought were kind of nice-sounding or otherwise interesting. I am guessing that you won't recognize them either. Try your luck at guessing the definitions of these words. For each one, can you pick the correct definition from the other three false definitions that I made up? I tried to make my definitions sound "dictionaryish" (well, most of them), so let's see if I can fool you.

*** ***

1. Triticeous

- A. Consisting of three primary tissue layers: endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm
- B. Having three breasts
- C. Resembling or shaped like a grain of wheat
- D. Denoting a body with three prominent protrusions

2. Curiboca

- A. A person from Boca, California who is always asking pesky questions
- B. A small Central American mammal distinguished by its short, curled tail and striated forelegs
- C. A spicy sauce of Argentine origin typically eaten with mixture of corn and lentils
- D. A Brazilian of American Indian and European or African ancestry

3. Hodmandod

- A. A male person of certain aboriginal tribes in north Australia who keeps a hod in his dod
- B. A snail
- C. A device used by peoples of eastern Siberia for excavating postholes
- D. Basket used by natives of Newfoundland for carrying shellfish

4. Cabassou

- A. A large mammal of northern Canada
- B. A game played with small round beads, similar to marbles, played by children in northeastern provinces of India
- C. The southern naked-tailed armadillo
- D. An inhabitant of the Cabassas region of central Asia

5. Archivolt

- A. Electrical circuit in which the voltage resonates between two antipodal nodes
- B. Results of Archie Bunker playing with electricity
- C. A curved passageway found in some pyramidal structures
- D. A decorative molding carried around an arched wall opening

6. Swelchie

- A. A whirlpool
- B. A person from the Schweshland district of England
- C. A kind of tea that really tastes swell
- D. A type of light outer garment worn by various indigenous Scandinavian peoples

7. Copiopia

- A. An extensive philosophical work produced jointly by philosophers of the Fifteenth Century
- B. Tendency to act like Opie of the Andy Griffith Show
- C. Eyestrain
- D. Extreme narcissism

8. Antinormal

- A. Someone who can't stand normal people
- B. Not normal; abnormal
- C. In mathematics, the reverse of the curve of a given differential equation
- D. Physically awkward being

9. Onyxitis

- A. An inflammation of the matrix of the nail, occurring most frequently in unhealthy children
- B. Condition caused by lack of vitamin B-7, characterized by pale skin and dullness of vision
- C. A genus of small flowering plants, characterized by their unusual staminate pistils
- D. Stimulation caused by viewing a certain gemstone

CHAPTER 12 HOMONYMS

Homonyms are words that sound alike but are spelled differently, such as "to" and "two" or "plane" and "plain". In each of the sentences below find two homonyms to insert into the blanks so that the sentence will make sense. Sometimes a homonym can be comprised of more than one word. For example "around" and "a round" are two different "words" and are therefore homonyms. Be on guard, though. I might use approximate homonyms, such as using "lyin" and "lion" in a sentence like, "I think you were _____ when you said you saw a in the jungle." *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** 1. I the race because I came in number . 2. Come over so I can you better. 3. I am too ______ to go _____ around in a hang glider today. 4. Pay the _____ so you can ride the bus to the _____. 5. _____ you see if papa is done splitting the _____. 6. I wonder the will be okay for our camping trip. 7. I was feeling pretty _____ last ____. 8. The to get the right amount is to it out. 9. That's an interesting shirt, but _____ would you _____ it. 10. The _____ says I can _____ years to my life if I use their herbal supplements. 11. I can't believe I _____ all ____ pieces of the pizza. 12. The reason he _____ money is that he is so _____ in his attitude toward work. 13. Don't ______ on the _____ plant. Somebody may want to pick those. 14. How many ______s in that movie have you _____? 15. A _____ without fur would be very _____. 16. I hope you don't _____, but we _____ all the diamonds out of the ground. 17. I _____ not know how much money is _____ him. 18. There is _____ way to ____ if there is life on other planets. 19. _____ believe you have very pretty _____s.

20. Is that iron _____, ____ is that just a plain old rock.

| 21. If I have dollars that's good enough me to buy lunch. |
|---|
| 22. If you're hungry have a ofs. |
| 23 might have to robes before it does performances. |
| 24. The golfer with the swing off in a few minutes. |
| 25. Will you get to singing in |
| 26. (Here's a cute one.) If there had been one more person on Gilligan's Island, then the might "" you. |
| 27. Would you rather eat cob or an |
| 28. I don't know if they allow gambling in, so it might be hard to find a there. |
| 29 person with little credit might have trouble getting if he is |
| 30. It may come to where you may have to someone to get the job done |
| 31. The may picture today. |
| 32 of me likes to make, but that is from my usual activities. |
| 33. Can your mathematician dad take time away from calculatings to your loan. |
| Continued |

CHAPTER 13 PLACE NAMES

For each of the following sentences see if you can think of the name of a place on planet earth that, if inserted into the blank, would sound like the correct words to make a legitimate sentence that makes sense. All of the names are of cities, states/provinces or countries. There are no names of rivers, mountains, deserts, etc. I have taken a little bit of "artistic license" on some of them, so they may not match the pronunciation exactly, but should be close enough for you to guess the answer. The first one is given as an example.

| Example: He has hit the outfields than any other player. |
|--|
| Answer: He has hit the Baltimore outfields than any other player. |
| *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** |
| |
| 1. If you're then put on a sweater. |
| 2. The decision from Citizens that organizations can donate money just like people |
| 3. Martha is broke right now, but maybe you can have you the money. |
| 4. Can you make a person who plays the value of playing badminton? |
| 5. The fellow Emma is going out with is a real jerk, but the is seeing is pretty cool. |
| 6. If you are going hunting, you can take bow and arrows |
| 7. Those in the a lot of death and carnage. |
| 8. She has to take the time to make sure her work is accurate, so don't |
| 9. If your neck you might get a better view. |
| 10. I am having a hard time here, help me out a minute? |
| 11. In case it might help therapy is being developed for that condition. |
| 12. If you want a curved piece of wood, draw an it out! |
| 13. Before I play pool up the balls. |
| 14. No matter how much you say it is true, I just can't believe it |
| 15. His hiking boots are gray, but his |
| 16. "You're Living But You Got No". |
| 17. How much are you frying that stuff in? |
| 18. Don't go over there! |
| 19. He came, he saw, he |

| 20. The mouse if he doesn't want to get stepped on. |
|--|
| 21. If you don't want something big to drink, then just have a |
| 22. One won't do it, but a enough. |
| 23. Go to the down the street and get some sliced ham. |
| 24. I saw your your dad walking down the street. |
| 25. Pa's horse is doing great, but has seen better days. |
| 26. Is brown cow, or ?. |
| |
| |

CHAPTER 14 DAFFYNITIONS

A daffynition is a ridiculous definition applied to a normal, everyday word, usually because it sounds like something else, such as saying that "denial" is a river in Africa. Below are some daffynitions of some ordinary words. Can you guess from the given daffynition what the word is?

*** ***

| 1 | : To remove the posteriormost part of an animal's body. |
|-----|---|
| 2 | : What small insects are to a gentleman. |
| 3 | : What you might hope for after you've learned to see, hear, taste, smell and feel. |
| 4 | : Inability to marry the one you love. |
| 5 | : Someone you go out with who tells you what she really thinks of you. |
| 6 | : Making sure that girl you are staring at is at last 18 years old. |
| 7 | : Belief in religious writings. |
| 8 | : Increasing one's offer at an auction. |
| 9 | : It's at the edge of de lawn. |
| 10 | : Getting one's male bovine out of the barn. |
| 11 | : To let off on the tightness of those thumb screws. |
| 12 | : Edna's sister, who is not very bright. |
| 13 | : Playing tennis with that famous guy, Burl. |
| 14 | : Replace the rubber on that old clunker. |
| 15 | : A place to find fine voices. |
| 16 | : In divorce proceedings, former spouse giving in to one's demands. |
| 17. | : Careful language used by a convicted criminal. |

CHAPTER 15 BOOKS THAT WERE NEVER WRITTEN

You have likely seen "Books That Were Never Written" before, in which someone has made up a potential book title and put with it a made-up name, the wording of the name applying to the book title in such a way as to make it humorous or "cute". Examples would be My Favorite Monster by Frank N. Stein or How to Cross a River by Dee Bote.

Below are some book titles and author names that I made up for "Books That Were Never Written," except that I have made puzzles out of them. Can you guess the name that I made up for each book title, given the initials of the fictional author's name? After each book's name I have included the initials of the fictitious author with blanks indicating that there are missing letters. In the case of an initial only being given in a name, I have not given the initial, but have inserted a short blank (underscore) where the initial belongs.

Note that, while people often take great liberties in what is used as a "name" (as with "Bote" above), I have used only words that I believe you will recognize as "legitimate" names (John, Mary, Samantha, Clyde, Smith, Jones, Nixon, Dillinger, etc.). Of course, you may well come up with some better names than the ones I came up with. Kudos if you do!

Also note that you will probably find these to be quite difficult to do. The names are often not at all obvious. If you get just a few of them you can consider yourself to have done well. You might choose instead to do them "in reverse", that is, look at the author name first and come up with a title, and then compare that with the title that I came up with.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

1. Foretelling the Future, by C______ B_____

2. Using A Lasso, by K_______ R____

3. The Joy of Christmastime, by C_____ S____

4. Christmas Treats, by C_____ C___

5. Speed Reading Made Easy, by P_____ T____

6. Don't Fight the Wind, by L_____ W____

7. Give It To 'Em Straight, by F______ B____

8. Be A Can-Doer! A Handbook to Success, by _. _. A_____

9. The Maine Coastline, by R_____ S____

10. How to Be Second, by _. _. A_____

11. Dad Was Right After All!, by A_____ W____

12. Stopping Illegal Immigration, by H______ B_____

13. When Life's Way Isn't Smooth, by R_____ R_____

| 14. Unbelievable Animal Antics, by L |
|--|
| 15. Creative Soup Recipes, by M KS |
| 16. Dealing With Anger, by M |
| 17. Dealing With a Premature Birth, by E |
| 18. Polygamy in the U.S., by C G |
| 19. Voices on the Warpath, by R H |
| 20. How To Appreciate Your Spouse, by R D |
| 21. My Angry Child, by I M |
| 22. The Happy Widow, by M B |
| 23. When You're Not Well Take the Day Off, by I C |
| 24. My Son Joined the Army, by W |
| 25. Turning the Power On, by A D |
| 26. The Year of the Great Harvest, by P B |
| 27. Why We Should Welcome Chinese Immigrants, by C E |
| 28. Maleness in the 21st Century, by A M |
| 29. The Precious Metals, by S F |
| 30. Adam's Companions, by E A |
| 31. Regeneration Capabilities in Fish Species, by B |
| 32. How to Get Away With Cheating On Your Wife, by M C |
| 33. Keeping Our Irish Boy Warm, by M |
| 34. Displaying Your Creative Works, by A B |
| 35. One Hell of a Victory, by A G |
| |

CHAPTER 16 DISTANCES ON EARTH

How good you are at estimating distances between various locations on earth? Each of the items below is a pair of locations somewhere on the planet Earth. Estimate the distance between them "as the crow flies". You can use either miles or kilometers -- whichever you find most convenient; the answers are given in both measurements, with the actual distance, as well as 25 percent lower and higher. If you can estimate within 25 percent either way then I would say you make a pretty good geographer. (Helpful hint: Earth's circumference at the equator is 24,901 miles/40,075 km.)

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

What is the distance between:

- 1. Louisville, Kentucky and Stonehenge, England?
- 2. San Antonio, Texas and Detroit, Michigan?
- 3. Jerusalem, Israel and Stockholm, Sweden?
- 4. Abidjan, Ivory Coast and Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada?
- 5. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Mecca, Saudi Arabia?
- 6. Warsaw, Poland and the western tip of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska?
- 7. San Juan, Puerto Rico and Nairobi, Kenya?
- 8. Billings, Montana and Tegucigalpa, Honduras?
- 9. Dallas, Texas and The Matterhorn, Switzerland?
- 10. Omaha, Nebraska and Aswan, Egypt?
- 11. Fairbanks, Alaska and Yosemite National Park, California?
- 12. Minneapolis, Minnesota and Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico?
- 13. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Isle of Man (off the coast of England)?
- 14. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Vienna, Austria?
- 15. El Paso, Texas and Damascus, Syria?
- 16. Accra, Ghana and Zurich, Switzerland?

CHAPTER 17 WHICH CAME FIRST?

No, we're not talking about chickens and eggs here. Each puzzle lists three inventions or

developments. Can you tell which of three was invented or developed first? (If you wish to be more challenged, can you tell the order of all three?) *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

- 1. A. First weather observatory network
 - B. Guillotine
 - C. Wearable Pacemaker
- 2. A. Mercury thermometer
 - B. Bra (patented)
 - C. Rockets
- 3. A. Clear adhesive tape
 - B. "<" and ">" symbols
 - C. Canons
- 4. A. Christmas cards
 - B. Space shuttle
 - C. Braille
- 5. A. Synthetic diamonds
 - B. Braille
 - C. Refrigerator
- 6. A. Battery that could maintain a constant current
 - B. Post-it notes
 - C. Clear adhesive tape
- 7. A. Lobotomy
 - B. Lightning Rod
 - C. Plastic food wrap
- 8. A. Solar cell
 - B. Steam engine
 - C. Tin can

- 9. A. Electric washing machine
 - B. Periodic table of the elements
 - C. The hygrometer
- 10. A. Decimal system
 - B. Pressure cooker
 - C. Tin can
- 11. A. Scrabble
 - B. Full-color movies
 - C. Differential equations
- 12. A. Gasoline-powered automobile
 - B. Beta-blockers
 - C. Chromatography
- 13. A. First weather observatory network
 - B. Reflecting telescope
 - C. Rubber vulcanization
- 14. A. Transistor
 - B. Coca-Cola
 - C. Superglue
- 15. A. DDT
 - B. Laser
 - C. Lobotomy

CHAPTER 18 ROTATED IMAGES

No, the following words are not Greek or Russian. They are English words -- or, rather, images of English words that I have flipped or rotated. Can you tell what the word is? For instance, what is this word?

iguana

It is the word "iguana", which has simply been flipped upside down. (If you don't believe me just hold a mirror underneath it.) The following are images of words which I have flipped or rotated in one way or another. Just to make it a little more interesting, I use different fonts which can make it a bit more challenging. In the answers section I show you the unflipped/unrotated image.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

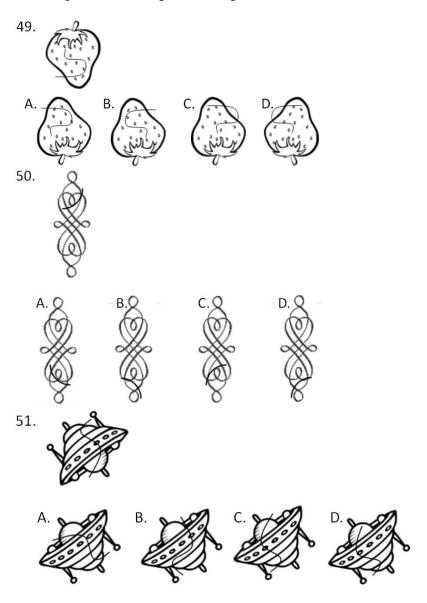
theddar 12 planter 18 panic 19 cheddar 14 particle 15 instant 19 destiny 14 particle 15 instant 10 destiny 17 trusted 15 frankly 10 JUSTIFY 8 offer 8 ksdk6

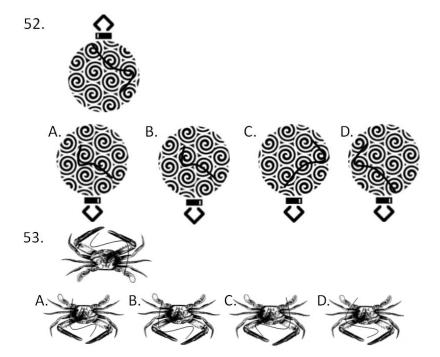
4 ofigsod 2 kontners 9 yourself 17 happy 5 challenge 3 horse

Now that you're warmed up let's try some really weird fonts!

19. GENTRY ^{50.} Mirithu ^{51.} Scrpent finish

In the rest of this chapter I have taken somebody's nice drawing and defaced it by drawing a squiggly line or other atrocious thing through or on it I didn't do it just because I felt like being mean and defacing someone else's artwork, though. It is to make some puzzles. After doing this, I then made a copy of the image and turned it upside down. Then I put three other images next to that one that are similar but not quite the same. Can you pick out which is the correct upside down image of the original?





CHAPTER 19 SEQUENCES

Do you understand a pattern when you see it? Here are a bunch of sequences, each one using a pattern to determine sequential numbers or objects. In each puzzle there is one item in the list that doesn't belong there because it is not in sequence with the rest. Can you spot and correct the "errant" object? [Note: This is more difficult than giving you a proper sequence and then asking for the next number/object in the sequence, as is typically done with this type of question.]

*** ***

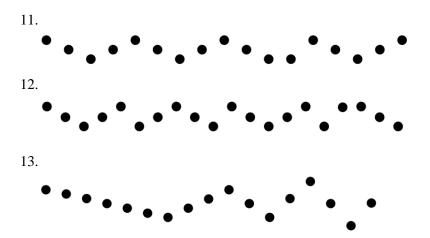
Let's start with some number sequences. You have probably seen that type of puzzle before. (And therefore, some of these, at least, are probably not truly original, but I did not take the time to try to figure out which ones are already out there.) The following lists of numbers follow patterns, so they are in sequence one after the other, except that there is one number which is wrong and does not fit into the sequence. Can you tell which one it is? They start off simple and get harder as you go.

- 1. 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15, 19, 22, 25
- 2. 3, 6, 12, 24, 46, 96, 192
- 3. 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 16, 22, 29, 37
- 4. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17, 19, 23, 29
- 5. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 14, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144
- 6. 1, 2, 5, 10, 17, 26, 37, 50, 68, 82, 101
- 7. 2, 6, 18, 54, 162, 482, 1458, 4374, 13122
- 8. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24, 32, 48, 66, 96, 128, 192

Challenger: This one is really tricky. 9. 2, 3, 5, 9, 17, 33, 65, 121, 257

Super challenger: You'll never get this one, but give it a try if you think you are really clever! 10. 1, 2, 5, 14, 41, 122, 254, 1094

Things other than numbers can form sequences. We'll start off with some lines of dots. One of the dots in each puzzle is in the wrong position to fit the sequence. Can you spot the "errant" dot?



And which item in each of the following sequences is not correct? 14.

