

# ADVICE-VERSA

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Much of what passes for advice is, on examination, self-contradictory. "Never give anyone advice," "Don't listen to what others tell you," "God-damn all profanity," and "Avoid iambic meter, son" are examples. In the quiz below, thirty bits of paradoxical linguistic "advice" have been split into two parts, the first in the left-hand column and the second in the right-hand one. Can you re-combine each half with its illogical mate? Answers are found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 punctuate                | a Latinate verbiage       |
| 2 never use                | b dead as a doornail      |
| 3 vulgarity                | c quasi-operative         |
| 4 slang's                  | d to slogans              |
| 5 hyphens are              | e sucks                   |
| 6 the passive voice        | f no double negatives     |
| 7 foreign terms are        | g use of sexist language  |
| 8 when dangling,           | h into lerable            |
| 9 coinages are             | i colloquialisms          |
| 10 steer clear             | j don't use participles   |
| 11 don't use               | k should be avoided       |
| 12 cliches are             | l a no-no                 |
| 13 stamp out               | m malapropisms            |
| 14 a writer must limit his | n verboten                |
| 15 evacuate                | o a bummer                |
| 16 it's unacceptable to    | p redundancy              |
| 17 give up exaggerating    | q pretty ugly             |
| 18 terminate               | r rhetorical questions?   |
| 19 shun superfluous        | s contractions            |
| 20 eliminate               | t euphemisms              |
| 21 eschew                  | u star                    |
| 22 chuck                   | v obfuscation             |
| 23 watch close             | w of rhymes               |
| 24 why use                 | x stock phrases           |
| 25 dump mixed metaphors    | y your syntax             |
| 26 proofread               | z like the plague         |
| 27 just say no             | A ever split infinitives  |
| 28 oxymorons are           | B carfully                |
| 29 finish whatever you     | C at all costs            |
| 30 mistakes are            | D this, sentence properly |