

MORE CHARADES AND MONDEGREENS

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- A. Here is an assortment of my own charades.
1. A coffee vase can be explicit or implicit:
overt-urn or **tacit-urn**.
 2. Neckwear can be formal or informal:
proper-ties or **casual-ties**.
as well as unusual or understated:
novel-ties or **subtle-ties**.
 3. Two partitions of a word in the *Star Spangled Banner*:
“Or the **ramp arts** we watched” (as we entered the expressway);
“Or the **ram parts** we watched” (at the butcher shop).
 4. Other “ramp” words with two partitions:
rampages: ramp ages or **ram pages**;
rampant: ramp ant or **ram pant**;
rampion: ramp ion or **ram pion**.
 5. Those mischievous **imps** start all sorts of things.
Here are a few: **imp-act, imp-ale, imp-art, imp-asses, imp-ending, imp-licit, imp-lied, imp-lode, imp-lore, imp-orts, imp-roper, imp-roving, imp-unity**.
 6. There was unusual interest in a splendid nocturnal bird, when millions watched the **superb owl** on TV.
 7. Leaving iron tools out in the fog may lead to **mist-rust**.
 8. What did **Poe try**? Did Coleridge get his **Words worth**?
- B. Children who learn to recite patriotic songs, religious hymns, etc., that they haven’t ever read create remarkable mondegreens. Here are some dandies.
1. The country called “Tizathee” (as in “My country, Tizathee”) was the “Land where the Pilgrims pried” (they were so nosy!).
 2. A bright beacon at sea was the “Donzerly Light” (as in “O say can you see by the Donzerly Light”).
 3. Children in northwest Pennsylvania beseeched a deity named “Harold” (as in “Our father which art in heaven, Harold be thy name”) as follows: “And lead us not into Penn Station, but deliver us from Meadville.”
 4. Finally, from the 23rd Psalm, they recited “Surely good Mrs. Murphy will follow me all the days of my life.”