

KICKSHAWS

DAVE MORICE
Iowa City, Iowa

A HELL OF A TEST

When my son Danny took the ACT test, I wrote a poem about it and its evil twin, the SAT test. SAT, of course, is an abbreviation for Satan. I've recited this poem several times to different groups. The SAT building is located in Iowa City. I'm planning on doing a YouTube presentation of the poem in front of their sign this spring. It's a fun poem to read aloud. If you do it, try to say Beelzebub's voice in a deep, Hellish accent. Do him justice. And as you get toward the end, increase the volume of your dramatic, demonic reading. If you perform it loudly, your neighbors will call an exorcist. They'll think you are sick, sick, sick (that's 666). Meanwhile, don't be too afraid. It's only a poem. It's only ahhhhhh!

Took the ACT in Heaven
And then when I got rested,
Took the SAT down under,
Where I was soon Hell-tested.

Beelzebub stood before us.
His desk was bright and fiery.
He blazed behind it, cursing
And looking mean and wiry.

He said, "You take this paper
And answer every question.
This test is tough as nails,
So here is one suggestion.

In Hell, you'd better listen
And follow this old rule:
In Hell, you cheat and copy
From another tortured fool.

If you answer just one question
Incorrectly, you get crammed
Into a tiny, hot box
That says on top, 'You're damned!'

The box keeps getting smaller
For every answer wrong.
But if you cheat the right way

And copy all along

And get the whole test right,
You get a perfect score,
And then you get a pitchfork,
A tail, and, what's more,

You get to torture others,
You get to hear them squeal,
You get to be like me, and
You get to pray and kneel

To Satan, Lord of Darkness,
The brightest and the best
Of all the devils anywhere:
He wrote the goddamn test!

HOMOPHONIC REVERSALS TEAM UP WITH ANTONYMS

Susan Thorpe combines sound and letter play to come up with some sound letter play. As she describes it: "When SEAL is pronounced in reverse it sounds like LEASE. The two words are homophonic reversals. Such reversals form one of the words in each of a pair of 2-word phrases. The other two words in each of these are antonyms. In some cases the antonyms come first, in others they come second."

Antonyms come first:

on dole on edge dry dock dry scale home site find ties
off load off centre wet cod wet lakes away ties lose sight

sea sick first aid give slip women teach undo sail begins tale
land kiss last day take pills men cheat tie lace ends late

Antonyms come second:

seal in sketch in butts in come in keys in key in sail in keeps in
lease out checks out stub out muck out seek out eke out lays out speak out

make up mark up male cat tuck in let on tell on lays on skate on
came down calm down lame dog cut out tell off let off sail off takes off

dials up caught up back 'went' (ouch!)
slide down talk down cab came

DOUBLE PLAY

Here are two poems by Susan. The first has numeric elements, and the second has palindromic endings.

IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT

Of many things, we have to buy more than one,
But isn't this strange, when all's said and done?

Restaurants offer a price to cover three courses,
But I only want one, lacking inner resources.

Some tables have three legs for support on the floor,
So why do castors always come in packs of four?

Boots, the chemist, offers three for the price of two,
But you didn't even want it, so it's no use to you.

Admittedly, in some cases, needs must we buy two,
For what on earth would we do with a single shoe!

NOT ETON

Sometimes at exams
I get in a fever,
Especially when
They include *a viva!*

'Tis hard in the fifth form,
Through problems we plough.
So why does each lesson
End in a *work row?*

I don't believe in cheating,
I'm not into that con.
It is not in my nature
To '*nod*' at a *don*.

Some haven't the commitment,
Always stopping for a 'cup',
And when it comes to the crunch
Those *pupils slip up*.

I'm no good at sculpting,
My tools fall apart.

By the way, who invented
What's known as *trad art*?

Who's been vandalising,
And where is the map?
My atlas is in tatters,
Yet one more *page gap*.

The school team tries hard,
They're not easily beaten
But, in spite of all this,
They're definitely *not Eton!*

MEDIA QUIZ QUESTIONS

On "The Price is Right," Monte Hall challenged a member of the audience: "If you can say the alphabet from Z to A backwards in less than a minute, you'll win \$100." The man made his attempt, but he didn't win.

On a radio program in the 1960s, there was a quiz with a car for the prize. It stayed on the air for awhile before someone got the correct answer. The radio played two gunshots, followed by this conversation between two tough-sounding guys: "I just robbed a bank." "So did I, but I was well-dressed." The question is, "What city are they referring to?" Would you have won the prize in each case?

COUNT IT IN

Steve Kahan has discovered a new word for the AGAMEMNON category: "I used to think that AGAMEMNON was the only dictionary entry that contained three consecutive palindromic triads, but not so. I recently happened upon another – GOOGOLPLEXES."

REMOVABLE LIMERICK PUZZLE

Doug Harris, a collector of limerick books and articles, has written a limerick duo involving letterplay in a way that I don't believe has ever been done before: "The idea is to find a nine-letter word that may have a single letter removed at each of the eight stages yet still remain a common word in the English language." Can you figure out the word?

First, start with a **T** to remove,
Then **L** we no longer approve.
 Pluck an **A**, then an **R**,
 One more **T** can go far,
Now we're really well into the groove.

Next **G** is the fellow to drop,
With **S** quickly getting the chop.
Ditch penultimate **N**,
Unbelievably then
Only **I** remain cream of the crop.

THE ANAGRAM EXPRESS

While I was putting together the Anagram Calendar (elsewhere in this issue), I naturally drifted off into another area worth transposing. Can you figure out what class of things the following 19 anagrams represent? And can you anagram each back to the original?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Hoot, elf! | 12. Ice juts. |
| 2. I am cheating. | 13. Hang, damn thee! |
| 3. Her sighs, epithets. | 14. The D.A. |
| 4. She tempers. | 15. Pert menace. |
| 5. Temper, hero. | 16. The lived. |
| 6. Hint, heart, hope. | 17. There, wot! |
| 7. He revolts. | 18. The arts. |
| 8. Hit race hot! | 19. One moth. |
| 9. Tether him. | 20. Then us. |
| 10. When off to rule thee. | 21. Me tend the jug? |
| 11. Nth grets | 22. Lord, thew. |

TRIANGULAR STANDSTILLS

Jeremy Morse has found two new logological forms. They involve the alphabetic values (A=1, B = 2, ... Z = 26) of adjacent letters in a word. In some cases, consecutive alphabetic values are added together. Jeremy describes the forms: “Susan Throope’s ‘Triangular Progressions’ in the last Word Ways made me think of triangular standstills, like TOECAP (20, 20, 20) [T=20, OE=15+5=20, CAP=3+1+16=20] and triangular regressions, like UNCAGE (21, 17, 13). These would be harder to extend to ten letters than the progressions; but REMEDIABLE is a near-standstill (18, 18, 18, 20), and a coined one would be WREN-DECKED (23, 23, 23, 23) (cf. Edmund Blunden’s ‘wren-nested hedges’).” Can you find other examples? Checking out the number names, I found that THREE is the first “biangular standstill”: 28, 28 (TH=28, REE=28)—DM.

PALINDROMIC COMPANY NAME

Darryl Francis has “just spotted CELL-LEC on a van. Checked it out via Google, and it seems to be the name of companies in Swansea (Wales) and Lincoln (England).

RELIABLE SOURCES

Bill Brandt writes: “The news is usually full of items from anonymous but reliable sources that usually add a “spin” to what ever is being said. Often this contains half a grain of truth and is

generally done to discredit someone. With that in mind, here is today's Nursery Rhyme "news" (from reliable sources)."

Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
Reliable sources say Dumpty is not all that he is cracked up to be.

Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and can't tell where to find them.
Reliable sources say Bo-Peep is now on the lamb.

Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon.
Reliable sources say the cat diddled while the cow took a life threatening jump.

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe, she had so many children she didn't know what to do.
Reliable sources say she won't reveal who the heel is.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul.
Reliable sources say the old soul was also a heel.

Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John, went to bed with his trousers on.
Reliable sources say John was out drinking earlier that night.

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater, had a wife and couldn't keep her.
Reliable sources say Peter kidnapped his estranged wife and is holding her in the pumpkin patch.

Mistress Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow.
Reliable sources say Mary has started to go to seed.

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn, the sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.
Reliable sources say Boy Blue recently left the farm for a gig in New Orleans.

Hickory, Dickory, Dock, the mouse ran up the clock.
Reliable sources say most folks thought this was a coo-coo idea.

George Porgie, pudding and pie, kissed the girls and made them cry.
Reliable sources say George was later apprehended and arrested on a miss-demeanor charge.

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jump over the candlestick.
Reliable sources say Jack was later admitted to the burn unit at the hospital.

Little Jack Horner sat in the corner eating his Christmas pie.
Reliable sources say Jack felt it would be a plum assignment.

Wee Willie Winkie runs though the town, upstairs and downstairs, in his nightgown.
Reliable sources say after a late night argument his wife threw him out of the house.

Tom, Tom, the Piper's son, stole a pig and away did run.
Reliable sources say Tom claimed he was only trying to bring home the bacon.

Simple Simon met a pieman going to the fair.

Reliable sources say he was actually a baker and that Simon wanted to have his cake and eat it too.

Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to fetch her poor dog a bone.
Reliable sources say, and make no bones about it, Ms. Hubbard fed her cat first.

NOUVEAU URBAN TRIBES

Bill notes that “On the Travel Channel there is a program showing two guys (Mark and Olly) living for extended times with lost tribes in remote areas. They have lived with the Mek in West Papua, the Kombai in Indonesia, and the Machigenga in Peru. When they go there they live in the local environment, have to survive the local traditions, and have to learn the necessary skills for survival. I would like to see them also try living with some of the recently discovered urban tribes, such as the;

Bamboozlers – live in nomadic bands; have a tradition of finding ways to milk trusting individuals of their money; living with them you need to learn how to be a smooth talker and to set up Ponzi schemes; the common greeting is “Never give a sucker an even break.”

Chimychongas – live in small villages south of the border; have a tradition of eating jalapenos; when living with them you need to learn how to wrap all your food in taco shells; the common greeting is “Chili today, hot tamale.”

Dillydallies – generally found living in large bureaucracies; have a tradition of engaging in generally non-productive activities; living with them you need to learn how to procrastinate and delay making decisions; the common greeting is “I’m not finished yet.”

Fuddyduddies – found in homes with plastic seat covers on the furniture; have a tradition of wearing suspenders and spats; living with them you need to learn how to use a rotary telephone; the common greeting is “Care for a game of tiddlywinks?”

Gitchigoomies – located in small villages in the Adirondacks; have a tradition of eating wild game; living with them you need to learn how to make birch-bark canoes; the common greeting is “Hi ya”, as in “Hi ya watha!”

Hankypankies – generally found roaming through backwater hotels in groups of two; have a tradition of using false names; living with them you need to know how to be discreet; the common greeting is “Your room or mine?”

Higgledypiggledies – live in a state of confusion ; have a tradition of never putting things back where they belong; living with them you need to be able to find things by looking through multiple piles of jumbled stuff; a common greeting is “Has anyone seen my car keys?”

Hootchiecootchies – live in big city low rent apartments; have a tradition of dancing in burlesque shows; living with them you have to learn how to dance on the stage with a feather boa; the common greeting is “Hello there handsome.”

Hoitytoities – usually found living in penthouse apartments; have a tradition of talking only to people in their own social circle; living with them you need to know how to talk about the little people (such as “paying taxes is only for the little people”); the common greeting is “Meet you at the club.”

Mumbojumbos – can be found living in and around an area called Wall Street; have a tradition on pontificating about why the market went up or down yesterday; living with them you need to learn the language of derivatives, hedge funds, and soy bean futures; the common greeting is “Have you seen the market did?”

Snollygosters – usually found living in capital cities; have a tradition of discrediting and smearing rival candidates; living with them you need to know how to raise campaign funds from lobbyists and to draft pork barrel earmarks; the common greeting is “Let’s reserve a government plane for a fact finding trip to Vegas.’

Topsyturvies – live in a place called down under; have a tradition of falling head over heels in love; living with them you need to learn how to make a pineapple upside down cake; the common greeting is “Bottoms up!”

POEMS BY LOUIS PHILLIPS

AN EX-HUSBAND CONSIDERS THE HIGH COST OF ALIMONY

Ex pensive?
Expensive.

T.S. ELIOT AT A TRAIN STATION AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAN WHO WROTE "OI' '55" (THE SONG SIMON SCHAMA CALLED "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LOVE SONG SINCE GERSHWIN AND COLE PORTER SHUT THEIR PIANO LIDS), WHILE THE SONGWRITER LINGERS TO GET A PACKAGE FROM HIS HEALTH CLUB

Tom waits
For Tom Waits
While Waits
Waits
For weights.

.AND A SMALL BOWL OF LOUIS’S APPLESAUCE CHRONICLES

A sentence with 4 WILLS in a row:

Shall I ask British author William Trevor about the author Will Self? Yes, I will -- Will, will Will Self come to my book signing party?

**

Agnew knew Nu's new newel-posts were expensive to install.

**

nghiti -- night shift.

**

Sue sez
Suez
Is old hat.
That's that.

**

Robinson Caruso -- novel about an opera singer stranded on a desert island.

**

What do you call 007 after a sex change operation? Dames Bond.

**

A penny saved is a penny earned—to coin a phrase.

**

Photographers have negative attitudes.

**

POSU = soup mix

“Do you know Andy Warhol?” “No, but my Pop, Art, does.”

**

TYRANNOTHESAURUS – the dinosaur that specialized in synonyms

**

STAMP OUT PHILATELY!

**

Was Picasso over-drawn at his bank?

**

Baby's favorite poet – Pablum Neruda

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Language does matter. It's not just a matter of opinion, either. It's a matter of fact that language does matter. So what's the matter with the following quirks of language. It matters to Louis Phillips, and it matters to me. Here's the matter we're talking about:

1. Why is unlimited limited to 9 letters?
2. If misspelled is spelled correctly isn't it still misspelled?
3. Have you noticed that upside down is usually not seen upside down but is viewed rightside up?
4. Four contains 4 letters, and is the only English word whose number of letters corresponds to that number. Does that make four odd?
5. If backwards is written backwards, is it still backwards?
6. The fifth word is fourth in this sentence.
7. In is complete; incomplete is complete; unfortunately, complet is incomplete.
8. ugly is as beautiful as any other word. [I beg to disagree with that. Ugly is ugly. Any other word is just any other word.—DM]
9. If you say there are 6 letters in accurate are you inaccurate or accurate

OXYMORONS MATTER, TOO

Here are a cluster of oxymorons by Ove Michaelsen. A friend of mine, on hearing the word for the first time, said, "Oxymorons make oxes look like morons." Hmm. Here are a baker's dozen of Ove's:

Berkeley, California: Any NORMAL person
would be NUTS to move here. (1978)
[Author Ursula K. LeGuin later wrote,

"What sane person could live in this world and not be crazy?"]

Socializing is my least favorite form of solitude.

We're dumbing down from the bottom up.
Incompetence, all the way down to the top.

When I said I'm a liar, I wasn't being truthful.

They wouldn't know
subtlety if it clubbed them.

The store had nothing, and at twice the price.

For me, feeling good is not conducive to creativity.
It's depressing.

"Paradise" would kill me with boredom. Imagine having to die for it.
for it. Talk about a living hell.

If you're going to write badly,
do it well.

I prefer my women in the singular.

Someone should inform the
public of my fame.

But seriously, this is all in fun.

FIVE THINGS WE'LL NEVER HEAR, AS HEARD BUY OVE

Man, do I enjoy headaches!

Husband to wife: "Here, you take the remote--I'm off to clean the bathroom.

A husband's housework is never done. He never DOES it.

You know, I could really use another hole in the head.

Argh! MY FINGER'S in my eye."

TWO TINY INTERNET PALINDROMES

I wrote these after a friend of mine told me, "AOL IS the virus." H'e urging me to get onto his server, Yahoo, or any other server, but for reasons unbeknownst to me, I'm sticking with AOL. So I wrote those two palindromes to deal with the issue.

Load AOL. Ooh, a Yahoo!

TO NIGERIA, WITH LOVE

I received an email from a gentleman with whom I'd never corresponded before. In his message, he promised to give me a fortune. I wrote a message back and sent it to him, but I haven't heard from him yet. Here is his original email and my reply.

Senator Tunde Ogbeha
Chairman Foriegn payment Release.
Federal Republic of Benin.

Good Day!

I have been waiting for you since to come down here and pick your Cashiers Cheque but did not hear from you since that time. So i went to the bank to confirm if the draft is getting close to expire and the Manager of the bank told me that before the draft will get to your address that it will expire. Then i told him to help me and cash the bank draft of \$2.8 million united states dollars to cash payment. However, i have successfully cashed the draft and packaged your Cash in a Cargo box and had registered it in the PARCEL EXPRESS DIPLOMATIC COMPANY here in Benin Republic because i will travel soon to see my boss and will not come back soon.

You have to contact the PARCEL EXPRESS COMPANY to know when they will deliver your package to your address. I have paid for the delivering charges and insurance fees. The only money you have to send to them is their SECURITY KEEPING FEE to receive your package and as i do not know when you will be contacting them.

HERE IS PARCEL EXPRESS DIPLOMATIC COMPANY ADDRESS BELOW/
NAME: DR ARNOLD AKA
E-MAIL: (px_diplomatic@yahoo.fr)
TEL : +22993151061 / FAX : +22997250995

Please, Send them your contacts information to able them locate you immediately they arrived in your country with your BOX.

This is the information they need from you.

1. YOUR FULL NAME.
2. YOUR HOME ADDRESS.

3. YOUR CURRENT MOBILE NUMBER.
4. COPY OF ID/DRIVERS LICENCE OR PASSPORT.

Do let me know as soon as you received your package.

* * *

Dear Senator Ogbaha,

Tunde, my friend, I thought we were supposed to meet in Berlin, not Benin. I was there in Berlin at the appointed time. When you didn't show up, I became worried that you might have been assassinated. What a relief it is to know that you're still alive. Your use of the small "i" instead of the capital "I" to refer to yourself in your email is a charming way of showing that you are a humble, honest gentleman. If you can wait patiently, as you have been, for me to pick up the \$2.8 million dollars that I lent you to help finance the overthrow of the previous regime, I will fly there in my Lear Jet next Friday, and I will reward you with half of that money for your trouble. That's \$1.4 million! Of course, I would happily pay the SECURITY KEEPING FEE, but since I don't have the correct change right now, could you give me your bank account number, password, and home address? I will then withdraw the amount of the fee and pay the company. When that's done, I will open the package and take half of the money out and mail it to you as a bonus. No need to meet me in Benin or Berlin. I'll just send it to your home address in a Cargo box marked "Terrorist Bomb: Please Handle Carefully." The authorities will never suspect that the box has \$1.4 million American dollars in it.

Is Dr Arnold Aka still performing those experimental operations on indigent people in your country for his very reasonable payments? I was especially impressed by the leg graft. I never dreamed that a man could be given a third leg to replace his genitals. That guy will win the Boston Marathon hands down. I'll bet Arnie learned a lot from his grandfather's work as a doktor in Germany during World War II. That's probably why I got "Berlin" mixed up with "Benin."

By the way, how's the wife and little Tunde, Jr.? Please tell her I enjoyed our menage a trois the last time we were together. She and her twin sister were incredibly acrobatic, but that huge bed was hardly big enough for the three of us. Your wife kept falling off. Her sister flew off a few times. I bounced off once at the very end. Perhaps it was the cocaine. Sorry you couldn't make it. Maybe next time, my dear friend.

THE VENI-VIDI-ETC-COLLECTION

One of the more unusual websites around has the address that follows:<http://havemacwillblog.com/2009/02/24/twitter-tweets-the-veni-vidi-etc-collection/> The site parodies the phrase Veni-Vidi-Vici by replacing "Vici" with another word and then "translating it" into English.

The Veni, Vidi, Etc... Collection

Veni, vidi, cc – I came, I saw, I sent an email.

Veni, vidi, visa – I came, I saw, I did a little shopping.

Veni, vidi, villa – I came, I saw, I rented a holiday home. (radioproducer1)

Veni, vidi, wiki – I came, I saw, I wrote a learned essay with footnotes and cross-references.

Veni, vidi, vamoosy! – I came, I saw, I legged it! (Intellagirl)

Veni, vidi, Gucci – I came, I saw, I bought a handbag.

Veni, vidi, Vichy – I came, I saw, I sold out to the Nazis. (bigshotprof)

Veni, vidi, VP – I came I saw, I got promoted.

Veni, vidi, vasssssuupppp? I came, I saw, I failed to realistically imitate a gangsta-rappa. (royblumenthal)

Veni, vidi, veto – I came, I saw, I put a stop to it.

Veni, vidi, dormi – I came, I saw, I nodded off. (hornsolo)

Veni, vidi, Vista – I came, I saw, I went back to using Windows XP.

Veni, vidi, veggie – I came, I saw, I had some salad . (radioproducer1)

Veni, vidi, valium – I came, I saw, I got stressed out.

Vidi, veni, VD – Uh, I regretted it. (kmcguirk)

Veni, vidi, vino – I came, I saw, I got plastery

Veni, vidi, vicodin – I came, I saw, I drifted away.

Veni, vidi, tikki – I came, I saw, my life was wrecked by an ancient Hawaiiin curse due to a washed up idol I wore. (WoWNoob)

Veni, vidi, twitti – I came, I saw, I bored everyone to death with endless tweets about it.

If any readers are inspired by this, please send some Veni, Vidi, Vici parodies. As I write this, I would suggest: Veni, vidi, va-va-voom! – I came, I saw, I couldn't believe my eyes!

VENI, VIDII, LIMERICK

Ove Michaelsen pointed out the website to me, and he wrote a limerick to help immortalize it. Ove's limerick follows:

An opinion is just someone's word.
I've been careful with rumors I've heard,
Then witnessed a fact
With context intact.
I came, I saw, I concurred.

A POEM

SIR JEREMY MORSE
London, England

POP-STAR

Oh, I hate thee, Helty Tait.
Thy hoity-toity hat,
Hate that!

Thy teat-to-toe tattoo,
That too!

Thy too too toothy teeth I hate.
O, Helty Tait!