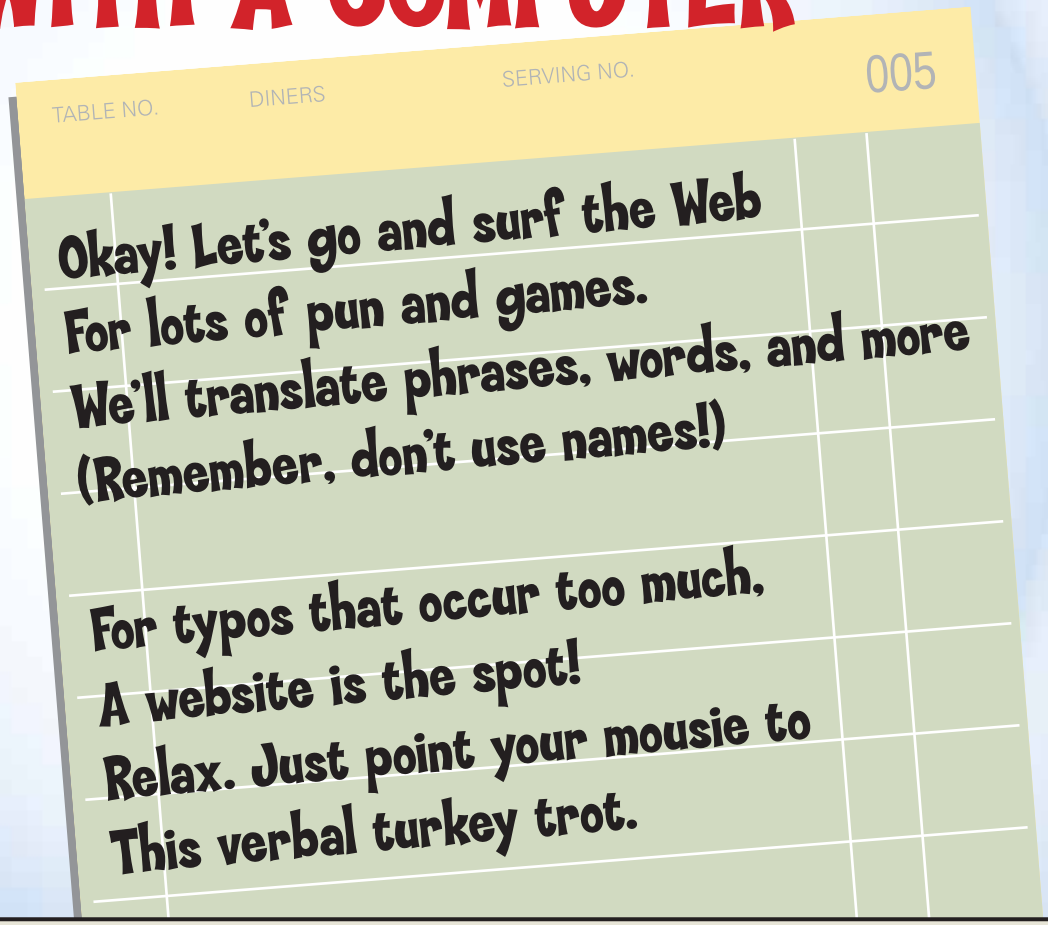
Chapter 5ive

PC PANCAKES: WORD GAMES WITH A COMPUTER



Computer Cabbage

Computers are wonderful things. Most of my work is done on a computer, allowing me to sit in my home office in Wichita, Kansas, and work with people all over the country.

But like anything else (especially cabbage), if handled incorrectly, computers can really stink things up. So before you begin playing word games on a computer (yours or someone else's), let's review the basic rules for PC play and safe surfing (see "Computing Do's & Don'ts").

On pages 9 and 29, I mentioned that the rules could be bent if you can think of a better way to play. But let me state very clearly, *rules for computer use are not to be bent in any way!*

Does this make me sound like an annoying adult? If it does, remember that you will someday be one, too, and if you care anything about your kids, you will use the same strict language. So now, my wee sidekicks, boot up and get cooking! Season the pot with SALT & PEPPER SEARCH ENGINES (next page), if you like.

Computing Do's & Don'ts

- Do — always — ask permission to use someone else's computer.
- Do follow the "house rules." If a parent or other adult allows a certain time for you to use a computer, *please stick to it.*
- Don't — *ever* — give out your name, address, phone number, school name, or other personal information to anyone you don't know.
- Never respond to emails or IMs (instant messages) without consulting an adult.
- Never click on links in or open emails from people you don't know (a *virus* — a computer "bug" — may be lurking there!).
- Do share your computer games with the family, 'cause we all learn from each other.

kingdom: what people say when they think the king isn't very smart.

Baxter Says:

If you know of a friend who is viewing improper websites, tell an adult you trust. This is serious business! Telling may save your friend's life!

Salt & Pepper Search Engines (the basics)

***Aaa-choo!* (Or should I say @*choo*?)**

At one time or another (like throughout this whole book!), you'll likely want to use a search engine to hunt for information on the Internet. A *search engine* is a website or program that looks through a huge database of information and reports the most meaningful results according to your keywords or question.

One word can bring up many search results. Now, if your parents would let you stay on the computer for weeks at a time, going through all those choices would not be a problem. Most of us, however, need to move a little faster. A search engine eases the load.

I'll take you through some of the cooking basics for using a search engine. Spoons and mouse ready?

Recipe

skill level: LOW MEDIUM HIGH

serves: 1 or more players

ingredients:

- PC or Mac with an Internet connection
- Pencil and paper or Noodle Book

Let's Cook!

Turn on your computer. Go to the search engine that you use most frequently (it has its own World-Wide Web address, such as www.google.com). Some examples are Google, Ask Jeeves, and Yahoo! You can try out different ones to find what works best for you.

Now, what do you want to know? Type in a keyword (like one of the KEYWORD KABOBS throughout this book) or a phrase that seems to sum up what you are looking for, such as **kid's word games**.

How many responses did you get? Do they give information on what you wanted to know more about? If there are too many websites listed, or if they don't really seem to be what you were looking for, type in your keyword or words again, but try to be more specific. See the CHEF'S TIPS, page 110, to help refine your searching.

KEYWORD KABOBS

Boolean searches, web crawler

CHEF'S TIPS

• *Narrow your choices (enter* ***michelangelo*** *rather than* ***artist****)*
• *Use words that you think will appear on the site (enter* ***shrek action figure,*** *not* ***really cool shrek toy****).*
• *Don't include connecting words such as* ***in****,* ***and****,* ***of****, and* ***the****. They are too common.*
• *Search for a specific phrase by putting it between quotation marks (****"star wars episode 1"*** *will return only the sites containing that phrase).*
• *Limit your searches by using special characters, such as a minus sign (****bass*** *can mean a fish or a guitar, so try* ***bass –fish****, being sure to leave a space after* ***bass****).*

Googol is the mathematical term for a 1 followed by 100 zeros. The term was coined by Milton Sirotta, nephew of American mathematician Edward Kasner, and was popularized in the book *Mathematics and the Imagination* by Kasner and James Newman.

The Google search engine company's play on the term reflects its mission to organize the immense amount of information available on the Web.

Enter Internet Ingredients

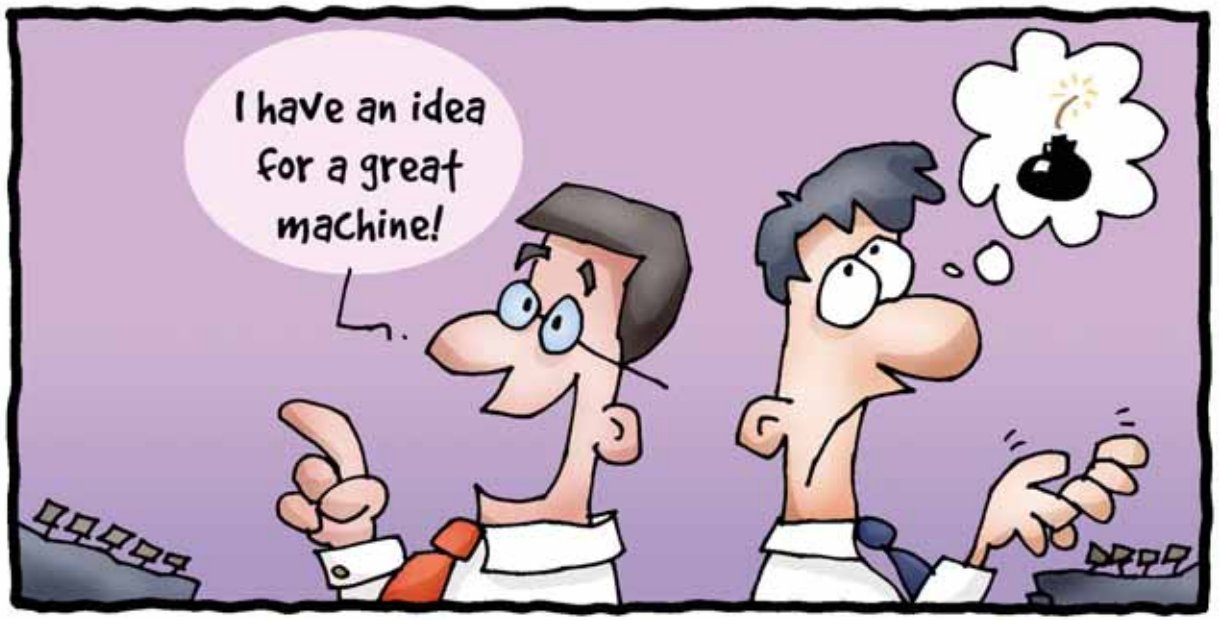
Perhaps now would be a good time to stop and "sharpen our knives" with a discussion about the Internet and what it's made of.

First, some definitions: The *Internet* is commonly thought of as the connection (at first physical, now often wireless) between everyone's computers. The *World-Wide Web* (better known to you as the www. before website addresses), on the other hand, is the actual collection or database of information available through those connections. Make sense?

Although they serve two distinct functions, we often refer to them as one and the same. So when we use the terms Internet (or the 'net) and the Web, we're really talking about the same thing: huge amounts of information available to many people.

Who, When, Where

Though you, my witty wordsmith, have likely had access to computers all of your life, the technology isn't so far back in the olden days as you may think.



Just a little more than 50 years ago, in his 1945 article "As We May Think," Vannevar Bush imagined people being able to scroll through all human knowledge at a desk-like machine he called a Memex. Then, in 1959, J.C.R. Licklider wrote *Libraries of the Future*, about how a computer could provide an immense network of information (an automated library) that people could access from home.

In 1962 the IPTO (Information Processing Techniques Office) was formed (as an arm of the ARPA or Advanced Research Projects Administration, a group originally created in the name of national defense). By the end of the 1960s — under the direction and work of engineers Bob Taylor and Larry Roberts — two very large computers, one at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) and the other at the Stanford Research Institute, began talking to each other. As early as 1971, computers at various universities and research companies were doing the same. The rest, as they say, is history.

As I'm writing this book, there exist more than 800 million Internet connections worldwide. English is the language of choice on nearly 70 percent of them. Why make so much of the Internet in a book about wordplay? Just try imagining the Internet without words …

While sitting at his UCLA terminal on October 29, 1969, Charley Kline (no relation to me) was about to become the first person to connect with a computer at the Stanford Research Institute. Both the L and the O in the word LOGIN (for "log in") went through just fine, but as he typed in the G, the system crashed, making the first Internet message LO, or slang for "hello." Isn't that a kick in the pants?

How many acronyms can you find on this page? (Answers on page 124.)

ARPAnet, cyberspace, e-commerce, netiquette

Translation Toast

Recipe

skill level: LOW MEDIUM HIGH

serves: 1 or more players (but more fun with 2 or more)

ingredients:

- PC or Mac with an Internet connection
- Translation website or application

Let's make some toast! But for this browned bread, let's run it through the toaster several times and see what happens (no, it won't be burnt toast, I promise!). Are you with me?

There are many websites (and PC-based applications) that offer to translate words from one language to another. This service is one of many great things that computers are very good at. But of course, *I* found a way to play with it.

Take particular note of the following two paragraphs:

When I was a little boy, I played a game called dogfoose, where the rules were always changing, and fun was the goal.

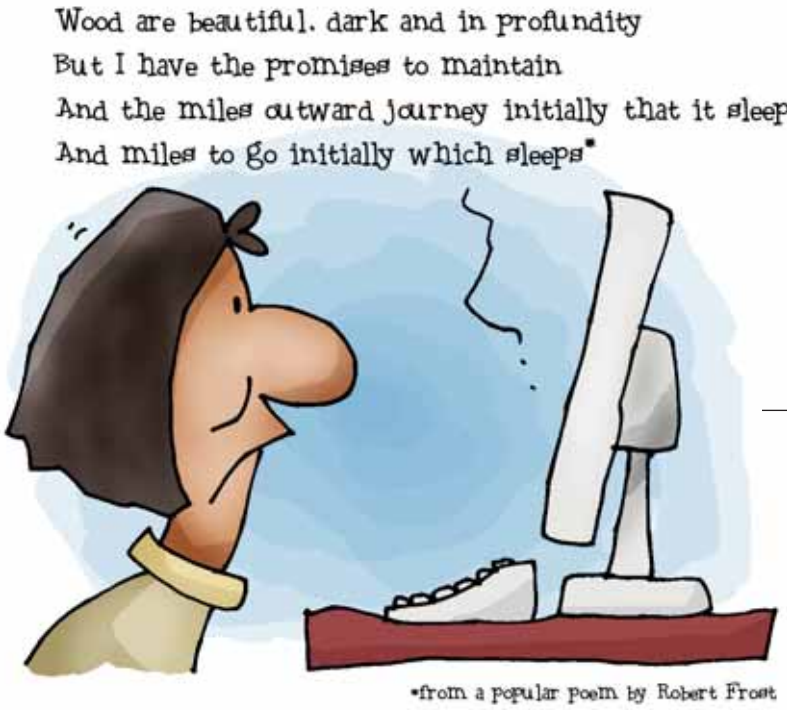
My little boy was in this moment, played my play dog elected load, where the standards always changed, and pretty was an object.

Do both paragraphs seem remotely connected, yet oddly distant? Here's the deal:

I took the first paragraph, translated it into Dutch, then into French, then Spanish, then back to English. So by the time it got back around to English, it was barely recognizable. And I don't think putting jelly or jam on it is going to help, either!

Let's Cook!

Write a short letter (some websites allow only 150 words) or use a familiar poem, and translate it several times. Each time it will probably get further and further from the original. What seems similar and what makes absolutely no sense in its translation? Be sure to use your computer's "copy" and "paste" functions to make things go quicker.



*from a popular poem by Robert Frost

Keyword Kabobs

babel, etymology, interpret, neologism, tower of Babel, translate

Online Word Game Goulash

There are literally hundreds of word games available on the Internet and as PC applications, even the popular Hangman (see page 37)!

Some of the more popular are tongue twisters, cryptograms, crossword puzzles, hidden words, Text Twist, Bookworm, Flip Words, and Scrabble. Some let you play online, and some will let you purchase (with an adult's permission, of course) and download the game directly to your computer.

Most word games will have you play against the clock, so remember, practice makes perfect!

Recipe

skill level: LOW MEDIUM HIGH

serves: 2 or more players

ingredients:

- PC or Mac with an Internet connection
- A quick mouse finger

Let's Cook!

Choose a word game online and share that information with some friends. Each player takes a week or so to master a certain game, and then you all compare your highest scores. (Agree ahead of time how many hours you and your friends will play, so that you have the same practice amounts.)

There's also a good chance that one of your friends will find a better way to play the game and share her tip with you. You can do the same!

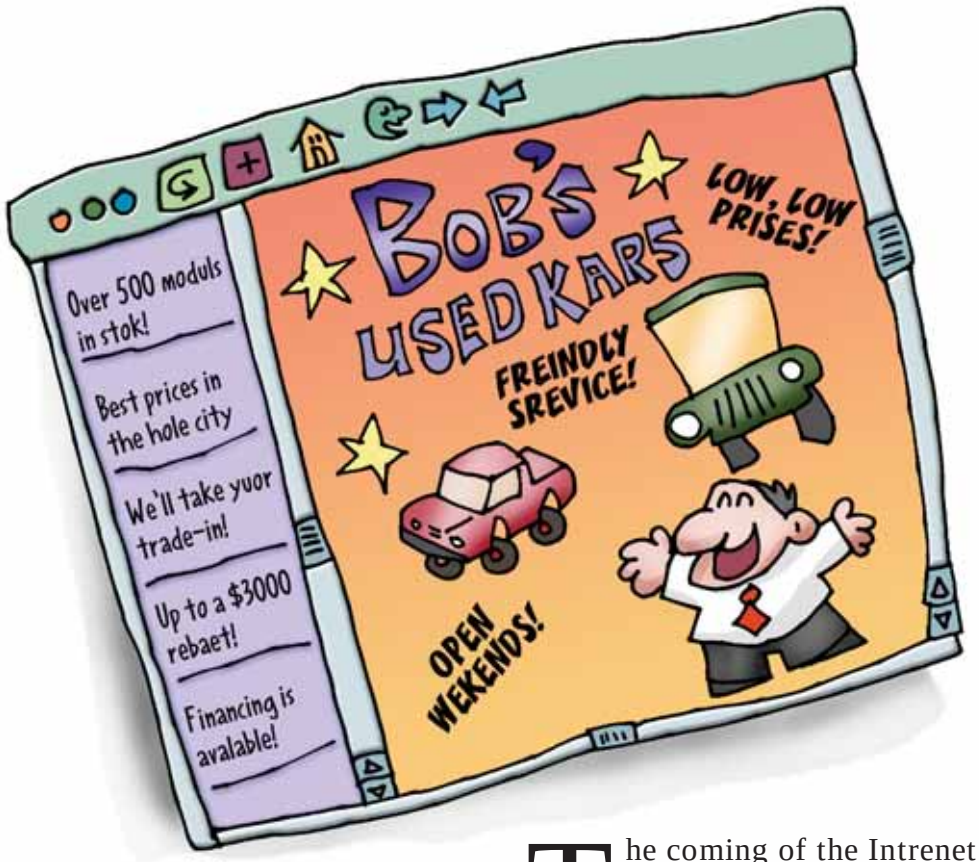
KEYWORD KABOBS

online word games

Baxter Says:

Sorry, I must repeat here: NEVER BUY SOMETHING ONLINE OR GIVE OUT ANY INFORMATION UNLESS YOU HAVE HELP FROM AN ADULT!

Typo Tea & Biscuits



PUNZLES®

Recipe

skill level: LOW MEDIUM HIGH

serves: 1 or more players

ingredients:

- PC or Mac with an Internet conection
- A good set of eyes

KEYWORD KABOBS

misprint, typo, typographical error

The coming of the Intrenet (page 110) meant that a lot of people could openly exchange a great deal of infromation with others, and that information could change rather quickly.

The Internet is considered to be *dynamic*, or always changing. Other mediums such as books and photografs are considered *static*, or not changing.

And guess what? Because the Internet is available to almost anyone, it is a breeding ground for mispelled words! Here at the WORDPLAY CAFÉ, we sometimes misspell words on purpose, but the World-Wide Web is no place for bad spelling (typos). The reason for people to use correct spelling when creating Web pages is simple: It allows people to locate your site using keywords!

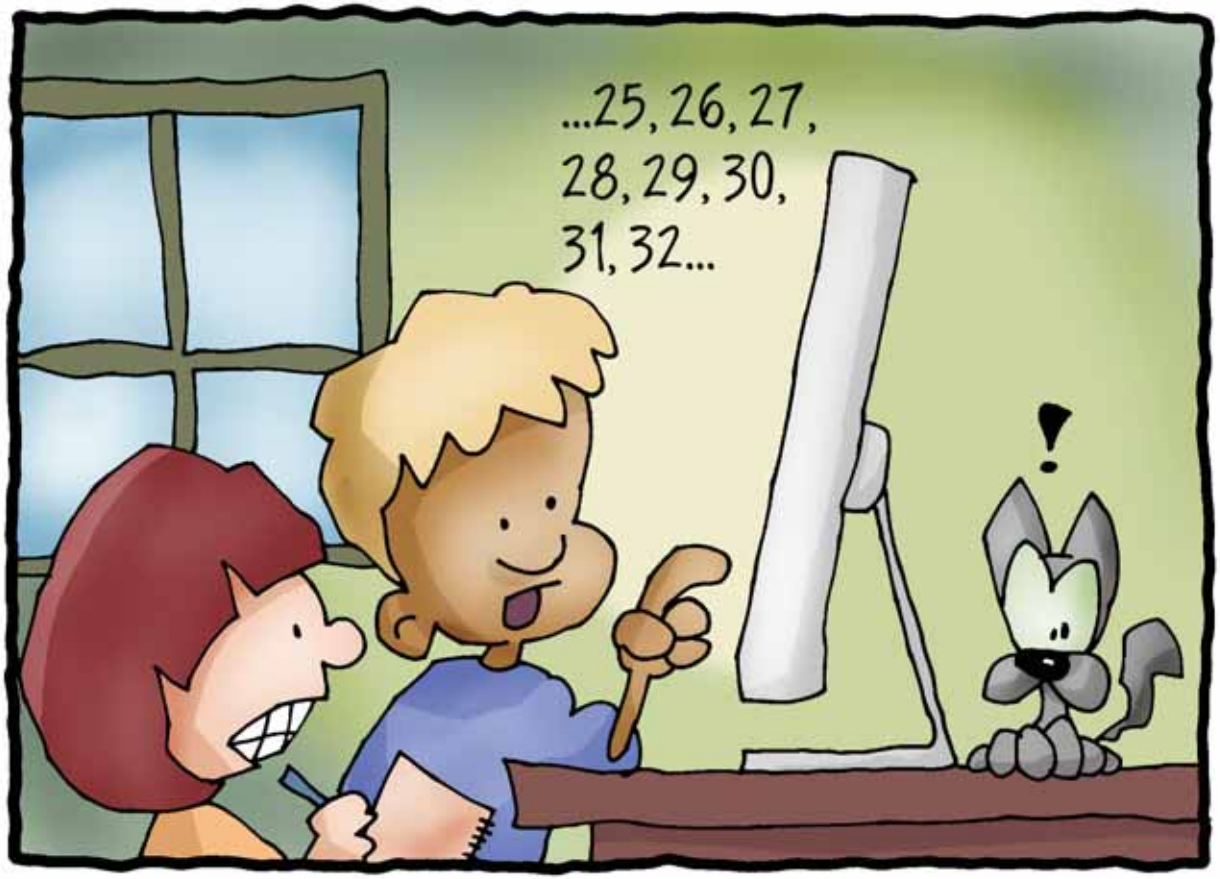
PUNZLES® answer: Microchip.

Let's Cook!

The next time you visit a website, see how many spelling mistakes or typos you can find. With an adult's permission, perhaps you could even send an email to that website and let the Web master know that some words are misspelled. Chances are, he may not even be aware of the mistake, and may appreciate your attention to detail.

Taste Test

I've purposely misspelled 16 words on pages 114 and 115 (and made one up). Can you find them all? (Answers on page 124.)



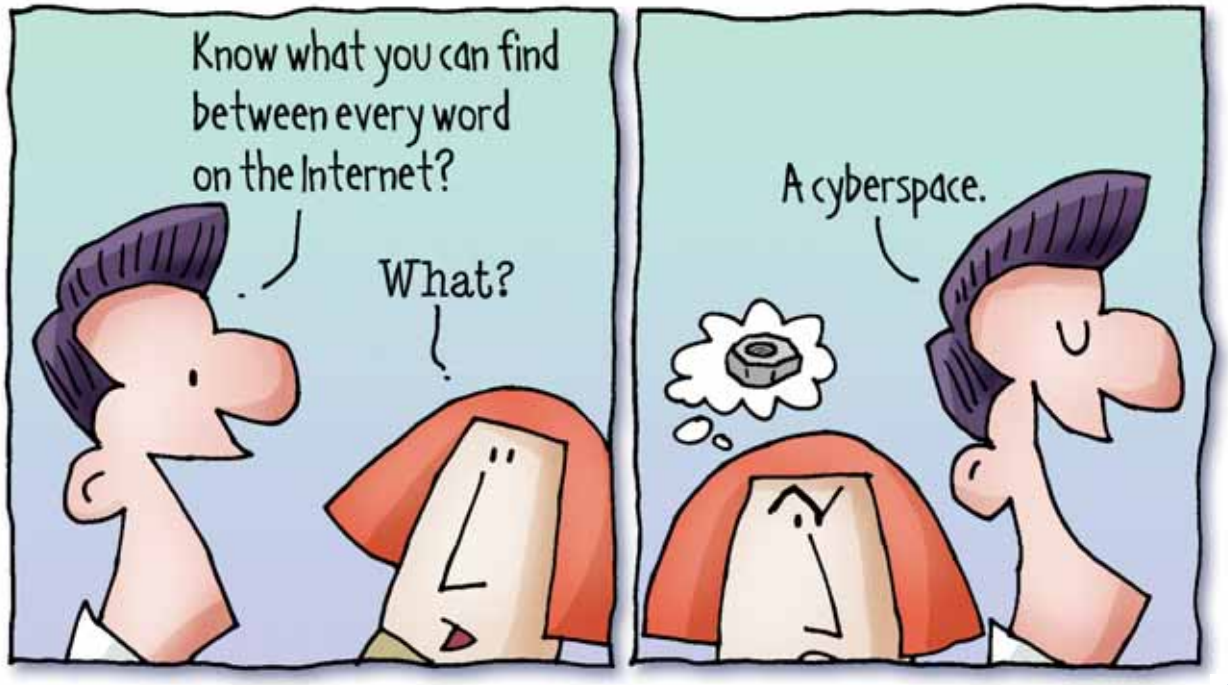
Baxter Says:

Websites aren't the only places you can find typos. What about your own work? Whenever you are writing something on the computer — say, a letter or a report for school — print out a copy and proofread it carefully before you turn it in. Errors seem to be overlooked when you read on the screen, but they are easier to spot on a paper copy.

Brain Candy

When I would send emails to art directors of magazines asking them to use my artwork, I would type the word jected into the subject line. When they would reply with a note saying, "Your work is not what we are looking for at the moment," the subject line would read RE:jected.
Go into the dictionary and look under the words that start with RE. Do you see any ideas for your emails?

Pun-Hunting Punch



I love puns and punning (page 76), especially when my pun-inflicted listeners roll their eyes and groan. When I witness such a reaction, I think, "Bingo!" Other people besides me must like puns, too, because my latest search for the word **pun** on the Internet gave me 1,640,000 results! How do I view this overwhelming mountain of data? As a gold mine!

The Web is a great place to find puns, if for only one reason: Often, seeing one pun will make you think of another. So if you're looking for some new material, have your Noodle Book handy, and dive into that big punch bowl of information we call the World-Wide Web.

Baxter Says: *Puns are bad, and poetry is verse.*

Recipe

skill level: MEDIUM (LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH)

serves: 1, but more can play

ingredients:

- PC or Mac with an Internet connection
- A quick mouse finger
- Pencil and paper or Noodle Book

Let's Cook!

Use a *search engine* (see page 109) such as Google or Ask Jeeves to hunt for puns.

CHEF'S TIPS

!Caution! *When you dive into a website that contains puns, don't dive in too deep without checking for approval. Some puns contain (yikes!) not-so-nice four-letter words!*

KEYWORD KABOBS

equivoque, Richard Lederer, paronomasia, punning, puns

Chapter Sicks

PUT WORDS TO WORK IN YOUR KITCHEN

TABLE NO. DINERS SERVING NO. 006

Mnemonics are a great way to
Remember all those things,
Like pi and why to multiply,
And even names of Kings.

So Alpha Bravo Charlie to
A friend (it's code, you see).
Make friends with a *Thesaurus rex*,
And take a break (like me!)

Mnemonic Nutrition

Recipe

skill level: MEDIUM (LOW / HIGH)

serves: 2 or more players

ingredients:

- Pencils and paper or Noodle Book

If you were asked to prepare a dessert (like chocolate pudding) in the desert (such as the Sahara), could you do it? Or better yet, how could you tell one from the other? Easy.

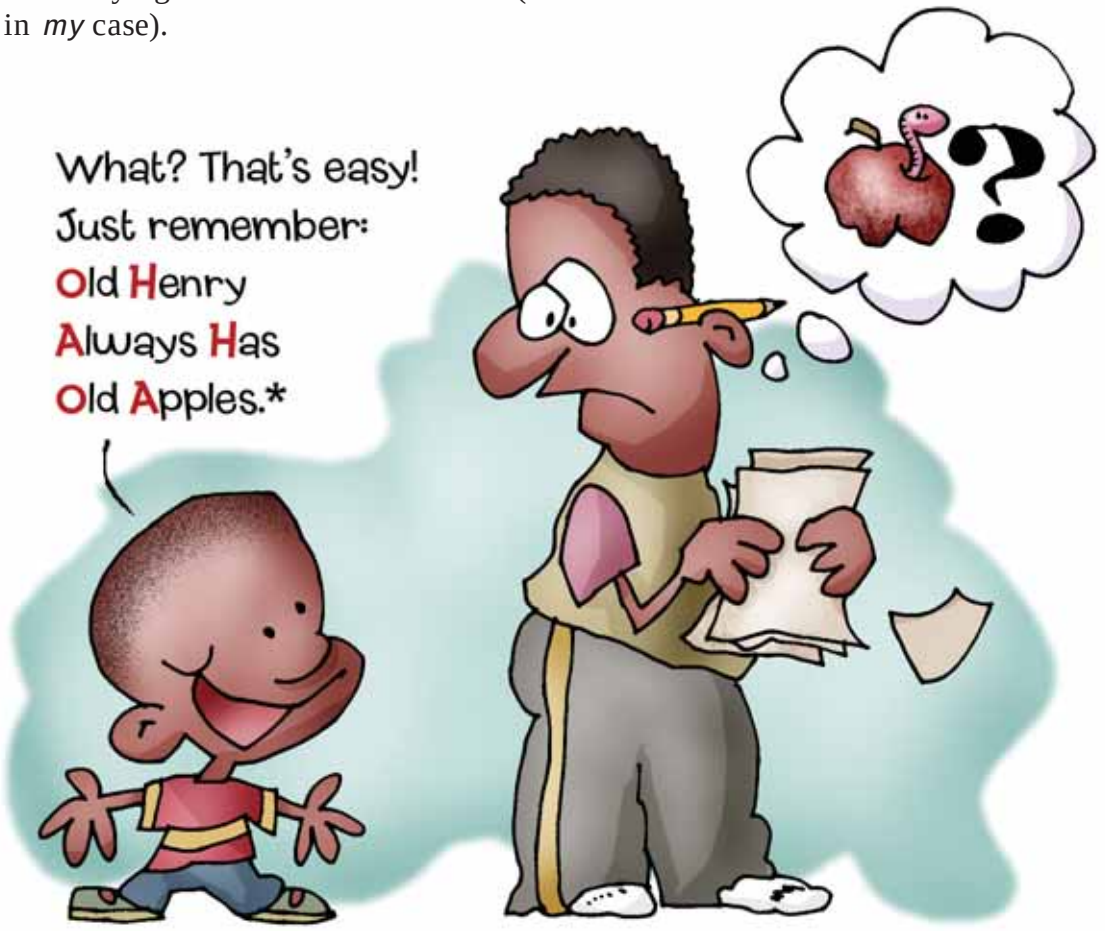
The sweetest one has two sugars!

Huh? Is the author of this book one sandwich short of a picnic?

That may be true, but what I'm getting at is a clever use of *mnemonics*, or memory devices. Most mnemonics use words, as in the case of **dessert** vs. **desert**, in which the sweetest (the dessert) has **two sugars** (meaning **two S's**).

Here are a couple that students of music use all the time: **E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**oes **F**ine (the notes represented by the lines — bottom to top — on the treble clef), and **FACE** (the notes represented by the spaces between the lines, bottom to top).

Mnemonics find favor, especially with kids or kid-minded adults (like me!), because phrases are easier to remember than long lists. They also come in handy when trying to recall math formulas (as in *my* case).



*Used in trigonometry to remember the equations for Sine (Opposite over Hypotenuse), Cosine (Adjacent over Hypotenuse), and Tangent (Opposite over Adjacent).

KEYWORD KABOBS

mnemonics

Let's Cook!

Plop down on a floor somewhere with lots of pillows, and brainstorm over some list or set of rules that you have trouble remembering. Then come up with your own mnemonics to help you recall them with ease!

If even one good mnemonic results from your brainstorming, then everyone wins!

Baxter Says:

If someone requests the value of pi, *just ask, "May I have a large container of coffee, Madam?" The number of letters in each word is the value of* pi *to the 8th place (3.14159265).*

Brain Candy

Mnemonics (ni-MON-iks)? Who thought of *that* crazy spelling? They are named for Mnemosyne, a goddess of memory in Greek mythology. She and her husband Zeus were the parents of the nine *muses* (Calliope, Clio, Euterpe, Thalia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polyhymnia, and Urania), whose collective talents lend themselves to the word museum. Perhaps Mnemosyne needed a way to remember the names of her children ...

Taste Test

See how many of these mnemonics you can decipher. Then check your answers on page 124.

1. *Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain.*
2. *Kids Prefer Cheese Over Fried Green Spinach.*
3. *Red Right Returning*
4. *Spring ahead, Fall back.*
5. *Camels Often Sit Down Carefully; Perhaps Their Joints Creak? Persistent Early Oiling Might Prevent Permanent Rheumatism (this one's tough!)*
6. *My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas.*

Phonetic Alphabet Soup

Hotel Echo Lima Lima Oscar! Hotel Oscar Whiskey Alpha Romeo Echo Yankee Oscar Uniform Delta Oscar India November Golf?

By now you're probably thinking, "Michael Kline must not be the sharpest knife in the drawer." But fear not, my phonetic friends, I've just said, "Hello! How are you doing?" using a device called the *phonetic alphabet* (also called the IPA, or International Phonetic Alphabet), which uses code words to identify letters in voice communication.

You've probably used it, or heard it used, without even knowing it existed. When people talk on the phone and use initials (as when you want to register a video game or computer, or get a confirmation number for an order for a cool pair of Nikes or a plane ticket to some exotic island), it's often hard to distinguish between B's and C's, G's and D's, because they can all sound alike. So instead of trying to super-clearly pronounce a G, you can just say "Golf."

I've written out the IPA so you can learn it for yourself. It's especially useful in radio communication by aircraft personnel, amateur radio operators, and people in the military.

Recipe

skill level: MEDIUM (LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH)

serves: 1 or more players

ingredients:

- Email (or paper and pencil, envelope, and stamp)

Let's Cook!

Compose an email (or snail mail) to a friend using the phonetic alphabet. Make it simple, at least for the first time. You might need to let the recipient of the letter know about this kind of alphabet, as she may wonder if you lost all of your Mike Alpha Romeo Bravo Lima Echo Sierra!

Taste Test

Can you decipher the two codes on this page? (Answers on page 124.)

Keyword Kabobs

futhark, international phonetic alphabet, NATO phonetic alphabet, phonotype, visible speech

Phonetic Alphabet

A	Alpha (AL-fah)
B	Bravo (BRAH-VOH)
C	Charlie (CHAR-lee)
D	Delta (DELL-tah)
E	Echo (ECK-oh)
F	Foxtrot (FOKS-trot)
G	Golf (GOLF)
H	Hotel (hoh-TELL)
I	India (IN-dee-ah)
J	Juliett (JEW-lee-ETT)
K	Kilo (KEY-loh)
L	Lima (LEE-mah)
M	Mike (MIKE)
N	November (no-VEM-ber)
O	Oscar (OSS-cah)
P	Papa (pah-PAH)
Q	Quebec (keh-BECK)
R	Romeo (ROW-me-oh)
S	Sierra (see-AIR-rah)
T	Tango (TANG-go)
U	Uniform (YOU-nee-form)
V	Victor (VIK-tah)
W	Whiskey (WISS-key)
X	X-Ray (ECKS-RAY)
Y	Yankee (YANG-key)
Z	Zulu (ZOO-loo)

Whip Up Your Imagination!

Have you ever used electric beaters to whip heavy cream into a delectable topping for chocolate pudding, pumpkin pie, or hot chocolate? Or beaten egg whites into frothy peaks for meringue cookies or key lime pie? Whipping adds lots of air and transforms boring old cream or egg whites into an entirely new, foamy, taste experience.

Your imagination is kind of like that, too. If you don't whip it (use it much), it isn't very, well, *imaginative*. But if you give it lots of air and make it churn around, it becomes an incredible, amazing tool that you can use to do all sorts of things you never imagined before!

There I was, stranded on a couch that was bobbing up and down in a sea of green shag carpet. My only hope was to somehow make it to the coffee table where, if I was lucky, I could leap to the lounge chair, then out the door to the relative safety of linoleum. All would have gone well, but upon entering the kitchen, I suddenly remembered that my parents were actually robots being piloted by tiny aliens, seated at the controls behind the eyes of both Mom and Dad. "They'll not have me this time!" I vowed, and sped off for my bedroom closet that I had recently converted into a dual-purpose time machine and communications center.

Has Michael Kline forgotten to pay his brain bill? Perhaps. But what's really at work here is my imagination. The story you just read is from my distant (yet very clear) past.

The 1956 Thunderbird Spaceship

When I was a kid (some of my publishers think that I still am), I had a wild imagination. The green 1956 Thunderbird parked in the backyard was my own personal means of planetary transportation, complete with milk-carton breathing devices, coffee-can gauges, and flashlight lasers.

We didn't have trees in the backyard, only gnarly, wooden legs of huge creatures that had long since been buried upside down, leaving only their lower limbs exposed aboveground. (If I clambered around in them just right, it would tickle the creatures back to life — which my mom said was only the wind. But I knew better. *Ha!*)

What about *your* imagination? Is it asleep or awake? Does it visit you sometimes when you don't want it to, as, say, at church or school? Well, imagination can be a hard thing to control, but we all have one. We use it everyday, especially when we need to be creative, when we have a problem to solve, or when a typical answer to a question just won't do. And that's just what the WordPlay Café is all about: imagination.

Take an Imagination Break!

When you need to have that spark of creativity, do yourself a favor. Get some blankets and clothespins, and make a tent in the living room (with your alien's — oops, I meant *parent's* permission), or grab a flashlight laser and head for the nearest closet (I mean, *time machine*), and create your own adventure.

Stand on your head (use a pillow, it's much more comfortable) in the rec room and imagine what it would be like to walk around on the ceiling! Try drawing a picture of your favorite pet — with your eyes closed!

Try seeing things in a new way. Use your imagination to see words and the world around you differently. Once you learn how to put that imagination to use, you'll find that wordplay is as easy as whipping up egg whites!

Thesauri, Dictionaries, Idioms, Word Origin Books, Slang Dictionaries & Other Word Cookbooks

Every time I go into a bookstore (which is often), I trace a familiar path.

First, I head to the kid's section to see *what's hot*. I find the sections on science for kids of particular interest (as do some other adults — maybe the simpler explanations are easier for them, too!), after which I head straight for …

THE REFERENCE SECTION (yes, I'm a party animal)! I just love looking through the books that explain how words work, and tell about different languages, idioms, word origins (did you know that the word **pinkie** is from the Dutch word *pink*, short for *pinkje*, meaning "small"?) — in short, everything to do with words!

There are many types of reference books that deal with words and languages, so if you're interested, visit the library (take your Noodle Book!) or local bookstore, and begin your own treasure hunt for wordplay. To get you going on your quest, check out some of my suggestions at right.

KEYWORD KABOBS

dictionary, etymology, homophones, idiom, lexicography, onomasticon, slang, thesaurus, word origins

A Dictionary of Homophones by Leslie Presson (Hauppage, N.Y.: Barron's Educational Series, Inc., 1997)

The Dictionary of Wordplay by Dave Morice (available from the Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 5 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003-3306)

The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins (revised & updated edition), by Robert Hendrickson (Checkmark Books, 2000)

Idiom Savant: Slang As It Is Slung, The colorful lingo of American subcultures, from animators to Zine readers by Jerry Dunn (Henry Holt & Company, 1997)

NTC's American Idioms Dictionary (3rd edition) by Richard A. Spears, Ph.D. (McGraw-Hill, 2000)

Pun and Games: Jokes, Riddles, Rhymes, Daffynitions, Tairy Fales, and More Wordplay for Kids by Richard Lederer (Chicago Review Press, 1996)

Ant Sirs

WORDS: A BRIEF HISTORY (page 13): *antediluvian* means "ancient."

SLANGUAGE SLAW (page 18): The two portmanteaus are **ebonics** (**ebon**y + phon**ics**) and **slanguage** (**slan**g + lan**guage**).

TASTE TEST on Quayleisms (page 26): There are many answers for the problems in these funny quotations of Dan Quayle's. Here are a few:

- A "recovery" is what will happen when the president leads us out of a *decline* or a *recession*.
- The line should read "that area of the *world*." Latin America is not an area of a "country," and it certainly is not an area of the U.S.!
- Chicago is a city, not a "state."
- Phoenix is in Arizona, not "California."
- If an "event" is "unforeseen," you have no idea what it may be, so how can you know whether you are prepared for it or not? And if something never occurs, as in "any unforeseen event that may or may not occur," then it is not an "unforeseen event'; it is not an "event" at all!
- Awkward at best, but the biggest blooper here is that what is meant is that we will never surrender to what is *wrong*, not "surrender to what is right."
- A low voter turnout means fewer people went to the polls to vote. That's a fact, not an indication. The fact that fewer people voted could be an indication, however, that there is voter apathy or disinterest in what is going on politically.
- A better way to say the first part might be to say: "If you give a person a fish, he will *eat* for a day." See page 5 for a better paraphrasing of this expression. What is meant is that if you give someone a handout, it helps for only a short period of time. But if you *teach a person a skill,* so that she can improve her daily existence, it will have an effect on her whole life.
- The line would make more sense if it read "the best-educated people in the world." The idea is that the goal is to improve the education of Americans so that they are at the top of the class to compete with the rest of the world.
- Pollution can be defined as, among other things, "impurities in our air and water."

ADD A GRAM OF ANAGRAMS (page 31): The anagram for DORMITORY is DIRTY ROOM.

PALINDROME POTLUCK (page 33): The TASTE TEST poem has two palindromes, a single word (**deed**) and the phrase **never odd or even**.

HOMONYM GRITS (pages 42-43): A search for incorrect homonyms *in just the text* might turn up: **knight** (night), **End** (and), **awl** (all), **threw** (through), **Knot** (Not), **Knot** (Not), **yew** (you), **sum** (some), **yore** (your), **yule** (you'll), **their** (there), **mini** (many), **yews** (use), **awn** (on), **bases** (basis), **hoarse** (horse). Now you figure out the homonyms in the art!

VERBAL TEA (page 44): IBQQZ CJSUIEBZ UP ZPV = **Happy Birthday to You** if you move each code letter one step backward in the alphabet.

CREPES OF WRATH (page 54):
neurotransmitter (9): euro, rot, transmit, ran, mitt, it, an, a, I
mathematics (12): mat, math, hem, the, them, a, at, tic, tics, ma, thematic, I
beforehand (12): be, before, for, fore, forehand, hand, or, ore, ha, a, an, and
copyrightable (9): a, I, cop, copy, right, able, rig, tab, table
unintelligible (4): I, in, tell, gib
reallocation (6): I, a, real, all, cat, on
extraterrestrial (11): I, a, extra, at, rate, err, rest, trial, rat, ate, rater

GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN (pages 56-57): Big PUNZLES®
American = a merry can; **amateur** = am mature (the elderly person); **catsup** = cat's up (as the one on the roof); **escape** = S cape (as in what Superman is wearing); **quality** = koala tea; **serial killer** = cereal killer (the milk, which is next to the koala tea); **gigantic** = gigantic tick; **apparel** = a peril (the hole with the Danger sign); **mushroom** = mush room (where dogs train for the Iditarod sled race); **forehead** = 4 head (head implying the outdoor bathroom marked with the number 4); **keyboard** = key bored (as the one in the door); **philosopher** = Phil, officer; **letterhead** = letter head (as in the outdoor bathroom marked M).

SYNONYM ROLLS (page 59): You know this rhyme better as

Hey, diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

TASTE TEST (page 59): *The Potentate of the Metallic Circular Enclosures* stands for *The Lord of the Rings*! And the movie *A Succession of Calamitous Circumstances* in the art is better known as *A Series of Unfortunate Events.*

LICENSE PL8 PIE (page 62): ICU812 (I see you ate one, too); IRIGHTI (Right between the eyes); 10SNE1 (Tennis, anyone?); AV8R (Aviator); CUL8ER (See you later). And in the art: MOVE-IT

PORTRAIT PICKLES (page 66): The W in Williamson Books is part of the company logo.

ZEUGMA ZEST (page 69): In the sentence *With a little practice, maybe you'll get smarter and invited to more parties!*, the word **get** is applied to both **smarter** and **invited to more parties**, for some funny reading.

SODA POP SWAP (page 74): The homonyms in Baxter's poem are **nose/knows**, **sense/scents**, **maid/made**, and **wood/would**.

COOKING SCHOOL RECESS (pages 88-89): Big PUNZLES®
apparent = a parent (as the one in the car); **spell-check** = spell Czech (which the boy in the car is doing); **adore** = a door (there's one on the house, one on the car, duh); **account** = a count (as in Dracula); **coward** = cow word (moo); **entry** = in tree (as in the boy and both birds actually); **box** = bawks; **honest** = on nest (one of the birds is); **believe** = bee leave (which is what happened when...); **jargon** = jar gone (or broken, so the bee leaves!); **carpet** = car pet (the dog); **aboard** = a board (which the man is carrying); **illegal** = ill eagle; **bloopers** = blue purse; **no way** = no weigh (which is the out-of-order scale); **degrade** = D grade (which I received on some of my test papers too!)

DO THE ADS HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? (page 91):
You deserve a **break** today. (McDonald's)
Just **do** it. (Nike)
Betcha can't **eat** just one. (Lay's potato chips)

PIGS-LATIN IN A BLANKET (page 105): Britney is getting a five speed drill and a pet boa constrictor for her irthdaybay.

ENTER INTERNET INGREDIENTS (page 111): The acronyms are **IPTO** (Information Processing Techniques Office), **ARPA** (Advanced Research Projects Administration), **UCLA** (University of California in Los Angeles).

TYPO TEA & BISCUITS (pages 114-115): **Intrenet** (Internet), **infromation** (information), **photografs** (photographs), **mispelled** (misspelled), **conection** (connection) are misspelled in the text; **jected** is the made-up word; and in the art, **kars** (cars), **prises** (prices), **freindly** (friendly), **srevice** (service), **wekends** (weekends), **moduls** (models), **stok** (stock), **hole** (whole), **yuor** (your), **rebaet** (rebate), and **avalable** (available).

MNEMONIC NUTRITION (page 119):
Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain. Order of colors in the rainbow, or visual spectrum: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

Kids Prefer Cheese Over Fried Green Spinach. Order of taxonomy in biology: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species

Red Right Returning. A nautical mnemonic to help boats navigate safely. Boats **returning** to a harbor from a lake or the sea pass **red** buoys to the **right** (starboard) side of the boat (thus **red right returning**) and the green markers stay to the left.

Spring ahead, Fall back. When and how to adjust your clocks for Daylight Savings Time and Standard Time (set clocks ahead by an hour in spring, set them back by an hour in the fall).

Camels Often Sit Down Carefully; Perhaps Their Joints Creak? Persistent Early Oiling Might Prevent Permanent Rheumatism. The first letter of each word is the first letter of the geological time periods, oldest to the present: Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Paleocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene, and Recent.

My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas. The first letter of each word gives you the first letter of the planets, in order: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

PHONETIC ALPHABET SOUP (page 120): MARBLES (in the last line of text); WONDERFUL! (in the art).

Still stumped? Email wordplay@dogfoose.com for more help.

N Decks

A
acronyms, 58
acrostics, 34
adverbs, 102–103
advertising, 90–91
African American Vernacular English, 18
alphabet, 14
  games, 15, 35–36, 79, 81–82
  letter portraits, 66
  phonetic alphabet, 120–121
  saying backward, 95
American Sign Language, 15
anagrams, 30–31

B
bad language, 7, 116
Balderdash, 38–39
A Book of Nonsense (Lear), 85
Borge, Victor, 60
Brain Candy (defined), 10
Brunot, James and Mrs., 29
Bush, Vannevar, 111
Butts, Alfred, 29

C
Carroll, Lewis, 46–47
The Cat in the Hat (Dr. Seuss), 14
categories game, 35
Chef's Tips (defined), 9
Clark, William, 23
clockwise and counterclockwise, 83
codes and ciphers, 44–45, 120–121
comic strips, 51, 64
computers, 107–116, 108. *See also* email; Internet
correspondence. *See* email; letters and cards
crossword puzzles, 28

D
dialects, 23
Dickinson, Emily, 93
dictionaries, 14, 38–39, 53, 123

E
Ebonics, 18
email, 15, 34, 52, 115, 120
English language, 14, 23, 70, 93, 111. *See also* language; words

G
Gershwin, Ira and George, 47
Gettysburg Address, 50
Gilbert, William S., 78
"googol," 110
grammar, 68, 69, 80, 102–103
Greek, 20, 22, 33. *See also* scientific names

H
"hang in there," 37
Hangman, 37
Hansen, Liane, 95
Hardy Boys books, 103
Herriman, George, 51
hieroglyphs, 13, 44
Hink-Pinks, 106
history of words, 13, 19–20. *See also* Greek; Latin
homework tips, 10
homonyms (homophones), 42–43, 74

I
idioms, 77. *See also* slang
imagination, using, 121–122
inflationary language, 60
Internet, 10, 108, 109–113, 116

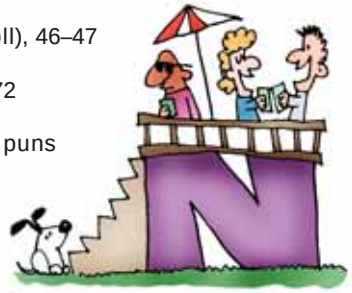
J
"Jabberwocky" (Carroll), 46–47
Jespersen, Otto, 19
jigsaw puzzle letters, 72
Johnston, Philip, 45
jokes, 76–77. *See also* puns
Joyce, James, 76

K
kangaroo words, 55
Kasner, Edward, 110
Kennedy, John F., 14
Keyword Kabobs (defined), 10
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 14
Kline, Charley, 111
Kline, Michael, 6–7, 8
Klingon language, 49
knock-knock jokes, 75
Krazy Kat comic strip, 51

L
language. *See also specific languages*; words
  dialects, 23
  foul language, 7, 116
  history and origins, 13, 19–20
  idioms, 77
  inflationary language, 60
  making up languages, 48–49
  mangled speech, 26
  number of languages, 13
  root words, 20, 22
  slang, 18
  translation, 23, 112
Latin, 20, 87
Lear, Edward, 85
lemons and lemonade, 36
letters (alphabet). *See* alphabet
letters and cards, 34, 44, 52, 63, 72, 92, 120
Levey, Bob, 99
Lewis, Meriwether, 23
license plates (Pl8 Speak), 62
Licklider, J.C.R., 111
limericks, 84–85
Lincoln, Abraham, 50
listening, 6
logos, 66
The Lord of the Rings (Tolkien), 49

M
made-up languages, 48–49
made-up phrases, 99
made-up words, 46–47
memory games, 82
Miller, Wiley, 51
mirror images, 63
mirror writing, 63, 92
mission statements, 17
misspelled words, 6, 51–53, 114–115, 118–119. *See also* homonyms
mnemonics, 118–119
movie title acronyms, 58

N
Nash, Ogden, 76, 93
Navajo code talkers, 45
neologisms, 98–99



N Decks (continued)

Newman, James, 110
newspaper games, 32, 51, 64
  headlines, 51, 68
"nitpicker," 15
nonsense words, 46–47
Non-Sequitur comic strip, 51
Noodle Book, 11
numbers, 14, 62, 83, 110

O

Okrand, Marc, 49
oxymorons, 93

P

palindromes, 32–33
paradoxes, word, 70–71
phonetic alphabet, 120–121
phonetic puns, 56–57
phonetics and spelling, 52–53
pi, value of, 119
Pig Latin, 105
The Pirates of Penzance (Gilbert and Sullivan), 78
poems and poetry, 34, 46–47, 84–85
portmanteaus ("suitcase" words), 21
pronunciation, 23, 52–53
punctuation marks, 14
puns, 74–77, 102–103, 116. *See also* Punzles
Punzles®, 11
  large Punzles®, 56–57, 88–89
  small Punzles®, 11, 21, 26, 31, 39, 48, 53, 71, 79, 85, 95, 97, 101, 114

Q

Quayle, Dan, 26
questions, asking, 7

R

reading, 96
  rotated reading, 97
recipes (use of term), 9
reverse spelling, 94–95
reverse writing, 92
rhyme and rhyming words, 106. *See also* poems and poetry
riddles, 106
Roberts, Larry, 111
root words, 20, 22
rules, 7
  asking permission, 65, 108
  changing, 29
  computer and Internet use, 108, 113
  ignoring language rules, 9

S

scientific names, 20–21
Scrabble, 28, 29
Scripps National Spelling Bee, 24, 94
search engines, 10, 109–110, 116
secrets, 45, 105
Seuss, Dr., 14
Shakespeare, William, 76, 93
Shortz, Will, 95
shredded dialogue, 65
sign language, 15
Sirotta, Milton, 110
slang, 18. *See also* idioms
songwriting, 47
"sophomore," 93
Sotades of Maronia, 33
space between words, 50
spelling
  importance of correct spelling, 95, 114, 53
  misspelled words, 6, 51–53, 114–115, 118–119. *See also* homonyms
  phonetic spelling, 52–53
  pronunciation and, 23
  reverse spelling, 94–95
  spelling bees, 24–25, 94
  typos, 114–115
  with numbers and symbols, 61–62
Spooner, William Archibald, 100–101
Spoonerisms, 100–101
Star Trek, 49
Steig, William, 63
Stratemeyer, Edward, 103
Sullivan, Sir Arthur, 78
symbols, 61
synonyms, 59

T

Taste Tests (defined), 10
Taylor, Bob, 111
thesaurus/i, 59, 123

Tolkien, J.R.R., 49
Tom Swift books, 103
Tom/Sarah Swifties, 102–103
tongue twisters, 78–79
translation, 23, 112
TV remote game, 65
Twain, Mark, 93
20 Questions, 87
typos, 114–115

U

undergrounder words, 67
Unfortunate Cookies (defined), 9

V

verbs, 80
"vice versa," 87

W

Washington Post contests, 99
Weekend Edition Sunday Puzzle, 95
word chains, 86
word squares, 40
wordless communication, 16. *See also* sign language
words. *See also* language
  history and origins, 13, 19–20. *See also* Greek; Latin
  importance and power, 14–15, 17
  inflationary language, 60
  made-up words/phrases, 46–47, 98–99
  new words, 23
  number of words, 14–15
  plays on words. *See* puns
  portmanteaus, 21
  undergrounders, 67
  verbs, 80
  vocabulary size, 15
  word avoidance game, 104
  word paradoxes, 70–71
  words within words, 54–55
World-Wide Web, 110. *See also* Internet
writing, history of, 13

Z

zeugmas, 69

More Good Books from Williamson Books

Williamson Books are available from your bookseller or directly from Williamson Books. Please see the last page for ordering information or to visit our website. Thank you.

All books listed are suitable for children ages 7 through 14, and are 128 to 160 pages, 11 x 8½, $12.95, and fully illustrated, unless otherwise noted.

IN THE DAYS OF DINOSAURS
A Rhyming Romp Through Dino History
by Howard Temperley, illustrated by Michael Kline
64 pages, 8½ x 11, $9.95, full color

Parents' Choice Approved
GREAT GAMES!
Old & New, Indoor/Outdoor, Travel, Board, Ball & Word
by Sam Taggar; illustrated by Michael Kline

KIDS WRITE!
Fantasy & Sci Fi, Mystery, Autobiography, Adventure & More!
by Rebecca Olien; illustrated by Michael Kline

USING COLOR IN YOUR ART!
Choosing Colors for Impact & Pizzazz
by Sandi Henry

Parents' Choice Recommended
KIDS' Easy-to-Create WILDLIFE HABITATS
For Small Spaces in City, Suburbs, Countryside
by Emily Stetson

Parents' Choice Honor Award
Skipping Stones Ecology & Nature Award
MONARCH MAGIC!
Butterfly Activities & Nature Discoveries
by Lynn M. Rosenblatt
96 pages, 100 full-color photos, 8 x 10, $12.95

Parents' Choice Recommended
Children's Digest Health Education Award
The Kids' Guide to FIRST AID
All About Bruises, Burns, Stings, Sprains & Other Ouches
by Karen Buhler Gale, R.N.

HANDS AROUND THE WORLD
365 Creative Ways to Build Cultural Awareness & Global Respect
by Susan Milord

Parents' Choice Recommended
THE KIDS' BOOK OF WEATHER FORECASTING
Build a Weather Station, "Read" the Sky & Make Predictions!
by meteorologist Mark Breen and Kathleen Friestad

KIDS MAKE MAGIC!
The Complete Guide to Becoming an Amazing Magician
by Ron Burgess

Parents' Choice Honor Award
American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award
GIZMOS & GADGETS
Creating Science Contraptions That Work (& Knowing Why)
by Jill Frankel Hauser

Selection of Book-of-the-Month; Scholastic Book Clubs
KIDS COOK!
Fabulous Food for the Whole Family
by Sarah Williamson and Zachary Williamson

Parents' Choice Gold Award
American Bookseller Pick of the Lists
THE KIDS' MULTICULTURAL ART BOOK
Art & Craft Experiences from Around the World
by Alexandra Michaels Terzian

American Bookseller Pick of the Lists
Parents' Choice Approved
SUMMER FUN!
60 Activities for a Kid-Perfect Summer
by Susan Williamson

THE MYSTERIOUS SECRET LIFE OF MATH
Uncover How (& Why) Numbers Survived from the Cave Dwellers to Us
by Ann McCallum, full color

GARDEN FUN!
Indoors & Out; In Pots & Small Spots
by Vicky Congdon, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

40 KNOTS TO KNOW
Hitches, Loops, Bends & Bindings
by Emily Stetson, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

Parents' Choice Approved
BAKE THE BEST-EVER COOKIES!
by Sarah A. Williamson, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

Dr. Toy 100 Best Children's Products
Dr. Toy 10 Best Socially Responsible Products
MAKE YOUR OWN BIRDHOUSES & FEEDERS
by Robyn Haus, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

KIDS' EASY BIKE CARE
Tune-Ups, Tools & Quick Fixes
by Steve Cole, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Finalist
DRAWING HORSES
(that look *real!*)
by Don Mayne, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

KIDS' EASY KNITTING PROJECTS
by Peg Blanchette, 8½ x 11, 64 pages, $8.95

Parents' Choice Gold Award
Benjamin Franklin Best Juvenile Nonfiction Award
KIDS MAKE MUSIC!
Clapping and Tapping from Bach to Rock
by Avery Hart and Paul Mantell

Parents' Choice Recommended
Orbus Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction
KIDS' ART WORKS!
Creating with Color, Design, Texture & More
by Sandi Henry

More Good Books from Williamson Books
(continued)

Visit Our Website!

To see what's new at Williamson and learn more about specific books, visit our website at:

www.williamsonbooks.com

(This website has books from Williamson Books and Ideals Children's Publications.)

To Order Books:

You'll find Williamson Books wherever high-quality children's books are sold or order directly from Williamson Books, an imprint of Ideals Publications:

Toll-free phone orders with credit cards:
1-800-586-2572

We accept Visa and MasterCard
(please include the number and expiration date).

Or, send a check with your order to:

Williamson Books
Orders
535 Metroplex Drive, Suite 250
Nashville, TN 37211

Please add **$4.00** for postage for one book plus **$1.00** for each additional book.
Satisfaction is guaranteed or full refund without questions or quibbles.

Ally Cat

If you didn't know it by now, Baxter is a real cat, and he came from an animal shelter. Pound puppies and pound kitties make great lifelong companions. There is probably an animal shelter or Humane Society in your town. So if you're looking for a wonderful pet (you may even find one like Baxter), contact your local animal shelter or point your Web browser to www.pets911.com for more information on how and where to adopt a friend in your neighborhood. Remember, pets need you just as much as you need them.

A WILLIAMSON KIDS CAN!® BOOK

Word Games / Language

WordPlay Café

For kids ages 8 to 14—and their friends of all ages!

Welcome to the WordPlay Café, where everything on the menu is "food for the brain" and kids of all ages are encouraged to play with their food!

* Learn to prepare **Crepes of Wrath**, where you'll find *words within words*; use *phonetic spelling* in the café's **Spell the Beans!** recipe; and enjoy the tempting **Spaced-Out** (word) **Spread**.

* Taste some **Smervitz & Gatoosh** or **Jabberwock Soup Stock**, *making up your own words*, or *create your own language* with some **Tolkien Talk** and **Klingon Chatter** morsels of wisdom.

* Did I hear you say you had a *bad code*? Perhaps some *nouns* are caught in your throat or your *adjectives* are running. Take the head chef's advice and put on a pot of **Verbal Tea (& other code remedies)**.

* Craving some old favorites? Sample the ever-tasty **Palindrome Potluck**, where you can eat in any order and it still tastes the same (order "A Toyota"). For an entrée, there are **Spoonerisms You Can Eat with a Fork**, and by all means, end your meal with **License PL8 Pie**.

Michael Kline has been fascinating both children and adults with his wise, insightful, and very humorous drawings for many years, but who knew that he is also a witty wordsmith with a hilarious take on the English language? He urges us to use our ears and listen (Ear We Go!) as he takes us on a rollicking, wordy tour of the **WordPlay Café**, where he cooks up many delectables stuffed with words, words, and more words, all in the form of games! Michael Kline lives and works in Wichita, Kansas.

ISBN 0-8249-6753-4

9 780824 967536 90000

$12.95
Higher in Canada

Cover design & illustration: **Michael Kline**
Interior design: **Joseph Lee**

Williamson Books • Nashville, Tennessee

Kids Can!® is a registered trademark of Ideals Publications.

Cover design & illustration: Michael Kline