

Fun With English

These are signs in hotels and other public places in foreign countries where they make the effort to write signs in English but their efforts go astray.

In a Vienna hotel:

In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

A traslated sentence from a Russian chess book:

A lot of water has been passed under the bridge since this variation has been played.

Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand:

Would you like to ride on your own ass?

On the tap in a Finnish wash-room:

To stop the drip, turn cock to right.

In the window of a Swedish furrier:

Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong:

Guaranted to work throughout its useful life.

Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan:

Stop: Drive Sideways.

In a Bangkok temple:

It is forbidden to enter a woman even foreigner if dressed as a man.

In a Tokyo bar:

Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.

In a Japanese hotel room:

Please to bathe inside the tub.

In a Hong Kong supermarket:

For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.

In an East African newspaper:

A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.

In a Tokyo shop:

Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.

From a Japanese information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner:

Cooler and Heater: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.

From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:

When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.

Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance:

- * English well talking.
- * Here speeching American.

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 • **Handel was half German, half Italian.** •
 • **and half English. He was rather large.** •

ANALOGIES

I'm sure you were asked at school to make-up some analogies to illustrate you understood what they were. Here's a list we've compiled of some actually written by high-school school kids in their essays.

He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

Joseph Romm, Washington

She caught your eye like one of those pointy hook latches that used to dangle from screen doors and would fly up whenever you banged the door open again.

Rich Murphy, Fairfax Station

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.

Russell Beland, Springfield

McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty Bag filled with vegetable soup.

Paul Sabourin, Silver Spring

From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and "Jeopardy" comes on at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30.

Roy Ashley, Washington

Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.

Chuck Smith, Woodbridge

Her eyes were like two brown circles with big black dots in the center.

Russell Beland, Springfield

Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.

Unknown

He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.

Jack Bross, Chevy Chase

The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots

when you fry them in hot grease.

Gary F. Hevel, Silver Spring

Her date was pleasant enough, but she knew that if her life was a movie this guy would be buried in the credits as something like "Second Tall Man."

Russell Beland, Springfield

Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.

Jennifer Hart, Arlington

The politician was gone but unnoticed, like the period after the Dr. on a Dr Pepper can.

Wayne Goode, Madison, Ala.

They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth

Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.

John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.

Russell Beland, Springfield

The thunder was ominous-sounding, much like the sound of a thin sheet of metal being shaken backstage during the storm scene in a play.

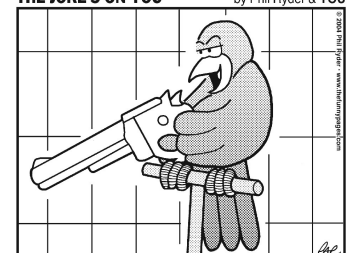
Barbara Fetherolf, Alexandria

His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free

Chuck Smith, Woodbridge

The red brick wall was the color of a brick-red Crayola crayon.

THE JOKE'S ON YOU by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Who are you calling 'yellow bellied'?"
 - Dean Traiger • Locust Valley, NY