

(ab DUCK)
to kidnap or carry off by force

Sounds like: **DUCK**



"ABDUCTED DUCKS."

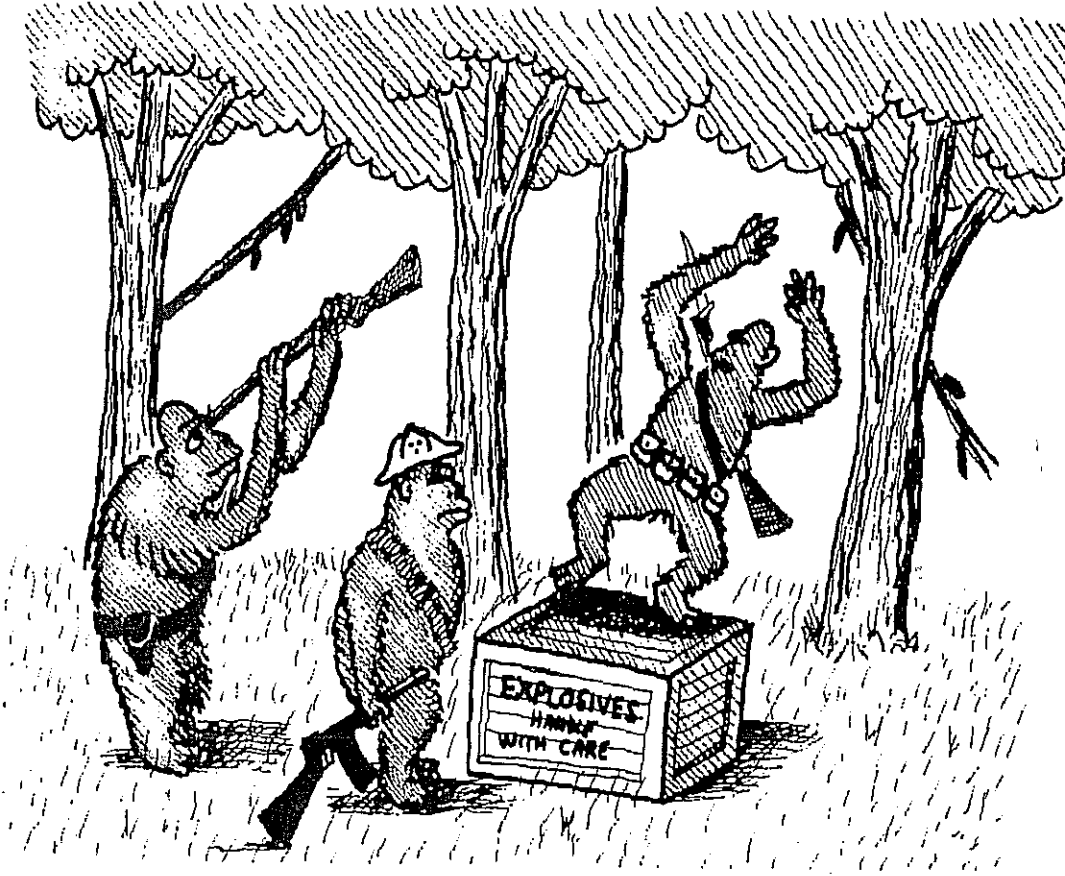
- ❑ The Evil Knight planned to **ABDUCT** the queen when she came alone to the village.
- ❑ Our basketball team was **ABDUCTED** by aliens who carried them off to the planet Mars.
- ❑ The neighbor's boy **ABDUCTED** our pet pig, and we paid a ransom of a box of cookies to get him back.

GUERRILLAS

(ger RIL us)

members of an irregular military force operating in small bands behind enemy lines

Sounds like: **GORILLAS**

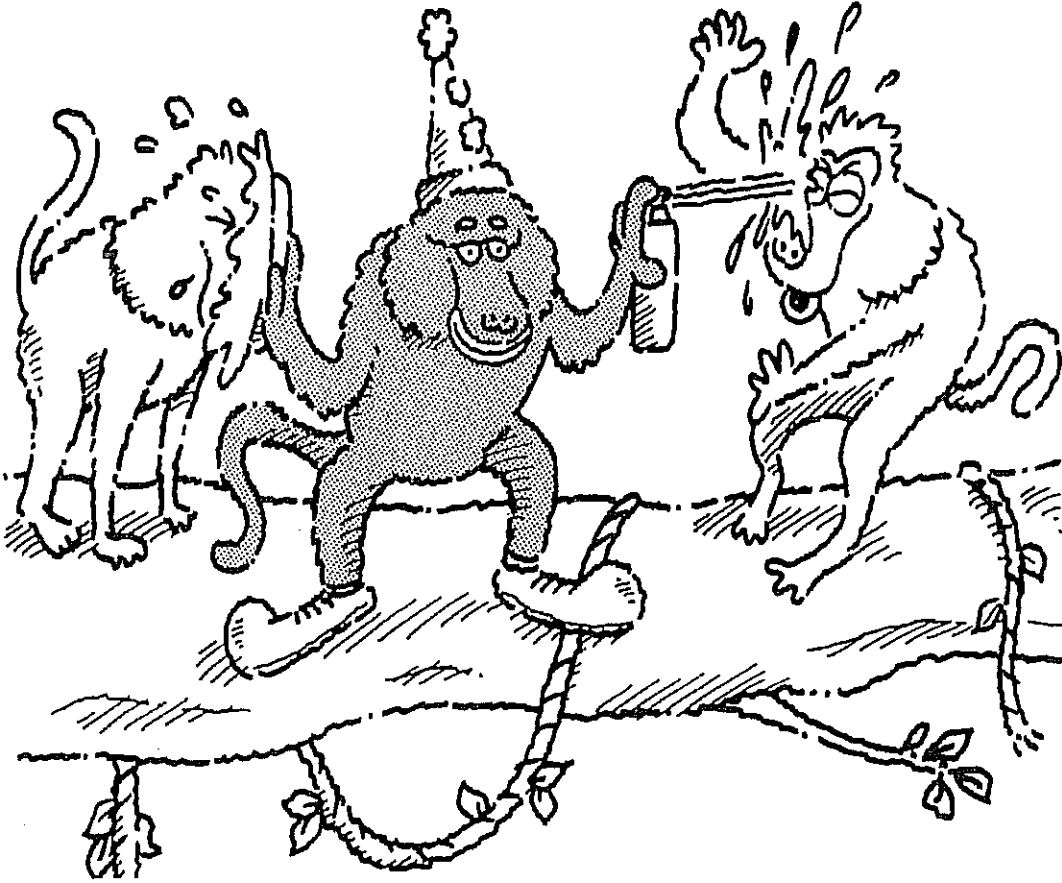


"GORILLA GUERRILLAS."

- ❑ The **GUERRILLAS** stormed the town and then fled back into the woods before the army troops arrived.
- ❑ **GUERRILLAS** often have to steal and capture equipment from the enemy as they have none of their own.
- ❑ Jack's mom said he and his friends were a bunch of house **GUERRILLAS**, but she loved them anyway.

(buffoon)
a joker who amuses with jokes and tricks, a
bumbling or ridiculous person, a fool

Sounds like: **BABOON**



"A **BUFFOON** of a **BABOON**."

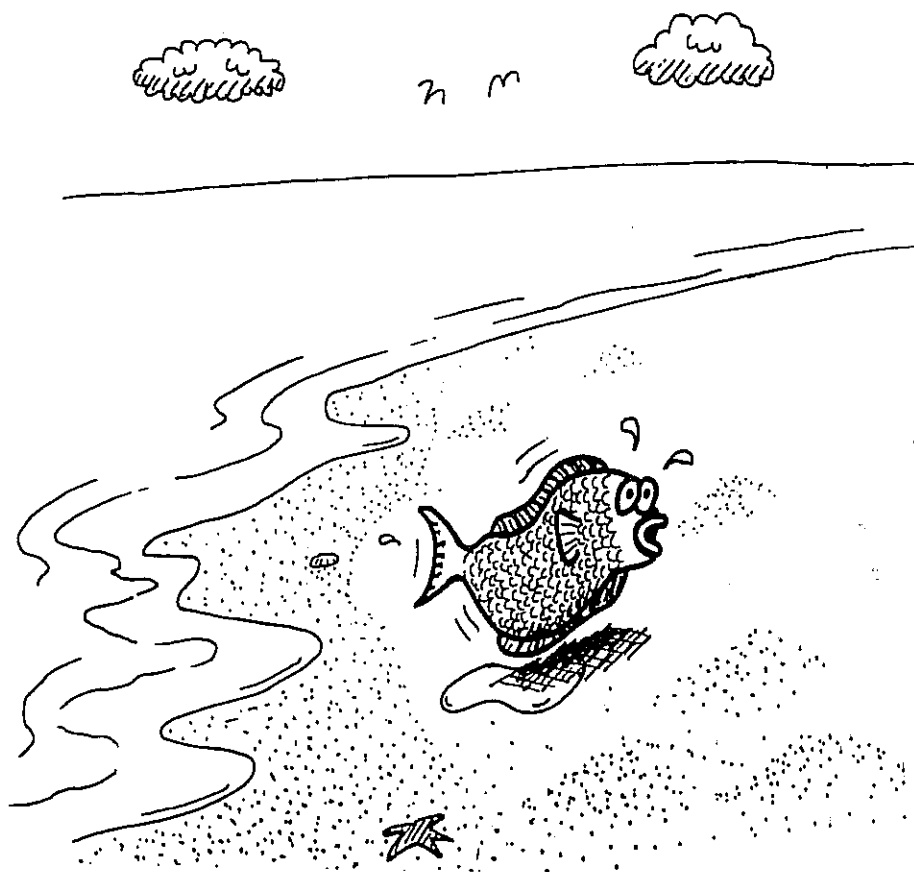
- ❑ Robin is a **BUFFOON**. At the party he stood on his head and sang *Jingle Bells*.
- ❑ A little **BUFFOONERY** sometimes is a welcome thing at a dull gathering.
- ❑ Uncle Jed warned his nephew that his **BUFFOONISH** behavior did not belong at the dinner table.

FLOUNDER

(FLOUN dur)

to move clumsily; to struggle or proceed with difficulty; also a flat fish

Sounds like: **FLOUNDER** (fish)

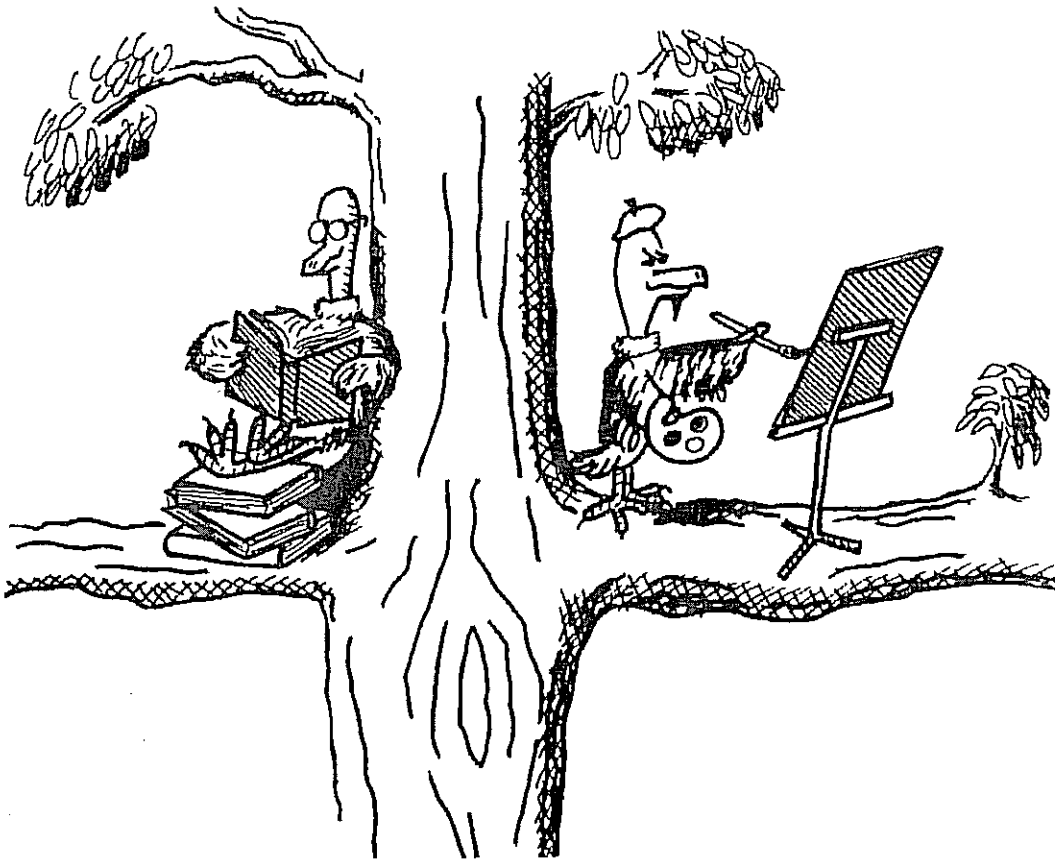


"A FLOUNDERING FLOUNDER."

- ❑ The dog **FLOUNDERED** through the mud attempting to find his master in the dark night.
- ❑ Jack started his speech but began to **FLOUNDER** when he couldn't find his notes.
- ❑ The ship **FLOUNDERED** in the storm.

(KUL ture)
products of human work
at a particular time

Sounds like: **VULTURE**



"VULTURES with CULTURE."

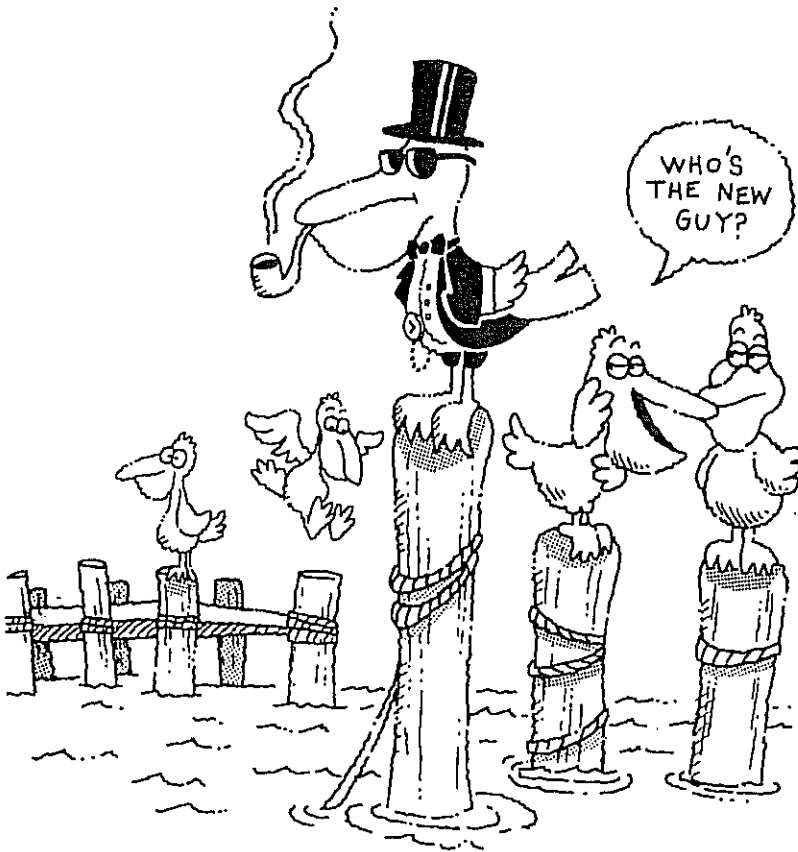
- ❑ The **CULTURE** of ancient Egypt has been studied perhaps more than any **CULTURE** in mankind's history.
- ❑ Shakespeare was a writer of great **CULTURE**.
- ❑ A **CULTURED** person often reads great literature, appreciates fine art, and eats good food.

ELEGANT

(EL ee gunt)

characterized or exhibiting
elegance; excellent

Sounds like: **PELICAN**



*"An **ELEGANT PELICAN** is a very fine bird."*

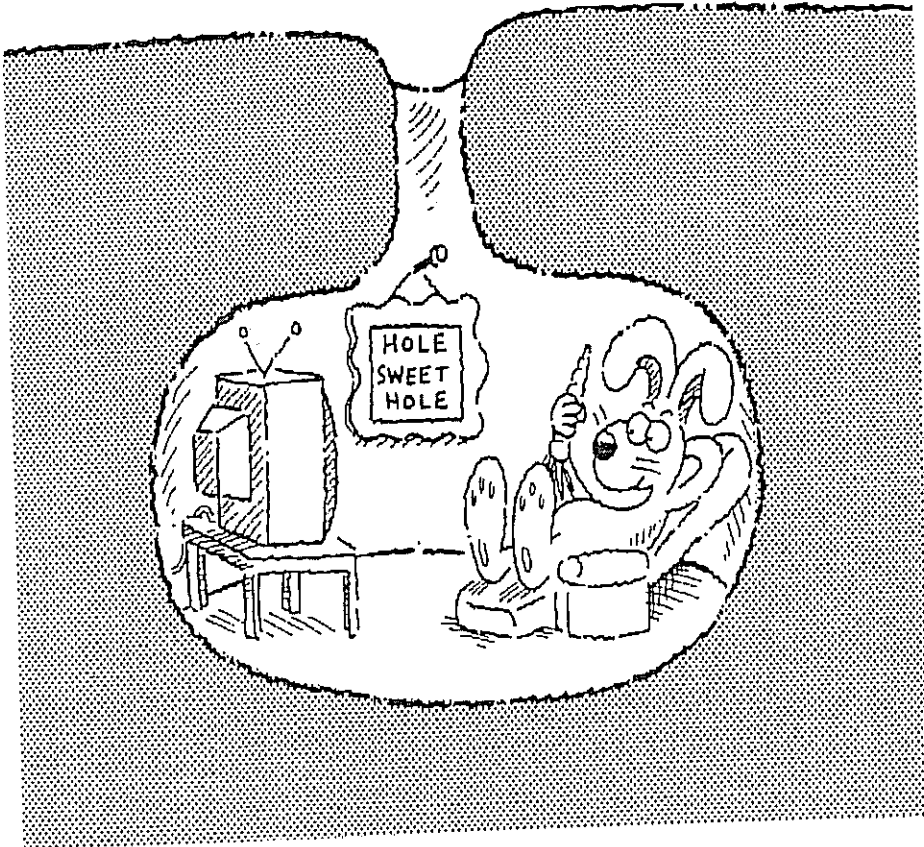
- ❑ The presidential ball was an **ELEGANT** affair.
- ❑ The princess was dressed in an **ELEGANT** Thai silk gown for the ball.
- ❑ The ever-popular playwright, Tennessee Williams, wrote **ELEGANTLY** about the decadent South.

INHABIT

(en HAB it)

to live or dwell in

Sounds like: **RABBIT**



"RABBITS INHABIT holes."

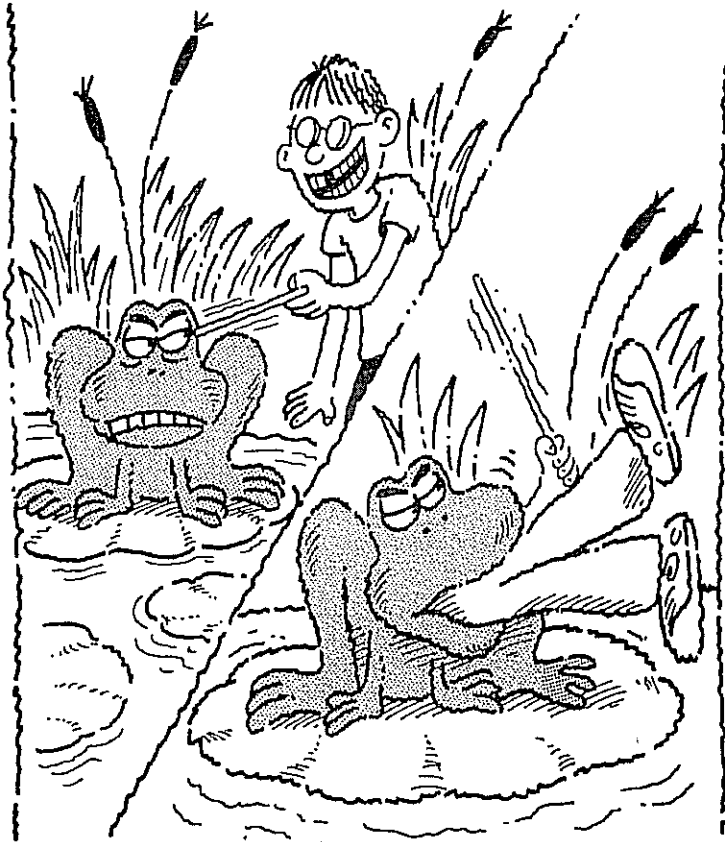
- Ants **INHABIT** ant hills.
- People **INHABIT** houses and buildings.
- Dinosaurs **INHABITED** the Earth millions of years ago.

GOAD

(goad)

anything that pricks,
prods, or urges

Sounds like: **TOAD**



*"Never **GOAD** a big **TOAD**."*

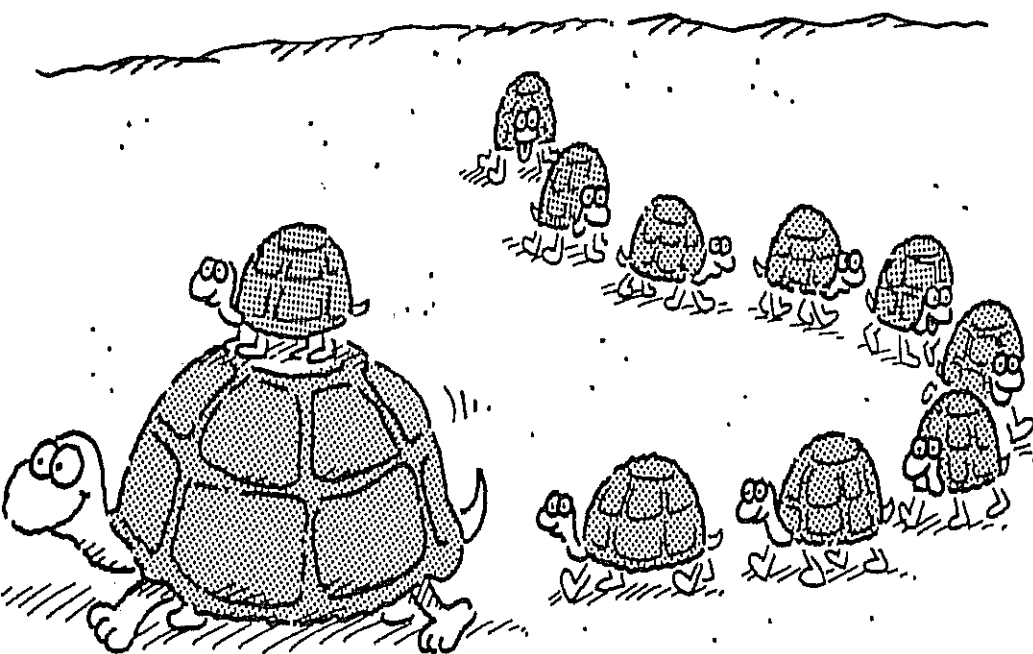
- ❑ Because he was so tall, Michael's friends **GOADED** him to try out for basketball.
- ❑ Her friends called Helen "chicken" and **GOADED** her into becoming a cheerleader.
- ❑ Bill's bad grades **GOADED** him into studying harder.

FERTILE

(FURT ul)

able to reproduce children, seeds,
or fruits; highly productive

Sounds like: **TURTLE**



"A FERTILE TURTLE."

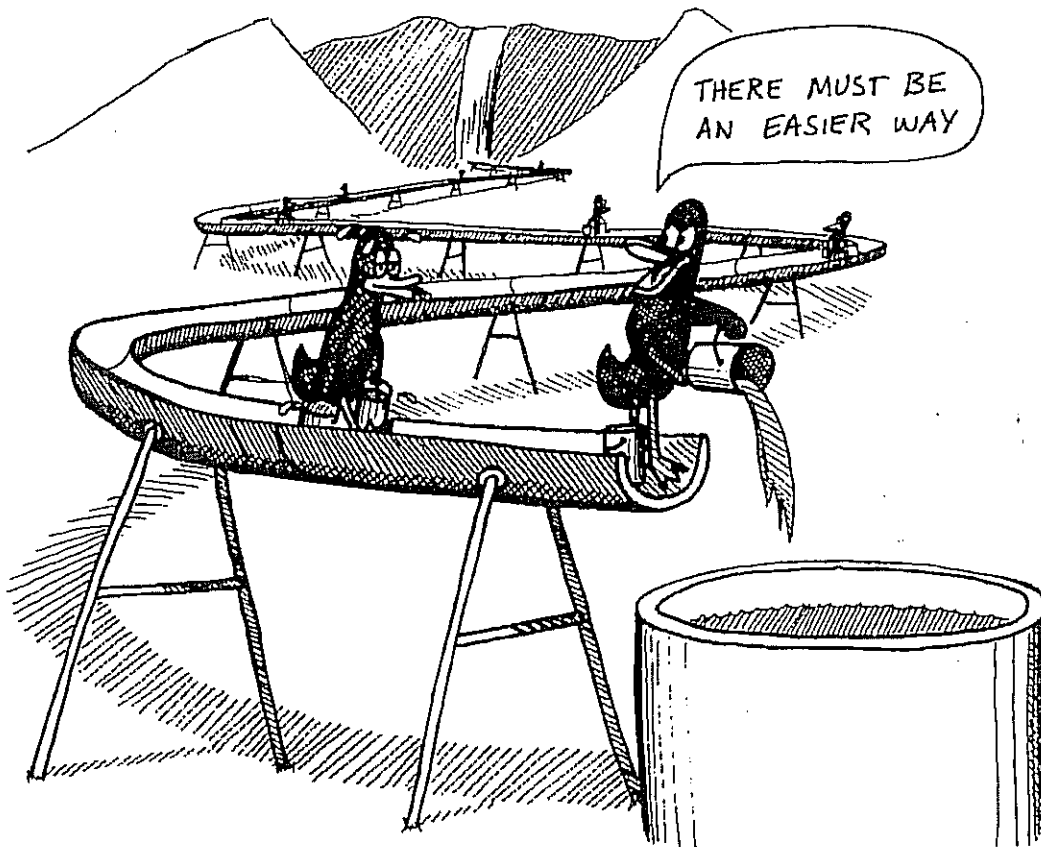
- ☐ Mabel is our **FERTILE** cow and has a calf every spring.
- ☐ The village was located in a **FERTILE** valley where many farms grew vegetables.
- ☐ Most fiction writers have **FERTILE** imaginations.

AQUEDUCT

(ACK wa duct)

a large pipe or conduit for carrying water from a distant location

Sounds like: **AQUA DUCK**



"AQUA DUCKS working on an AQUEDUCT."

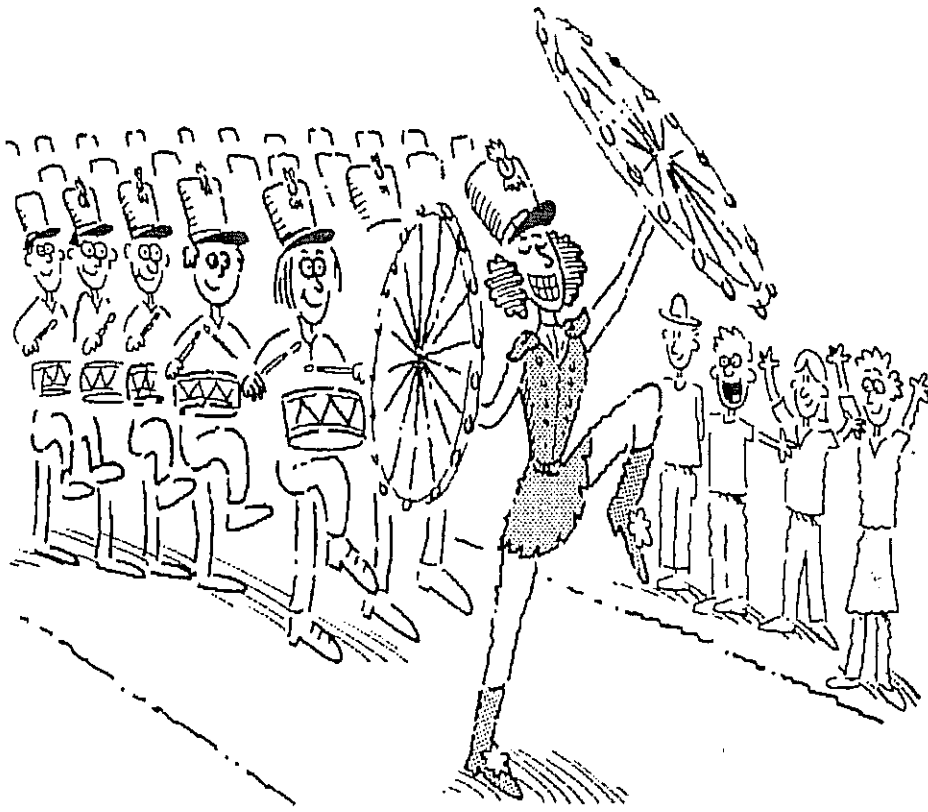
- ❑ **AQUEDUCTS** that carry liquids can be opened like ditches or closed like pipes.
- ❑ **AQUEDUCTS** can be made of stone or wood as well as steel and plastics.
- ❑ The Romans built huge **AQUEDUCTS** to bring water to their cities.

PRANCE

(prantz)

to act or walk about in a lively manner

Sounds like: **DANCE**



*"The majorette came **PRANCING** down the street, leading the parade in a high-stepping **DANCE**."*

- ❑ Rodney was a real showboat; every time he made a touchdown he **PRANCED** about as if he thought he was "hot stuff."
- ❑ Cindy's horse was trained to **PRANCE** in the most regal manner.
- ❑ Ricky **PRANCED** down the hall after getting straight A's on his report card.

ENCROACH

(en KROHCH)

to intrude gradually upon the rights of another; to trespass

Sounds like: **ROACH**



"ROACHES will **ENCROACH** wherever there is food."

- ❑ With an **ENCROACHING** anxiety, I made my way to where the crashed car lay on its side.
- ❑ The weeds from the adjacent vacant lot continued spreading with each rain until they **ENCROACHED** our vegetable garden.

SMITTEN

(smit ten)

very much in love

Sounds like: **KITTEN**



"A SMITTEN KITTEN."

- ❑ The **SMITTEN** young man carried a bouquet of flowers for his girlfriend.
- ❑ After receiving a birthday card from Laura, Nathan was **SMITTEN**.
- ❑ Brad Pitt ran out of the restaurant with a group of **SMITTEN** girls trailing behind him.

ALLUDE

(uh LOOD)

to refer to casually or indirectly

Sounds like: **RUDE**



*"Not to be **RUDE**, the hostess only **ALLUDED** to her guest's manners."*

- ❑ The letter Mark received **ALLUDED** to something that happened in his college days.
- ❑ The merchant often **ALLUDED** to his military days as the best time in his life.
- ❑ It is **RUDE** to **ALLUDE** to how much money a person has.

FLEET

(fleet)

a group of cars, boats, or
other type of vessels

Sounds like: **FEET**



*"The Postal Service's new **FEET FLEET**."*

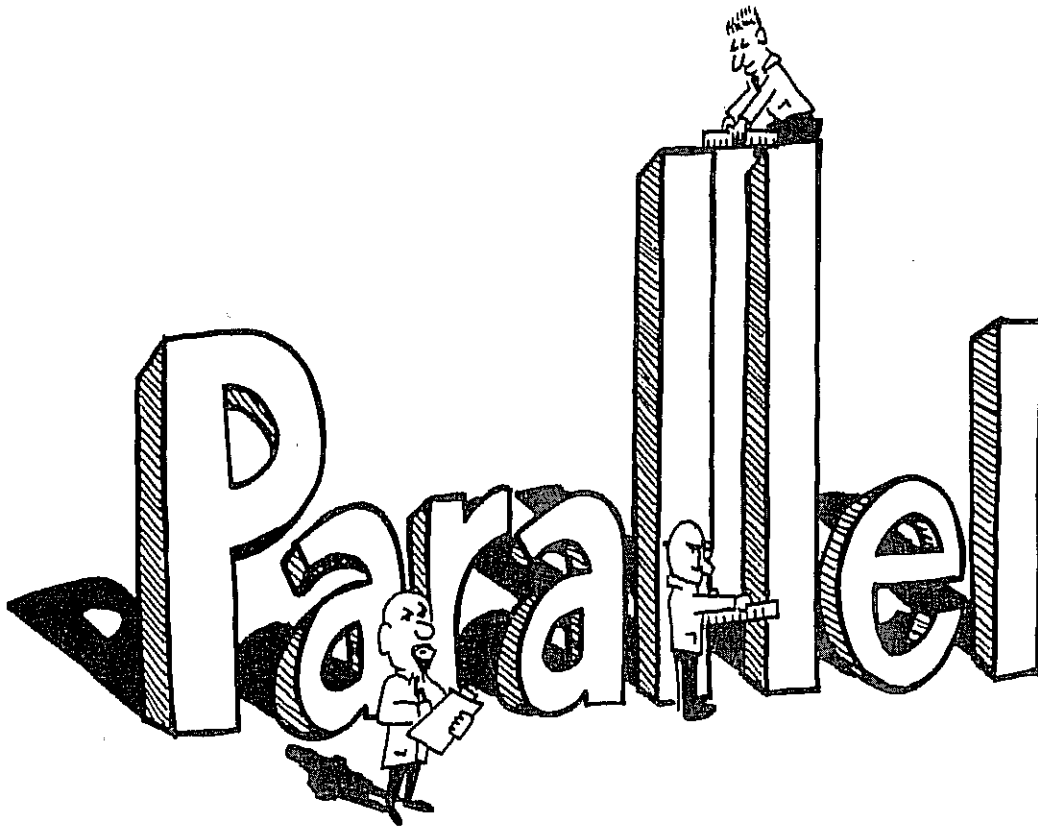
- ❑ The Navy's Seventh **FLEET** patrols the waters off China.
- ❑ A **FLEET** of new automobiles arrived at the Ford dealership today.
- ❑ The Spanish **FLEET** was sunk by a hurricane in 1765.

PARALLEL

(PAR uh lel)

running alongside; similar;
comparable

Sounds like: **PAIR of L's**



*"The **PAIR of L's** are **PARALLEL** in
the word **PARALLEL**."*

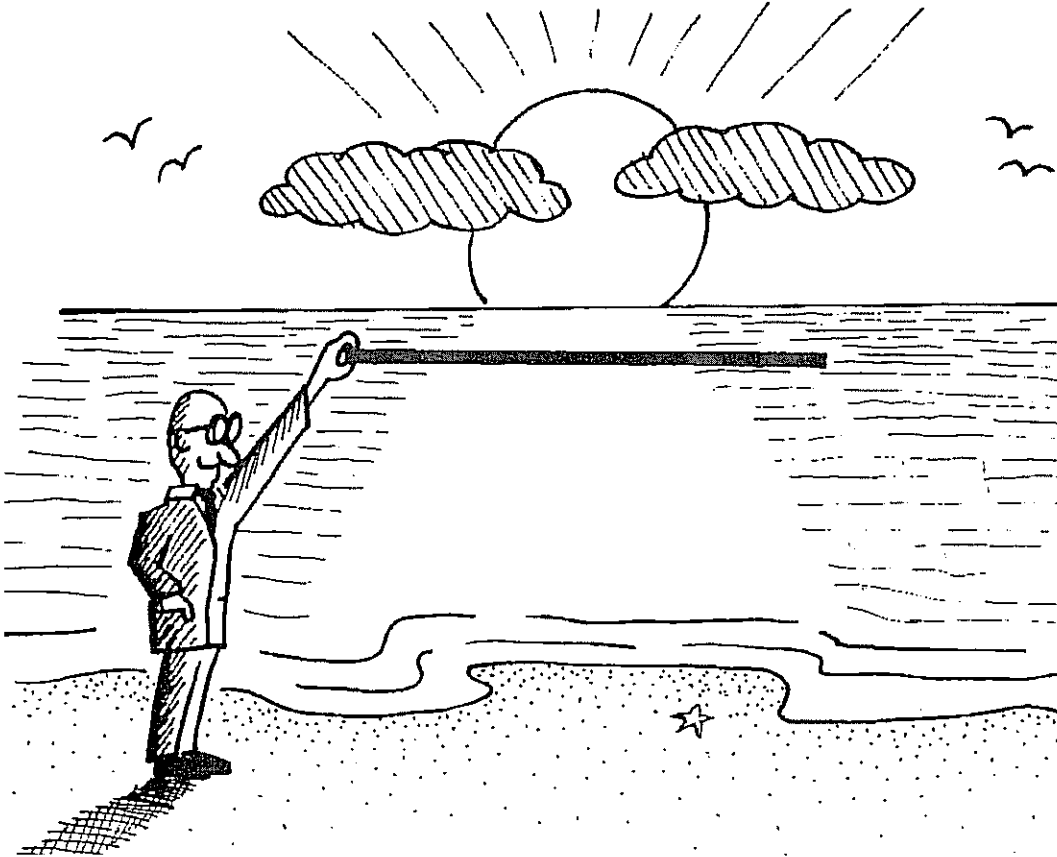
- ❑ The lives of the Baker twins **PARALLEL** each other because they are so much alike.
- ❑ Christine's favorite gymnastic event is the uneven **PARALLEL** bars.
- ❑ A **PARALLELOGRAM** is a geometric figure with opposite sides the same length.

HORIZONTAL

(HOR uh zon tul)

parallel to level ground;
at right angles to vertical

Sounds like: **HORIZON**



*"Something in a **HORIZONTAL** position
is parallel to the **HORIZON**."*

- ❑ The police found the victim lying at the side of the road in a **HORIZONTAL** position.
- ❑ People sleep in a **HORIZONTAL** position.
- ❑ From goal line to goal line, the **HORIZONTAL** distance of a football field is one hundred yards.

VERTICAL

(VUR ta kul)

straight up and down; a direction
at right angles to the horizon

Sounds like: **ICICLE**



*"ICICLES always tend to be **VERTICAL**."*

- The **VERTICAL** clearance of doors in most houses is six feet eight inches.
- When we hear that something is plumb, we know that it is **VERTICAL**.
- A **VERTICAL** cliff of sheer rock was to be found at the top of the mountain.

BLISS

(bliss)

great happiness; joy

Sounds like: **KISS**



*"The prince was in **BLISS** when he gave Sleeping Beauty a **KISS**."*

- The mother was in **BLISS** when she held her newborn baby.
- Jane and Glen said their vacation to Hawaii was pure **BLISS**.
- Jeannie loves going to the beach; to her a deep tan is sheer **BLISS**.

DRENCH

(drench)

to wet thoroughly, to soak

Sounds like: **BENCH**



"Grandma got **DRENCHED** waiting on the **BENCH**."

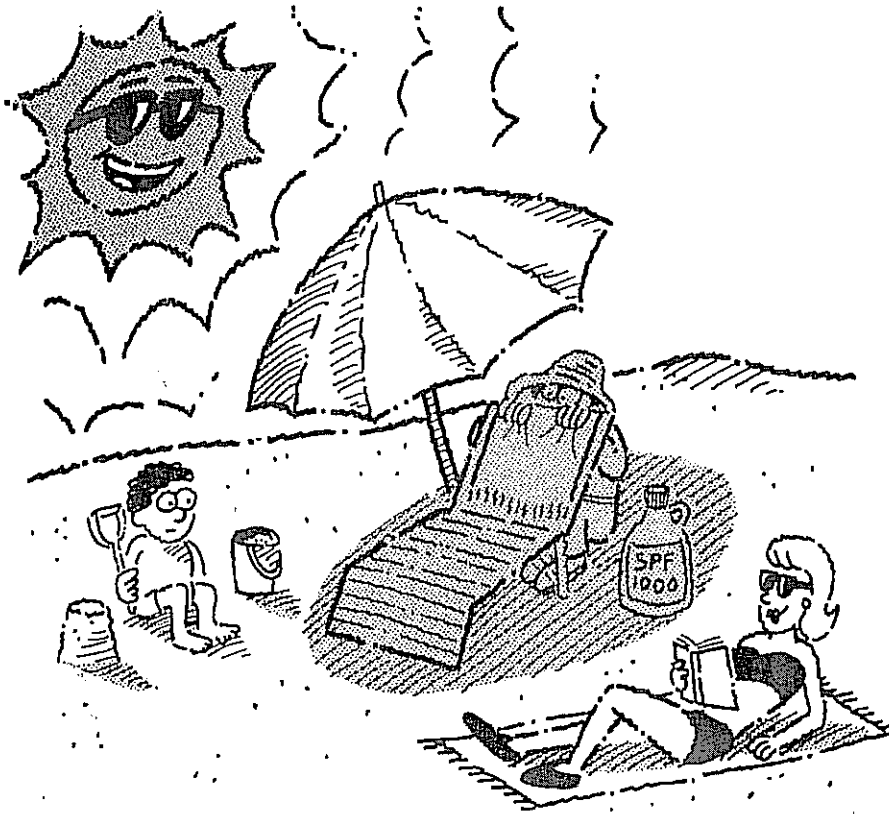
- ❑ The cat was **DRENCHED** from the rain.
- ❑ The thunderstorm **DRENCHED** everyone in the stadium.
- ❑ Agnes **DRENCHES** herself in cheap perfume.

SHUN

(shun)

to keep away from;
to take pains to avoid

Sounds like: **SUN**



*"At the beach, Dad would always
SHUN the **SUN**."*

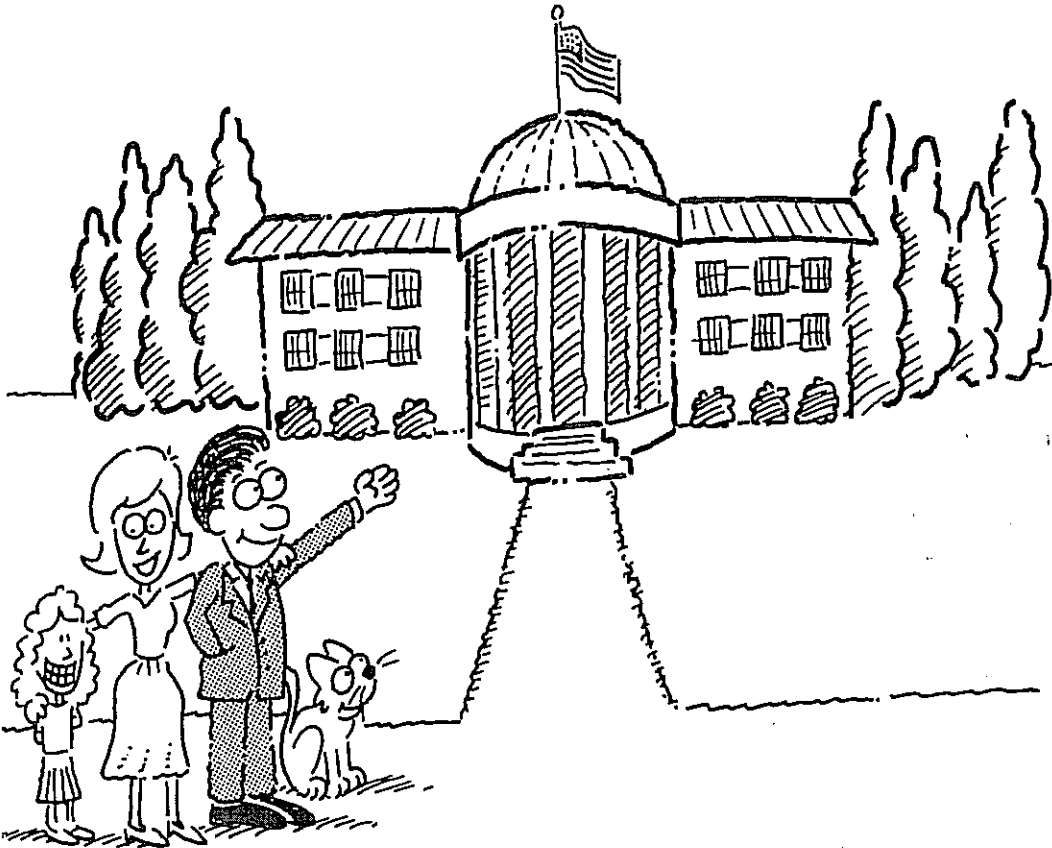
- ❑ Ralph was **SHUNNED** by everyone in his class because he rarely took a bath.
- ❑ She thought she was a princess and **SHUNNED** all her friends.
- ❑ In large cities it is wise to **SHUN** dark streets at night.

RESIDENT

(RES uh dint)

one who lives in a place

Sounds like: **PRESIDENT**



*"The **PRESIDENT** and his family are **RESIDENTS** of the White House."*

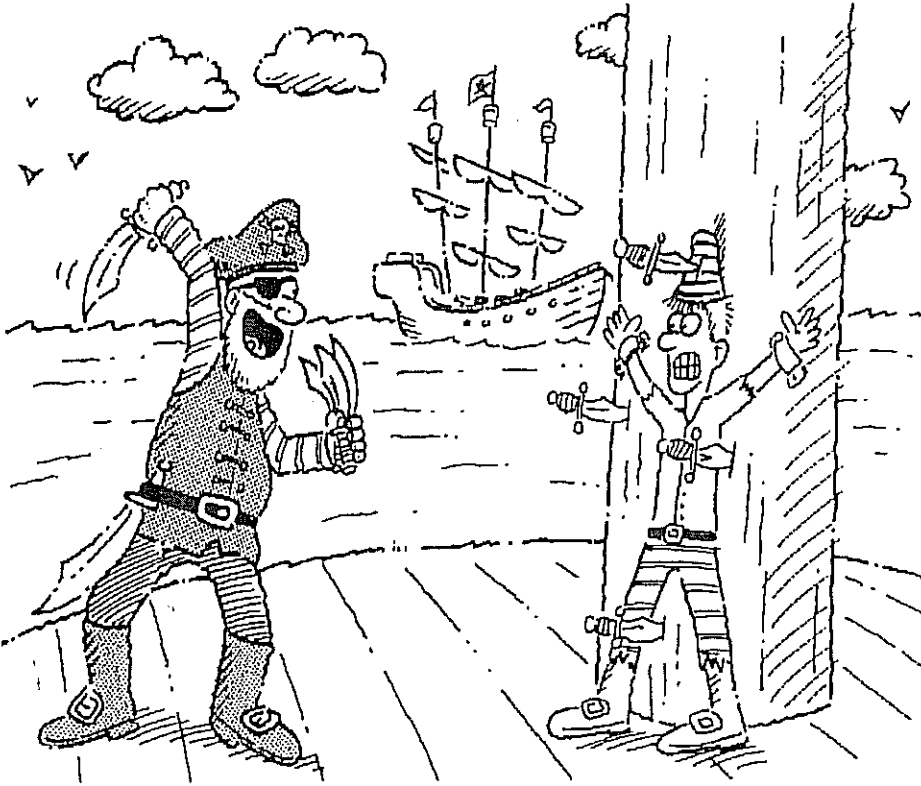
- ❑ Although Jack had been a house guest for two years, he was only a visitor and not a **RESIDENT**.
- ❑ We used to live in Ohio, but now we are **RESIDENTS** of Texas.
- ❑ Upon entering the United States, an immigration officer will ask to see your passport to prove you are a U.S. **RESIDENT**.

RUTHLESS

(RUTH les)

having no compassion
or pity; cruel; merciless

Sounds like: **TOOTHLESS**



*"TOOTHLESS Captain Gums
was a RUTHLESS pirate."*

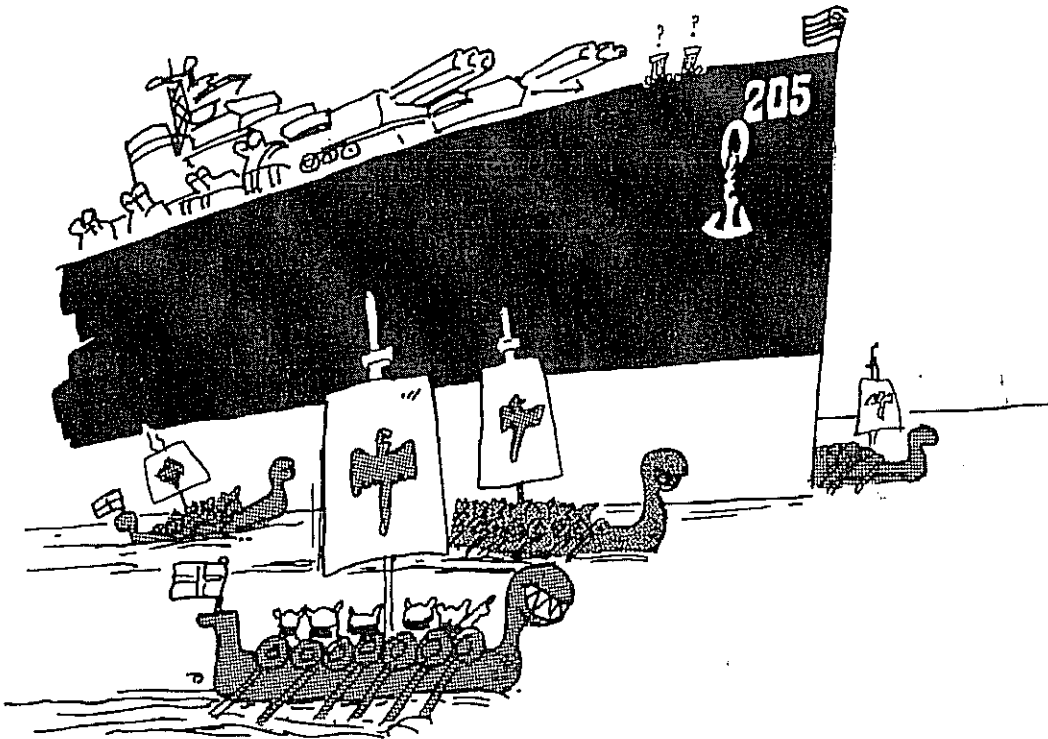
- ❑ Our teacher was so **RUTHLESS**, she gave us three hours of homework every night.
- ❑ **RUTHLESS** Coach Ashton made his players run fifty laps around the field after each game.
- ❑ The **RUTHLESS** behavior of Captain Bligh caused a mutiny aboard his ship.

OBSOLETE

(OB so leet)

out of date; no longer in
use or in fashion

Sounds like: **FLEET**



*"The Norwegian Viking **FLEET** is **OBSOLETE**."*

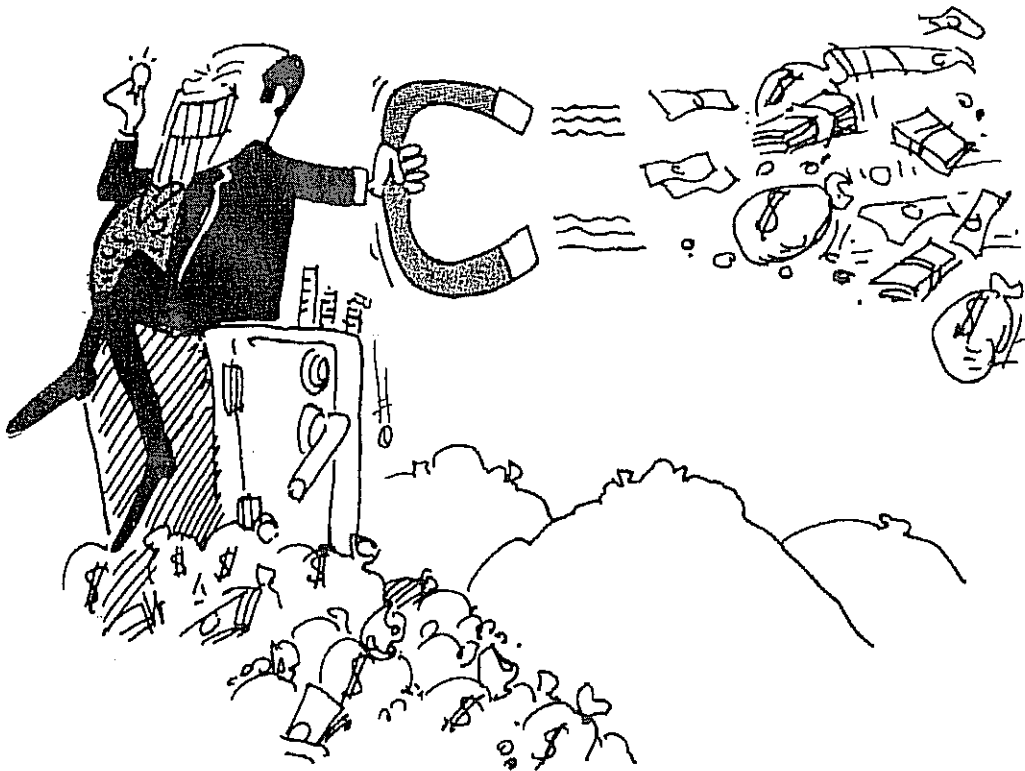
- ❑ Jet engines have made propeller driven airplanes **OBSOLETE**.
- ❑ The horse may be **OBSOLETE** transportation, but it is still a fun way to take a ride.
- ❑ **OBSOLETE** technology made it difficult for the old computers to keep up with the modern ones.

MAGNATE

(mag nate)

a rich, powerful, or successful
business person

Sounds like: **MAGNET**



*"A **MAGNATE** attracts money like a **MAGNET**."*

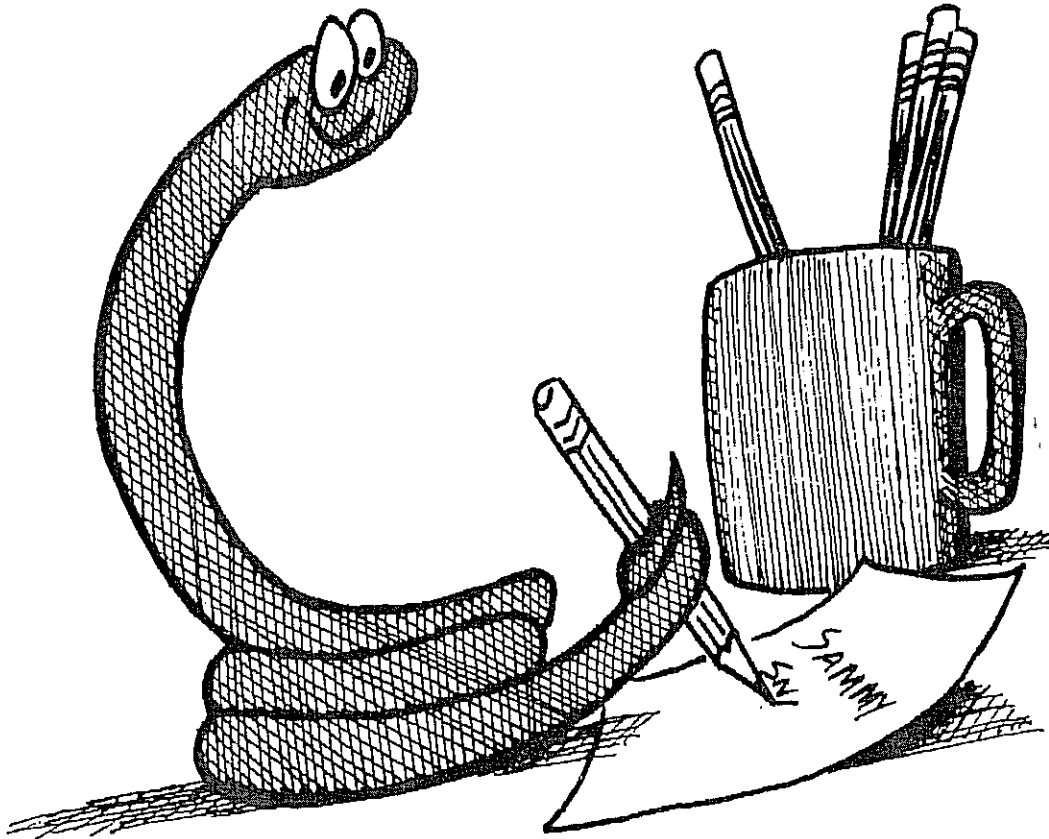
- ❑ William Hearst was America's greatest newspaper **MAGNATE**.
- ❑ Oil **MAGNATES** own the oil rights in oil fields.
- ❑ Donald Trump became a powerful and wealthy real estate **MAGNATE**.

DESPITE

(dis PYTE)

in spite of, notwithstanding

Sounds like: **WRITE**



"Sammy the snake, learned how to **WRITE**
DESPITE having no hands."

- ❑ We had a great time at the picnic **DESPITE** the rain.
- ❑ We went to the movie **DESPITE** the fact we had already seen it.
- ❑ **DESPITE** his bad table manners, Ralph was a good dinner guest because he helped with the dishes.

CONCEAL

(kun SEAL)

to keep from being seen;
put out of sight; hidden

Sounds like: **CON SEAL**



*"A **CON CONCEALING** his pet **SEAL**."*

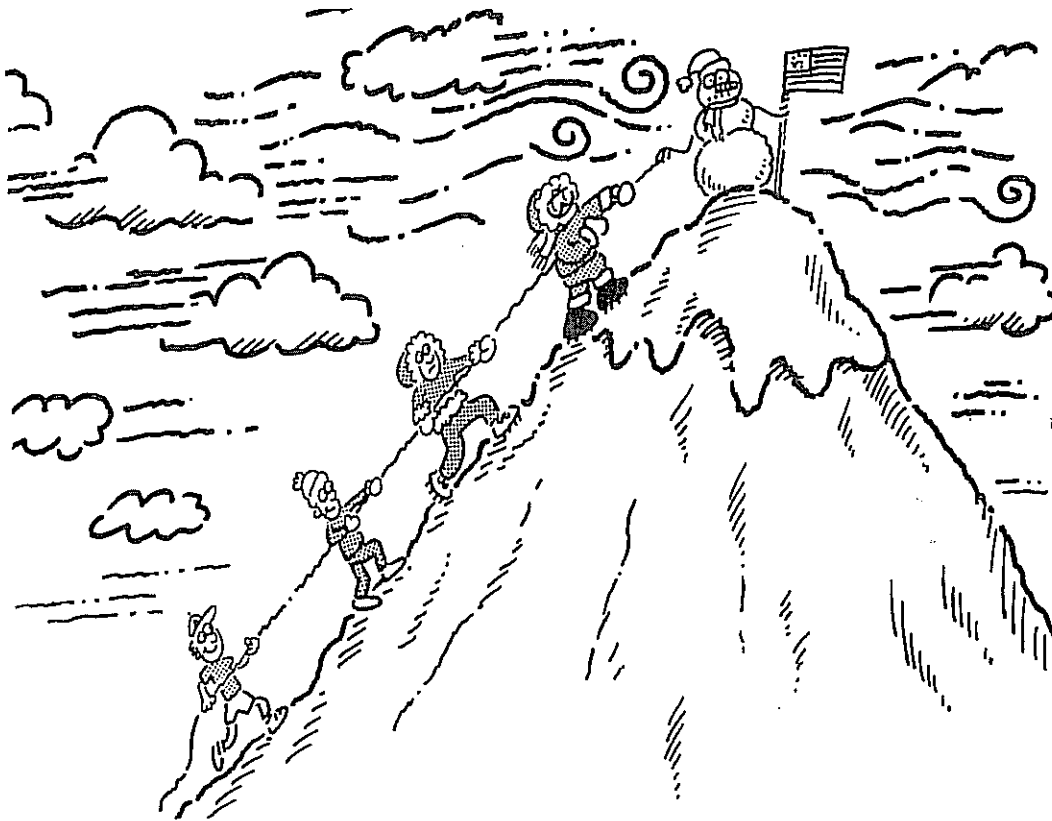
- ❑ We could hear the airplane but could not see it **CONCEALED** above the clouds.
- ❑ Erin found it difficult to **CONCEAL** her feelings from others.
- ❑ We tried to **CONCEAL** Arnie's pet elephant in the garage, but he was **UNCONCEALABLE**.

CLIMATE

(clime at)

refers to weather conditions; a condition or attitude

Sounds like: **CLIMB**



*"As a climber **CLIMBS** a mountain, the **CLIMATE** gets colder."*

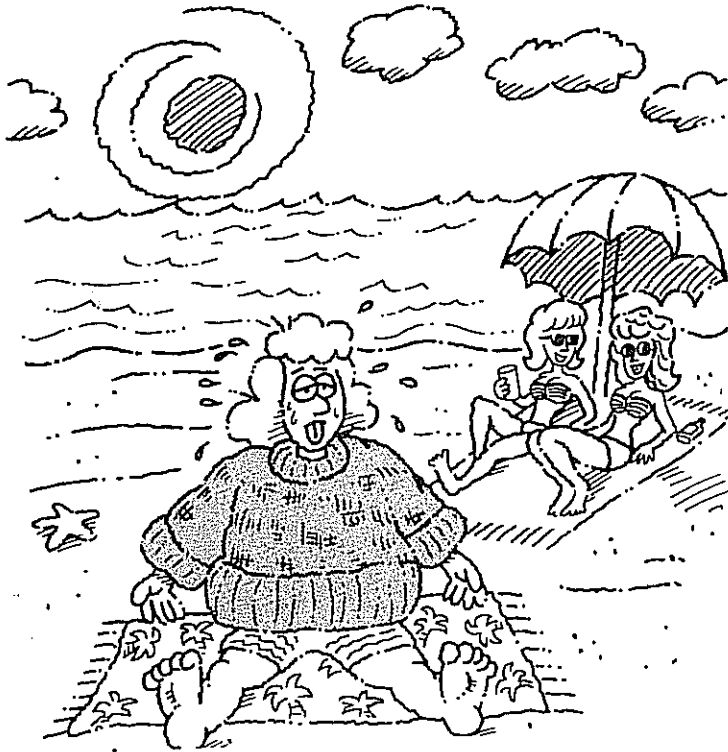
- ❑ South Florida has a sub-tropical **CLIMATE** consisting of warm breezes and sunshine.
- ❑ When it started to rain, there was a **CLIMATE** of optimism among the farmers that the dry season was over.
- ❑ After showing her parents her bad report card, the **CLIMATE** was not right for Tanya to ask for her allowance.

SWELTER

(SWELL terr)

oppressed by heat

Sounds like: **SWEATER**



*"**SWELTERING** in a **SWEATER** is not
the coolest way to diet."*

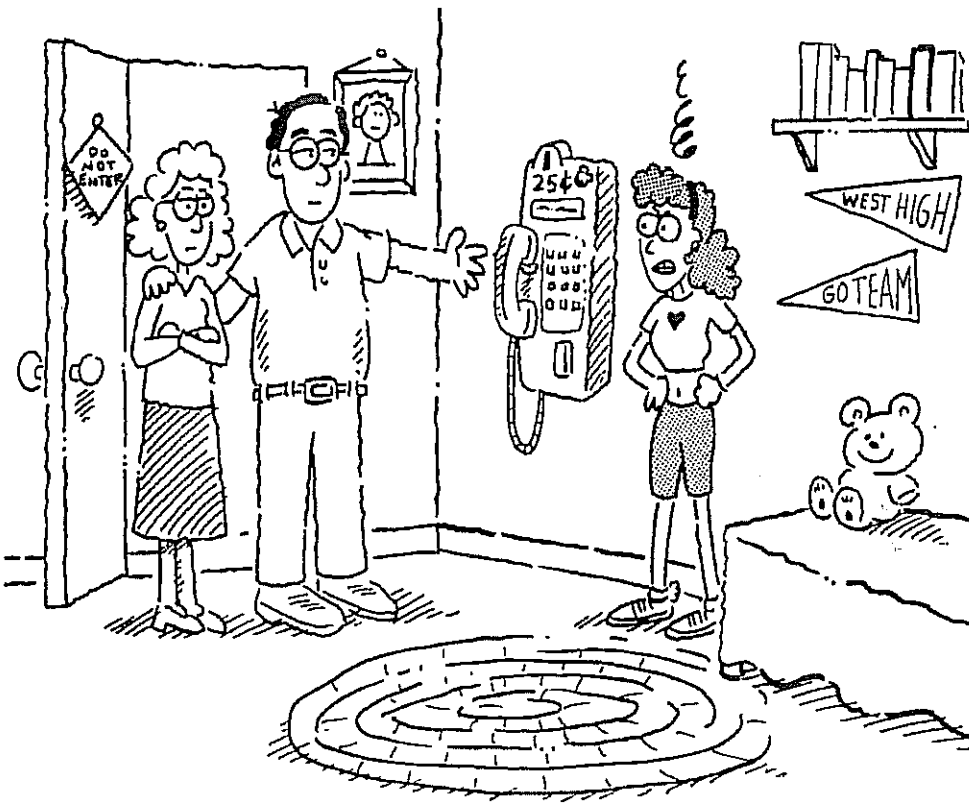
- ❑ The heat is **SWELTERING** in the Amazon.
- ❑ Our air conditioner broke and we began to **SWELTER** in our rooms.
- ❑ The **SWELTERING** temperatures in a green house create optimum conditions for growing plants.

WEAN

(wean)

to withdraw from any
type of habit

Sounds like: **TEEN**



*"How to **WEAN** a **TEEN** away from
the family telephone."*

- ❑ Baby bottles filled with warm milk are used to **WEAN** babies from their mother's milk.
- ❑ Her folks tried to **WEAN** Mable off her ice cream habit by giving her a teaspoon of sugar every hour.
- ❑ Homer **WEANED** himself off cigarettes by biting his finger every time he wanted a smoke.

SHODDY

(SHOD ee)

of poor quality or make;
dishonest

Sounds like: **BODY**



*"Frankenstein may have been famous, but he
sure had a **SHODDY BODY**."*

- ❑ Jill thought the quality of the toys in the store were **SHODDY**.
- ❑ Mary told her friend that leaving her alone at the mall was a **SHODDY** thing for him to have done.
- ❑ Harry quit work because he said it was a **SHODDY** job at a **SHODDY** company.

TRANSPIRE

(tran SPIRE)

to happen; to become known

Sounds like: **VAMPIRE**



*"At nightfall it **TRANSPIRES** that
VAMPIRES wake up."*

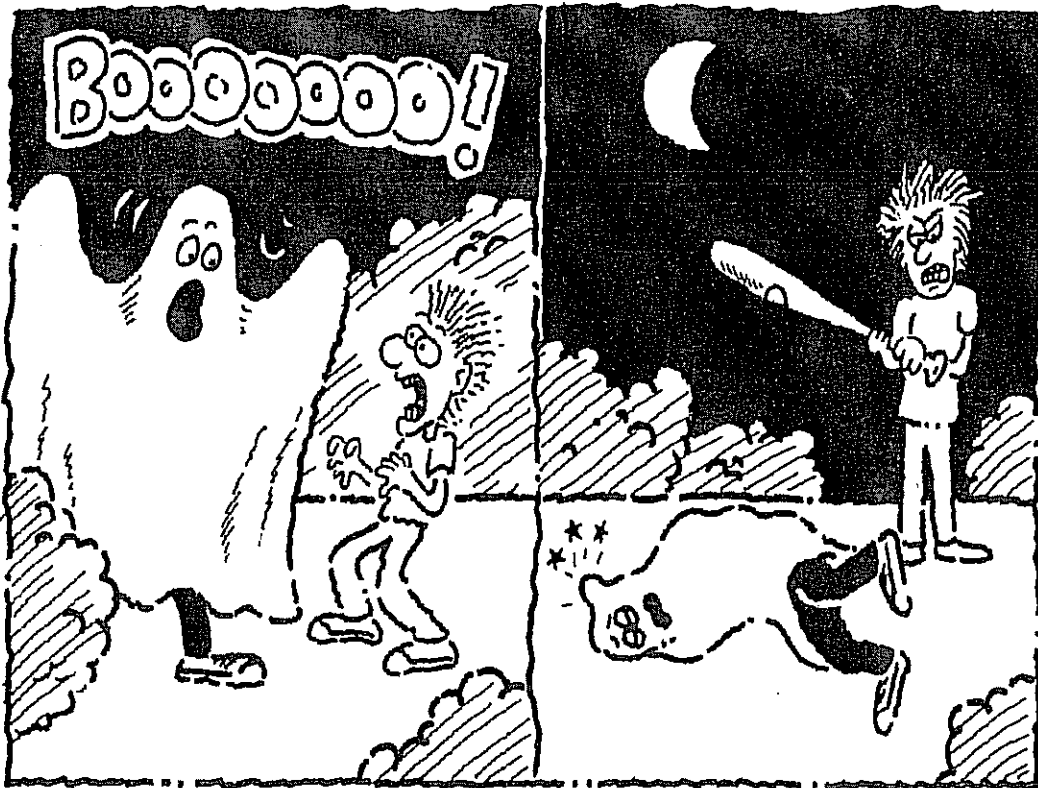
- ❑ After the dance it **TRANSPIRED** that the bus had a flat tire.
- ❑ Andrea wanted to know what would **TRANSPIRE** if she refused to come to school on Fridays.
- ❑ What **TRANSPIRED** after that is too sad to talk about.

HOAX

(hokes)

a practical joke; something intended to deceive

Sounds like: **JOKES**



*"Some **HOAXS** turn out to be bad **JOKES**."*

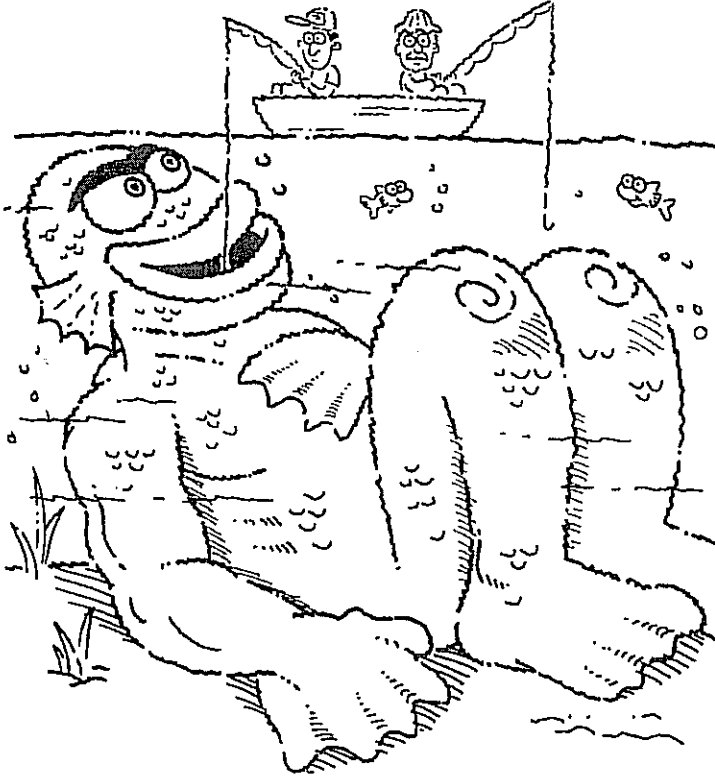
- ❑ H.G. Wells **HOAXED** the public with his report of an alien invasion.
- ❑ A common **HOAX** is when innocent people are cheated out of their money.
- ❑ The rumor that a lion had escaped from the zoo was only a **HOAX**.

QUALM

(qualm)

a feeling of illness;
a disturbing feeling

Sounds like: **CALM**



*"Even though the lake was **CALM**, the fishermen had **QUALMS** about their safety."*

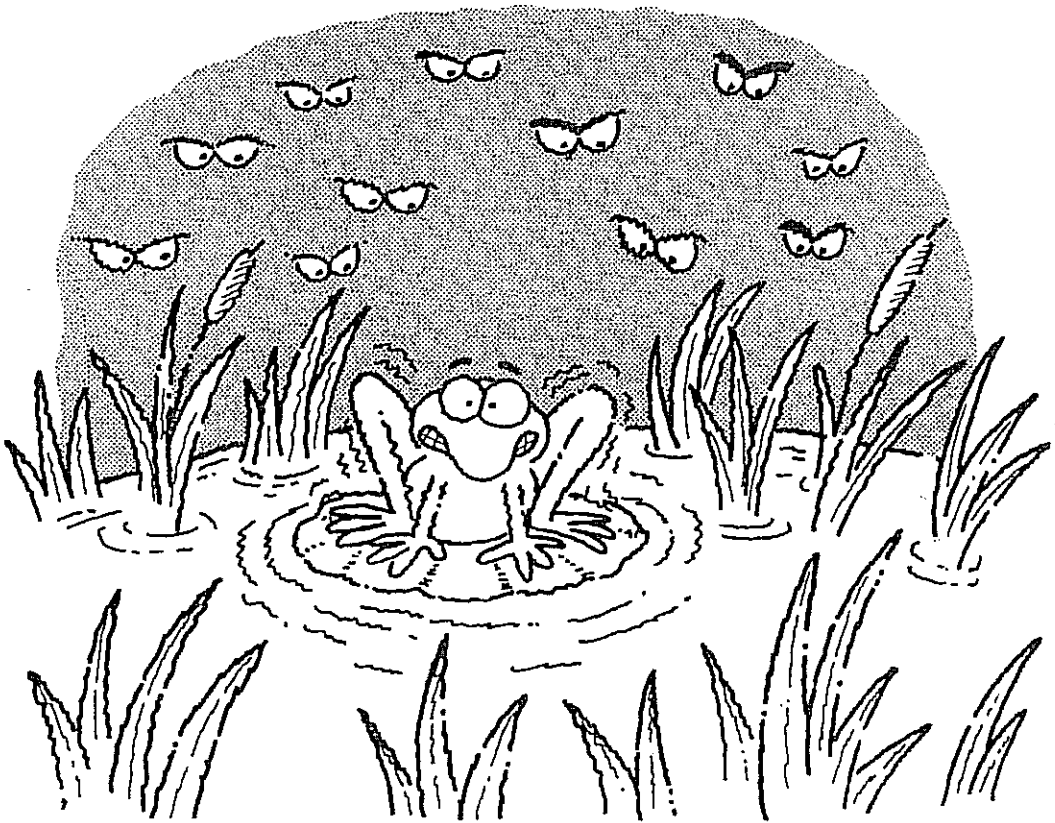
- ❑ Elizabeth felt stomach **QUALMS** after eating six hamburgers.
- ❑ When Tim forgot his homework, Miss Miller had no **QUALMS** about keeping him in from recess.
- ❑ Liars have no **QUALMS** about telling lies.

HARSH

(harsh)

unpleasant to the senses;
unpleasant conditions

Sounds like: **MARSH**



*"Life in the **MARSH** can be **HARSH**."*

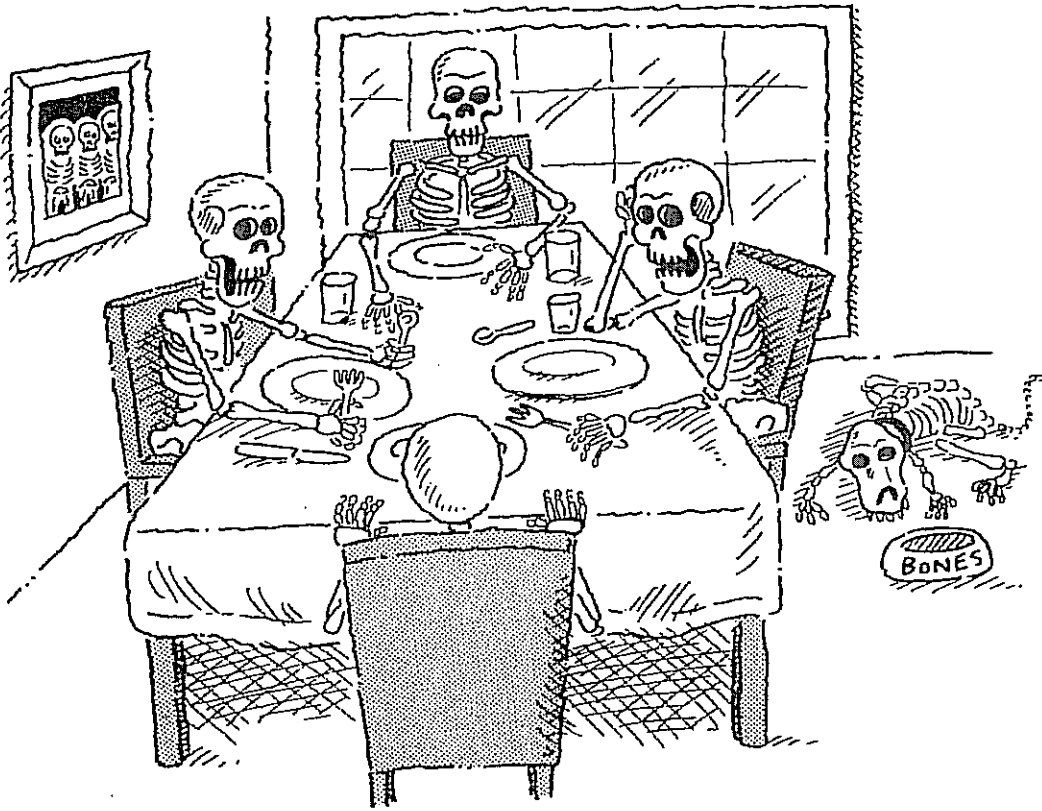
- ❑ It was a **HARSH** winter, and the cold forced the animals to stay in their holes.
- ❑ The **HARSH** words of criticism made us cringe with regret.
- ❑ We heard three **HARSH** sounds and then a thump in the night.

FAMINE

(FAM un)

a drastic, wide-reaching
shortage of food

Sounds like: **FAMILY**



*"The **FAMILY** suffered through the
worst **FAMINE** of the century."*

- ❑ Many people starve to death during **FAMINES** around the world.
- ❑ The worst **FAMINES** of this century have occurred in African nations.
- ❑ Harry said he was **FAMISHED** and wanted to know if dinner was ready.

ADJACENT

(add JAY cent)

adjoining, next to; near or close

Sounds like: **JASON**



*"No one liked sitting **ADJACENT** to **JASON**."*

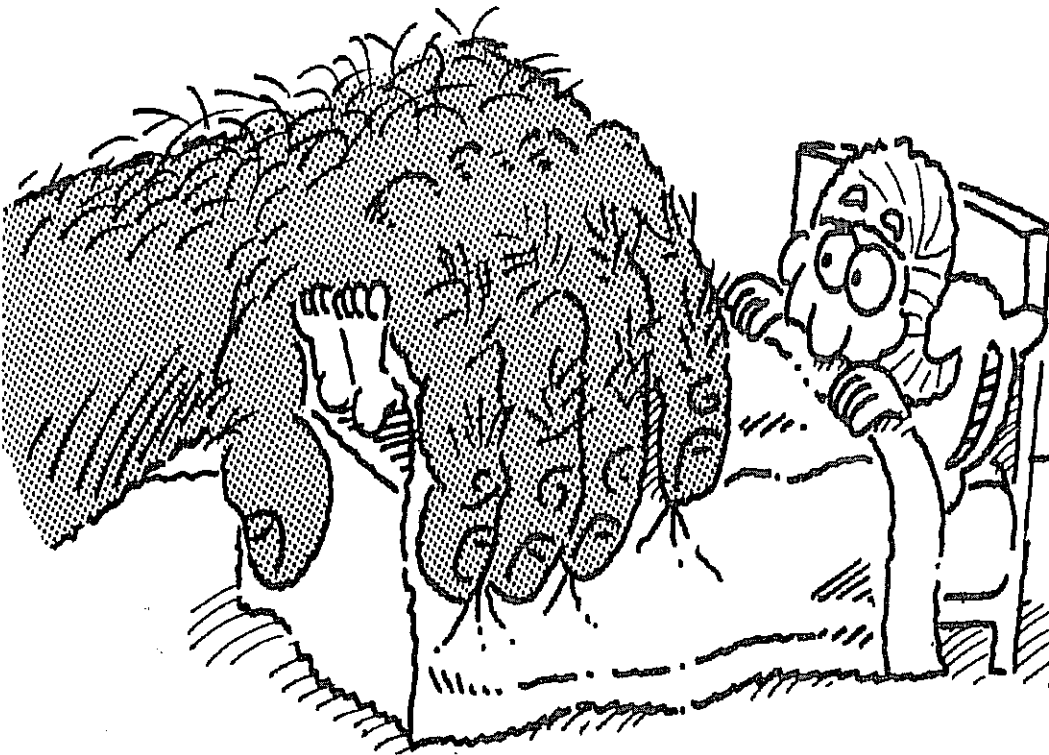
- ❑ Mary lived in a house **ADJACENT** to the grocery store.
- ❑ The baseball park and **ADJACENT** lands are city property.
- ❑ My apartment shakes when my **ADJACENT** neighbor plays his drums.

WARY

(WEAR ee)

to be alert, cautious;
on guard, watchful

Sounds like: **HAIRY**



*"Always be **WARY** when you wake up and
feel something **HAIRY**."*

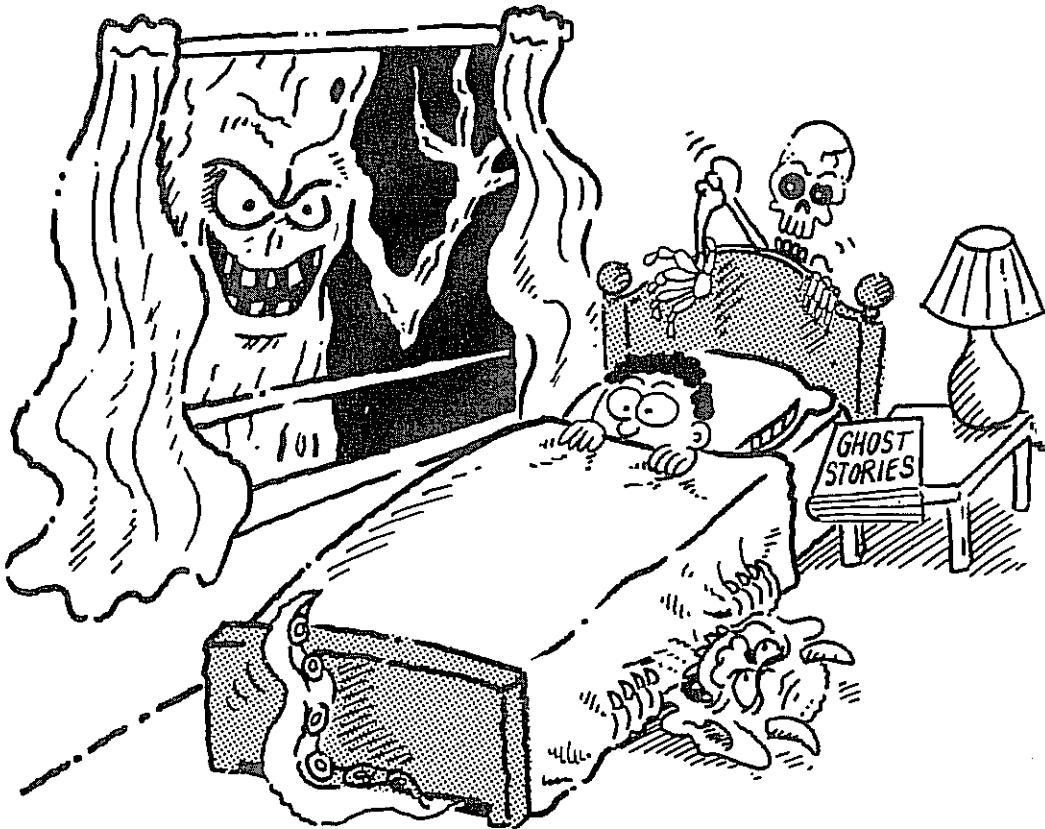
- ❑ It is good to be **WARY** of strangers coming to your door selling things.
- ❑ Donna was **WARY** of snakes in her yard.
- ❑ We were always **WARY** of making mistakes in our chemistry experiments.

DREAD

(dread)

to be in terror of; to anticipate
with distaste or reluctance

Sounds like: **BED**



*"Billy sometimes **DREADED** going to **BED**."*

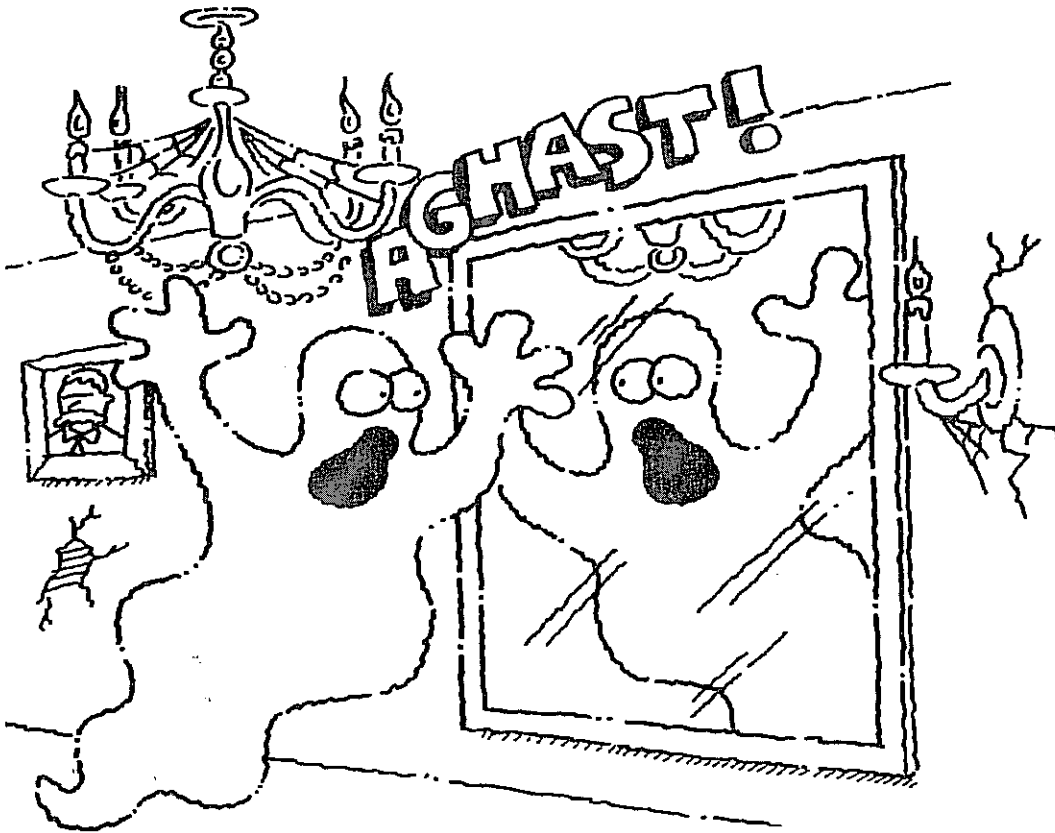
- ❑ Many people in Japan live in **DREAD** of earthquakes.
- ❑ Shirley **DREADED** her annual dentist checkups.
- ❑ Most people **DREAD** spiders and snakes and wiggly things.

AGHAST

(UH gast)

shocked; frightened; terrified;
taken back

Sounds like: **GHOST**



*"The **GHOST** was **AGHAST**."*

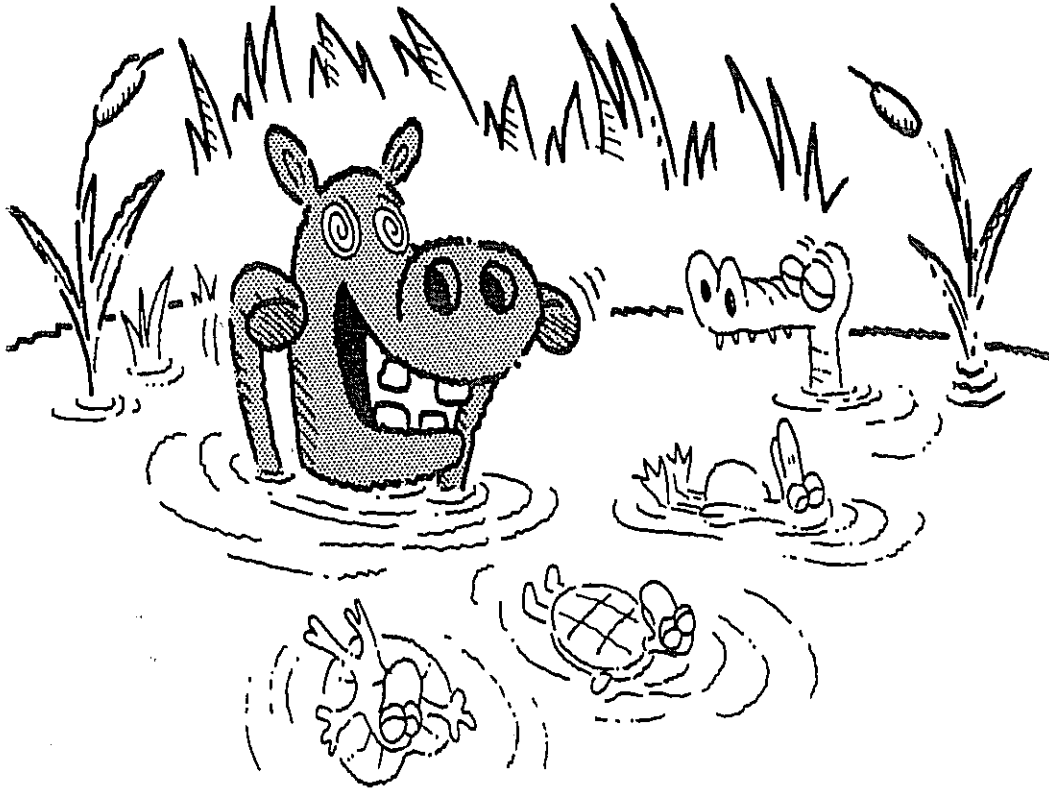
- ❑ After the fire, we were **AGHAST** at the destruction to our home.
- ❑ Evelyn was beside herself, absolutely **AGHAST** that she wasn't invited to the Twinkler's tea party.
- ❑ Even veteran homicide detectives were **AGHAST** at the murder scene.

HYPNOTIZE

(HIP no tize)

to put into a sleep-like state

Sounds like: **HIPPO EYES**



"HIPPO EYES are famous for HYPNOTIZING."

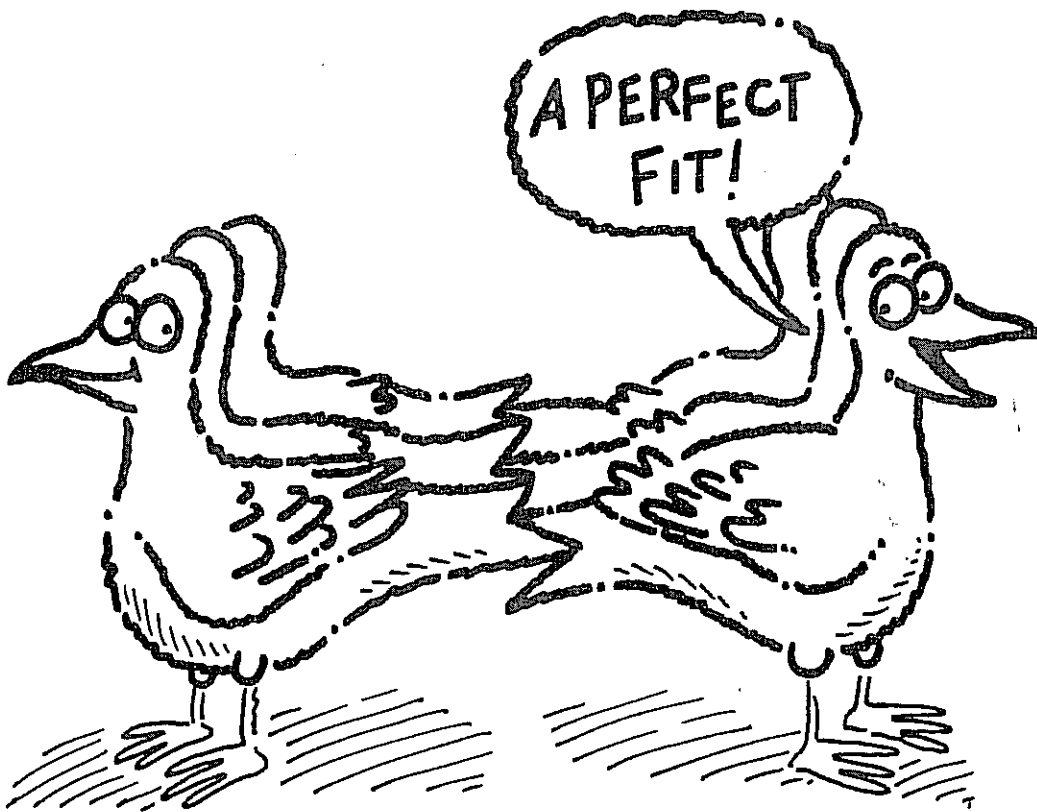
- ❑ The patient was **HYPNOTIZED** and experienced no pain during the operation.
- ❑ The exciting performance of the trapeze artists **HYPNOTIZED** the audience.
- ❑ Sue went to a **HYPNOTIST** and requested that he **HYPNOTIZE** her into losing weight.

DOVETAIL

(dove tail)

to combine or unite into a unified whole;
fit together harmoniously

Sounds like: **DOVE TAILS**



"DOVE TAILS that DOVETAIL."

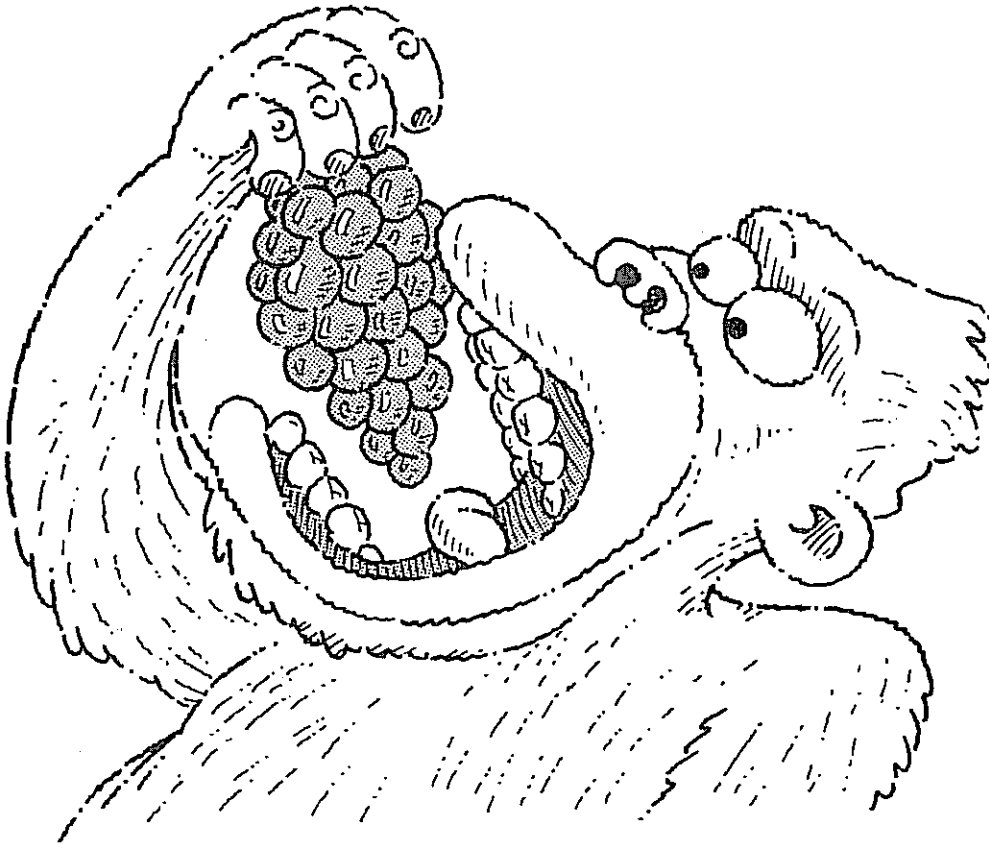
- ❑ The carpenter cut the boards so they **DOVETAILED** perfectly.
- ❑ The engineers had the idea to **DOVETAIL** the two bridges so that they would come together as one.
- ❑ The strikers **DOVETAILED** their arms and marched down the street in protest.

GAPE

(gape)

to become widely open, separated;
to stare in amazement

Sounds like: **APE**



*"The **GAPING** mouth of an **APE**
devouring grapes."*

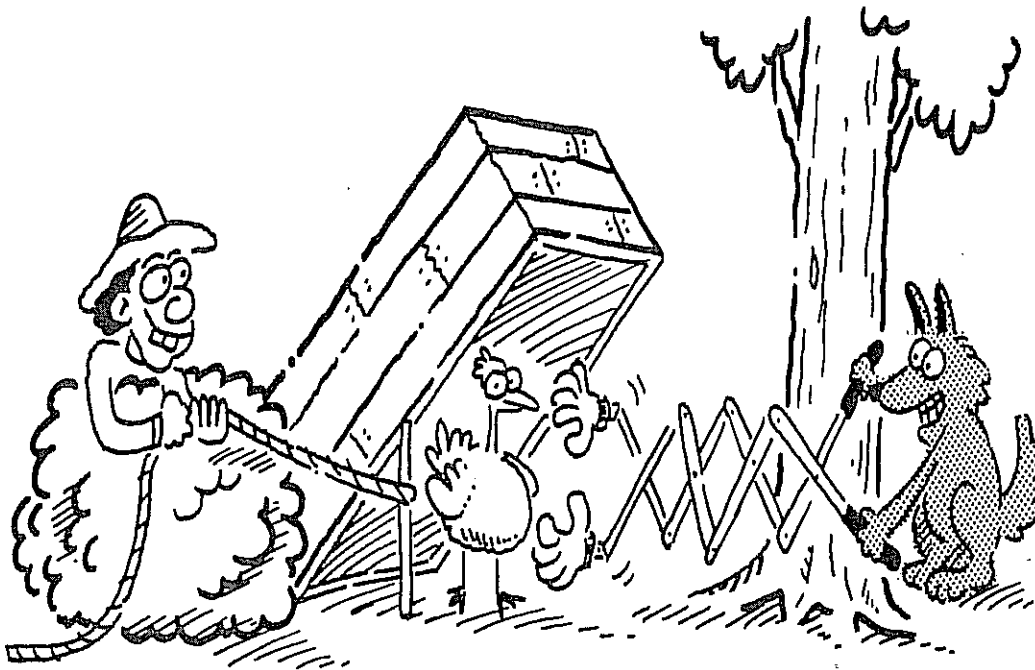
- ❑ The deep pit **GAPED** before him; if he stumbled and fell there would be no escape.
- ❑ There were **GAPING** differences between what each witness told the police.
- ❑ When he won the lottery, he shook his head and **GAPED** in amazement.

OUTFOX

(out fox)

to outwit; to overcome by
cunning or cleverness

Sounds like: **FOX**



*"It's hard to **OUTFOX** a **FOX**."*

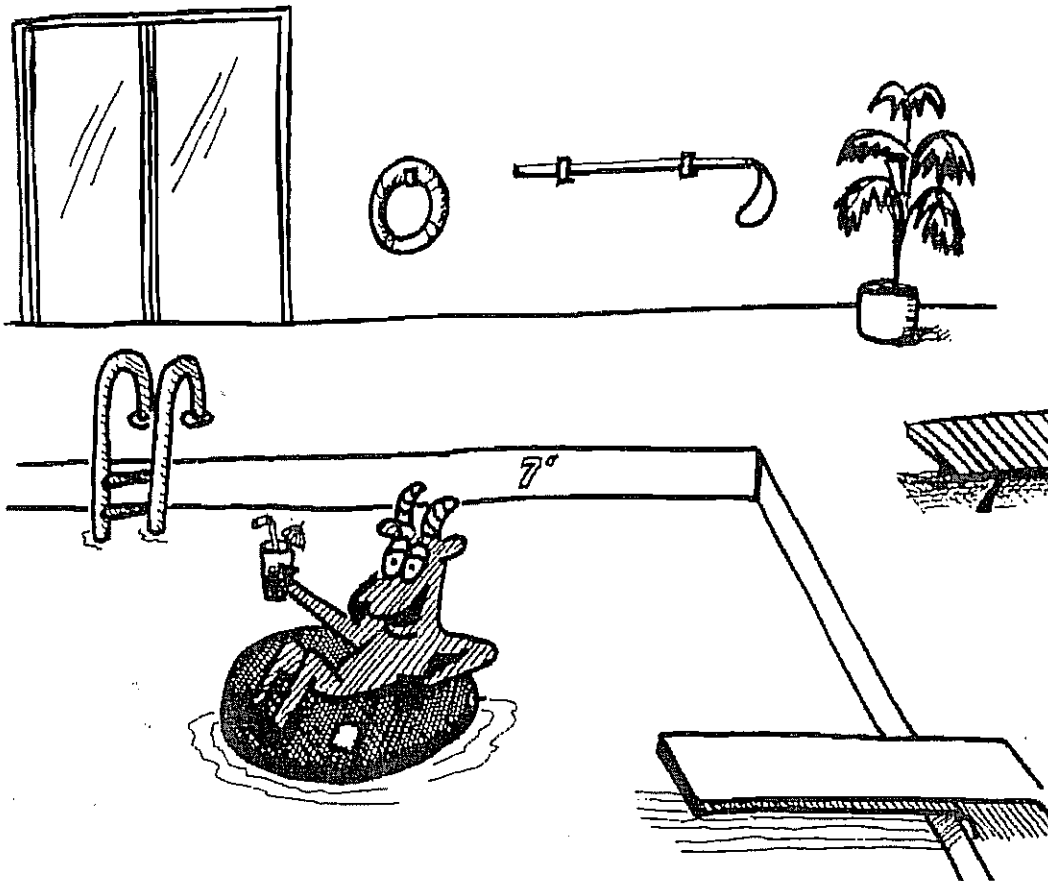
- ❑ The burglar **OUTFOXED** the police by escaping up the chimney.
- ❑ Our teacher was hard to **OUTFOX**. She had already heard every possible excuse for skipping school.
- ❑ Many times mothers will pretend to let their children **OUTFOX** them.

AFLOAT

(uh FLOAT)

a floating condition; awash, flooded

Sounds like: **GOAT**



"A GOAT AFLOAT."

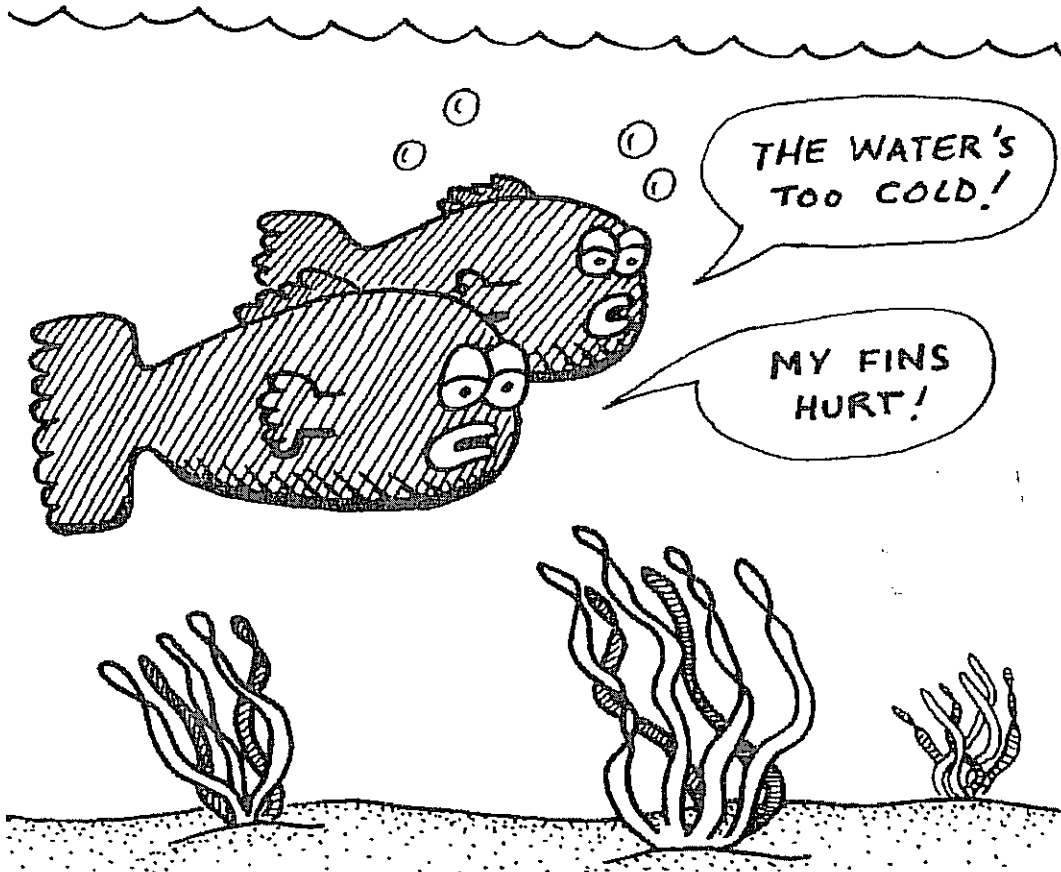
- ❑ The canoe was **AFLOAT** in the stream.
- ❑ During the flood, our living room was **AFLOAT** half way to the ceiling.
- ❑ Rumors were **AFLOAT** that the principal was going to be transferred to another school.

CARP

(CARP)

to complain

Sounds like: **CARP** (fish)



"CARPING CARPS."

- ❑ It was tiresome listening to Molly **CARPING** about her sore foot.
- ❑ **CARPING** about the weather does no good because you can't do anything about it.
- ❑ Sometimes a little **CARPING** in a restaurant when you are getting bad service gets results.

ENDORSE

(en DORSE)

to give approval or support

Sounds like: **HORSE**



*"A Kentucky Derby winning **HORSE**
ENDORSES his ointment."*

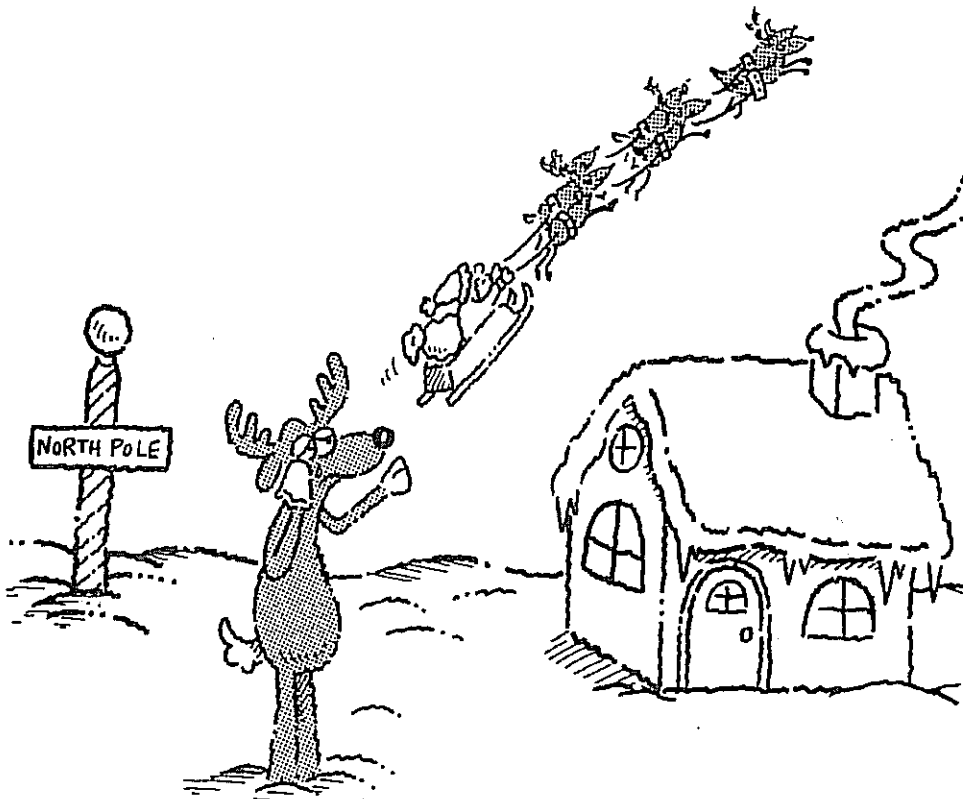
- ❑ Many teachers **ENDORSE** the idea of free lunches for themselves.
- ❑ Famous athletes make a lot of money **ENDORISING** sports products.
- ❑ Banks require customers to **ENDORSE** their checks before they will pay them.

REMAINDER

(re MAIN dur)

what is left when a part is taken away; those left behind

Sounds like: **REINDEER**



*"Because Santa couldn't take all the **REINDEER**,
Comet became the **REMAINDER**."*

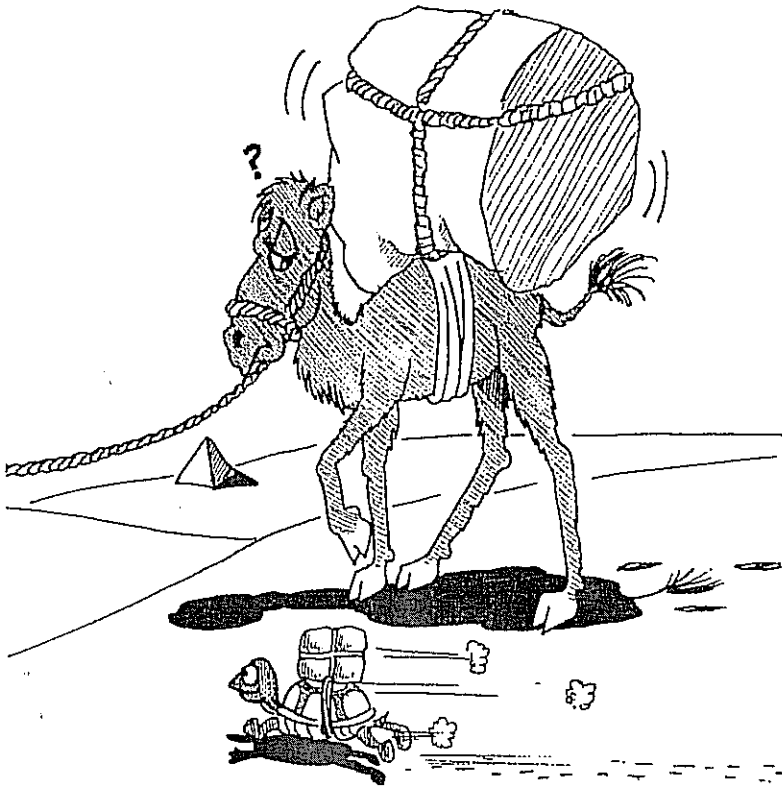
- ☐ The **REMAINDER** of the pie was put away where dad couldn't find it.
- ☐ For the **REMAINDER** of the year we had to take a cut in pay.
- ☐ When all the beds were filled, the **REMAINDER** of the team slept on the floor.

AMBLE

(AM ble)

to walk slowly; walk
with a leisurely gait

Sounds like: **CAMEL**



*"Caravan **CAMELS** on long journeys
rarely run, they **AMBLE**."*

- ❑ After school Alexander and Tom **AMBLEMED** down the road to the fishing hole to catch their dinner.
- ❑ "**AMBLE** on out here," the dance instructor said to the new student. "let's see some of your moves."
- ❑ Jack walked with an **AMBLING** quality, as if he hadn't a care in the world.

ENROLL

(in ROLL)

to make or become a member;
to sign up for something

Sounds like: **MOLE**



*"A **MOLE** waiting to **ENROLL**."*

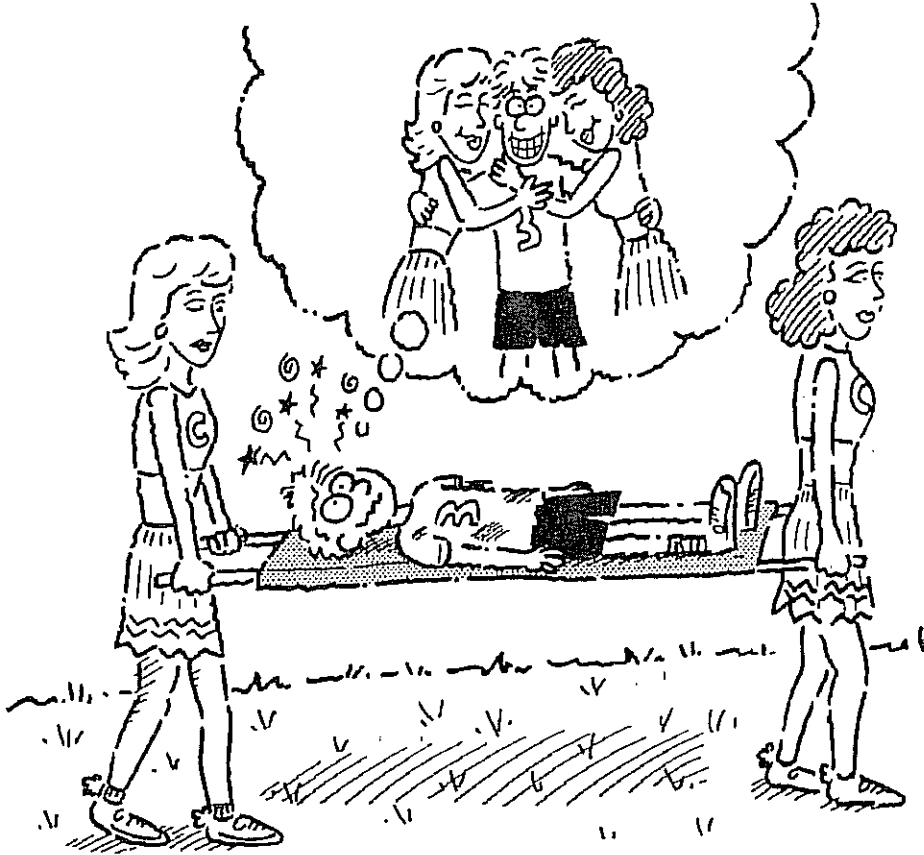
- ❑ His dad took Jack to school to **ENROLL** him in the first grade.
- ❑ In order to vote in an election you must **ENROLL**.
- ❑ Mary wanted to **ENROLL** in the history class, but the **ENROLLMENT** was already filled.

SUCCOR

(SUCK ur)

help; relief; assistance

Sounds like: **SOCCER**



*"Cheerleaders giving **SUCCOR** to an injured **SOCCER** player."*

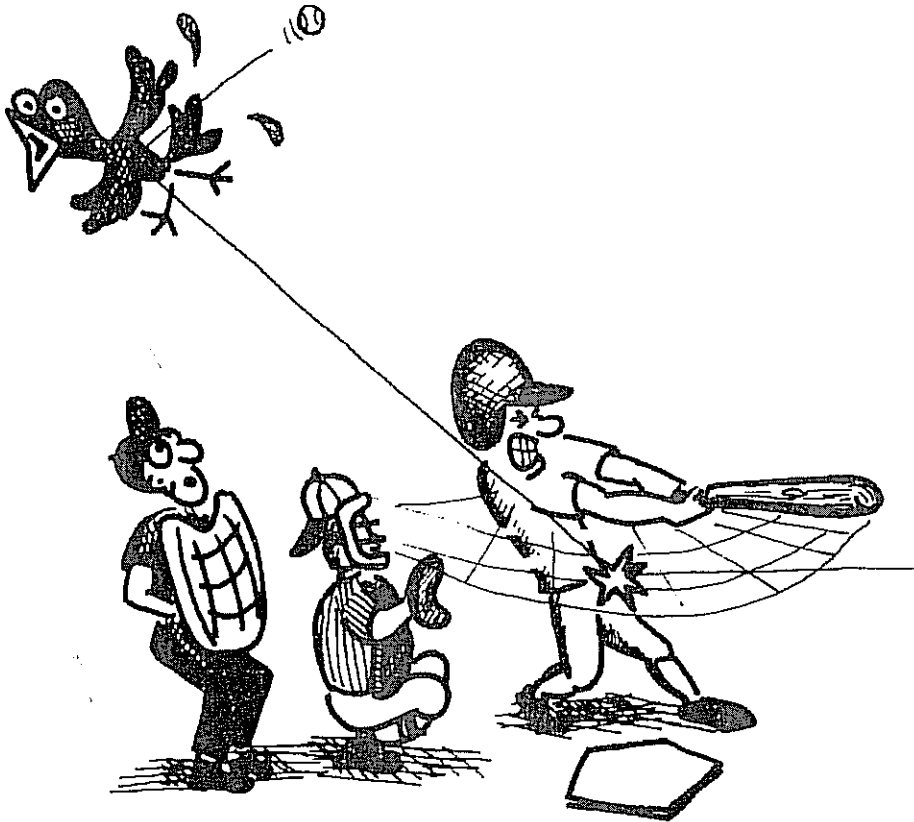
- ☐ Doctors provide **SUCCOR** to their patients.
- ☐ The police often provide **SUCCOR** to those injured in automobile accidents.
- ☐ Wounded soldiers are **SUCCORED** by medics in battlefield conditions.

FOWL

(foul)

any bird raised or hunted for food; the meat of that bird

Sounds like: **FOUL**



*"A **FOWL** hit by a **FOUL** ball."*

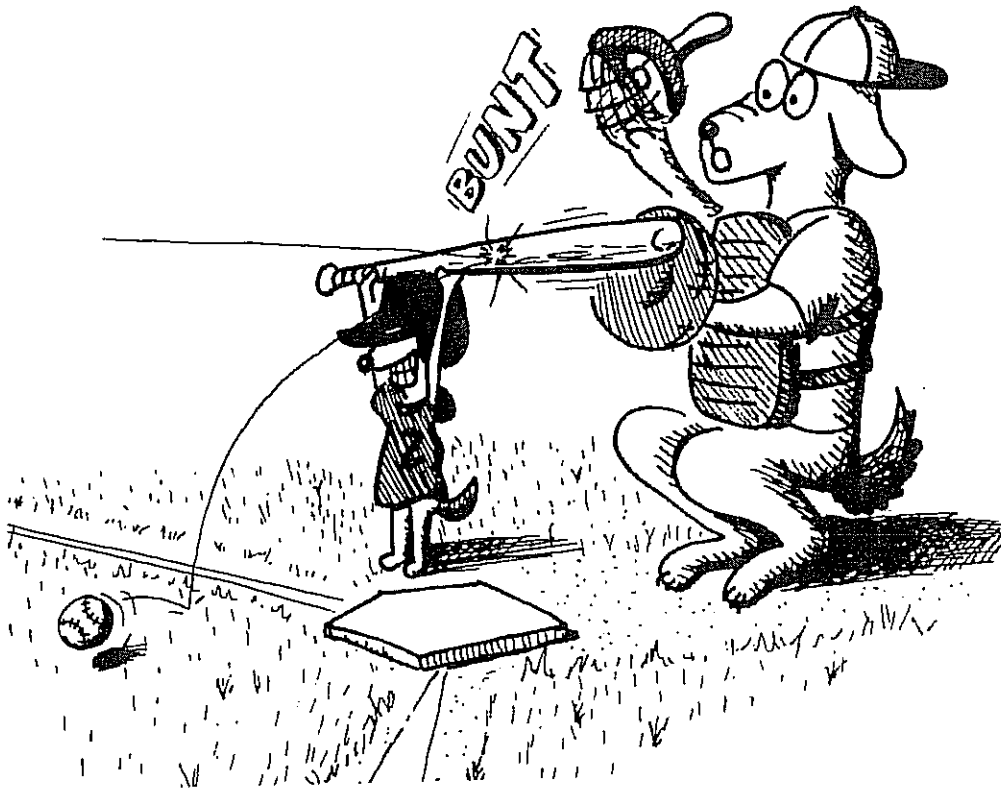
- ❑ Turkey is the **FOWL** of choice for Thanksgiving dinners.
- ❑ Phil raised **FOWL** on his farm, mostly chickens and ducks.
- ❑ Snow geese are **FOWL** that fly south in the winter.
- ❑ Quail are a favorite **FOWL** in gourmet restaurants.

RUNT

(runt)

undersized; a small animal or person

Sounds like: **BUNT**



*"The **RUNT** laid down a **BUNT**."*

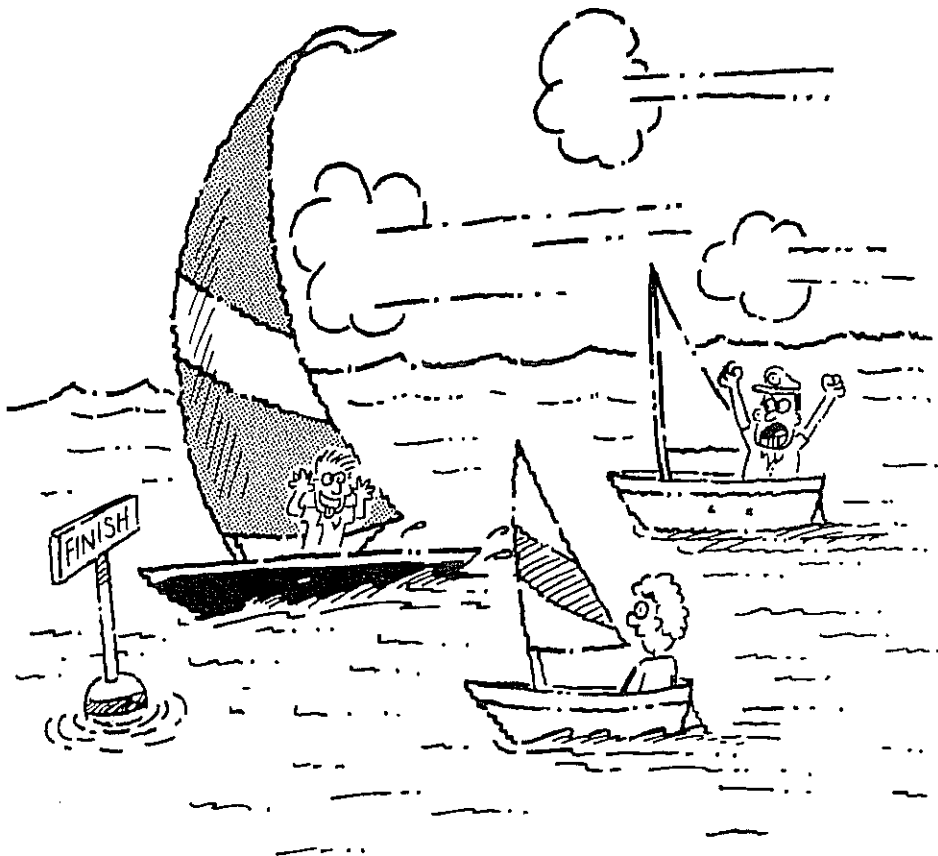
- ❑ The **RUNT** of the litter is always Karen's favorite.
- ❑ Silver was my **RUNT** pony, but I loved him all the same.
- ❑ Jack's father affectionately called him "**RUNT**," a misnomer because Jack was the biggest member of the family.

PREVAIL

(pri VAYL)

to be victorious; to persuade

Sounds like: **SAIL**



*"The boat with the biggest **SAIL PREVAILS**."*

- His coach **PREVAILED** upon Joshua to stop moaning about the team's loss and get ready for the next game.
- The **PREVAILING** winds were out of the north most of the summer.
- "Justice **PREVAILS**," is an expression that means good has won over evil.

FERVOR

(FUR vur)

ardor; zeal; earnestness

Sounds like: **FEVER**



*"Babe Butterfinger had such **FERVOR** for baseball he even played with a **FEVER**."*

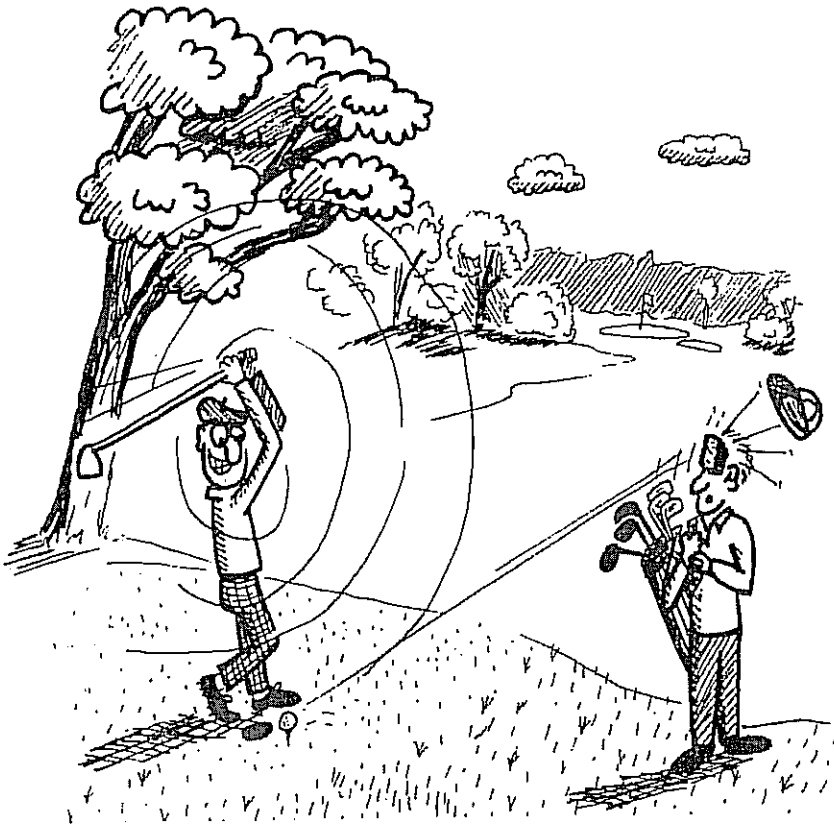
- ❑ Avid sports fans have such **FERVOR** for their teams they often argue during the games.
- ❑ Jackson's wife said Jackson has such **FERVOR** for duck hunting he is beginning to look like a duck.
- ❑ As a mark of his dedication and **FERVOR** for the violin, Billy practices six hours a day.

WAD

(wad)

a small mass of soft material
squeezed into a ball

Sounds like: **SOD**



*"A big **WAD** of **SOD**."*

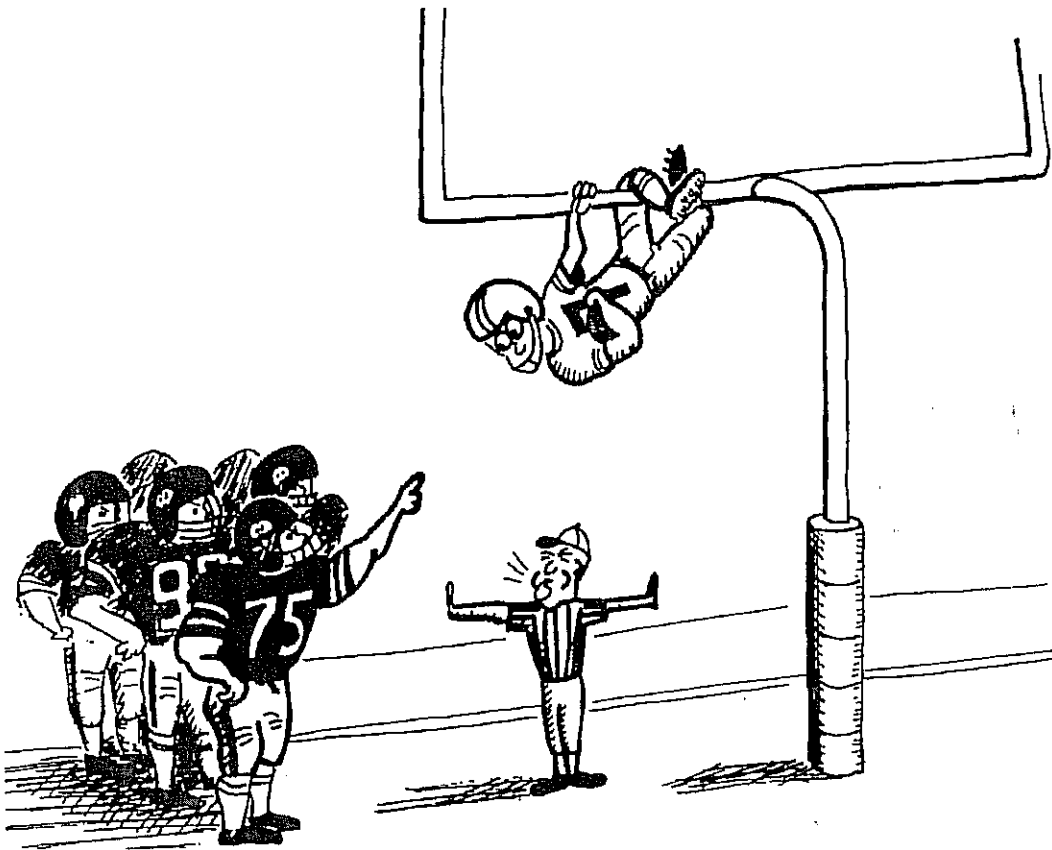
- ❑ After working all summer, Joey had a good **WAD** stashed away to buy books for school.
- ❑ Jake stood before the principal and **WADDED** his cap into his pocket.
- ❑ The detective found a small **WAD** stained with blood behind the sofa.

AVERT

(uh VERT)

to ward off; to turn away; to
keep from happening

Sounds like: **HURT**



*"The quarterback found a way to **AVERT** getting **HURT**."*

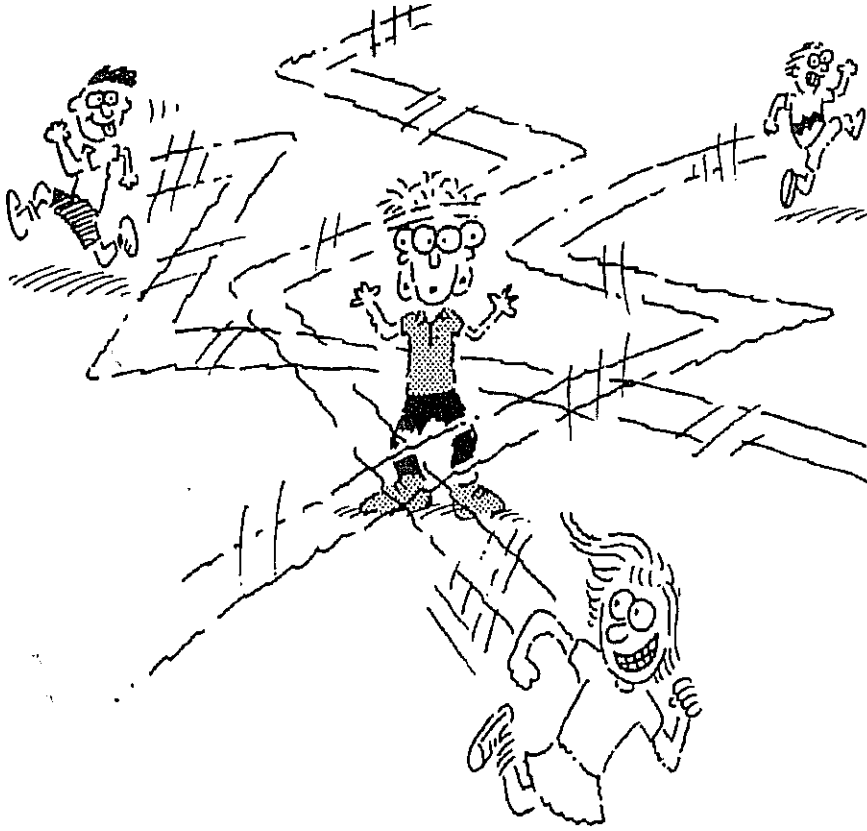
- ❑ We **AVERTED** our eyes from looking at the solar eclipse.
- ❑ The truck driver **AVERTED** an accident by driving onto the grassy bank.
- ❑ **AVERTING** disaster is often times a matter of luck.

ZIGZAG

(zig zag)

a series of turns in different directions that nevertheless proceed in a general direction

Sounds like: **TAG**



*"When playing **TAG**, **ZIGZAG** to avoid being **TAGGED**."*

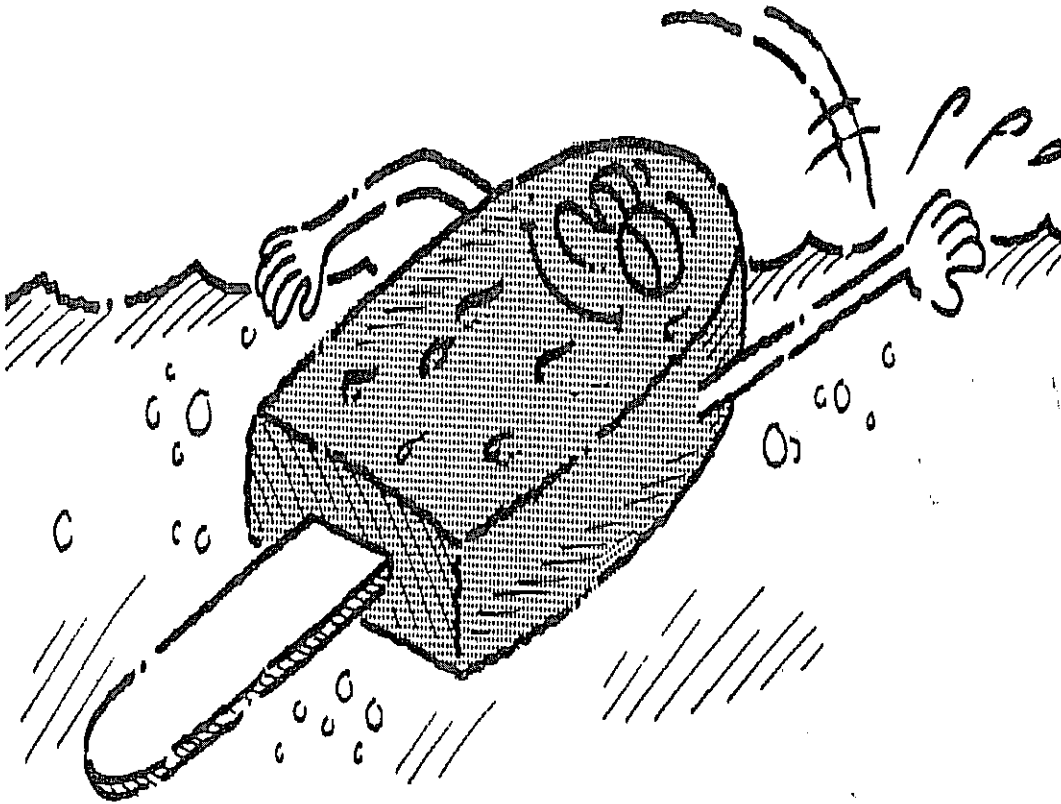
- The blind person **ZIGZAGGED** his way across the unfamiliar room.
- The trail **ZIGZAGGED** through the hills.
- **ZIGZAGGING** through the defenders, the quarterback ran for a touchdown.

WHIMSICAL

(WIM sah kul)

erratic in behavior; unpredictable;
having a quaint or fanciful quality

Sounds like: **SWIM POPSICLE**



*"A **SWIMMING POPSICLE** is a **WHIMSICAL** notion."*

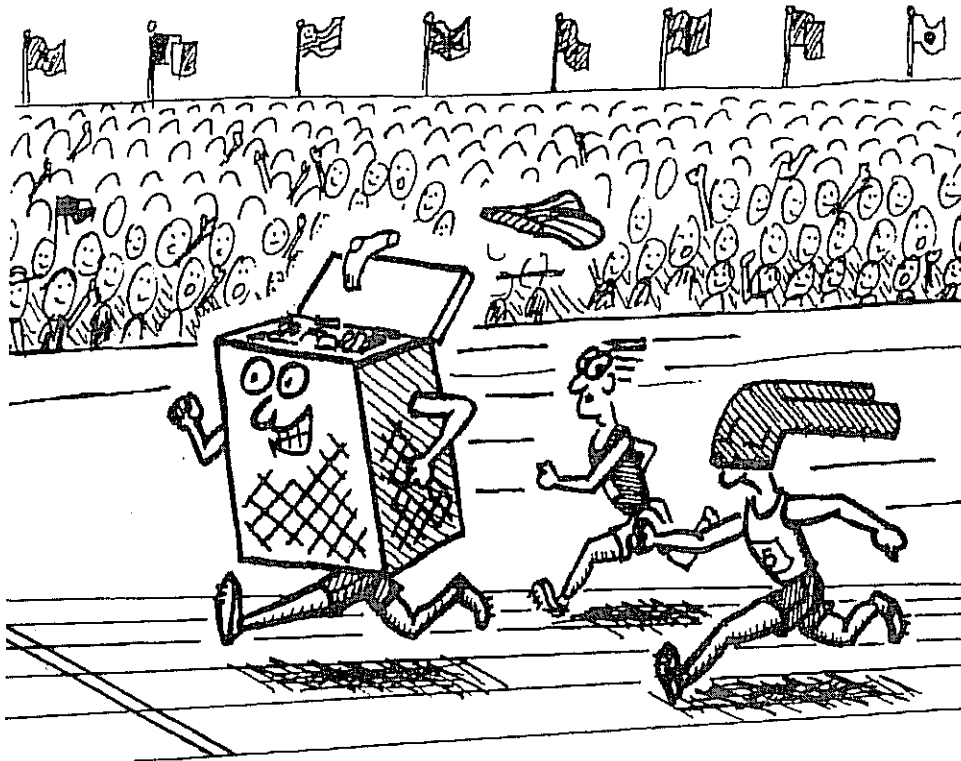
- ❑ Todd's suggestion to have a grape catching contest with our mouths was a **WHIMSICAL** idea.
- ❑ Children's stories often have **WHIMSICAL** plots, Cinderella is one example.
- ❑ Bathing suits fashionable in the 19th century seem **WHIMSICAL** to us now.

SCAMPER

(SCAM pur)

to run; to go hastily or lightly

Sounds like: **HAMPER**



*"The laundry **HAMPER SCAMPERED**
to the finish line."*

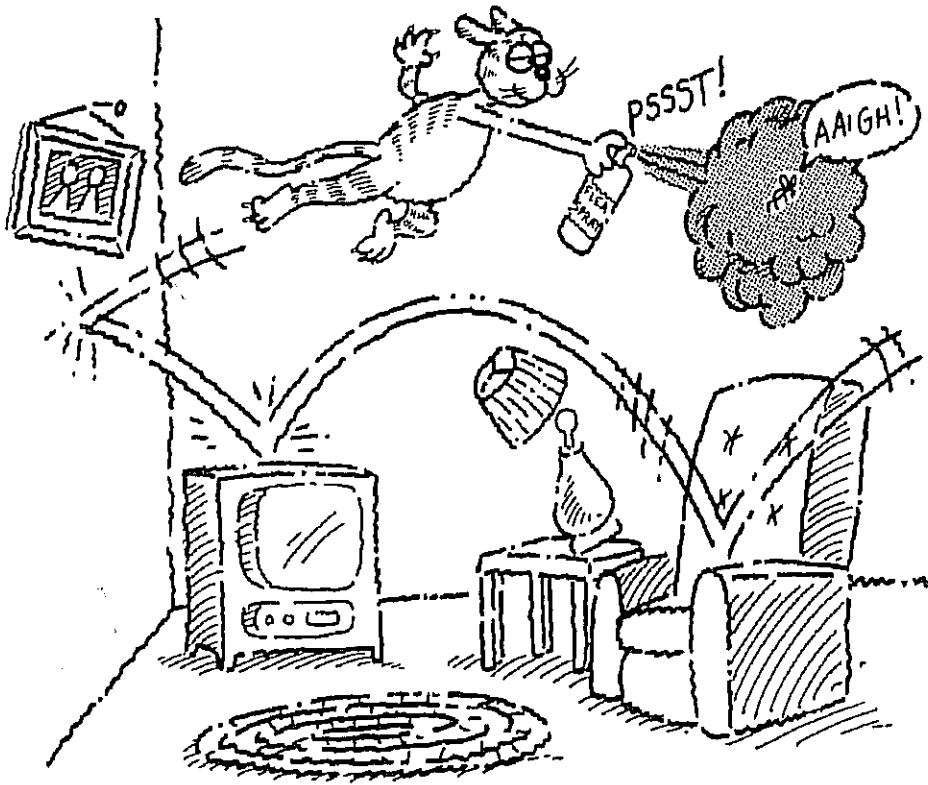
- ❑ The dogs **SCAMPERED** across the lawn to the house.
- ❑ The cat jumped in **SCAMPERING** movements as she chased the rolling ball.
- ❑ We planned to **SCAMPER** past the guards when their backs were turned.

AGILITY

(uh JILL uh tee)

to move quickly and easily;
nimbleness of body or mind

Sounds like: **KILL A FLEA**



*"It takes **AGILITY** to **KILL A FLEA.**"*

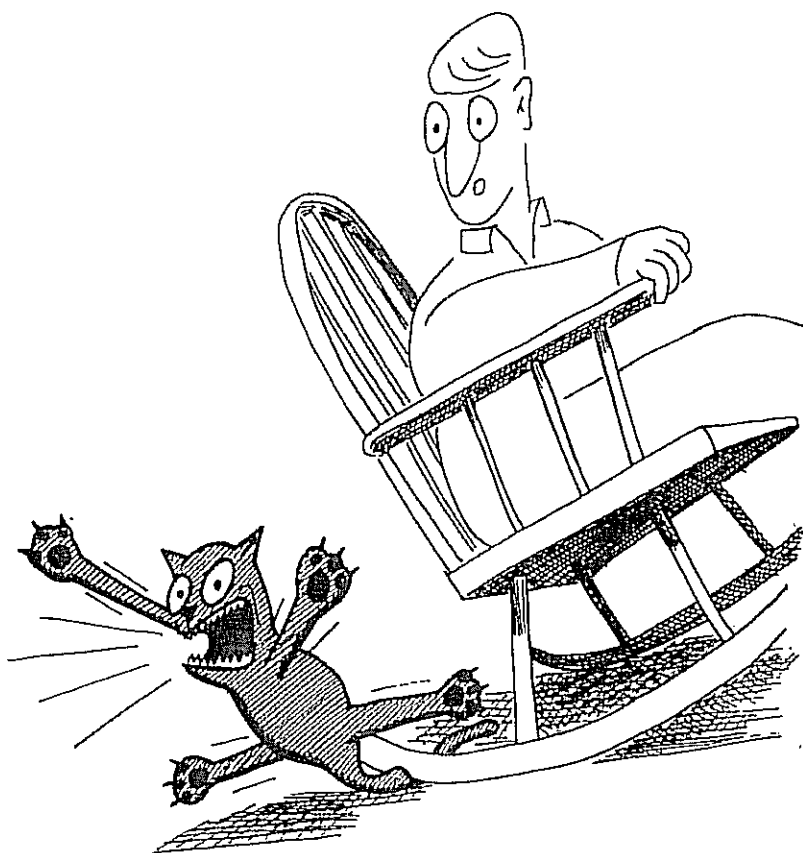
- It takes physical **AGILITY** to become a good gymnast.
- Chess players must have considerable mental **AGILITY**.
- Cats are so **AGILE** that when they fall they always land on their feet.

WAIL

(wail)

to cry out loudly

Sounds like: **TAIL**



*"Cats **WAIL** if you rock on their **TAIL**."*

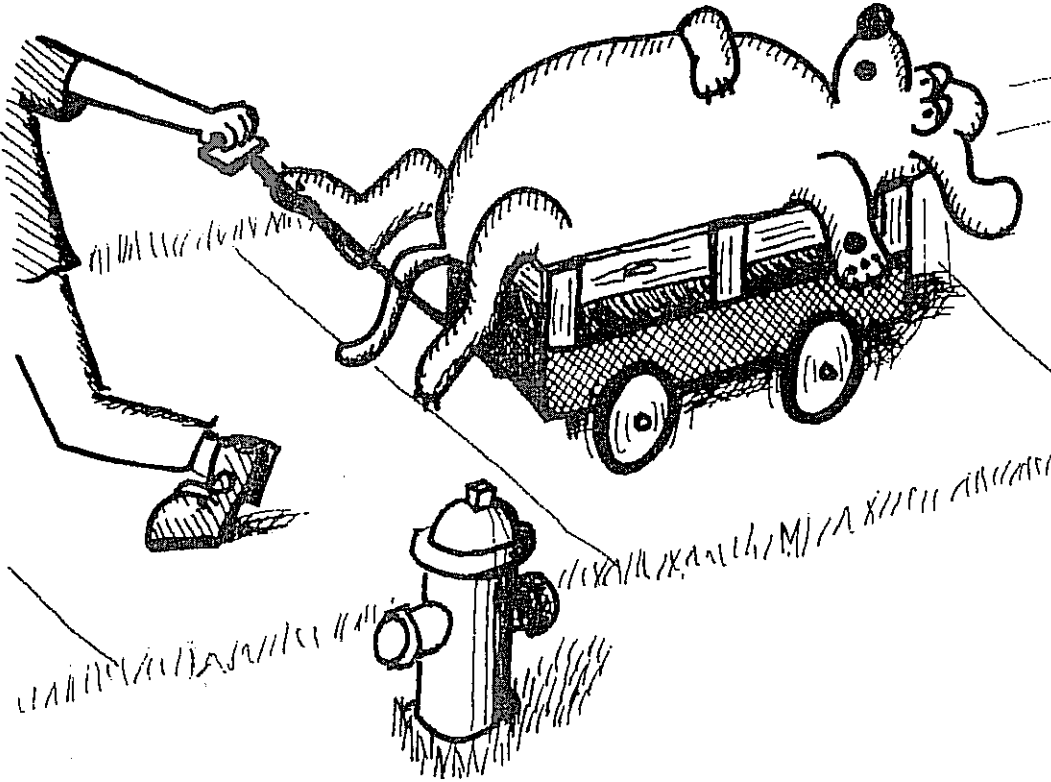
- ❑ The relatives of the deceased **WAILED** at her grave.
- ❑ Visiting his uncle's ranch, Billy heard the scary **WAILING** of a coyote in the night.
- ❑ Ghosts are supposed to make **WAILING** sounds inside haunted houses.

PASSIVE

(PASS iv)

inactive; acted upon but
not acting in return

Sounds like: **MASSIVE**



*"Once quite active, Rex got so **MASSIVE**
he became **PASSIVE**."*

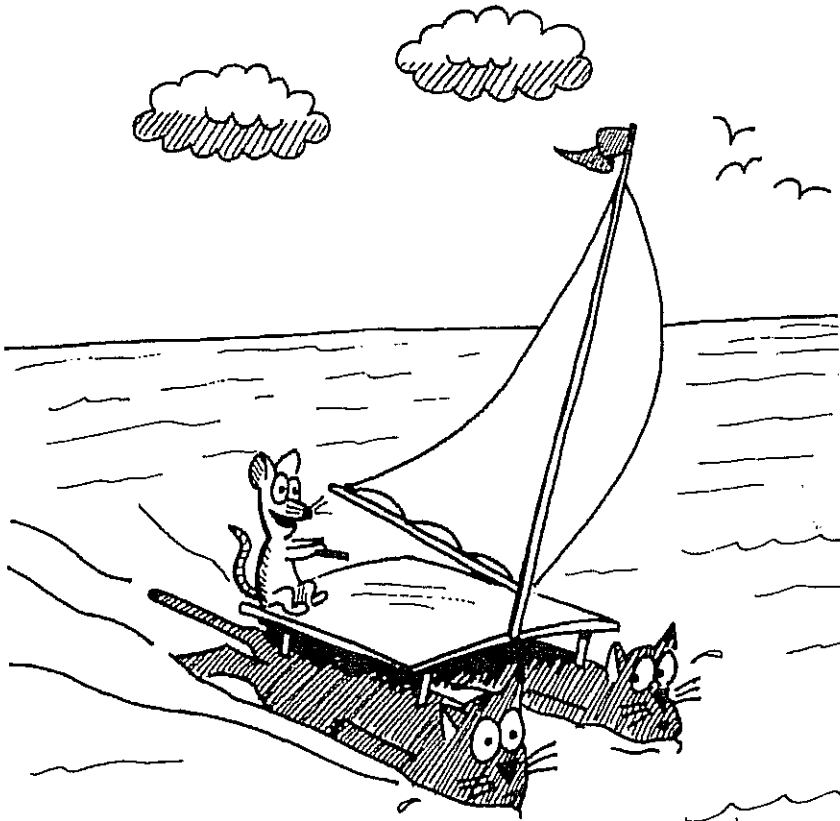
- ❑ Hector had a **PASSIVE** attitude about life and seldom left his home.
- ❑ Shirley played a **PASSIVE** role and went along with whatever her sister wanted.
- ❑ For sick people in recovery, **PASSIVITY** can be a positive thing.

CATAMARAN

(CAT uh muh ran)

a boat with two parallel hulls; a
raft of logs tied together

Sounds like: **CAT**



"A CAT CATAMARAN."

- ❑ **CATAMARANS** are fast sailing boats.
- ❑ **CATAMARANS** are good for sailing in shallow waters.
- ❑ The lumberjacks floated log **CATAMARANS** down the river to the saw mills.

ACCLAIM

(uh CLAME)

enthusiastic public praise and approval

Sounds like: **FAME**



"ACCLAIM is often the consequence of FAME."

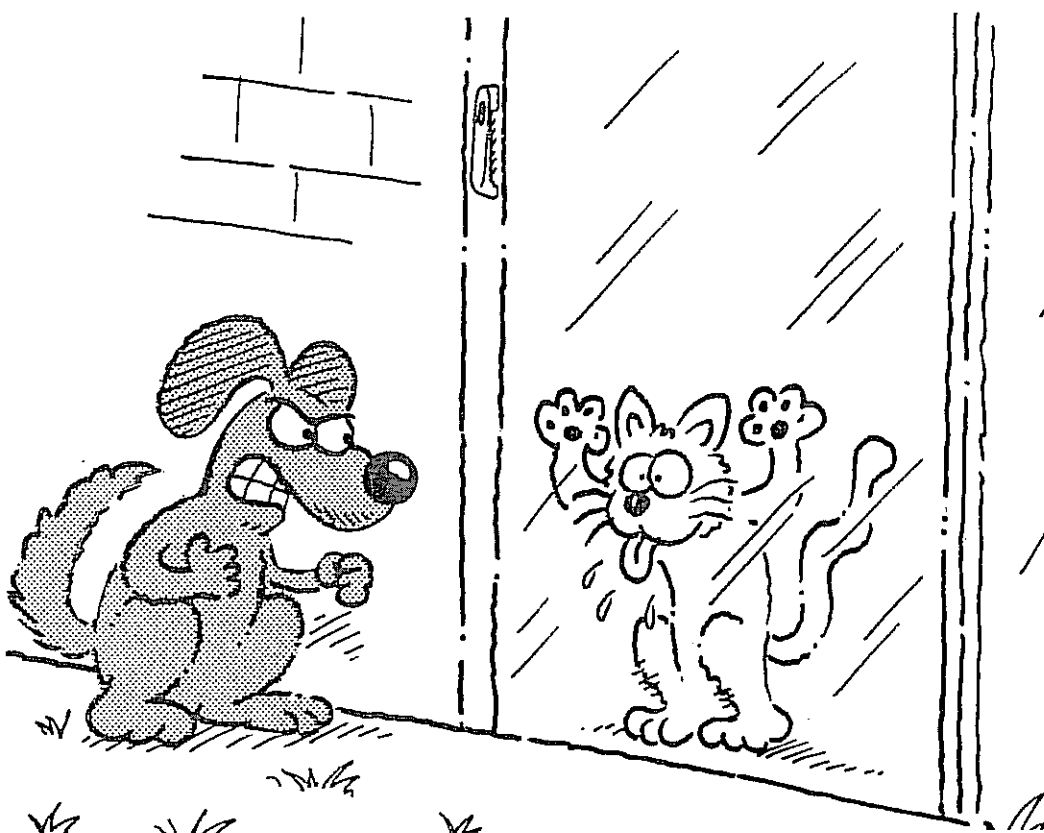
- When Janet became a movie star in Hollywood, she received enough **ACCLAIM** to last a lifetime.
- The entire student body came out and **ACCLAIMED** the returning football team.
- The mayor said he did not seek **ACCLAIM**; he just wanted to help the city become a safer place to live.

INNATE

(EN nate)

possessed at birth, inborn;
a natural characteristic

Sounds like: **HATE**



*"Dogs have an **INNATE HATRED** for cats."*

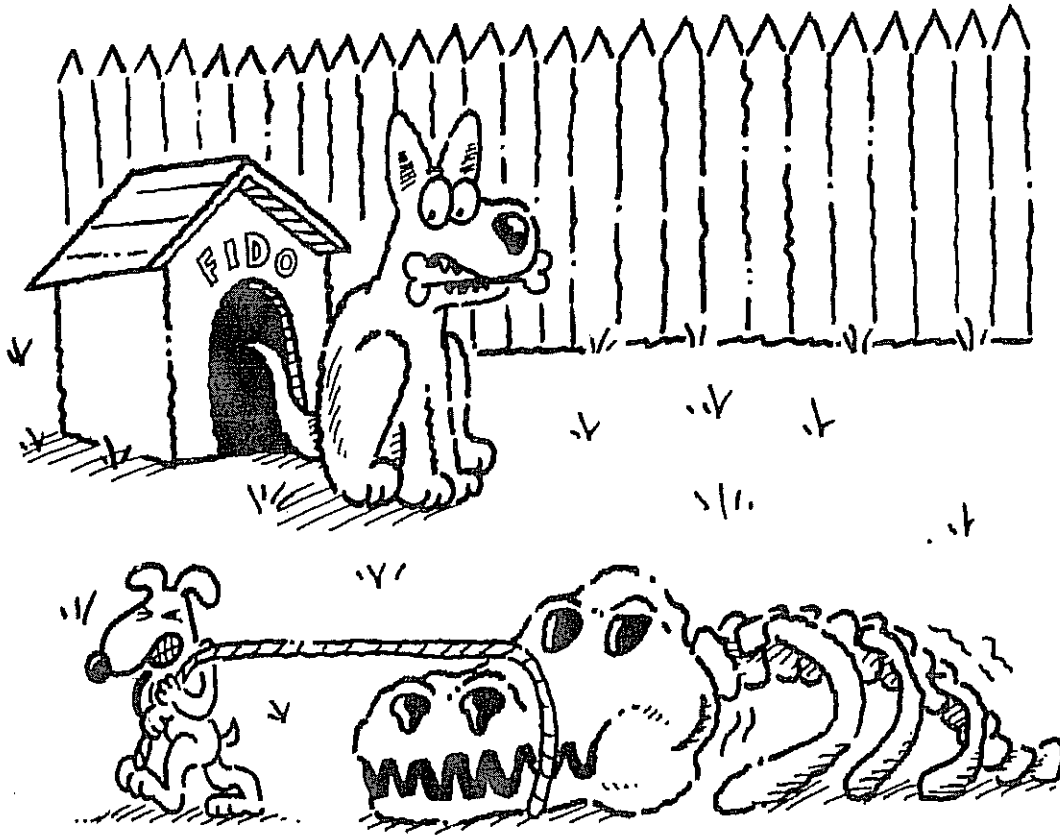
- ☐ Hang gliding presents definite **INNATE** dangers for the participants.
- ☐ Most animals have an **INNATE** intelligence about finding their way to water holes.
- ☐ Carl says he **INNATELY** knows when his wife is going to be mad at him.

COLOSSAL

(ko LOS ul)

enormous, gigantic; huge in
size, extent or degree

Sounds like: **FOSSIL**



"A COLOSSAL FOSSIL."

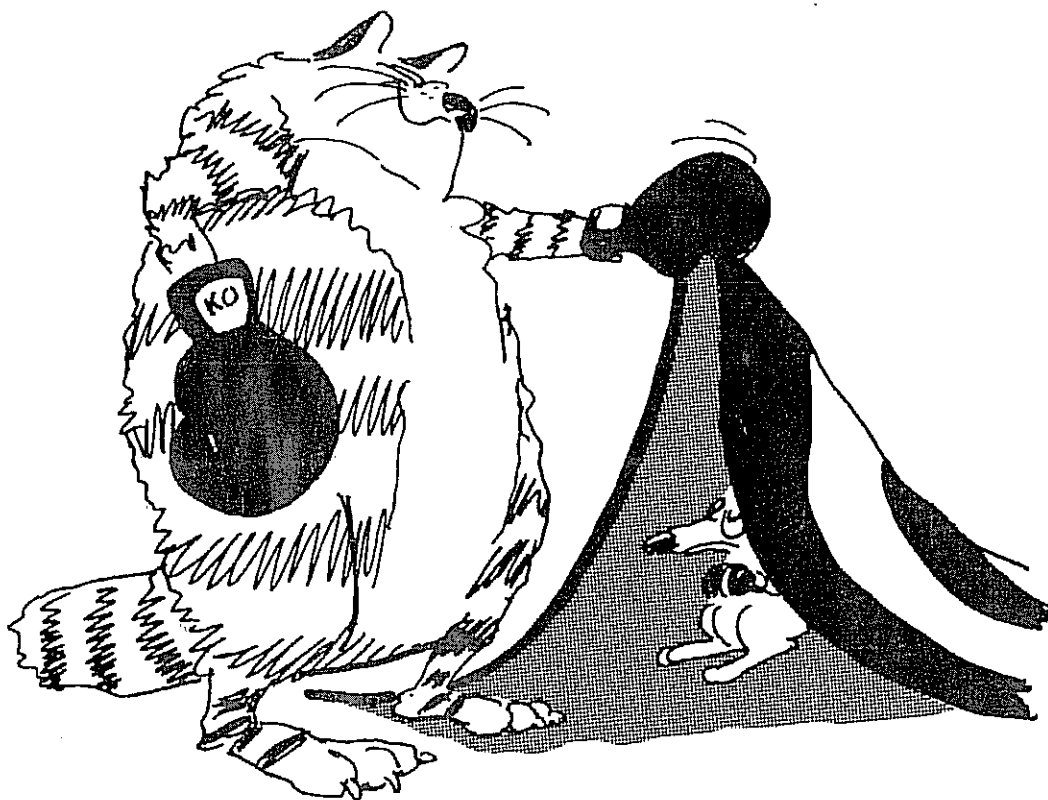
- ❑ The navy's aircraft carriers are **COLOSSAL** ships that carry as many as three thousand sailors.
- ❑ Borrowing my father's car without his permission was a **COLOSSAL** mistake.
- ❑ Jerry had a **COLOSSAL** ego and thought he was the most handsome guy in school.

UNDERDOG

(UN der dog)

a loser or predicted loser in a
struggle or contest

Sounds like: **UNDER DOG**



*"The **DOG UNDER** the rug is definitely
the **UNDERDOG**."*

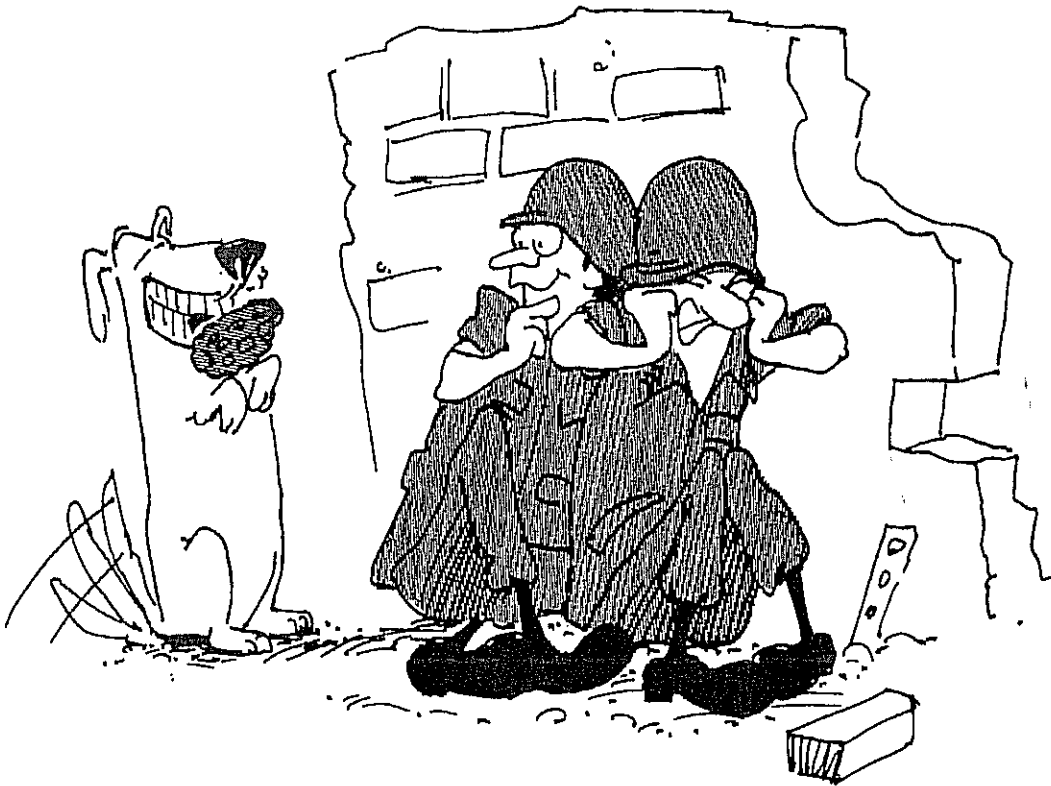
- ❑ Some people find it more fun to root for the **UNDERDOG** in every sporting event.
- ❑ Because our class had never won the tug-of-war, we were the **UNDERDOGS**.
- ❑ Everyone expects the favorite to win; therefore, when an **UNDERDOG** wins, it comes as a surprise.

RETRIEVE

(re TREEve)

to recover; to find and
bring back; to get back

Sounds like: **RETRIEVER**



"RETRIEVERS will RETRIEVE anything thrown."

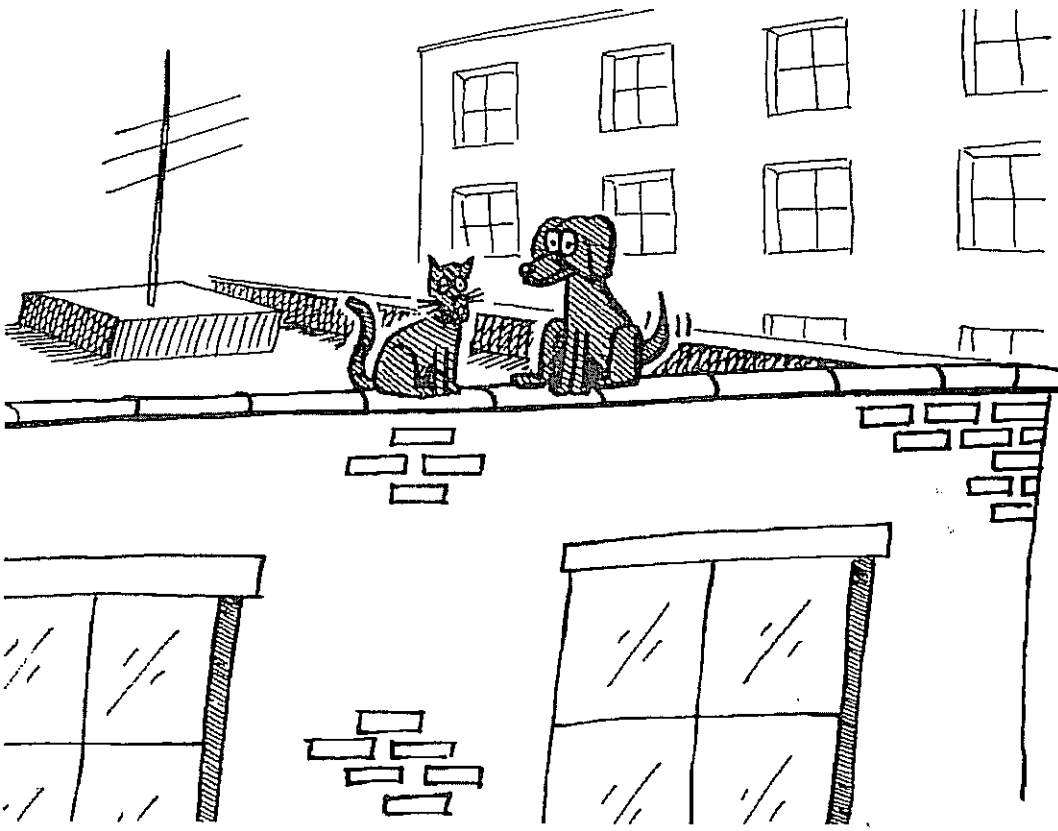
- ❑ Eric swam to the bottom of the river to **RETRIEVE** his favorite fishing lure.
- ❑ Peter was able to **RETRIEVE** all the lost data on his computer.
- ❑ Janet searched for an hour before she **RETRIEVED** her lost purse.

PARAPET

(PAIR uh pet)

a low wall or railing

Sounds like: **PAIR OF PETS**



*"A **PAIR OF PETS** on a **PARAPET**."*

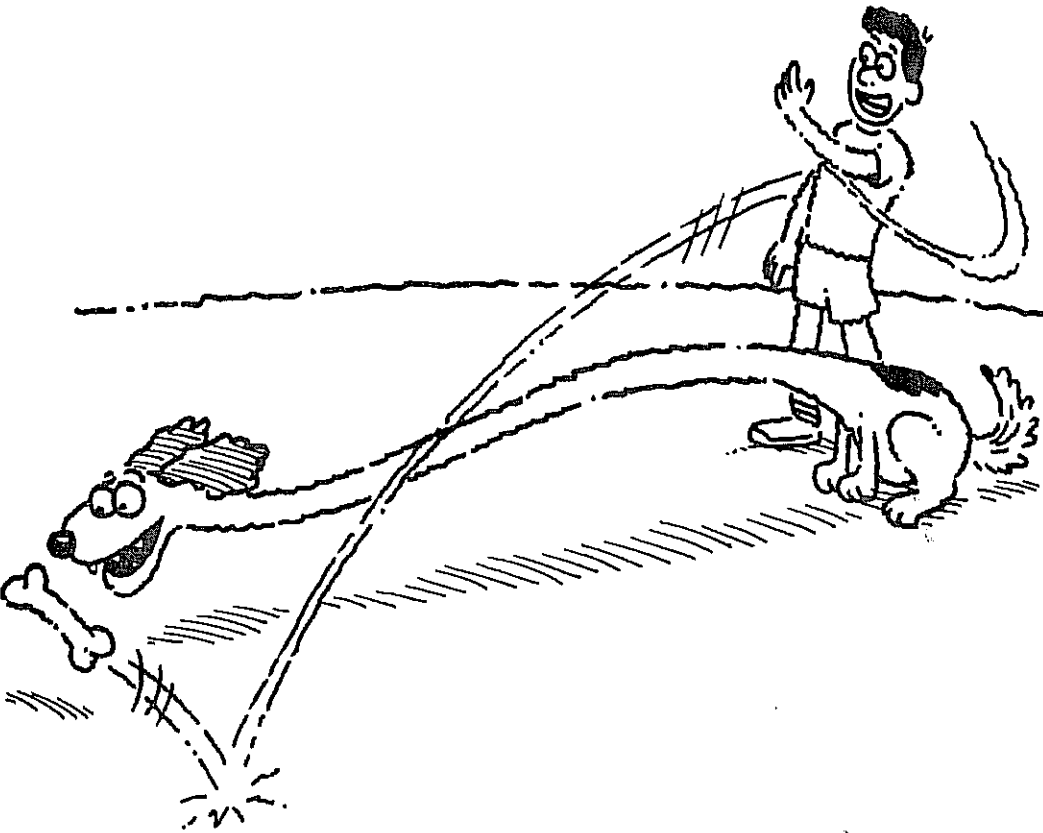
- ❑ My brother and I built a **PARAPET** of rocks around our play house to keep out the dog.
- ❑ The house caught on fire and John jumped from the balcony **PARAPET** onto the nearest tree.
- ❑ The soldiers hid behind a **PARAPET** so that they wouldn't be seen by the enemy soldiers.

FETCH

(fetch)

to go after and bring back;
to get as in a price

Sounds like: **STRETCH**



*"A genuine rubber dog can
FETCH by **STRETCHING**."*

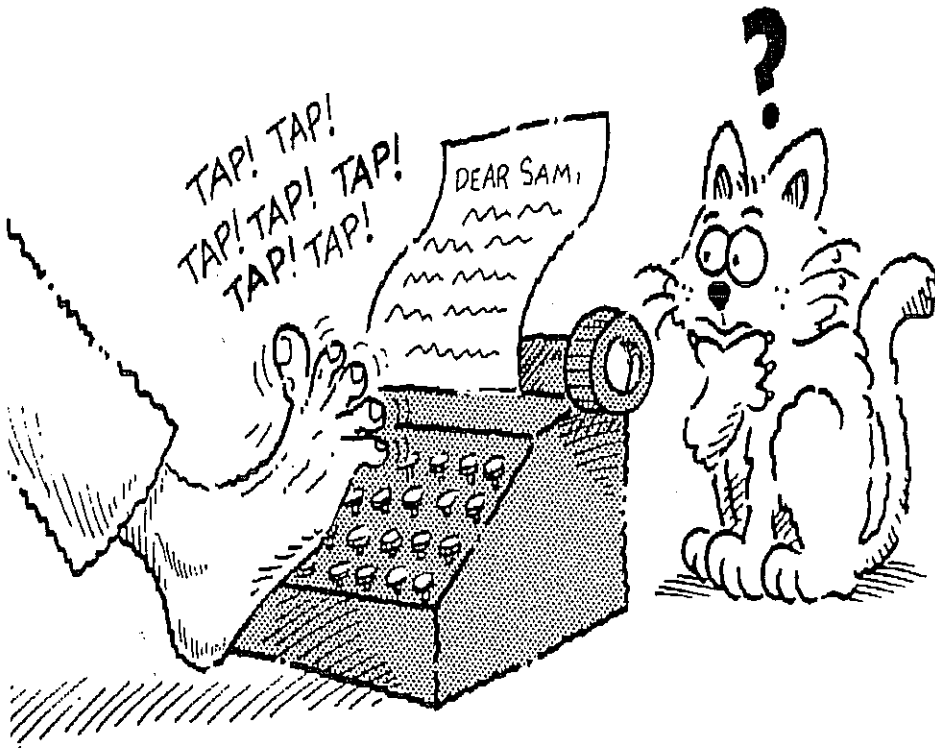
- ❑ John asked Paul to go out to the car and **FETCH** his briefcase.
- ❑ The old silverware **FETCHED** a good price at the charity auction.
- ❑ Her father's telephone call **FETCHED** Sue home for dinner.

PROTOTYPE

(pro toe TYPE)

an early or original example upon
which later examples are based

Sounds like: **TOE TYPE**



*"The original **PROTOTYPE** of the
TOE TYPEwriter."*

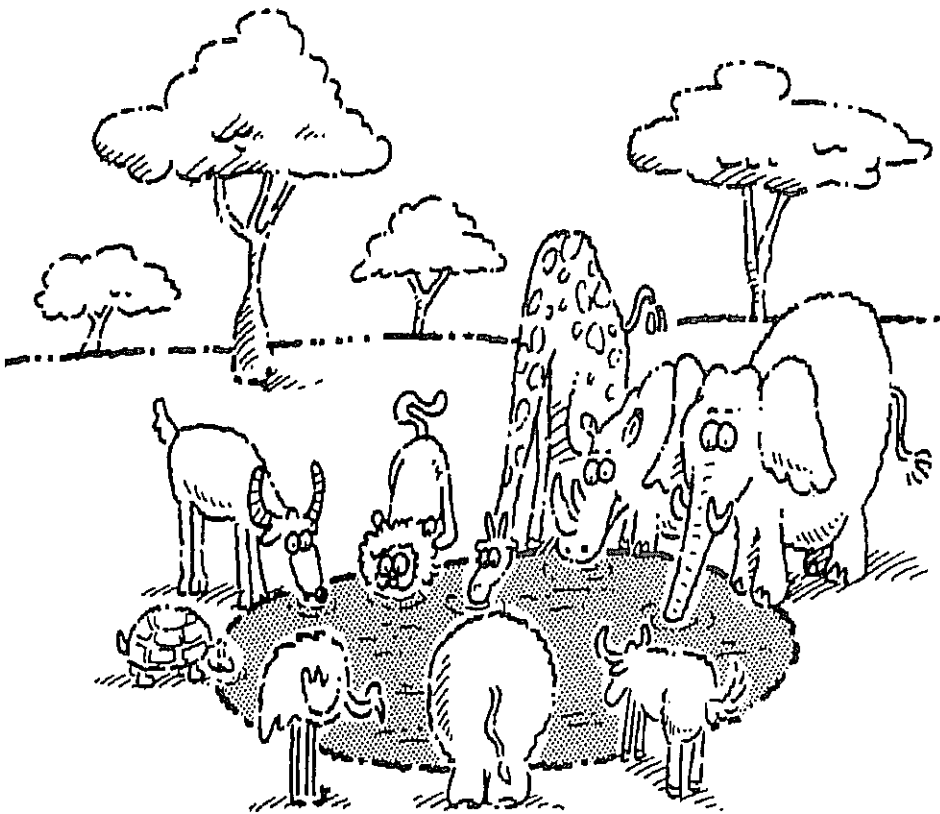
- ❑ In 1903, the Wright Brothers' airplane was the **PROTOTYPE** of many future airplane designs.
- ❑ The first McDonalds restaurant was a **PROTOTYPE** of the thousands that are now everywhere.
- ❑ An inventor built a **PROTOTYPE** of a machine for peeling bananas, but nobody cared to copy it.

ABOUND

(uh BOWND)

very numerous

Sounds like: **AROUND**



*"Animals **ABOUND AROUND** watering holes."*

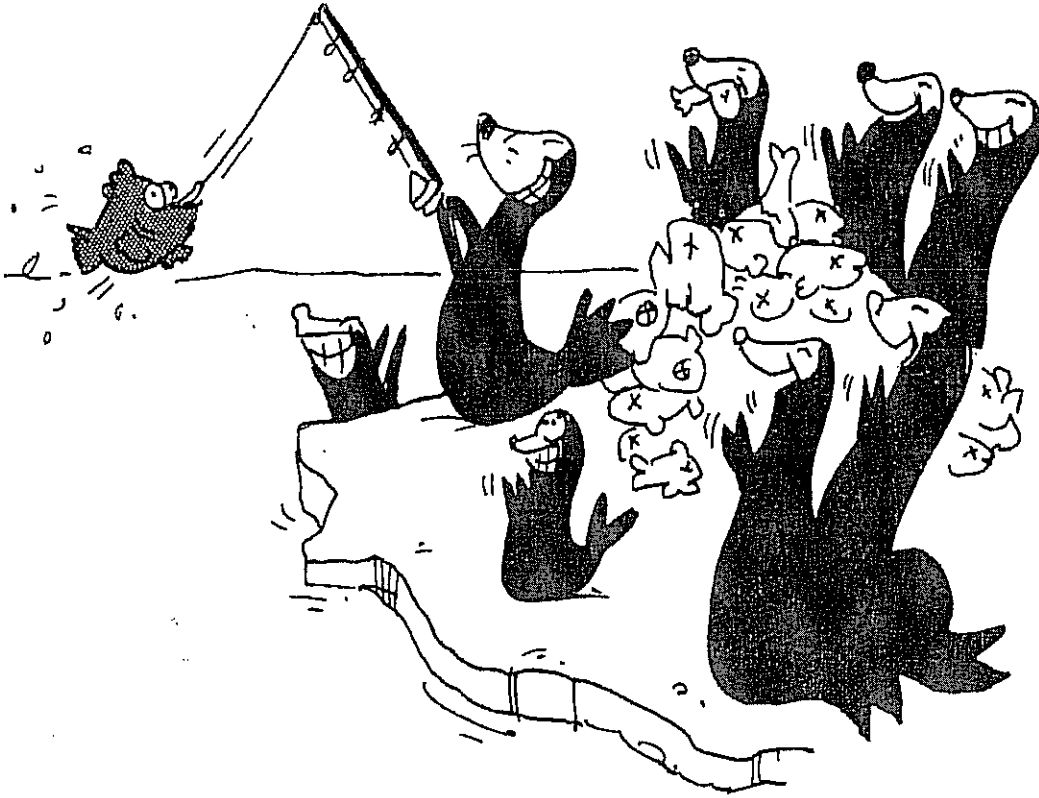
- Mosquitoes **ABOUND** in the summertime.
- Walt Disney World **ABOUNDS** with tourists all year long.
- Henry has **ABOUNDING** love for his family.

ZEAL

(zeal)

showing great enthusiasm or
devotion to a goal

Sounds like: **SEAL**



*"Sammy the **SEAL** catches fish with great **ZEAL**."*

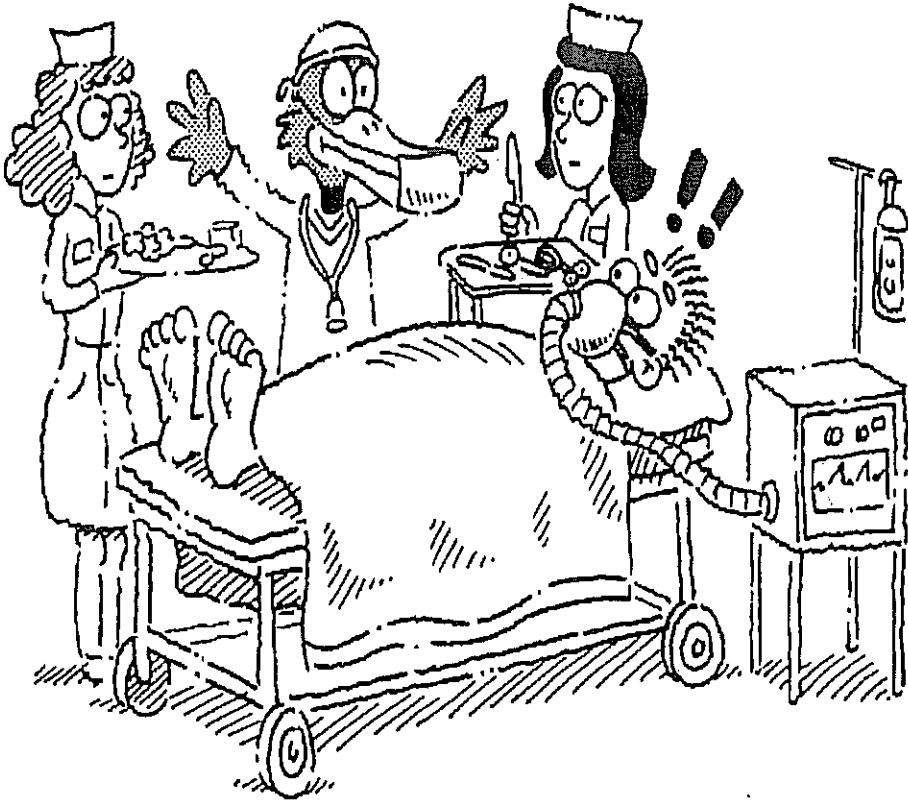
- ☐ Andrea **ZEALOUSLY** attends her acrobatics class.
- ☐ Hal ate his burger and fries with **ZEAL**.
- ☐ (A **ZEALOT** is a person with excessive **ZEAL**.) When the leader told them to jump, the **ZEALOTS** all jumped off the bridge.

QUACK

(quack)

one who pretends knowledge or skills that they do not possess

Sounds like: **QUACK**



*"A **QUACKING** duck who is a **QUACK**."*

- ❑ Sue took some **QUACK** medicine to reduce weight, but never lost a pound.
- ❑ Dr. Johnson was a **QUACK** and had no medical degree at all.
- ❑ Watch out for medical **QUACKS** who pretend they can cure incurable diseases.

SHAMBLE

(SHAM bull)

a scene or condition of disorder or destruction; to walk or go awkwardly

Sounds like: **CAMEL**



*"When the sheik left, his **CAMELS**
made **SHAMBLES** of his tent."*

- The fighting soldiers left the town in **SHAMBLES**.
- The bored young man **SHAMBLED** down the street kicking a tin can.
- **SHAMBLING** from side to side, the wagon with a broken wheel couldn't stay on the road.

INEPT

(en ept)

awkward or clumsy; lacking
in ability or competence

Sounds like: **SLEPT**



*"Our **INEPT** watch dog **SLEPT**
through everything."*

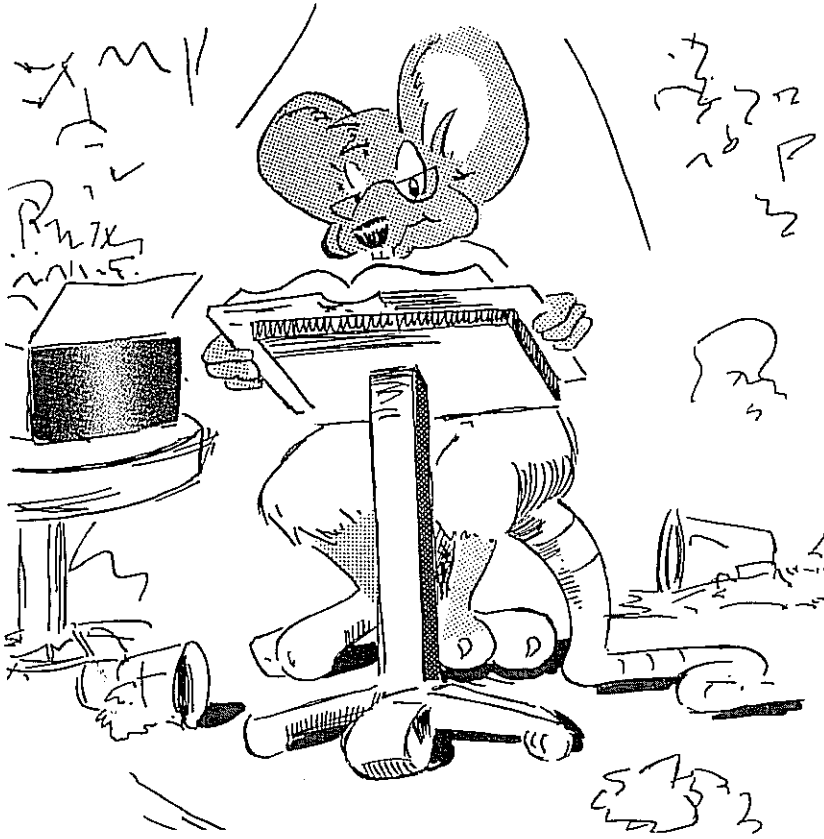
- ❑ Clarissa always made the most **INEPT** suggestions about how to improve our work.
- ❑ The actors seemed bored and gave an **INEPT** performance of the play.
- ❑ The **INEPTITUDE** of the lawyer handling Jerry's case was disgraceful.

LITERATE

(LIT ur ut)

having the ability to
read and write

Sounds like: **LITTLE RAT**



"A LITERATE LITTLE RAT."

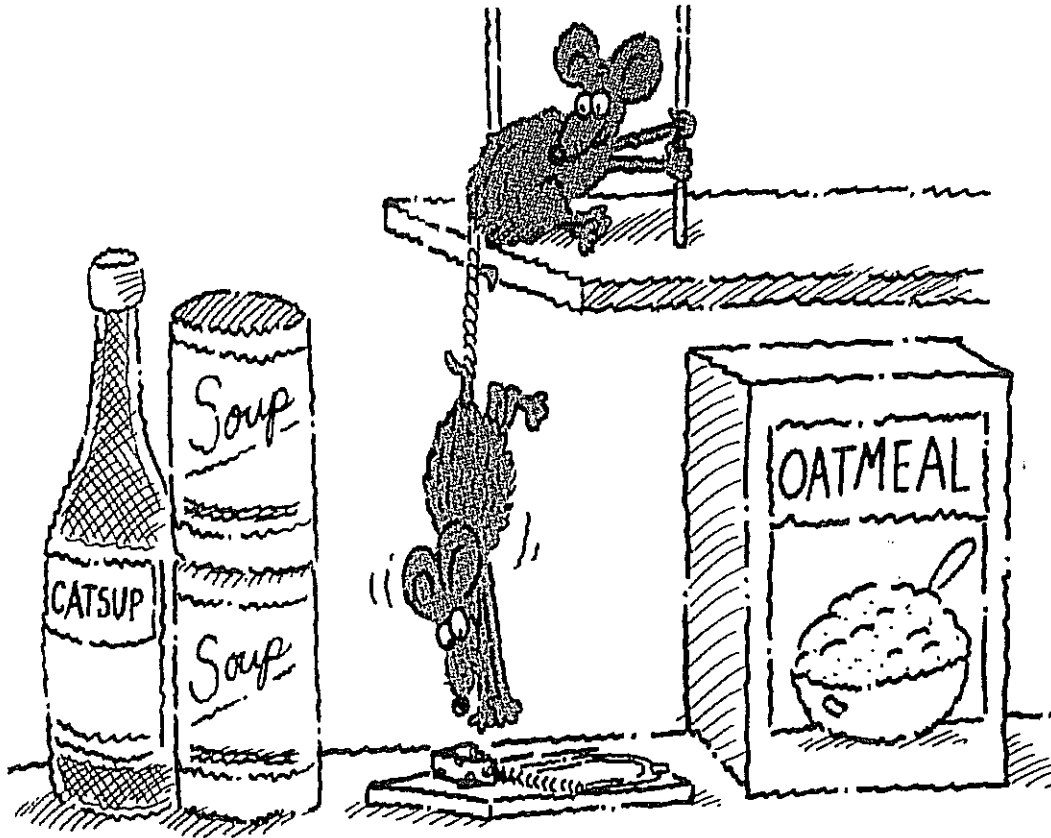
- ❑ Switzerland is one of the most **LITERATE** nations in the world. Practically every Swiss citizen can read and write.
- ❑ In our educational systems, the goal is for children to become **LITERATE** by the fourth grade.
- ❑ Teaching illiterate adults to become **LITERATE** is a rewarding experience.

SPLICE

(splice)

to join or unite together

Sounds like: **MICE**



"SPliced MICE."

- ❑ The sailor said he could **SPLICE** two short ropes to make one long one.
- ❑ The electrician **SPliced** the two wires.
- ❑ The doctor **SPliced** the broken leg bones with special screws.

EMBARK

(im BARK)

to go aboard some means of transportation;
to set out on a venture

Sounds like: **BARK**



*"Indians **EMBARKING** in a **BARK** canoe."*

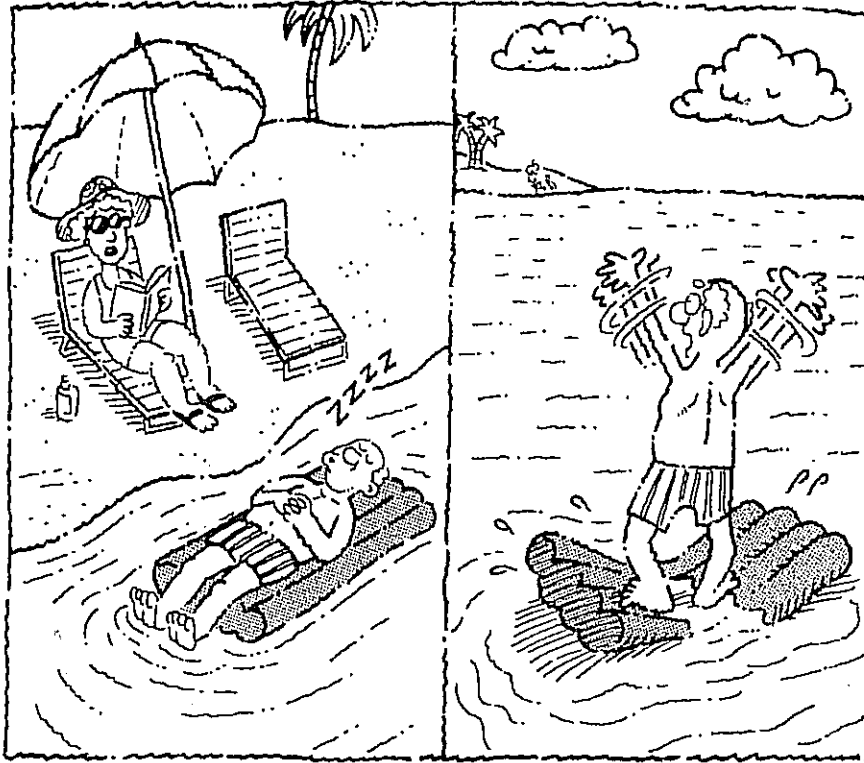
- ❑ The ship was scheduled to **EMBARK** at noon.
- ❑ The nurse reminded us to get our vaccinations before **EMBARKING** on our trip to Europe.
- ❑ We **EMBARKED** on a journey to Africa to photograph the wildlife.

WAFT

(wahft)

moved gently by wind or waves; something conveyed through the air; a gentle breeze

Sounds like: **RAFT**



*"To get **WAFTE**d out to sea in a **RAFT** isn't necessarily a pleasant surprise."*

- A gentle morning breeze **WAFTE**d through the open window.
- The smell of cooked bacon **WAFTE**ing through the cabin let everyone know breakfast was almost ready.
- As Jennifer lifted the lid of the pizza box, a delicious aroma **WAFTE**d through the room.

AWRY

(uh RYE)

twisted or turned; wrong, amiss

Sounds like: **TIE**



*"Ed's first attempt to **TIE** a **TIE** went **AWRY**."*

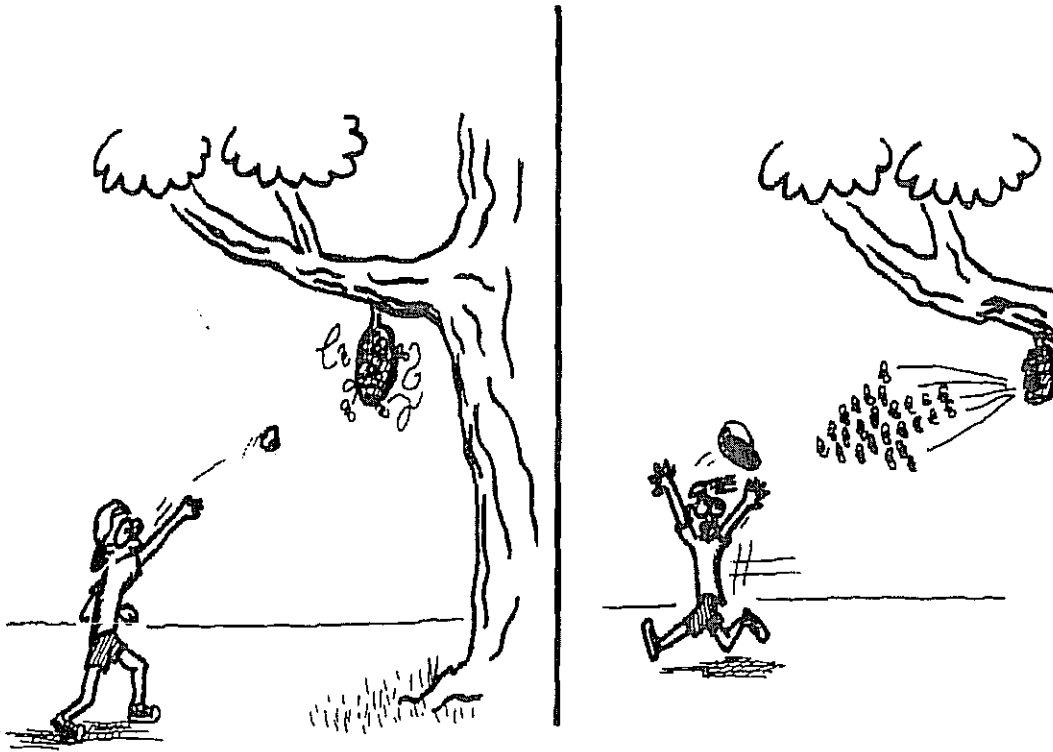
- ❑ The wind blew the window shades **AWRY**.
- ❑ When it started to rain, our plans to go to the beach went **AWRY**.
- ❑ The campaign went **AWRY** when the candidate refused to make further speeches.

PERTURB

(purr TURB)

to make uneasy; to upset

Sounds like: **DISTURB**



*"It highly **PERTURBS** hornets when you **DISTURB** their nests."*

- ❑ It **PERTURBED** Bill's father when Bill took the family car without permission.
- ❑ The manager told his salesmen he was **PERTURBED** about the drop off in sales for the year.
- ❑ Traveling by air is **PERTURBING** when the planes are behind schedule.

BULLETIN

(BULL uh ton)

a brief announcement of public interest;
a small publication published regularly

Sounds like: **BULLET**



*"The mob's **BULLET BULLETIN** board."*

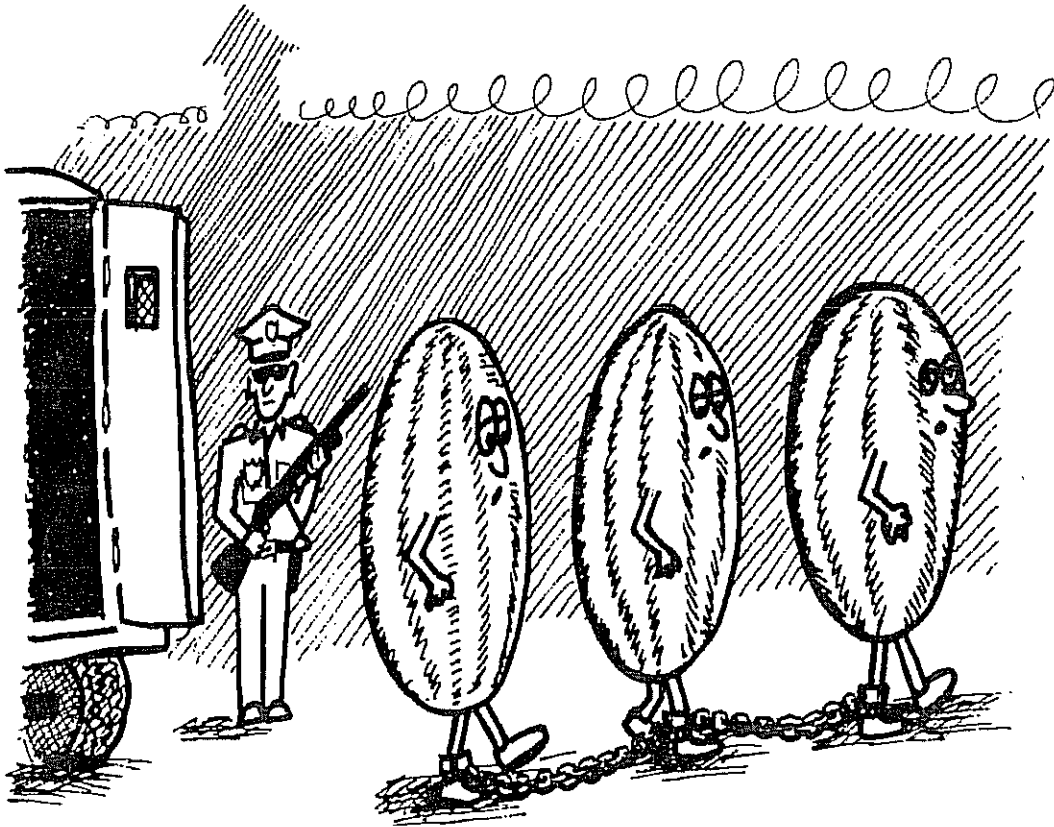
- ❑ Our teacher posted the test results on her **BULLETIN** board.
- ❑ There are weather **BULLETINS** all day long on the television weather channel.
- ❑ Our club **BULLETIN** lists the dates of all meetings and special events.

FELON

(felon)

a person convicted of
a serious crime

Sounds like: **MELON**



"FELON MELONS going off to jail."

- ❑ A person convicted of a **FELONY** may be punished by imprisonment in a state prison.
- ❑ Stealing a car is considered a **FELONY**.
- ❑ The police arrested a man for carrying a gun with **FELONIOUS** intentions.

STIFLE

(STY ful)
to hold back

Sounds like: **RIFLE**



"A STIFLED RIFLE."

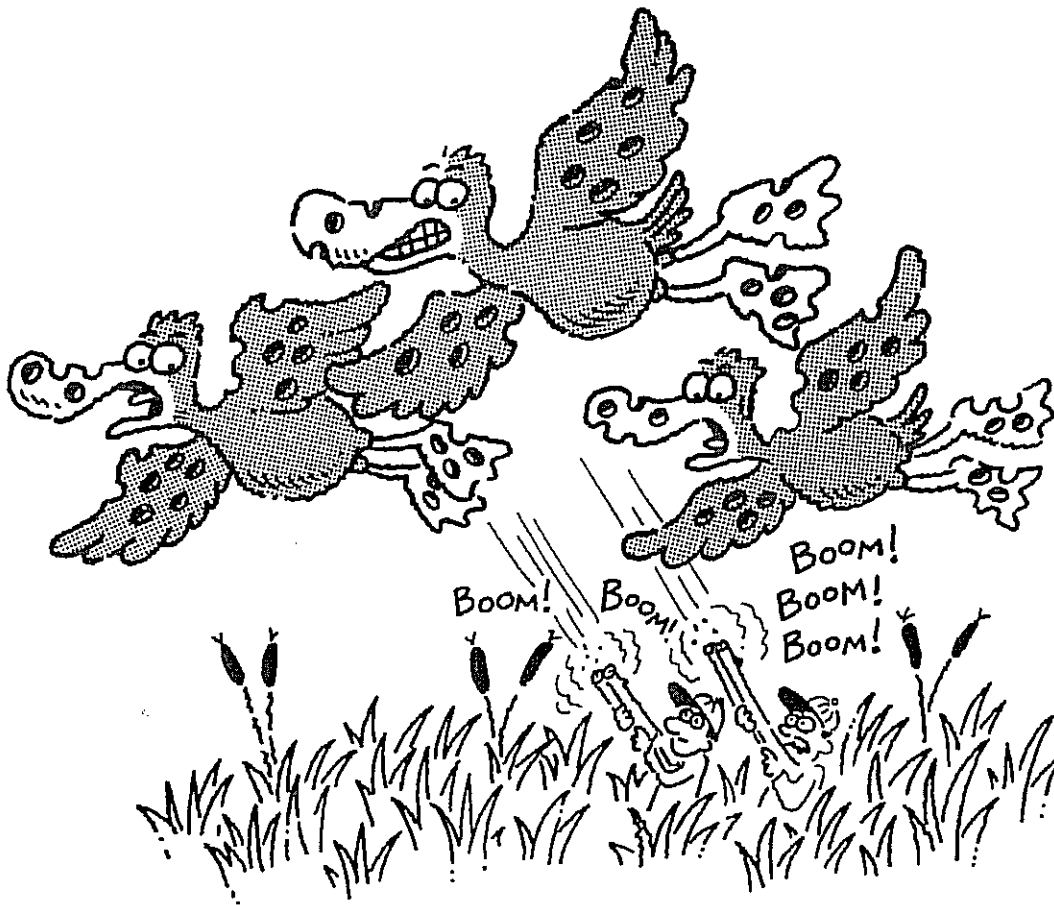
- ❑ The jungle heat was **STIFLING** and we sought shelter in a cave.
- ❑ It was a boring party and Jack **STIFLED** a yawn and looked at his watch.
- ❑ The revolt was **STIFLED** and the culprits were arrested.

POROUS

(PAWR us)

filled with holes

Sounds like: **POOR US**



*"**POOR US**, we get **POROUS** every hunting season."*

- ❑ Natural sponges are **POROUS** marine creatures used for soaking up liquid.
- ❑ You can't have a **POROUS** roof and not expect it to leak.
- ❑ (Something **POROUS** is said to have **POROSITY**.)
POROSITY is an essential quality of Swiss cheese.

LIMBER

(LYM bur)

flexible; exercise so as to
become limber

Sounds like: **LUMBER**



*"**LUMBER** from the rubber tree
is very **LIMBER**."*

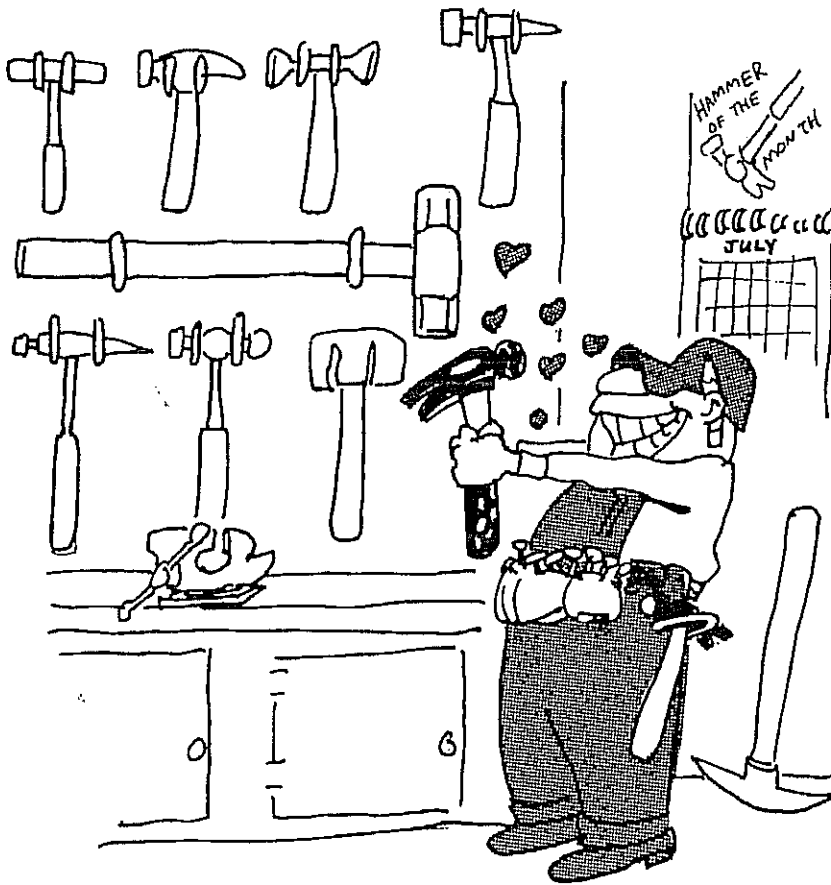
- ☐ Ballet dancers have **LIMBER** muscles.
- ☐ The team **LIMBERED** up by doing stretching exercises before the game.
- ☐ Diane was a **LIMBER** athlete, but she is no longer as flexible as she once was.

ENAMOR

(ee NAM er)

to inspire with love; captivate

Sounds like: **HAMMER**



*"Duffy is **ENAMORED** with **HAMMERS**."*

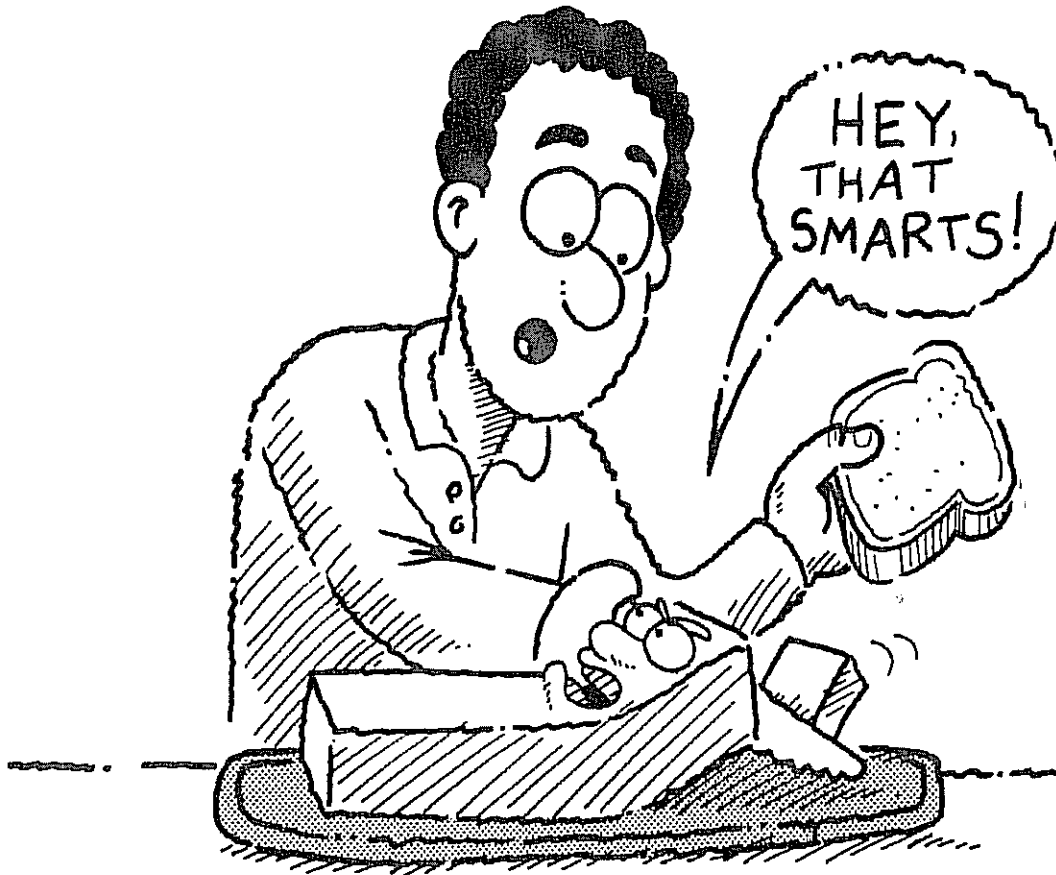
- ❑ Jack was **ENAMORED** with the idea of going to the Naval Academy and becoming an admiral.
- ❑ Bill said what **ENAMORS** him is a good book.
- ❑ The **ENAMORING** qualities of dogs is their devotion to their owners.

UTTER

(UT er)

to speak; absolute; complete

Sounds like: **BUTTER**



*"When the **BUTTER** begins to **UTTER**."*

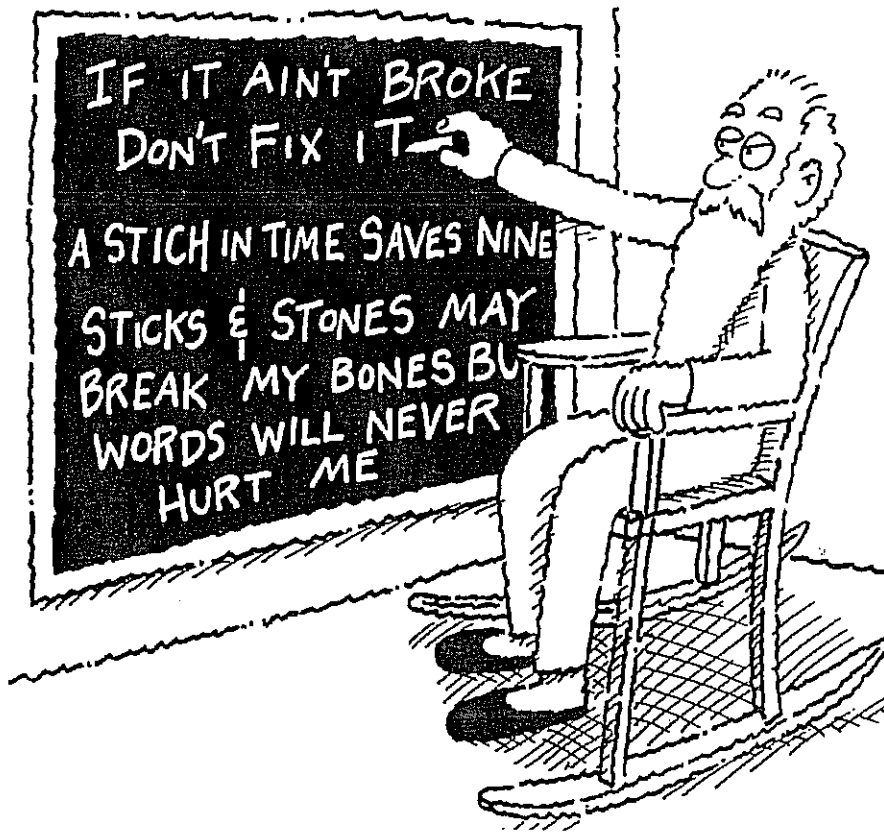
- ❑ Jean asked Max not to **UTTER** another word until he heard her side of the story.
- ❑ Harry and Billy crept into the cemetery in **UTTER** darkness.
- ❑ The **UTTER** daring of the ice box raid was beyond belief for two small dogs and a pet monkey.

ADAGE

(AD ij)

a short traditional saying; a proverb

Sounds like: **ADD AGE**



*"As we **ADD AGE**, we learn there
is truth in **ADAGES**."*

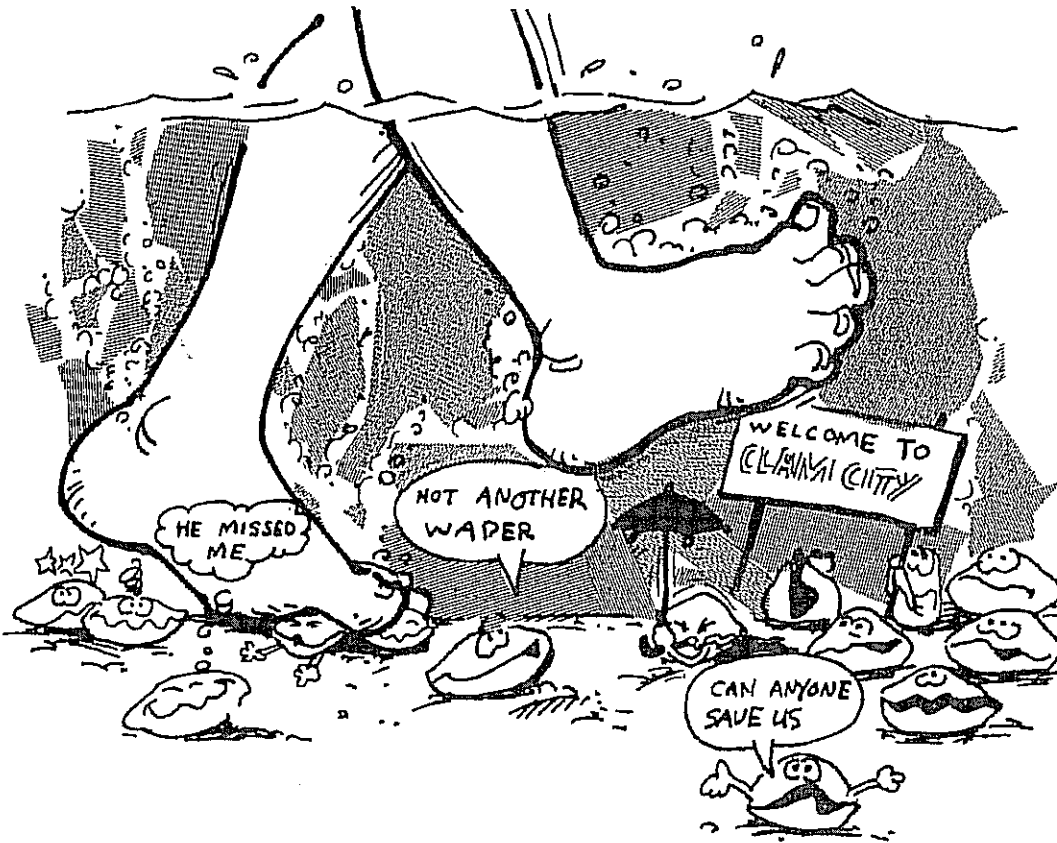
- ❑ Today, many large companies post **ADAGES** on their bulletin boards to inspire their employees.
- ❑ Our salesman, Homer, entertains his customers with an **ADAGE** for every occasion.
- ❑ "Give me liberty or give me death," is a famous American **ADAGE**.

CALAMITY

(cuh LAM uh tee)

an event that causes great misfortune; a disaster

Sounds like: **CLAM CITY**



"A CALAMITY in CLAM CITY."

- ❑ **CALAMITY** Jane was a figure from the old west who was aptly named because many misfortunes befell her.
- ❑ The movie was a **CALAMITY**; it cost twenty million to make and audiences hated it.
- ❑ Henry is a reckless driver and a **CALAMITY** waiting to happen.

SURVIVE

(sir vive)

to remain alive, to continue living or existing

Sounds like: **STAY ALIVE**



*"Those who **SURVIVE**, **STAY ALIVE**."*

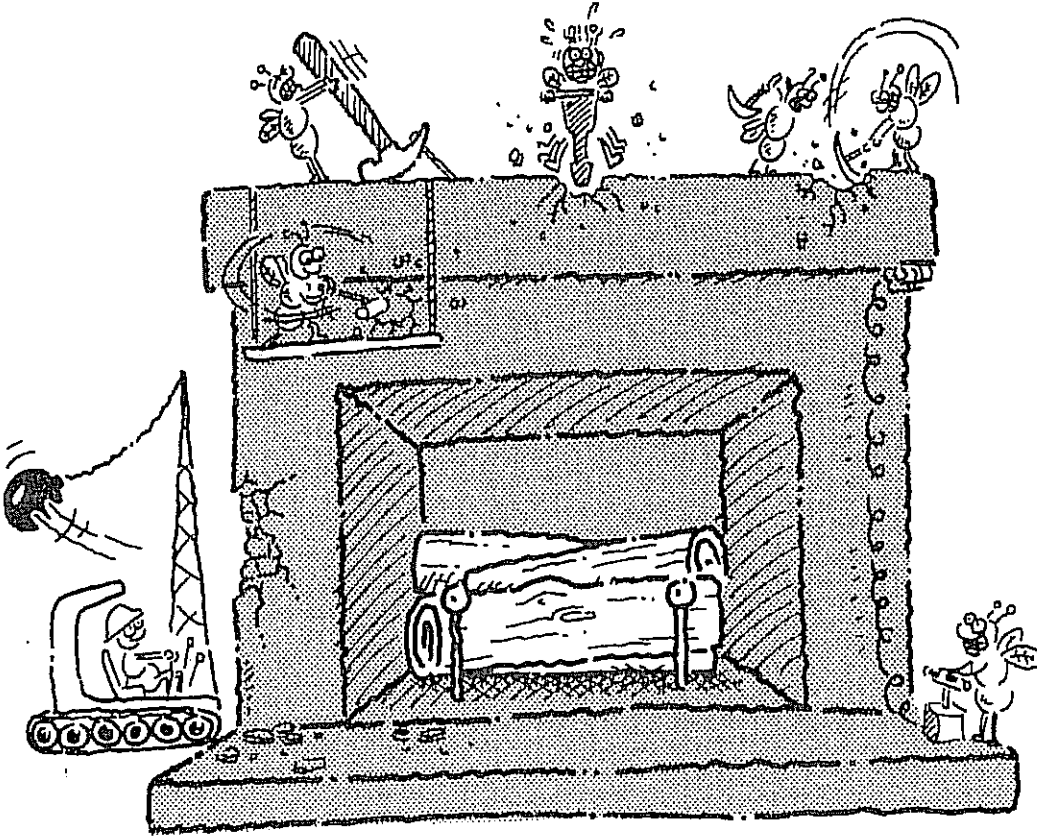
- Red Riding Hood is a children's story that will **SURVIVE** for centuries to come.
- The tomato crop **SURVIVED** the winter freezes.
- The campers went into the forest and **SURVIVED** on berries and edible plants for an entire week.

DISMANTLE

(dis MAN tel)

to take apart, pull down,
disassemble

Sounds like: **MANTLE**



*"Termites **DISMANTLING** the fireplace **MANTLE**."*

- ❑ We **DISMANTLED** the bicycles and packed them in shipping boxes.
- ❑ It was necessary to **DISMANTLE** the engine in order to clean it.
- ❑ **DISMANTLING** furniture is an everyday event for house movers.

SLEAZY

(slee ZEE)

of cheap quality; of low character

Sounds like: **FLEAS**



*"A **SLEAZY** dog with **SLEAZY FLEAS**."*

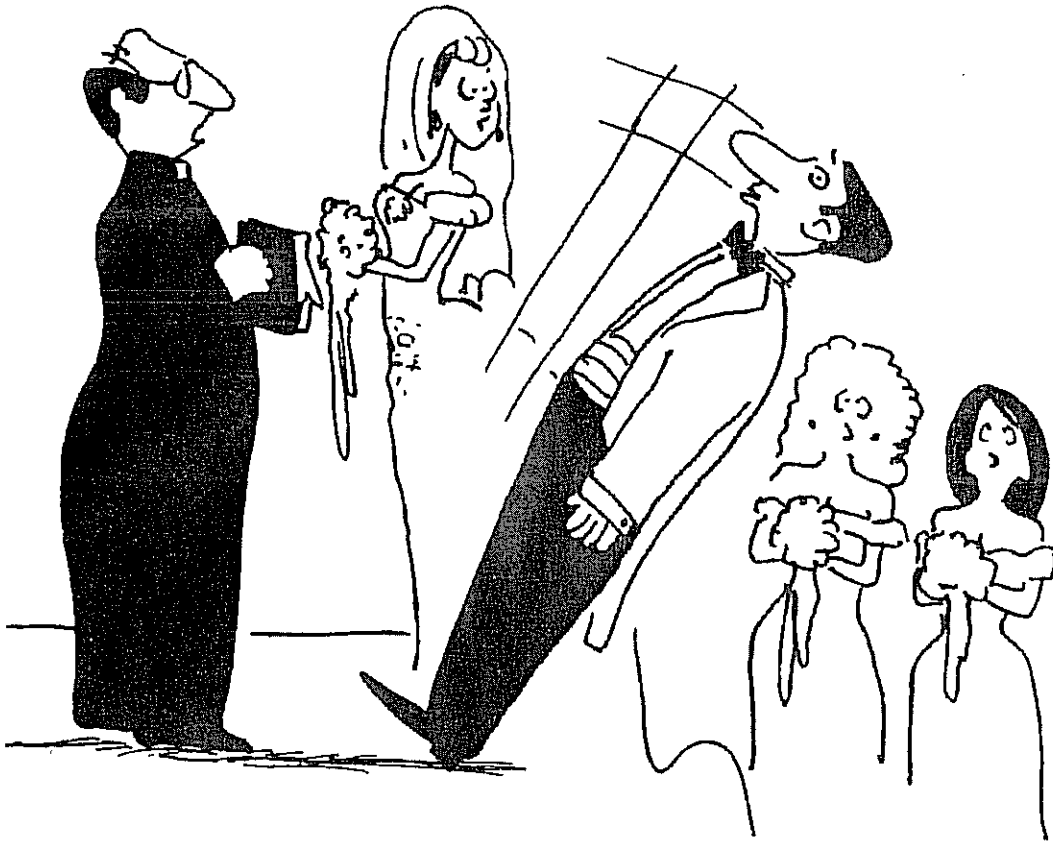
- ❑ The only hotel with rooms available was a **SLEAZY** fleabag.
- ❑ Many tabloids are essentially **SLEAZY** gossip about celebrities.
- ❑ James bought a **SLEAZY** raincoat that leaked when it rained.

FALTER

(FALL tur)

to become weaker;
to be unsteady

Sounds like: **ALTAR**



*"The groom **FALTERED** at the **ALTAR**."*

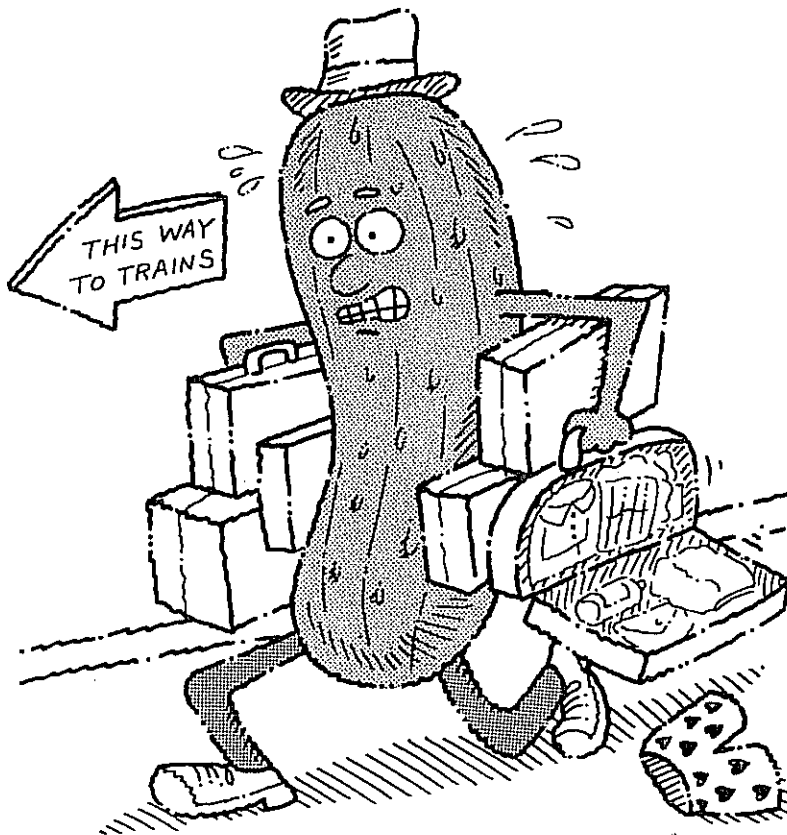
- ❑ Paul's determination **FALTERED** when he saw the size of the mountain he hoped to climb.
- ❑ Tony stammered and **FALTERED** when it came his time to speak to the class.
- ❑ The swimmers **FALTERED** as the waves pushed them back.

ENCUMBER

(en CUM ber)

to weigh down unnecessarily;
to burden; to impede action

Sounds like: **CUCUMBER**



"An ENCUMBERED CUCUMBER."

- ❑ The boy scouts feared their canoe trip might be **ENCUMBERED** by a storm that afternoon.
- ❑ Favored to win the mile race, Stephanie came in second because she was **ENCUMBERED** by an in-grown toenail.
- ❑ His home was **ENCUMBERED** by a loan from the local bank.

EMBED

(im BED)

firmly fixed in a surrounding mass

Sounds like: **IN BED**



"You can get **EMBEDDED IN BED** when you jump on it."

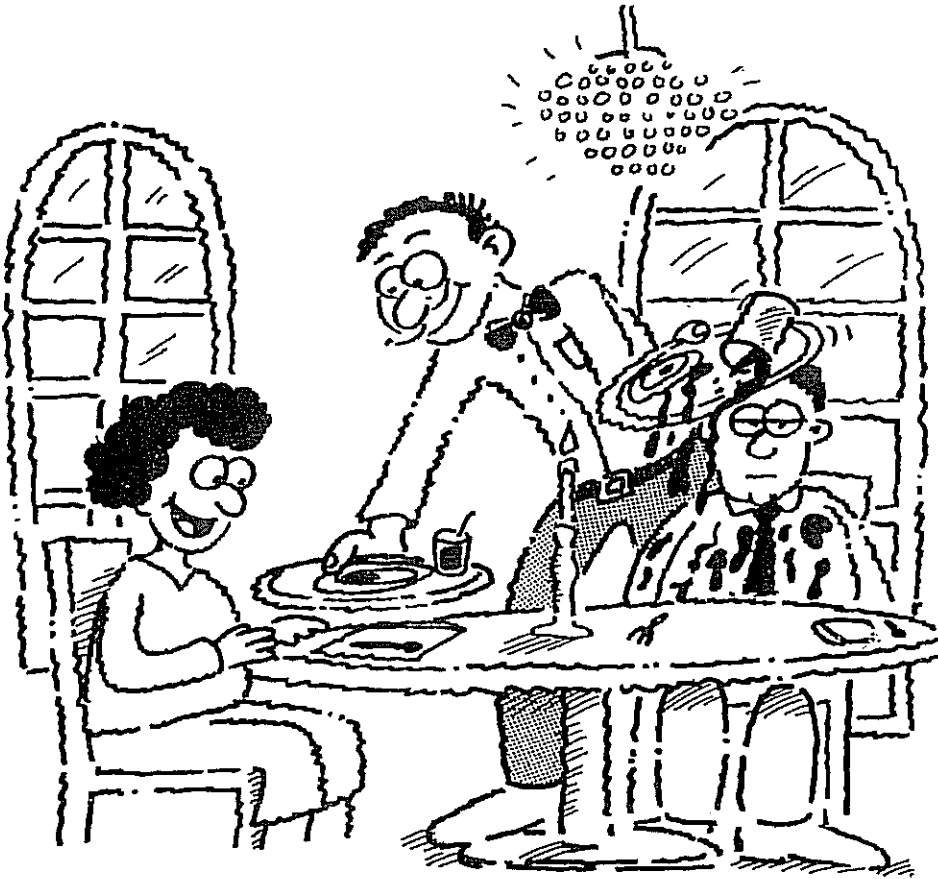
- ❑ To **EMBED** wire in concrete will make the concrete stronger.
- ❑ A splinter was deeply **EMBEDDED** in Rachel's finger.
- ❑ Telephone poles are **EMBEDDED** deep in the ground so that they won't fall over.

OBTAIN

(ub TAIN)

to gain possession of; to acquire

Sounds like: **STAIN**



*"The clumsy waiter helped Joe **OBTAIN** a **STAIN**."*

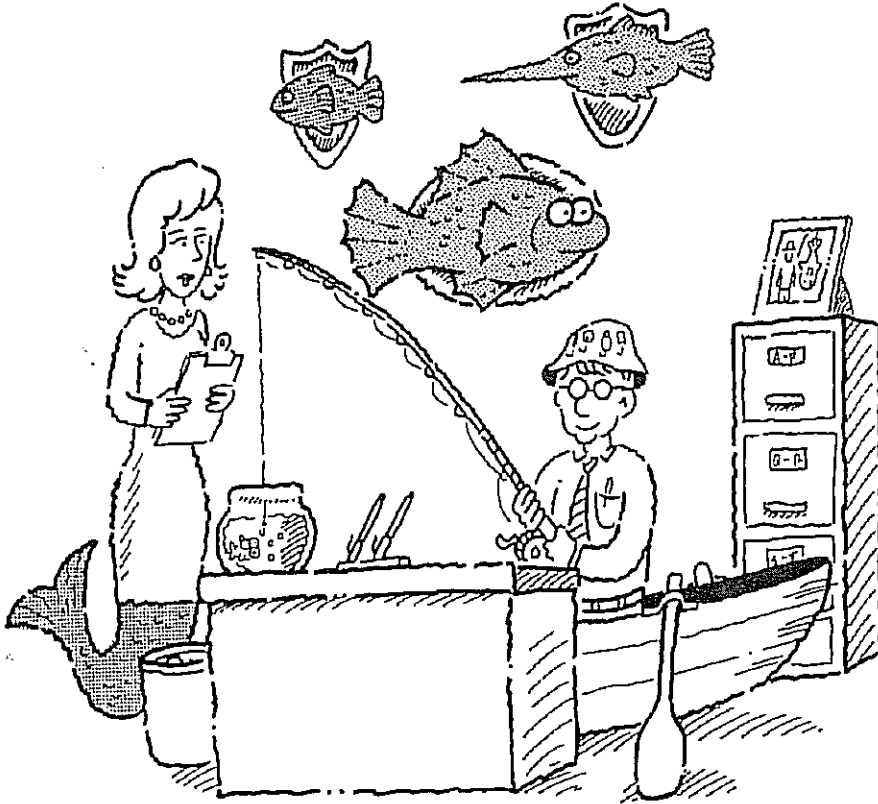
- ❑ Henry **OBTAINED** permission to go swimming with his friends.
- ❑ Walter wanted to know the best way to **OBTAIN** a pass to the zoo.
- ❑ **OBTAINING** the ability to speak a second language makes it easier to travel abroad.

INTUITION

(IN TU ish un)

knowledge gained without
reasoning or proof

Sounds like: **INTO FISHIN'**



*"It didn't take **INTUITION** to know
Mr. Smith was **INTO FISHIN'**."*

- Joe said his **INTUITION** tells him the robbers will try again this week.
- Mary was a very **INTUITIVE** salesperson and knew how to sell her products.
- Allison's **INTUITION** told her not to drive to the grocery store while it was raining.