

Baseball Pig

There is a little pig. The pig wants to be a baseball player. Everyday, he practices baseball. He practices hitting a baseball. He wants to be a **big hitter**.

After 10 years of practice, the pig decides to **try out for** the New York Yankees-- the most famous baseball team in America. He takes a **direct flight** to New York, then rents a car and drives to Yankee Stadium.

He **tries out** for the Yankees, but the Yankees **reject** him. The Yankees' manager says, "I'm sorry. You are an amazing baseball player, but we can't let a pig join our team."

The pig is very unhappy. He goes home and cries everyday. Finally, his friend says to him, "**Come on, get a grip!** Stop crying and try again with another team."

The pig listens to his friend. He stops crying. He practices baseball everyday.

One day, he is reading the newspaper and he **finds out** that the San Francisco Giants need new baseball players. The pig immediately flies to San Francisco.

He **tries out** for the Giants. The Giants are very **impressed with** the pig. The manager says, "Wow, you are the best **hitter** I have ever seen". The Giants **hire** the pig and pay him 2 dollars.

In his first game, the pig hits 5 **home runs!** Everyone in San Francisco loves the pig! The Giants give him a big **raise**. They pay him 540 million dollars!

The pig is rich, famous, and happy.

Vocab/Phrases

big hitter: someone who can hit a baseball very far (ie. a strong hitter)

to try out (for): to try to get a job (usually used in sports or other performance jobs)

direct flight: a flight with no stops, (an airplane trip with no stops)

to reject: to say "no" to, to refuse

"come on": (idiom) "hurry", "do [something] now"-- (always used as a command)

get a grip: control your emotions, calm down (be calm), control yourself

to find out: to learn, to discover (new information)

impressed with: think (someone/something) is great

hitter: a person who hits

to hire: to give a job (to someone)

home run: the biggest hit in baseball, (idiom) a very big success

a raise: a pay increase, an increase in money (for a job)

Evil English Teacher

There's an **evil** English teacher. He's a very bad teacher.

He comes into his class. The students're sitting at their desks, waiting for him.

The teacher says to the class, "Everyday, we'll study English grammar. If you make a mistake, I'll hit you with a stick"

Then the teacher opens his textbook. He says, "Today we we'll learn the Past Perfect Progressive verb tense, **as well as** the Future Conditional."

He points to a girl and says, "What's the Past Perfect Progressive?"
The girl's very nervous, she says, "I don't know"

As soon as she finishes speaking, the evil teacher jumps across the room with a large stick- and hits her on the head. The girl cries.

The other students are very scared. The teacher points to a boy and says, "What is the Future Conditional".

The boy says nothing.

The teachers says, "**Go ahead--** answer! Now!"

The boy says, "But, but.. we haven't learned it yet"

The evil teacher says, "**In other words**, you don't know it!" He jumps across the room and hits the boy **hard** on the head. The boy cries.

All the students are scared and **miserable**. They **hate** the evil teacher. But they're lucky. One student has a **cell phone**.

She secretly **dials** the number of her friend, AJ.

AJ answers the phone, "Hello"

The student whispers, "This is Kaori. Help us AJ, please help us. An evil English teacher is beating us"

AJ says, "Don't worry, I'll **be right there.**"

AJ jumps on his motorcycle and **speeds** to the school. He runs through the front door, down the hall, and **bursts** into the class.

He says to the evil teacher, "Stop hitting these students, you **bastard!**"

Then he runs across the room. He picks up a desk and hits the evil teacher with it. The evil teacher falls to the floor. He is **beaten**.

AJ looks at Kaori and says, "What do you want me to do with him?"

Kaori says, "Its **up to you**. You decide".

AJ throws the evil teacher out the window and says, "No more evil grammar study. You are free!"

The students **cheer** "Yeah"! Everyone is very happy.

Vocab

evil: very very bad

as well as: in addition to, also

as soon as: when, just after (something happens)

go ahead: begin, start to do something

in other words: say something in a different way, say something more directly

hard: powerfully

miserable: very sad & unhappy

hate: opposite of love, really dislike

cell phone: mobile phone

dials: push numbers on a phone

I'll be right there: I'll arrive soon, I will be there soon

speeds: goes fast, drives very fast

bursts: enters (a room) very fast

bastard: bad person, jerk (NOT polite ;) (used to insult a man)

beaten: defeated

Its up to you: you decide, it is your decision

cheer: to yell (when happy)

Fat Man

There is a fat man. The man is very fat. He weighs 500 pounds (227 kg). When he walks, he always **gets** tired.

The very fat man wants to lose weight. **In fact**, his doctor tells him, "You must lose weight or you will die!"

The fat man is scared. He doesn't want to die. So he starts a diet. For one month, he eats only grass. Of course, the grass tastes terrible. But the man **really** wants to lose weight.

Unfortunately, after one month, he is still very fat. He doesn't lose any weight! Not one pound!

The fat man is **frustrated**. He decides to exercise. Everyday he walks 12 miles (20 km). Everyday he is very tired. In fact, he is **exhausted**.

But after one month, the man is still very fat! Oh no! He is **extremely** frustrated!

He decides **to give up**. He goes to a restaurant. He wants to eat everything, because he is so frustrated.

At the restaurant, he meets a beautiful woman. She likes him. He likes her. They begin **to date**. Every day, the woman cooks healthy food for the fat man. His new girlfriend **makes a difference** in his life.

The fat man loses weight. After 6 months, he weighs only 170 pounds (77 kg)! He is thin and he has a wonderful girlfriend.

The man is **thrilled**. The man and his girlfriend are both thrilled.

Vocab

gets: becomes

in fact: actually; the truth is

really: very much

frustrated: upset or angry because of failure

exhausted: very, very tired

extremely: very, very

to give up: to quit

to date: to be boyfriend & girlfriend

makes a difference: causes a change in a situation

thrilled: very excited and happy

Female seeks Male

Julia was 12 years old. Her best friend Betsy was 13. Summer was almost over. School was about to start. Julia and Betsy were **about to** eat lunch at TacoBell. Betsy decided that Julia needed a boyfriend.

“But why?” asked Julia. “I’m okay without one. What good is a 12-year-old boy? All they’re interested in is playing baseball or riding their skateboards. Where does a girl **fit into that picture**?”

“Don’t be silly,” replied Betsy. “**As to** 12-year olds, forget about them. They’re **immature**. You should have someone **more experienced**— you’ll be **better off** with someone at least 13 years old. Someone who will carry your books and walk you to your classes. You need someone who’ll give you a **Valentine’s Day** card and remember your birthday.

“I’ve got a backpack to carry my books, and I know where all my classes are. I don’t want a **Valentine’s Day** card from someone I don’t love. I’m too young. **Besides**, you don’t have a boyfriend. Why should I?”

“Because you’re my first **client**. I’ve decided that I’m going to be a **matchmaker** when I grow up.”

“Well, if I’m your first **client**, that means I’ll **probably** be your first mistake. No, thank you.”

Vocabulary

about to: almost ready to do something

fit into that picture: fit in, make sense

as to: with regard to, according to

immature: not mature, childish

more experienced: mature, knowledgeable

better off: better, in a better situation

Valentine’s Day: romantic holiday on February 14th

besides: also, in contrast to

client: customer

matchmaker: a person who tries to match people romantically

probably: likely

Goats being hired

Goats are being hired to do the work of men in a neighborhood outside of San Diego. The fires that **occurred** in the neighborhood four years ago burned thirty homes. Most of the homes have been rebuilt. While **contractors** were rebuilding the homes, nature was **regrowing** the grasses, bushes, and shrubs. The area is **once again** overgrown with **brush** that **poses** a major fire hazard.

The city council asked for bids to remove the **brush**. The lowest bid they received was \$50,000. And that was if the city provided breakfast and lunch for the work crews for six weeks. The city **countered** and offered unlimited coffee and a doughnut a day for each crew member. When that offer was rejected, the city asked for help on its website.

A **sheep herder** in Montana and a **goat herder** in San Bernardino read about the city's **plight**. They read about it while **surfing the web** on their laptops. They both offered to do the job for \$25,000. The council chose the **goat herder** because he lived closer.

If all goes well, they will invite the **goat herder** and his goats back every three years. The **goat herder** said he will probably visit San Diego while his goats are working. "I want to take one of those **hang-glider** rides. I just hope we don't crash. My goats would **end up** missing me a lot," he said.

Vocabulary

occurred: happened

contractors: builders, companies that build

regrowing: grow again

once again: again

brush: small plants, weeds

poses: is, presents

countered: counter offer, negotiation

sheep herder: sheep owner, farmer

goat herder: goat owner, farmer

plight: problem

surfing the web: using the internet

hang-glider: un-powered plane

end-up: do something unplanned or unexpected

Green Peanut Butter

There is a guy. He wants to drink 12 cups of green peanut butter. He needs green peanut butter. So he goes to **Starbucks**. He tells the **clerk**, "I'll have 12 large cups of green peanut butter". The clerk says, "We don't have green peanut butter at Starbucks-- we only serve blue peanut butter".

The guy is **upset**. He leaves Starbucks. He goes to Greenland. When he gets to Greenland, he immediately goes to another coffee shop. He tells the clerk, "I'll have 12 large cups of green peanut butter". The clerk is surprised and says, "We don't have green peanut butter in Greenland.... but, we make the best purple peanut butter in the world. Its **to die for!**"

The guy orders a cup of purple peanut butter, and it **tastes great**. However, he still wants green peanut butter. He asks the clerk, "Where can I find green peanut butter".

The clerk says, "Try Chapel Hill, North Carolina... its **famous for** its green peanut butter."

The guy's excited. He takes the first available flight to Chapel Hill. After landing, he immediately goes to a coffee shop to **look for** green peanut butter.

He says to the clerk, "I'll take 12 cups of green peanut butter. **Make sure** they are large cups!"

The clerk makes 12 huge cups of green peanut butter. Each cup is one gallon [~4 liters]. The clerk puts all 12 huge cups of green peanut butter on the table. The guy drinks them all in 20 seconds!

At the table next to him, a woman watches **with wide eyes** as the guy drinks the green peanut butter. She tells her friend, "**Get a load of** that guy, he's drinking green peanut butter!"

The man's stomach grows very big. He instantly gains 264 pounds (120 kg)! He smiles to the women at the next table as he leaves the coffee shop.

He returns home. He is fat and happy because he finally found green peanut butter!

Mama's Boys

Sara recently **retired** from her job of 23 years. Because she retired, Sara has less money than she **used to**. She has enough money for herself, but she has a problem.

She has 2 sons. One is 23 and the other is 26. Both sons work. However, they both live at home with their mom. They eat her food and expect her to cook for them. They also expect Sara to clean their rooms. The boys never do any chores at all. Also, they don't pay for food or anything else. In short, they are **mama's boys**.

Sara is **sick of** the situation. She thinks, "They're adults. They should be living on their own, not still living with their mother. I'm going to **kick them out**."

During dinner that night, Sara tells the boys, "It's time for you two to **take responsibility**. You can't live with me anymore. I'm not going to cook for you. I'm not going to clean for you. You need to **grow up** and get your own apartments!"

The boys are very upset. They complain. They **rant and rave--** "You're a terrible mom. How can you do this. We're your children. It's not fair." The boys continue to rant and rave for 57 hours without stopping. But Sara **won't budge**.

She tells them, "You have 1 month to find your own apartment. No more **whining--** just do it." Then Sara leaves the room.

The next day, the boys come to the kitchen for breakfast-- but there's no food. Sara refuses to cook for them. She says, "You have jobs-- get your own food and make it yourself." The boys can't believe it!

This happens everyday. The boys gradually lose weight because they won't cook for themselves. Finally, on the 28th day, they look for an apartment. They find a 2 bedroom for \$750 a month. They sign a one year **lease**.

They rush home to tell their mother. They're very excited because this will be their first apartment. They tell their mom, "We did it. We found an apartment. We'll **move in** tomorrow."

Sara says, "I'm very proud of you. You're finally becoming independent."

The next day, the boys move in. They have a big party with their friends. In fact, every night they have parties at their apartment. They're very happy because now they have their own place-- and they can have parties all the time! Sara is happy too, because her boys are finally growing up.

Vocab

retired: stopped working

used to: than (she) did in the past, once did/had

mama's boys: immature adult men, boy/man who is too dependent on his mom (an insult)

sick of: tired of, no longer like a situation, annoyed with

kick them out: make someone leave, force someone to leave

take responsibility: be independent, be responsible

to grow up: become mature, become an independent adult

rant and rave: to complain & yell a lot

won't budge: will not change (a decision)

whining: complaining

lease: a contract (for an apartment)

move in: to move into a new place, to go to a new home

Man Injured at Fast Food Restaurant

There is a man. He is 79 years old. He is hurt while waiting in his **brand new** car. He is in a drive-through at a fast-food restaurant.

The man gets a mild burn when **all of a sudden** an employee spills coffee on him. The man says, "OW, this coffee is REALLY hot".

The restaurant manager feels very bad. Before the man **drives off** the manager gives him a free gallon of coffee and a free sandwich. The employee who spilled the coffee is a **new hire**. She is **let go** for her mistake.

Present : Past Versions of verbs:

is: was

waiting: was waiting

gets: got

spills: spilled

says: said

feels: felt

drives off: drove off

gives: gave

is let go: was let go

Sick In India

I'm in India, travelling **by myself**. Its a great place and I love it. I arrive in a town called Jodhpur. Though I like the country, I have a big problem.

I ate some bad food . Now my stomach is bad. Everyday, my stomach gets worse. In the beginning, I only had **nausea**. I lost my **appetite**. But now I've got **diarrhoea** and **vomiting** too. I feel terrible.

However, I want to see Jodhpur, so I leave my hotel and walk into the city. The city is filled with old stone buildings. Some of the buildings are painted blue. I **make my way** to a huge hill in the middle of the city. On top of the hill is a big fort. I **hail a cab** to take me to the top of the hill.

When I arrive, I walk around the fort. The views from the top are amazing. I can see the whole city. I'm walking when suddenly I get a **sharp pain** in my stomach.

"Ohhh", I cry. I sit down. My skin is **pale**. I feel weak.

A British tourist comes over and asks me, "Are you OK?"

"No", I say. "I think I need to see a doctor".

The British woman says, "Ill help you... I'll take you to a doctor".

We walk out of the fort and find a taxi. We tell the taxi driver, "Take us to the nearest hospital". The taxi driver looks at me and says, "You don't look good. You look very white- **sorta** like a ghost. You definitely need a doctor."

He drives fast-- down the hill, through the streets, to a small hospital.

We go into the hospital. The British girl says, "He needs to see a doctor, he's very sick".

The nurse gives me some papers and says, "**Fill out** these forms. Be sure to **fill in** all the information correctly". There are 78 pages to fill out. Each page has 67 blanks to fill in.

"Oh my god", I say, "I'm too sick to do this. I want to see the doctor now".

The nurse says, "You must fill out all the forms first!"

I'm too sick to do it. So instead, I fall on the floor and act **as if** I'm having a **seizure**! I kick my legs, wave my arms, and yell really loud.

The nurse says, "Oh my god." She runs and gets the doctor. They take me in a room and the doctor **examines** me.

He says, "You'll be OK, but you can't eat any more Indian curries. You can only eat bananas and white rice".

He gives me a big banana. I eat it and I'm very happy. My stomach feels much better.

Vocab

by myself: alone

nausea: bad feeling in stomach, no desire to eat, upset stomach

appetite: desire to eat

diarrhoea: uncontrolled shitting, too much defecating

vomiting: throwing up, (food comes up from your stomach and out your mouth)

make my way: go (slowly)

hail a cab: call a taxi

a sharp pain: a very strong pain in a specific part of the body

pale: without color, colorless

sorta [sort of]: kind of, a little bit like

fill out: write information in/on

fill in: write information in/on

as if: like, similar to, pretending to

seizure: uncontrolled body movements

examines: looks at carefully

Starving Bug

There's a bug. He's a very, very big bug. He's hungry. In fact, He's **starving!** So, the giant bug goes to a bug restaurant. This **restaurant's** only for bugs. **No one else** can go. The bug goes into the restaurant.

The **hostess** says, "Hi. How many?"

The giant bug says, "Just one."

The hostess says, "Follow me"

The giant bug follows the hostess. The hostess takes him to a table in the corner. He sits down.

"The **waitress'll** be with you **shortly**", says the hostess.

The giant bug looks at the menu. He's very hungry. He decides to order soup, a salad, a hamburger, a steak, french fries, green beans, and a milkshake. He **puts down** the menu and waits for the waitress.

He waits 5 minutes. The waitress doesn't come. He waits 10 minutes, then 20, then 30 minutes... but the waitress still doesn't come.

Now he's **really starving**. He **waves** his hands to **get the waitress' attention**. Finally, after 39 minutes, she comes to his table.

She says, "Can I take your order?"

The bug says, "Yes! **I'd like** a large vegetable soup, a salad, 3 hamburgers, 2 steaks, french fries, and green beans."

The waitress says, "Would you like anything to drink?"

The bug says, "Ah, yes. I'll have a large milkshake, two Cokes, and a coffee"

The waitress says, "Anything else?"

"No, **that's it**", says the bug.

The waitress leaves and takes the bug's order to the kitchen. The bug waits. He waits 15 minutes... but no food. He waits 19 minutes, but no food. He waits 28 minutes, but no food.

The bug is starving. He wants to eat! He sees the waitress and **calls her over** to his table.

"Excuse me, can you **check on** my food please? I'm starving!", he says.

"Sure", the waitress says.

The waitress returns with a large bowl of vegetable soup.

"The rest of your food is coming soon", she says.

The bug's very happy. He immediately starts eating the soup.

But there's a problem. There's a small person in his soup! He can't believe it.

He yells, "Ahhhh, there's a person in my soup". He throws the bowl on the floor and runs **outta**

the restaurant.

Now he's really **upset**, and he's still starving! The bug runs to McDonalds. He gets 47 hamburgers and eats them all.

He smiles and says, "Ahhh, **I'm full**. I **couldn't eat another bite**."

He's very happy because he got some food **at last**.

Vocab

starving: very hungry

restaurant's: restaurant is

no one else: no other "person" (in this story: no other kind of animal)

hostess: person who greets customers at a restaurant, person who brings people to tables

waitress'll: waitress will

shortly: in a short time, soon

puts down: puts (it) on the table

really starving: super hungry!

waves: moves his hand

get the waitress' attention: make the waitress see (him)

I'd like: I would like, I want

that's it: that is everything, that's all

calls her over: calls her to come to him, calls her to his table

check on: check the situation (with), ask about, see what is happening (with)

outta: out of

upset: emotional (not happy)

I'm full: my stomach is full, I have eaten a lot

I couldn't eat another bit: I'm very full, I can't eat more

at last: finally

Super Cow

There is a girl. She is a beautiful blond. Her name is Buffy and she lives on a farm with vampire cows. The cows love to suck blood! Dracula (King of the Vampires) once owned them!

One day, there is a powerful rainstorm! It **lasts** 7 days! The rain turns into a big river **flowing** by Buffy's farm. She moves her cows to higher ground. But she slips and hits her head on a giant tree. The fall **knocks her out** for **a moment or two**. When she **comes to**, Xander is licking her face. Xander is her favorite cow.

The water **rises**. Buffy gets up and walks with Xander. The water is now **waist high**. Buffy is tired. Finally she throws her arm around Xander's neck and **hangs on**. 27 minutes pass and Xander pulls Buffy out of the water. They are on a small island in the middle of the big river.

It is noon. The sky is dark and it rains very hard. **Rescuers discover** Buffy **right away**. A plane takes her to the emergency room at the hospital.

Two days later, Buffy **goes back** to the island. Xander is gone. He is one of 17 vampire cows that Buffy loses. Buffy cries and cries. Buffy says "I owe my life to him **after all!!!**" "He saved me."

Vocab Phrase: Meaning

knocks her out: loses consciousness (not awake)

a moment or two: very little time

comes to: wakes up

waist high: 2 or 3 feet high

hangs on: holds

right away: quickly

goes back: returns

after all: in fact (after everything that happened)

Eat Your Vegetables?

The U.S. federal government, displaying even less sense than usual, is **yielding to** the French fry industry. Frozen French fries—cut, fried in oil, and then packaged—are being approved as “fresh vegetables” by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The French fry industry has been asking the USDA for years to get this approval. They say that their product is similar to cucumbers that have **wax** on them. They argue that they use 100 percent vegetable oil, which is much healthier for consumers than plain wax.

Most **consumers**, of course, **beg to differ**. “You must be joking,” says Annie, 50. “How can you think a product that’s deep-fried in oil is a fresh vegetable? Even if I cooked broccoli, I could **no longer** call it fresh broccoli—it’s cooked! I wish I were a big company, so my congressman would help me. Unfortunately, I’m only a citizen.”

The USDA defends its decision, saying that potatoes **undeniably** are vegetables. “Although French fries are fried in oil, they are still potatoes. If you let them sit on your counter for a couple of weeks,” a USDA employee said, “the fries will rot just like all other fresh vegetables.”

Consumers say the USDA has totally **lost touch** with the public. “They’d probably say that eggshells are healthy if a company asked them to,” says one consumer.

Vocab Phrase: Meaning

yielding to: agreeing

wax: polish

consumers: buyers, the public

beg to differ: disagree

no longer: not, no more

undeniably: without a doubt, no doubts

lost touch: don’t understand

Green Tea

There is a frog. She lives in Austin, Texas. The frog **really** loves tea. Everyday, she drinks 85 cups of tea. Her favorite tea is green tea.

One day, she meets a Japanese man. The man tells the frog, "If you love green tea, you should go to Japan. Japan has the best green tea in the world".

The frog is very excited. Unfortunately, she doesn't have any money. She needs money to buy a plane ticket to Japan. She wants to buy a **Japan Rail Pass as well**.

So she goes to her Mom. She asks her mother, "Can you please give me 4000 dollars. I want to go to Japan to drink green tea".

Her mother says, "**Are you crazy?** I don't have 4000 dollars".

The frog doesn't **give up**. She goes to her Dad and says, "Dad, can you please give me 4000 dollars. I really want to go to Japan to drink green tea."

Her father says, "I want to help you, **for sure**, but I just don't have the money. **Why don't you** go to the bank and get money."

The frog runs to the bank. She goes inside and looks around. She sees a giant **safe** in the back. She goes to the safe. Because she is a small frog, no one sees her.

She **gets into** the safe, and takes 7462 dollars. Then she leaves the bank. No one sees her.

She buys a **first-class** ticket to Japan, and a Japan Rail Pass.

When she arrives in Kyoto, Japan she immediately goes to a tea **shop**. She buys 126 cups of green tea, and drinks them all.

She smiles and says, "That's the best tea I've **ever** had!"

Vocab

really: very much

Japan Rail Pass: a train ticket for all trains in Japan

"are you crazy": means "your request is unreasonable"

give up: quit

for sure: certainly, surely

why don't you: a polite suggestion

a safe: a place to keep money

gets into: enters, goes inside something

first-class: most expensive ticket

a shop: a store

ever: in all of life (span), from birth until now

Lemon Dog's Lucky Day

Part 1

There is a dog. This dog loves to eat anything with lemons. **As a matter of fact** he only eats food that is made from lemons. His mother is a bulldog and she **raised him vegetarian**. His father is a sheepdog. He is **supposed to** protect the sheep but instead he eats them. He is **nutty as a fruitcake**!

It **turns out** that when Lemon Dog was a puppy he only ate food made from pumpkin. His favorite was **vegan cream of** pumpkin **popsicles**. **As far as** making the **popsicles vegan**, his mother made them with **soy milk**.

Lemon Dog wants to **throw a party**. He decides to **stick with** making everything from lemons. He really wants to make lemon soup, lemon sandwiches, lemon salad, lemon cake, and lemon pie. He needs to buy 36,000 lemons to feed his friends. He knows that they will love his party **as long as** all the food is made from lemons!

He finds his keys and gets into his car... to be continued in Part 2!!!

Vocabulary

as a matter of fact: actually, in fact

raised him: parented, brought him up, taught

vegetarian: lacto-ovo vegetarian: eats plants, eggs, and milk. No meat, fish or flesh.

supposed to: should, ought to

nutty as a fruitcake: crazy, insane, "nuts"

turns out: to be found or known, to prove to be true

vegan: eats plants. No animal products such as meat, fish, flesh, eggs, milk or honey.

cream of: food or soup made with cream

popsicles: frozen juice, type of desert or treat

as far as: with regard to, to the extent or degree of something

soy milk: a type of milk made from soy beans

throw a party: have a party, give a party

stick with: to continue doing something, to not quit something

as long as: provided that, on condition that

Lemon Dog's Lucky Day

Part 2

(Continued from part 1)

Lemon Dog finds his keys and gets into his car....

On his way to the store he has to **get through** a long line of traffic. Luckily, his car is **souped up** and he **gets through** fast!

When he gets to the grocery store he goes to the fruit and vegetable **aisle**. He looks at the shelf of beautiful, sexy, **delicious** lemons. He can tell they are **loaded with** lots of juice. He fills his shopping cart with 36,001 **plump**, juicy lemons.

He pushes his cart **up to** the **cashier** in the **check-out line**. She is **used to** him buying lots of lemons but not thousands of them! She **rings up** his bill on the cash register and it totals \$53,000,000. \$53,000,000!!! "Oh No," says Lemon Dog, "I don't have enough **cash**!" Lemon Dog is very upset; he doesn't know how to **deal with** it.

But, it is his lucky day. The cashier has a **crush on** him. She thinks *he* is beautiful, sexy, and **delicious**. She says "I like you Lemon Dog. If you invite me to your party, I'll **make up the difference**." "Great," says Lemon Dog, "you're invited!" He pays \$40,000,000 and she pays \$13,000,000. Lemon Dog leaves with his lemons and gives the cashier his telephone number.

"Call me!" he says as he smiles and leaves the store....

Vocabulary

on his way: while traveling, during travel

get through/gets through: to complete something, to finish something

souped up: change something to make it faster or more powerful

aisle: row

delicious: tasty, yummy, appealing

loaded with: full of, having a lot

plump: fat, full

up to: near, next to

cashier: teller, clerk

check-out line: a line of people waiting to pay

used to: accustomed to

rings up: add up costs, total

cash: money

deal with: to take action about something

crush on: to like or love, to be romantically attracted to

make up the difference: pay for part of the cost, pay for the remainder

Mosquitos

Will Smith has a problem. His house is full of mosquitos. Every night they bite him. He can't sleep because the mosquitos **constantly** bite him.

Will needs to **get rid of** the mosquitos. He calls his friend David Beckham. He says, "Dave, I need help. I need **to come up with** a way to kill mosquitos-- do you have any ideas?"

David says, "Well, you could spray them or you could burn them. **I'd go with** spraying, **if I were you.**"

Will Smith goes to a Hardware store and buys a powerful mosquito spray. He returns home and sprays the chemical everywhere.

Unfortunately, he breaths the chemical. He coughs and coughs and coughs. Even worse, the mosquitos don't die.

He calls his friend Chris Moses. Chris says, "**In order to** kill mosquitos, you must eat garlic. When the mosquitos bite you, they will be killed by the garlic".

Will buys a **huge** bag of garlic at the Grocery store. He eats 49 pounds of garlic.

Then he goes to sleep. During the night, thousands of mosquitos bite him. But they all die because of the garlic.

When Will wakes up, there are thousands of dead mosquitos on the bed.

He yells, "Chris Moses is a **genius!**"

Vocab

constantly: very frequently, very often, almost always

get rid of: destroy something, eliminate, make something disappear

to come up with: to find/produce an idea, answer, or solution

I'd: I would

go with: choose one thing (rather than another)

if I were you: if I was in your situation, if I had your same problem

in order to: for the purpose of

huge: very big, giant, gigantic

a genius: a very, very smart person, super intelligent person

Movie Star

One day you are walking on the street. You **bump into** Brad Pitt. He looks at you and says, "Wow, you are amazing. Come with me to Los Angeles. I will make you a movie star."

You go to LA and become a famous movie star. You are rich. Everybody loves you. But you have a problem. You are lonely in LA. You miss your friends. So you decide to fly home and visit your friends and family.

You get a first class ticket, because you are rich. However, when you get to the airport, your flight is **delayed**. The ticket agent says, "Im sorry, your flight is delayed 7 and a half hours."

You wait. After 7 and a half hours, an agent says, "Im sorry, but the flight has been cancelled".

You are angry. You yell at the agent, "I've been waiting 7 and a half hours. Im tired and I'm **pissed off**. I want another flight."

The agent **recognizes** you, because you are a famous movie star. She says, "I'm so sorry... we'll get you on another flight." She looks on her computer and finds another flight in 4 hours.

She says, "I have **booked** you on the next flight in 4 hours. Here is your new **boarding pass**."

You take the ticket and wait in a bar. You drink 62 beers and get very **drunk**. 4 hours later, you go to the **gate** to **catch your flight**. But you're drunk, so you walk very slowly.

Because you walk so slowly, you're late and miss your flight! When you get to the gate, the plane is already leaving.

You yell, "**Dammit**, I missed my flight". You're drunk and angry. The agent is afraid. She calls airport **security**.

26 security officers run to the gate. They grab you and take you away. However, one officer recognizes you. He says, "Wow. You are a famous movie star".

The officers are all very happy to meet you. They say, "We will help you. We have a police airplane and we can fly you home".

You are very happy. All of you have a big party inside the police airplane. 6 hours later, you finally arrive home. You are very drunk, and very happy.

Vocab

bump into: meet (accidentally, unexpectedly)

movie star: a famous actor

delayed: late

pissed off: very angry

recognizes: knows

to book: to make a reservation

boarding pass: ticket with seat number (used to get on a plane)

gate: door (where you go to get on the plane)

catch (your) flight: get (your) flight

dammit: (shows strong emotion)

security: private police

Roach Vacation

There is a **roach**. She's a very busy roach because she has her own radio show. Her radio show is very famous. Millions of people listen to the roach's radio show.

But the roach is unhappy. She has to work too much. She is super busy all the time. Every day she gets up at 5 am, and she leaves work at 11pm. Then she **drives** home for 1 hour. She usually **ends up** going to bed at 1 am.

One day, she is talking to her best friend and she says, "I can't **go on** like this. I want to relax. I want to just **hang out** and do nothing all day." Her friend says, " You need a vacation".

So, the roach goes on vacation. She calls a travel agent and **books** a flight to Kansas.

When she arrives in Kansas she goes to a roach **motel**. But there is a problem. The clerk says, "I'm sorry, we are **booked solid**. We have no rooms."

The roach is very tired, so she **grabs a cab** and goes to another motel. Unfortunately, it is also booked solid!

Now the roach is worried. She wants to hang out and relax on her vacation, but instead she is very worried and nervous.

She goes to another motel, and then another... but they are all full! The roach spends all day looking for a hotel with a room. She travels all over Kansas. She is **exhausted**!

Finally, at midnight, she finds a hotel with a room. She pays for the room and goes to bed.

The next day she doesn't get up early. She **sleeps in till** (until) 3 pm.

At last, she's able to relax! Her vacation finally **works out**!

Vocab

roach: a bug

ends up: finally (do something), (shows the last event)

hang out: relax and do nothing

books (to book): to make a reservation, to reserve (and buy)

motel: a hotel (with a lot of parking for cars)

booked solid: full (no available rooms)

grabs a cab: gets a taxi (cab = taxi)

exhausted: very, very tired

sleeps in: to sleep late (to sleep a long time), to sleep later than normal

till: until

at last: finally

works out: succeeds, is OK,

SWEET DREAMS

No **Sweet Dreams** for Couple at **Bedtime**

DEAR **DR.** ELLIS:

I'm married. Every night my husband "tells" me when it's time for us **to retire for the night**. This can be anytime from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

If I tell him that I'm **ready for bed** he gets **upset**. If he's ready to **get into** bed, and I want to finish a book I'm reading, he gets upset.

According to him, married men and women should go to bed "together," **period!** It is always on his **timetable**. **Needless to say**, we **have gone** to bed angry many times.

How do we **figure it out** without getting angry and **resenting** each other?

TIRED OF BEING TIRED, **Des Moines, Iowa**

Vocab

sweet dreams: good sleep

bedtime: sleeping time, time when you go to sleep

Dr: doctor (person with a Phd degree)

to retire: to rest

to retire for the night: to go to bed

ready for bed: ready to sleep

upset: very unhappy, emotional

get into bed: go onto, go to sleep

according to him: in his opinion

period: definitely, absolutely

timetable: schedule

needless to say: obviously, of course

have gone: were (several times in the past until now)

figure it out: find an answer, find a solution

resenting: angry (about something in the past)

Des Moines: a town

Iowa: a state (in the USA)



Effortless English

Cafe Puccini

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spot: place

immigrants: foreigners who come to live in a (new) country

period: time

served as: was

literary: re: writing and books

renaissance: a time of artistic improvement; a time of art (and science)

in particular: specifically

developed: made, created

style: way of doing something

challenged: disagreed with

conservative: traditional; old; against change

uniquely: specially; not like others

liberal: new; wanting change and improvement; open

credit: compliment; identify

renaissance: a time of great art (and science)

various: different, some

focal point: center point; gathering place

the movement: a change in society; a group trying to change society

anarchist: political group that is against authority and control

made history: became famous; did something famous

controversial: creates conflict or disagreement

shocked: surprised and angered

mainstream: normal (society, culture)

independent publishers: a small bookstore or publisher (not a chain)

wealthier residents: richer people (living in the neighborhood)

the literary scene: the writing situation (in the city)

entrepreneurs: businesspeople who start and own a business

My favorite **spot** in San Francisco is Cafe Puccini- located in the North Beach neighborhood of the city. North Beach has a long and interesting history. It was originally the neighborhood for Italian **immigrants** in the city- and even today it has many Italian people, cafes, and restaurants. As a kid, the famous baseball player Joe Dimaggio lived in North Beach.

The most famous **period** for the neighborhood, however, was in the late 1950s and the 1960s--when North Beach **served as** the center of San Francisco's **literary renaissance**. **In particular**, North Beach was home to the Beat writers and poets. The Beats **developed** a new, free, open **style** of writing. They also **challenged** the **conservative** society of America in the 50s, and helped create San Francisco's **uniquely liberal** culture. Many **credit** the Beats as the fathers and mothers of the 1960s cultural **renaissance** in America.

Among the most famous Beat writers were Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Gary Snyder- all of whom lived in North Beach at **various** times in their lives. The **focal point** of **the movement** was City Lights Bookstore- owned by the **anarchist** poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. In the 1950s, City Lights **made history** when they published Allen Ginsberg's **controversial** poem "Howl"- which **shocked mainstream** Americans at the time. Soon after, Jack Kerouac followed with his books "On The Road" and "The Dharma Bums"-- and the Beat movement was born. Ferlinghetti is still the owner of the bookstore, and City Lights is still a popular **independent publisher**.

And North Beach is still home to artists and writers, although it has become much more expensive and now attracts **wealthier residents** as well as tourists. Even though **the literary scene** is not what it used to be- North Beach still has many family owned cafes. You'll find artists, writers, poets, **entrepreneurs**, musicians, businesspeople, and tourists relaxing together in them.

www.effortlessenglish.com

named after: given the same name as someone or something
composer: someone who writes music
hold: have; do
animated: emotional; having a lot of movement and gestures

to mind: to be bothered; to care

the intersection: where two (or more) streets cross each other

hurry: rush; make you leave quickly

My favorite is Cafe Puccini, which is **named after** the Italian opera **composer**. The cafe owner is Italian. He often plays opera music, and every day he sits at a table in the back and chats with his friends. They **hold long animated** conversations in Italian, adding to the music of the place.

I go to that cafe often. I usually get a mocha, find a small table, and then write articles for Effortless English. Sometimes I study a little Spanish or Japanese. Sometimes I read. Sometimes I just watch the people walk by the windows. The staff never seems **to mind** that I stay a long time- they are always friendly.

On sunny days I sit at a table on the sidewalk, but now, during the winter, I stay indoors.

If you get a chance to visit San Francisco, stop by Cafe Puccini. Its located near **the intersection** of Columbus and Vallejo streets, in North Beach. Be sure to bring a book by Kerouac or Ginsberg. Sit , enjoy the opera music, and relax for a while. No one will **hurry** you.

Learn More:

North Beach

<http://www.sfnorthbeach.org/>

Jack Kerouac

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Kerouac

Allen Ginsberg

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen_Ginsberg

Gary Snyder

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Snyder

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swept off my feet: idiom. fall in love very strongly

need some space: idiom. need time alone, need time away from other people

into my career: idiom. focused on my job, concentrating on my job

nonverbal: adj. not speech, not related to speaking

tone: n. intonation, pitch

ain't: v. (casual) am not, are not, is not

wanna: v. want to

hurt your feelings: idiom. make you feel upset or sad or hurt

that's where I come in: idiom. that's when I begin, that's where I start

open her eyes: idiom. make her understand, make her realize

sweep any woman off her feet: idiom. make any woman fall in love with (him, you)

needs the right broom: joke. needs the right technique (he's joking about the different meanings of the word "sweep" here).

Basic principles:

No woman wakes up saying: "God, I hope I don't get **swept off my feet** today."

Now, she might say, "This is a really bad time for me."

Or something like, "I just **need some space**." Or my personal favorite: "I'm really **into my career** right now."

You believe that? Neither does she. You know why? Because she's lying to you, that's why. You understand me? Lying.

It's not a bad time for her. She doesn't need any space.

She may be into her career... but what she's really saying is, "Get away from me now." Or possibly, "Try harder, stupid." Well, which one is it?

60 % of all human communication is **nonverbal**-- Body language.

30% is your **tone**. So that means that 90% of what you're saying... **ain't** coming out of your mouth.

(Toby! Shit!)

Of course she's gonna lie to you. She's a nice person; she doesn't **wanna hurt your feelings**. What else is she gonna say? She doesn't even know you. Yet.

Luckily, the fact is, that just like the rest of us... even a beautiful woman doesn't know what she wants-- until she sees it.

And **that's where I come in**.

My job is to **open her eyes**.

(Toby! Oh, my God! Is this what you're looking for?)

Basic principles: No matter what, no matter when, no matter who.. any man has a chance to **sweep any woman off her feet**.

Just **needs the right broom**.

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