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THE APPLE-SAUCE CHRONICLES

LOUIS PHILLIPS
New York, New York

In his excellent book on formula jokes, Jokes (Delacorte, 1983), Paul Dickson comments that What's the Difference? jokes, a blend of conundrum and pun, can be found in very old joke books. Some of the examples below are homonymic in nature; others reverse the first and last parts of the name; yet others are spoonergrams.

What is the difference between

music by Camille Saint-Saëns and a stupid skeleton?
One is a Danse Macabre, the other is a macabre dance

a lock on a liquor cabinet and a top base stealer?
One is a brew lock, the other is a Lou Brock

a pacifist and the author of On the Beach?
One will never shoot, the other is Neville Shute

ea house of ill repute and the author of Les Fleurs du Mal?
One is a lair of bawdy, the other is Baudelaire

the capital of Louisiana and a knavish conductor?
One is Baton Rouge, the other is a rogue baton

certain 1947 movie and curses by the Rosemary's Baby heroine?
One is the Foxes of Harrow, the other are the hexes of Farrow

a doorman and a fashion designer?
One closes doors, the other adores clothes

martial law and a person who has no mongrel dogs?
One has a curfew, the other has few curs

a common herb and a Confederate general doing his grammar?
One is parsley, the other is Lee parsing

a priest's white robe and the capital of New York?
One is any alb, the other is Albany

extreme fright and a naughty girl?
One is acute shock, the other is a cute shocker

the number thirteen and a sleepy pastry cook?
One is a baker’s dozen, the other is a dozing baker

a twin with a scar and the author of Tom Sawyer?
One is a marked twin, the other is Mark Twain

a person who saves his paycheck and a former Cubs player?
One banks earnings, the other is Ernie Banks

a goof-off and a stable boy?
One horses around, the other is around horses
Superman and a baker with day-old bread?
One is a man of steel, the other is a man of stale
a sacred place and the heroine of Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm?
One is a temple, surely, the other is Shirley Temple
a dentist and the female lead in Star Wars?
One fishes for caries, the other is Carrie Fisher
a United Nations diplomat and a bachelor?
One is UN-attached, the other is unattached
the letter F and the gold statue of Prometheus in New York?
One is at the center of Rockefeller, the other at Rockefeller Ctr
shrimp fried in a beer batter and an antique piece of furniture?
One is dipped in ale, the other is Chippendale
a composition by Khachaturian and a teetotalling moron?
One is the Sabre Dance, the other is a sober dunce
a person with amnesia and a long-distance runner?
One has a lapse of memory, the other a memory of laps
a pool player starting a game, and a lucky casino gambler?
One banks the break, the other breaks the bank
a rug in front of an entrance and a bullfighter?
One is a doormat, the other is a matador
a Brooklyn Bridge salesman and a Vogue magazine illustrator?
One is a can artist, the other is a Conde artist

Although not mentioned by Dickson, the juxtaposition of two appropriate movie titles for a hypothetical double feature is a common type of formula wordplay. A related gambit consists of hypothetical movie titles with appropriate actors or script-writers.

The Grapes of Wrath / The Wild Bunch
The Girl on the Front Page / Libelled Lady
Follow Me Quietly / Hush Hush Sweet Charlotte
Swingtime / The Hanging Tree
The Lady Vanishes / Grand Illusion
The Elephant Man / The Ugly American
Hurricane / Gone With the Wind
Earthquake / California Split
The Iron Man / The Iron Maiden / The Magnet
Hair / Shampoo
Who Done It? / The Servant
I’ll Cry Tomorrow / Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears
Easter Parade / It Happened on Fifth Avenue
Victor Victoria / Hey Boy! Hey Girl!
Giant / You’re a Big Boy Now
Caesar and Cleopatra / Made For Each Other
Broken Arrow / I’ll Fix It!
Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner? / The Iceman Cometh
Second Honeymoon / Brideshead Revisited
Rear Window / I’ll Be Seeing You

Comrade X
Dressed to Kill
Breakfast at Tiffany’s
Seven Bridges
Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice
Which Way to the Circus?
Applause / Do You Take This Man?
The D.I. / Sleeper
On the Beach / Get Out Ya Pfff!
Bananas / Your California Dreaming
Rip Van Winkle / East of Eden
The Old Man / Two Mules
Apocalypse Now / The Iron Man / The Iron Maiden / The Magnet

The Story of Shipwreck / Spider-Man
In Search of / Hair, star
Goldfinger / The Black Bean
Another Pair of Socks and Suits / A Covenant
Oh! Calcutta / Noah and the Whale
The Misses and the Lovers / Maggie, Girl
Cats, stars / Tired Jock
The Discovery / Betrayal, for not
Bound for Glory / The Filling Station
Punning variables is a pain
Comrade X / I Do
Dressed to Kill / Dead Men Don’t Wear Plaid
Breakfast at Tiffany’s / Come and Get It
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers / To Each His Own
Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice / Caesar & Cleopatra / The Deep Six
Which Way to the Front? / Advance to the Rear
Applause / Big Hand for a Little Lady
Do You Take This Stranger? / I Do, I Do
The D.I. / E.T. [weight-watcher’s special]
Sleeper / Z
On the Beach / Paleface
Get Out Your Handkerchiefs / I’ll Cry Tomorrow
Pfiff! / You Said a Mouthful
Bananas / The Egg and I
California Split / All the King’s Men
Rip Van Winkle / The Big Sleep
The Old Maid / Everything’s on Ice
Two Mules for Sister Sara / Are Husbands Necessary?
Apocalypse Now! / Boom!
The Story of the Pay Toilet, starring Johnny Cash
Spider-Man, starring Clifton Webb
In Search of a Diet Soda, starring Tab Hunter
Hair, starring James Beard and Fuzzy St. Knight
Goldfinger, starring Tom Thumb and Pinky Lee
The Blackboard Jungle, starring Victoria Principal
Another Part of the Forest, starring Helen Twelvetrees, Twiggy, and Woody Allen
A Covenant With Death, starring Gene Hackman
Oh! Calcutta!, starring Max Baer
Noah and the Flood, starring Ethel Waters
The Miss Piggy Story, starring Mia Farrow, script by John Suckling
Maggie, Girl of the Streets, script by Anthony Trollope
Cats, starring Kitty Carlisle at the Greenwich Mews
Tired Jockey, starring Rider Haggard
The Discovery of Electricity, starring Ned Sparks
Betrayal, starring Marianne Faithfull
Bound for Glory, script by the Marquis de Sade
The Filling Station, starring Vittorio Gassmann
The Postman Always Rings Twice, starring David Letterman

Punning variations on the names of various real or fictional notables is a perennial sport, as illustrated by the following:

MAAT DILLON ancient Western hero from Egypt
DUNE MARTIN number one crooner from the lost planet of Arrakis
MAX PLANKTON physicist lost in the Bermuda Triangle
GENE SARACEN golfer who attacked Christians in the Crusade Open
NATHAN EXHALE “I regret that I have but one breath to give for my country”
HARPOON MARX the most silent person aboard the Pequod
SOLO-MON lonely wise king
ZORROASTER prophet who cuts a Z in your forehead
**BINGA CROSBY** pygmy singer from Central Africa  
**GABBAI HAYES** Hebrew Western star  
**FILIBUSTER KEATON** long-winded comedian  
**BIANCA JOGGER** runner who uses a breath spray  
**ERICH FROMMAGE** noted writer on the psychology of the big cheese  
**THE POLYURETHANE OF CAWDOR** modern plastic Macbeth  
**CREMONA LISA** violinist with the enigmatic smile  
**ANN CORIOLANUS** Shakespearean burlesque star  
**DAVID FARRAGO** medley of U.S. naval officers  
**BOBBY COXA** hip baseball player  
**BACHELOR** unmarried German composer  
**LUAU BROCK** Hawaiian baseball star who steals feasts  
**PORCELANA TURNER** movie star who fights age spots  
**BABYLON CHANEEY** the ancient world's favorite horror actor  
**DECADESI ARNAZ** Cuban bandleader who performs every ten years  
**PHARAOH FAWCETT** blonde leader of Egypt  
**GWEN VERDUN** French dancer who achieved notoriety during World War I  
**HOOPOE** old bird who wrote The Raven  
**FRANK PERDU** chicken man lost in France  
**MAELSTROM THURMOND** politician in midst of powerful whirlpool  
**ROY CAMPANILE** Brooklyn Dodgers bell ringer  
**BUNNY GOODMAN** Easter jazz musician  
**MERCY CUNNINGHAM** choreographer who shows great compassion  
**QUASI QUOMODO** hunchback who asks in Latin "What's the matter?"  
**AMOS AND ANDES** famous radio comedy team depicting two blacks lost in South America  
**LOTTO LENYA** actress who emcees bingo games  
**CECIL B. CAMILLE** sobbing movie director  
**MOLE BROOKS** underground film maker of comedies  
**STANNUM MUSIAL** the baseball tin man  
**LAX BARKER** loose Tarzan star  
**BLOIS LANE** reporter on the Loire Daily Planet  
**TOM MX** missile cowboy star  
**EDWARD ALGAE** seaweed playwright  
**SPIRO AGNEAU** French lamb-like veep  
**COMANCHE GUEVERA** American Indian revolutionary leader  
**CARAVAN JOHNSON** actor who travels across deserts  
**THE LOAM RANGER** the underground cowboy  
**VECTOR MATURE** favorite movie star of mathematicians  
**PETE MOROSE** sullen superstar  
**CHIPPENDALE EVANS** cowgirl from the last half of the eighteenth century  
**CORTEX RITTER** cerebral cowboy  
**BUCKY ARDENT** passionate shortstop  
**PLYMOUTH ROCK HUDSON** first Pilgrim to make it big in Hollywood  
**VECTOR MATURE** favorite movie star of mathematicians  
**TOM LASORDID** baseball manager with shameful past  
**SIERRA BERNHARDT** mountainous actress of great range

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**KICKSHAW**

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Kicksaws, Brookline, Massachusetts  
Collinear World

Letting A, B, C, ... denote elements in the first column, we number the text of the second column into a sequence A1, A2, A3, ... Likewise, H1, H2, H3, ... respectively. The first coordinate of each element in the third column have to integers, and we can disregard the second coordinate.

If we think of the elements in the second and third columns as being points in two-dimensional space, we can dispense with the second coordinate of each point. Then the relation between the first and second coordinates is a straight line. But there is another set of points that are collinear, for which the second coordinate is zero.

Another set of points is collinear in which the second coordinate is some other constant. Note that the elements in the third column have to integers.

In this case...