

HYDROMORONS

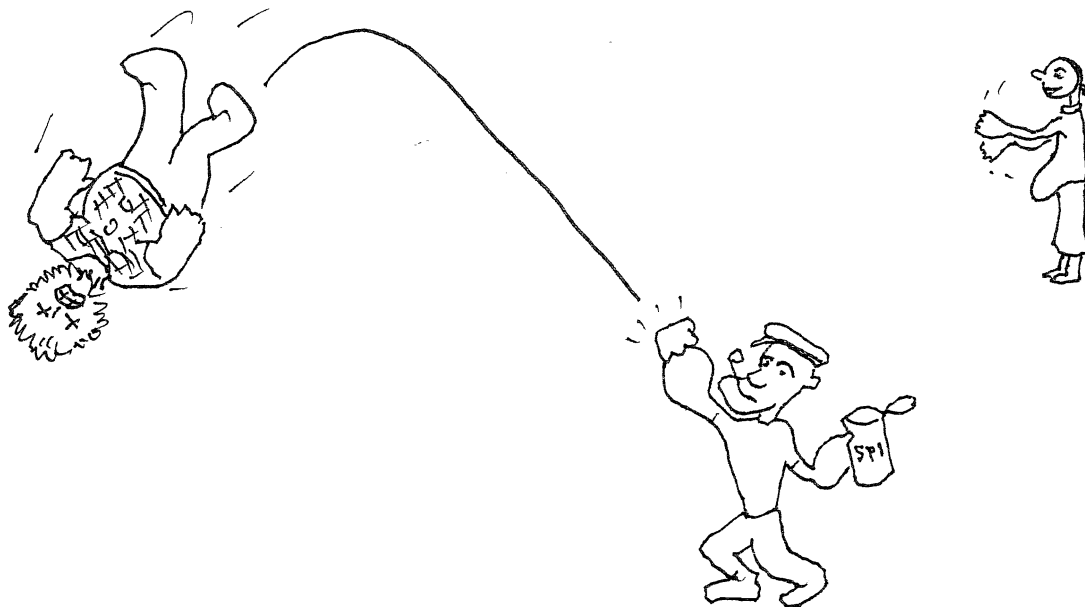
ANIL,
Perth, Australia

Hydromorons complement oxymorons. (H and O are the two extremes on the chemical reactivity or redox scale.) In contrast to the glaring self-contradiction of an oxymoron, a hydromoron is a glaring redundancy like each of the three pairs in this telling headline:

BLIND FAITH FALSE PRETENSES WREAK HAVOC

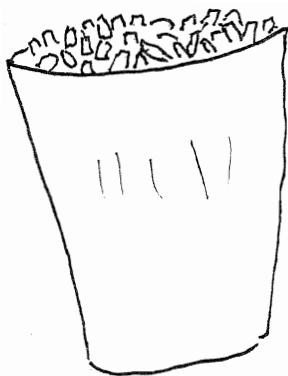
It's fertile ground for word play. You might even be able to use hydromorons to wreak order. Many more examples can be found in the book by Richard Kallan cited in the November issue (10-284), which I haven't seen yet and so may be repeating some of his examples. Anyhoo, here are my favourites, unfortunately laden with snide remarks. I, snide? *Inside!* [I's^NIDE]

AD NAUSEAM	TV ads, junk mail, www, etc (but <i>not</i> skywriting, which is uplifting)
BAD DEBT	Yet, even after 2008, "gurus" say you're an idiot if you're <i>not</i> in debt.
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE	Sweeping schmaltz for all you beautiful cynics out there.
CHINESE PUZZLE	Today's leading enigma, more popular than sudoku.
CLEANING WOMAN	An untidy woman is hard to find. I know, I tried.
DEAD END	But if time travelled backwards we could have a dead start.
DIRTY OLD MEN	All of us. So there. Sorry to have blown the whistle, geezers.
KNOCKOUT DROPS	Down with gravity! Even if you're knocked <i>up</i> by Popeye.

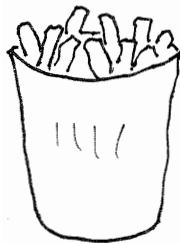


Hydromorons

ENDANGERED SPECIES	Any species, the way we're blindly headed. See headline in intro.
FREE SPIRIT	Not liquor of course, which costs plenty, but equally philosophical.
HAPPY IDIOT	Only an idiot could be happy today. Cheer idiocy , grinning in the face of disaster. So to be happy be an idiot. Stay out of debt.
MOTHER SUPERIOR	Child Inferior accepts this natural pecking order—in theory!
PETTY OFFICER	Sorry, Officer, I didn't mean you, just the others
PIGGY BANK	Where I put my money has a second, leaky slot in the rear.
POLICE FORCE	The Police Dept. saw <i>Star Wars</i> and decided to call itself The Force.
ROBBER BARON	That's the whole point.
SELF-CENTERED	Anatomically correct.
STANDARD DEVIATION	Nobody's perfect. Deviation from the standard is standard.
VIRGIN BIRTH	We're all natural born virgins.
WOMAN SUFFRAGE	Men suffer women and vice versa. Both suffer little children.
SMALL FRY	Except at Big Fries small fries serve large fries, oxymoronically†.



SMALL FRIES



MEDIUM FRIES



LARGE FRIES

† Warning! Hydros and oxys should be mixed with great care. They can explode in your face like rocket fuel and drown your smithereens in watermorons.