ADVICE-VERSA

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Much of what passes for advice is, on examination, self-contradictory. "Never give anyone advice," Don't listen to what others tell you," "God-damn all profanity," and "Avoid iambic meter, son" are examples. In the quiz below, thirty bits of paradoxical linguistic "advice" have been split into two parts, the first in the left-hand column and the second in the right-hand one. Can you re-combine each half with its illogical mate? Answers are found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1 punctuate
2 never use
3 vulgarity
4 slang's
5 hyphens are
6 the passive voice
7 foreign terms are
8 when dangling,
9 coinages are
10 steer clear

11 don't use

12 cliches are

- 13 stamp out
 14 a writer must limit his
 15 evacuate
 16 it's unacceptable to
 17 give up exaggerating
 18 terminate
 19 shun superfluous
 20 eliminate
- 21 eschew
 22 chuck
 23 watch close
 24 why use
 25 dump mixed metaphors
 26 proofread
 27 just say no
 28 oxymorons are
 29 finish whatever you
 30 mistakes are

- a Latinate verbiage
 b dead as a doornail
 c quasi-operative
 d to slogans
 e sucks
 f no double negatives
 g use of sexist language
 h into lerable
 i colloquialisms
 j don't use participles
- k should be avoided

 1 a no-no
 m malapropisms
 n verboten
 o a bummer
 p redundancy
 q pretty ugly
 r rhetorical questions?
 s contractions
 t euphemisms
- u star
 v obfuscation
 w of rhymes
 x stock phrases
 y your syntax
 z like the plague
 A ever split infinitives
 B carfully
 C at all costs
 D this, sentence properly