

# WRIGHT, WRITE 'RITE' RIGHT

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The May, August and November 1996, Word Ways described the results of a National Public Radio competition of December 1995 in which listeners were challenged to write grammatical and understandable sentences containing the same word four or more times in a row. Some listeners incorrectly assumed that a stutter of sounds would qualify, and constructed sequences of homonyms instead of identically-spelled words. These logologically-interesting results are presented in the following (and final) article. (A few are questionable, relying perhaps on regional pronunciations.)

The machine I advertise ties Ty's ties (Carl Huber)

When golfing safety comes to the fore, "Fore!" for four or more  
golfers is useful and courteous (John Funt)

Susan is dressed as a witch. Which witch? Which witch do you think?

There's only one in the parade (Lovetta Jeffreys)

'The Band' Band banned banned substances from being used in their  
concerts (David Goldfarb, Miriam Weinberg)

That ghoul--will he, will he willy Willie? (Carl Huber)

Let's let merry Mary marry merry Murray (Dave Masunga)

Does he have good dollar sense? Since cents sense is essential, I'd  
say he had no sense (Lovetta Jeffreys)

Once the dissenting member of the Senate Wood Products Board ended  
his filibuster and came on board, bored Board board members  
drafted a resolution expounding the merits of Formica (David  
Goldfarb)

Being a member of a watchdog group for lumber quality (the 'Board  
Board') is a really dull job, so it isn't surprising that the bored  
Board Board bored three-inch holes in many of the rejected  
lumber samples (Richard Schlesinger)

How much cold can a bare bear bear? Bear me the bare-bear news  
(Marvin Resnikoff)

That's a dear deer, dear. Dear, hand me the binoculars so I can see  
it better (Liz and Eric Isaacs)

Tenor sax player Stan Getz became inspired to play listening to his  
sidemen: when the music gets Getz, Getz gets playing (Jim  
Gladding)

The baker sarcastically remarked to his new assistant "To make  
proper extinct-bird cookies, you must use the right dough: dodo  
dough, dodo!" (Doug Roberts)

For Ray, a singer who likes bright days, the sun's rays raise Ray's  
re's, mi's, fa's, etc. but not his do's (David Rosen)

Captain Kidd's son banters with his father's pet goat: does kid kid



Kidd kid? (Mary Ross)

Can earplugs silence the low-technology bullet--make the dumb  
dum-dum dumb? (Mary Ross)

Smoked salmon clogs canal-gate keyholes: lox locks locks' locks (Mary  
Ross)

The eight prototypes of Johnson's Automatic Pool Racks were blamed  
after each of the eight ate eight eight-balls, three cues and one  
number five (Jerome Scott)

If you are late for post-Christmas sales, there will be nothing left to  
buy by bye-bye (i.e., closing) time (Roberta McCormick)

When the senator left his office, the secretary called out "Bye-bye,  
Bayh! Buy by credit card!" (Laura Selznick)

"Oui, oui" we wee Francophones are wont to say (Roberta McCormick)

Bea sees seas seize C's from the left end of the beachfront sign  
advertising California Condominiums (Gerald Bodzin)

Will Sue's suitor suit her? Suit her suitor in a tux (Gerald Bodzin)

If Paris can can-can, can Cannes can-can as well? (David Masunga)

Spend time in the Riviera sun in a thong bikini, and a tanned-in-  
Cannes can-can can get you the more risque gigs (John  
Kiltingen)

The essence of anarchy: know no no-no (Carl Huber)

Said the parent to her wailing child who feared Santa hadn't come  
with her presents "There, there--they're there under the tree"  
(Liz Arsenault)

In the math class design-a-T-shirt contest, one "one" won one of  
the prizes (Jane King)

The teacher said to Bob Wright "Wright! Write 'Wright' right--right  
now!" (Paul Stansifer)

Make that wainwright write 'right rite' right! (Carl Huber)

I only sew so-so, so maybe you should ask someone else (Linda  
Evenchick)

My car had been parked for a week under a tree that was a favorite  
roost for a flock of sparrows. I asked the car-wash attendant  
"You do do doo-doo, do you not?"

When three trains arrived in the station almost simultaneously, the  
stationmaster berated his scheduler "These three trains were  
all scheduled to arrive between 1:58 (two to two) to 2:02--two  
too many!" (Larry Peck)

The ballerina complained about the early-afternoon schedule for  
changing her tutu: "Two to two to two? Too little time for it!"  
(Bob Reeves)

There's a man named Tu Tu in the Boston telephone directory, so one  
can imagine the following instruction by a warehouse supervisor:  
"Send a size-two tutu to Ann Smith, and send a size-two tutu to  
Tu Tu, too" (Kathryn Holmes Johnson)

However, a longer tutu series was constructed by Joe Soma, reporting  
the following dialogue between Mr. Too and Special Agent 2 in the  
packing warehouse of Chong Too's South African Ballet Supplies:

2: I sent ballet slippers and two tutus to Nelson Mandela; who



shall I send this tutu to?  
 Too: Tutu to? Two to Tutu too, 2.  
 2: Two to Tutu, too? So when did the bishop become a ballet dancer?

The following limerick by Gertrude Heinken and David Briggs is reminiscent of famous ones involving a tutor, a canner, and a tete-a-tete at 8:08:

"There's a train at 4:04", said Miss Jenny.  
 "Four tickets I'll take--have you any?"  
     Said the man at the door,  
     "Not four for 4:04,  
 For four for 4:04 is too many!"

Elizabeth Shapiro also turned to doggerel:

The wildebeest fraternity,  
 Meeting last week,  
 Questioned their pledges  
 On knowledge of Greek  
 One male was relieved  
 When the quizzing was through.  
 Why was he accepted?  
 The new gnu knew "nu"!

Finally, enjoy the following 19-right tour de force by Kathy Jones:

In a particular school there were two students surnamed Wright. To keep them straight, the teacher sat one on the left of the room (called 'Left' Wright) and the other on the right (called 'Right' Wright). Unfortunately, the teacher also was surnamed Wright, as was the principal. One day when teacher Wright was out of the room, an aide was having trouble with 'Right' Wright who couldn't spell 'rite'. At this moment, teacher Wright, school board member Smith and principal Wright simultaneously entered the room. Principal Wright began addressing the student, but Smith interrupted "You are not the correct one to be handling the situation." Turning to teacher Wright, Smith said "You are the correct one to take care of this." Beginning with an affirmative acknowledgement to Smith, the following dialogue was then initiated by the right Wright:

"Right! ... 'Right' Wright, write 'rite' right!  
 "Write 'rite' right?"  
 "Right, 'Right' Wright! Rite! Write 'rite' right, right now!"