

The Ill Logic of English

No wonder English is such a difficult language to learn! Below are some examples of the illogic of English, found on the Internet by Celia Paynter, associate editor, MedEdit Associates.

- There is no egg in eggplant and no ham in hamburger.
- Pineapples are not apples and do not grow on pine trees.
- Sweetmeats are candy, but sweetbreads are meat.
- Boxing rings are square.
- Writers write, but their fingers don't fing.
- Grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham.
- The plural of tooth is teeth, but the plural of booth is not beeth.
- The plural of goose is geese, but two moose are not meese.
- If a teacher taught, why didn't a preacher praught?
- If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- Some people have noses that run but feet that smell.
- We park on driveways and drive on parkways.
- How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same?
- If there are unsung heroes, where are the sung ones?
- A house can burn up and burn down at the same time.
- Where are all the grunted people? And all the peccable ones?
- We fill in forms by filling them out.
- When I wind up my watch I start it, but when I wind up this piece on the English language, I end it.

The Lighter View consists of short articles, cartoons, quotations, or any other type of humorous material about the editing life. We invite your contributions. Send ideas to Barbara Gastel, Editor, CBE Views, Department of Journalism, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111. Phone 409-845-6887; fax 409-845-5408; e-mail b-gastel@tamu.edu.