

On the Subject of English Tests

The art of making sense of nonsensical phrases for the purpose of avoiding giving a correct answer that the tester deems wrong.

You need to be at their wedding.
 He said he'll get there in a hurry.
 I don't know what they're thinking.
 How much does this count from their point of view?
 Look over there!
 It depends on whether they're still thinking about it.
 If you don't do well, your grades will be lowered.
 If you don't do well, you're getting a lower grade.
Your pizza is on its way.
You're delivering the lines quite well.
 I borrowed your ballpoint pen.
 I saw you're quite nice.
She and I both drink cappuccino.
 He recognized her and me in the photo.
He and I tried to get the cat out of the tree.
 The cat pounced on him and me to get off the tree.
 I can swim as much as he.
 He'd rather go with me than with him.
 I can run as much as she.
 She'd rather go with me than with her.
 This recipe needs less sugar.
 This recipe needs fewer sugar cubes.
 I run less than he.
 I run fewer kilometers than he.
 The detective already knew who killed him, but I had no idea.
 With whom were you texting last night?
Who is our newest employee?
Whom did we hire most recently?
 Say what you will, but Star Trek is definitely better than Star Wars!
 The teenager defiantly refused to clean his room.
 Yes, we definitely talked about this before.
 She defiantly stared at him, but stopped herself from yelling at him.
 This old paint was laced with lead.
 The metal refinery was led by professionals.
 You need to cite that Web page.
 You need to include the URL to the site you quoted.
 Did you sight the bird yet?
 I watched the cat lie down on the plush.
 The cat lay on the plush all morning.
 Peter should lie on the ground.
 Peter should lay the box down there.
 Peter laid the box down there.
 The earthquake literally shook us up.
 You (not literally) sported that outfit!
 After landing on an inconveniently placed chute, he was literally sent back to square one.
 The Cubs (not literally) devoured The Dodgers this afternoon.
 After the body was chopped into bits, the victim was literally all over the place.

Falling in love literally sucks.
 I hate it when someone (not literally) starts talking to me about my ex.
 Your eyes are (not literally) so pretty!
 Licorice is (not literally) the worst thing in the world.
 Bertha's parents can (not literally) buy her anything.
 I asked him to juggle, but he literally didn't have the balls.
 You shouldn't have ended the paragraph there.
 I just don't know what I should have done to resolve the conflict.
 Oh, you should have seen his face when I broke the news to him!
 If you told me about it, I would have looked it up.
 I wouldn't have done that if I were you.
 The boy said that he may or may not have broken the vase.
 You might have been a genius all along.
 I could have been there if I weren't busy.
 He couldn't have known what would be the better idea.
 I asked every question I could of him.
Its wings span five meters.
It's a bird with five-meter wings.
 The anime's story is bland, but at least its effects are good.
 The anime's story is bland, but at least it's not dubbed.
 Let's travel to the capital city.
 Let's see the view from the capitol.
 The capital of Japan is Tokyo.
 Let's visit Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.
 This will affect our business negatively.
 This will have a negative effect on our business.
 He sported a snarky affect at the question asked to him.
 Don't let him affect you!
 Use the low-pass effect to cut out the tinny sound.
 You can see from the dent that the boulder impacted the roof of the car.
 The impact sound effect sounds a bit too weak.
 For geometric construction you only need two things, i.e. a compass and a straightedge.
 Electric devices, e.g. smartphones, should be turned off in the theater.
 America's personal savings rate was negative in 2005-i.e. consumers spent more than they made!
 Prohibitions of illegal substances (e.g. LSD and meth) has never worked.
 The story piqued my interest.
 Let's take an exclusive sneak peek at the movie!
 His glare peaked my anxiety.

I think about this a lot.
A lot of you have been asking me the same thing.
Allot some more time for homework.
 My belt is loose.
 Don't lose your focus.
 My favorite Eminem song is Lose Yourself.
 My favorite D4 song is Get Loose.
 I'd rather be with you than without you.
 Tonight I'll eat dinner then take a bath.
 I like red better than yellow.
 Paint this one red then paint the next one yellow.
 He complimented her eyes.
 Her eyeshadow complemented her eyes.
 The batter hit the ball farther than the last batter did.
 I don't know how to get further past this level.
 No further comment has been provided.
 My house is farther from the school than yours.
 Our youth spend an alarming number of hours browsing the Internet.
 Our youth spend an alarming amount of time browsing the Internet.
 You should reduce the number of eggs in the recipe.
 You should reduce the amount of milk in this recipe.
 This dress is to be worn at prom.
 This dress is too tight for me.
 This dress is two sizes bigger than my size.
 I won't accept failure.
 I won't settle for anything except success.
 His first choice wouldn't accept him.
 She didn't send the email to anyone except him.
 "Jesus helped me through tough times," reported the devout Christian.
 Upon being denied a candy cane, the toddler threw a tantrum.
 Wow, I never thought you'd actually get through with it.
 My favorite Lonely Island song is I Threw It on the Ground.
 The fluorescent light diffused on the bomb's surface.
 At this rate, we can't defuse the bomb on time!
 Let's visit the Statue of Liberty.
 At the hospital, she measured her weight and stature.
 We cannot work on Sundays because of the statute regulating it.
 When parking, pull down the side brake to make sure your car stays stationary.
 Don't steal the office stationery!
 This plank of wood is three by twelve inches.
 This book is written by Edgar Allan Poe.
 You shouldn't buy so much stuff on Amazon Prime.
Bye, I'll see you tomorrow.
 I'm out of breath.
 I find it difficult to breathe without an inhaler.
 Take a drink if you're thirsty.
 She looks like she once drank from the spring of youth.

This kind of tea was drunk in Japan since the early eighth century.
 Just a sip of alcohol makes me feel too drunk.
 The politician made a statement, but forgot to be discreet about it.
 Don't confuse these two discrete problems.
 Without encryption, we wouldn't be able to send discreet messages online.
 It's perfectly normal and healthy for a couple to sleep in discrete bedrooms.
 I've sailed the seven seas.
 Let's use whichever our customer sees fit.
 The government cannot seize your property without reason.
 My aquatic biology grades have been under C's.
 I don't know if the weather will be nice on Saturday.
 I don't know whether I'll need an umbrella.
 We should raise the minimum wage.
 The rays of sunshine cut into the house through the window.
 They could only watch the hurricane raze their neighborhood.
 The bears wander through the forest.
 The astronomers wonder how long the rover could stay active.
 I rolled a 1 on a 20-sided die, resulting in a critmiss.
 Yahtzee is played with five dice.
 You either live or you die.
 We should add some more information.
 Nobody likes unskippable ads.
 I accidentally said that aloud, didn't I?
 Am I allowed to wear sleeveless shirts?
 We waited for him to stand behind the altar.
 Can we alter the design of the steeple?
 The sequel ruins her entire character arc!
 How much modern technology did he use to build that ark?
 The dog was baited to join the investigation.
 The dog waited with bated breath.
 The area of a triangle is one half base times height.
 The DJ is about to drop the bass!
 Cutting that wire blew the fuse.
 Do I cut the blue wire?
 When turning a corner, don't forget to brake your car.
 Good grief, give me a break.
 This diamond ring weighs 1 carat.
 Insert a space at the caret.
 Hey, did you know that carrots are good for your eyesight?
 The diamond ring is set in 18-karat gold.
 The instructions were unclear; I'm stuck on the ceiling fan.
 They're sealing the leak up there.
 Abraham Lincoln's head is carved in the one-cent coin.
 Can you smell the scent of bacon?

I sent you that email yesterday.
 I found this toy in a cereal box.
 The serial number is even.
 I heard a majestic choral arrangement of this song.
 The coral reefs are dying.
 Ever since, the shootout at the O.K. Corral became
 iconic of the Wild West genre.
 First sand the wood with coarse sandpaper.
 Our ship is straying off our course.
 The door to the mansion made a loud creak.
 The birds landed to bathe themselves in the creek.
 That venison is pretty dear.
 I froze like a deer in the headlights.
 Yes, we definitely discussed this before.
 Ugh, your Crocs disgust me!
 Don't provoke someone just to elicit a reaction.
 The politician was accused of illicit activities.
 The Monsplode fainted from your attack.
 The Monsplode feinted before striking for real.
 Seeing dead bodies no longer fazed the investigator.
 It's not a phase, Dad!
 You will find 50 dollars on the street.
 You will be fined 50 dollars for illegal parking.
 His parkour is full of flair.
 The solar flare could even annihilate our
 civilization!
 A flea and a fly in a flue were imprisoned, so what
 could they do?
 Said the fly, let us flee; said the flea, let us fly.
 Her wide gait showed me how urgent she was.
 The gate was held wide open for me.
 We just can't be idle anymore.
 The teen idol was stabbed to death in her own shower.
 The poet wrote an idyll inspired by Heidi.
 This room has bad lighting.
 The lightning flared up the sky for an instant.
 I was lightening my bag when I heard it.
 I'll return my five-dollar loan when it's time to pay
 for dinner.
 The girl is the lone survivor of the terrorist
 attack.
 Can you lend me some money?
 Where's the meat of your speech?
 I can't wait to meet you in person!
 The judge will mete out the punishment if he is
 guilty.
 I'd row with you if I had an extra oar.
 Either you're a genius, or very bored.
 Don't hit the ore with your bare hands.
 But all the water Simon had was in his mother's pail!
 After I spilled that paint, my face went pale.
 The chef knew how to pair wine with cheese.
 You need to pare the fruit before eating it.
 The pears we eat in Japan look like apples.
 The "k" sound is produced at the soft palate.
 You need to limit the color palette further.
 The forklift can't lift that box; it's not on a pallet.
 What will the robin do then? Poor thing!

I watched her pore over my essay.
Pour the batter into the pan.
Praise be onto him.
 He prays to Jesus.
 The whale preys on plankton.
 The earlier rules have precedence over the later
 ones.
 There have been no precedents of this kind of
 surgery.
 I've got presidents in my wallet.
 Stop making such a racket in the dorm!
 Now press the button with the ping-pong racquet
 symbol.
 I couldn't cross my T's just right.
 Bar Mitzvah is the Jewish rite of passage for boys.
 He needed to bring his coach to the wheel wright to
 have it fixed.
 Oh no, I forgot to write my essay!
 I walk a lonely road, the only one that I have ever
 known.
 I rode into town on a horse with no name.
 I rowed the boat as hard as I can!
 If you liked it, then you should have put a ring on
 it!
 I'm going to wring this cloth; it's too damp for me to
 keep wiping.
 The organization plays an integral role in fish
 trading.
 I'm on a roll today. Bring the bombs on!
 He cracked open his skull and needed over twenty
seams.
 It seems that the clothes have started to fall apart.
 I went down the stairs to see everyone glaring at me.
 If looks could kill, those stares would have
 demolished me.
 A box full of stuff for less than 20 dollars a month?
 What a steal!
 Superman is also known as the Man of Steel.
 Let me get the record straight; I'm not gay!
 Swimming across the Bering Strait is not a simple
 task.
 It's quite simple, though, if you're familiar with
 English.
 I've never really thought about that...
 I've tried, but it was all in vain.
 The weathervane fell off the top of the tower.
 The anger made his vein pop out.
 Stories vary wildly.
 This is bad, very bad.
 I can't wait to eat this bagel!
 He has a weighted blanket.
 SLEEP IS FOR THE WEAK.
 I'm sleeping for a week.
 This is an everyday occurrence.
 This happens every day.
 The employee feared that when the prefect became the
 CEO, he would have his pay cut.
 Wow, you look perfect today!