

# 1 Theory

Formally, the Pure Pun is a phrase,  $P(\text{word})$ , containing a Homophone Pair, of Words 1 and 2, with the following characteristics:

1.  $P(1) = P(2)$  in sound (they sound the same when spoken)
2.  $P(1) = P(2)$  in structure (no words can be added or removed when replacing Word 1 with Word 2)
3.  $P(1)$  and  $P(2)$  are both grammatically correct
4.  $P(1)$  and  $P(2)$  both make sense

The algorithm is:

1. Think of a Homophone Pair (e.g. chard and charred)  $\rightarrow$  preserves Sound Purity
2. Determine if the Homophone Pair words can be the same part of speech, or if a certain context can allow that (e.g. “chard” and “charred veggies” are both nouns)  $\rightarrow$  preserves Grammatical Purity
3. Think of a scenario in which both words in the Pair make sense (e.g. restaurant has “chard” and “charred” foods)
4. Come up with the phrase or sentence which contains the pure pun (e.g. “vegetable is chard/charred”) (must preserve Structural Purity)
5. Add any necessary context (e.g. the vegetable is “grilled”)
6. Make concise

# 2 Examples

Homophone Pair Words 1 and 2 are separated by a slash, “/”.

1. “My favorite grilled vegetable is chard/charred.” - LH
2. “A waiter once brought a bread appetizer, even though I’m gluten free. It was a Naan/non- starter.” - LH
3. “Finished with an arduous day of filming, the director cried out, ‘End scene/seen!’ ” - LH
4. “Wow, the shear/sheer force in that mechanism is crazy!” - LH
5. “This amphibian really crossed the line when he illegally parked his car. It was toad/toed/towed.” - LH
6. “That cornfield was difficult to get through, we got lost in the maize/maze.” - AB

Credits: LH, Lorenzo Hess. AB, Arshia Balaji.