

## English is a crazy language.

Sometimes you have to believe that all English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people drive in a parkway and park in a driveway?

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

In what other language do privates eat in the general mess and generals eat in the private mess?

In what other language do people ship by truck and send cargo by ship?

In what other language can your nose run and your feet smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same and a bad licking and a good licking be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

How can sharp speech and blunt speech be the same and quite a lot and quite a few the same, while overlook and oversee are opposites?

How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell the next?

How can the expressions "What's going on?" and "What's coming off?" mean exactly the same thing?

If button and unbutton and tie and untie are opposites, why are loosen and unloosen and ravel and unravel the same?

If bad is the opposite of good, hard the opposite of soft, and up the opposite of down, why are badly and goodly, hardly and softy, and upright and downright not opposing pairs?

If harmless actions are the opposite of harmful non-actions, why are shameful and shameless behavior the same and pricey objects less expensive than priceless ones?

If appropriate and inappropriate remarks and passable and impassable mountain trails are opposites, why are flammable and inflammable materials, heritable and ininheritable property, and passive and impassive people the same and valuable objects less treasured than invaluable ones?

If uplift is the same as lift up, why are upset and set up opposite in meaning?

Why are pertinent and impertinent, canny and uncanny, and famous and infamous neither opposites nor the same?

How can raise and raze and reckless and wreck-less be opposites when each pair contains the same sound?

Why is it that when the sun or the moon or the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible; that when I clip a coupon from a newspaper I separate it, but when I clip a coupon to a newspaper, I fasten it; and that when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I shall end it?

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How can expressions like "I'm mad about my flat," "No football coaches allowed," "I'll come by in the morning and knock you up," and "Keep your pecker up" convey such different messages in two countries that purport to speak the same English?

How can it be easier to assent than to dissent but harder to ascend than to descend?

Why it is that a man with hair on his head has more hair than man with hairs on his head; that if you decide to be bad forever, you choose to be bad for good; and that if you choose to wear only your left shoe, then your left one is right and your right one is left? Right?

Owed to the Spelling Checker!

I have a spelling checker I disk covered four pea seize.  
It plane lee Marx four my revue, Miss steaks eye can knot  
sea.  
Eye ran this poem threw it, Yule bee real glad two no,  
Its very polished inn its weigh...My checker tolled me sew!  
A checker is a blessing; It freeze up lodes of thyme;  
It helps me right awl styles two reed, And aides me when eye  
rimel  
Each frays that pop's up on my screen Eye trussed two bee a  
joule,  
The checker pours o'er every word, Two cheque sum spelling  
rule.  
Bee four wee rote with checkers, Hour prose was inn  
deck-line;  
Butt now if wee dew have a laps, Wee are knot maid two wine!

And now bee cause my spelling, Is checked with such grate  
flare,  
There are know false inn awl this peace, (Oar nun eye am a  
wear).  
Two rite with care is quite a feet, Of witch won should bee  
proud;  
And wee mussed dew the best wee can...So flaws are knot  
aloud!  
That's why eye brake inn two averse, Four eye dew want two  
please;  
Sow glad am eye that eye did bye, This soft where four pea  
seizel