

Appendix IV – Fun Stuff



Appendix IV Linguistic Ambiguity (Jokes & Fun Stuff)

The Alphabet Advantage

An anagram, as you probably know, is a word or phrase made by transposing or rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. The following are exceptionally clever. Someone out there either has far too much spare time or is deadly at Scrabble.

George Bush:	When you rearrange the letters: He Bugs Gore
Dormitory:	When you rearrange the letters: Dirty Room
Evangelist:	When you rearrange the letters: Evil's Agent
Desperation:	When you rearrange the letters: A Rope Ends It
The Morse Code:	When you rearrange the letters: Here Come Dots
Slot Machines:	When you rearrange the letters: Cash Lost in 'em
Animosity:	When you rearrange the letters: Is No Amity
Mother-in-law:	When you rearrange the letters: Woman Hitler
Snooze Alarms:	When you rearrange the letters: Alas No More Z's
A Decimal Point:	When you rearrange the letters: I'm a Dot in Place
The Earthquakes:	When you rearrange the letters: That Queer Shake
Eleven plus two:	When you rearrange the letters: Twelve plus one
President Clinton of the USA:	→ To copulate, he finds Interns

A List of Homonyms

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings and sometimes different spellings. ('Homo' meaning 'the same' and 'phone' meaning sound)

Homographs are words that are spelt the same but have different meanings and sometimes are pronounced differently. ('Homo' meaning 'the same' and 'graph' meaning writing)

Look at the list of words below; which of them are homophones, and which homographs?

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ad/add	lie/lye	rose/rows
allowed/aloud	links/lynx	rote/wrote
ant/aunt	load/lode/lowed	roux/rue
ate/eight	loan/lone	rye/wry
ball/bawl	locks/lox	sacks/sax
band/banned	loot/lute	sail/sale
bear/bare	maid/made	sawed/sod
be/bee	mail/male	scene/seen
billed/build	maize/maze	sea/see
blew/blue	meet/meat	seam/seem
board/bored	medal/meddle	seas/sees/seize
boy/buoy	mince/mints	serf/surf
brake/break	miner/minor	serge/surge
by/bye/buy	missed/mist	sew/so/sow
beach/beechn	mooed/mood	shoe/shoo
bolder/boulder	morning/mourning	side/sighed
bread/bred	muscle/mussel	sighs/size
browse/brows	mussed/must	sign/sine
capital/capitol	nays/neighs	sight/site/cite
caret/carrot/carat	no/know	slay/sleigh
cell/sell	none/nun	soar/sore
cent/scent/sent	nose/knows/no's	soared/sword
census/senses	not/knot/naught	sole/soul
cereal/serial	one/won	son/sun
chews/choose	or/oar/ore	some/sum

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choral/coral	overdo/overdue	spade/spayed
chute/shoot	paced/paste	staid/stayed
clothes/close	pail/pale	stair/stare
colonel/kernel	pain/pane	stake/steak
creak/creek	pair/pare/pear	stationary/stationery
crews/cruise	pain/pane	steal/steel
cymbal/symbol	passed/past	straight/strait
days/daze	patience/patients	suede/swayed
dear/deer	pause/paws	summary/summery
dew/do/due	peace/piece	sundae/Sunday
die/dye	peak/peek/pique	tacks/tax
disc/disk	peal/peel	tail/tale
discreet/discrete	pedal/peddle	taut/taught
discussed/disgust	peer/pier	tea/tee
doe/dough	pi/pie	teas/tease/tees
dose/doze	plain/plane	tents/tense
earn/urn	plum/plumb	tern/turn
ewe/you	praise/prays/preys	there/their/they're
eye/I	presence/presents	threw/through
fare/fair	principal/principle	throne/thrown
feat/feet	prince/prints	thyme/time
find/fined	quarts/quartz	tide/tied
fir/fur	quince/quints	tighten/titan
flea/flee	rest/wrest	to/too/two
flew/flu/flue	review/revue	toad/toed/towed

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flower/flour	right/rite/write	toe/tow
for/four/fore	ring/wring	told/tolled
forth/fourth	road/rode/rowed	tracked/tract
foul/fowl	roe/row	trussed/trust
frees/freeze	role/roll	vein/vane
gneiss/nice	root/route	verses/versus
gnu/knew/new	rose/rows	vial/vile
gored/gourd	rote/wrote	vice/vise
gorilla/guerrilla	roux/rue	wade/weighed
grays/graze	rye/wry	wail/whale
grate/great	sacks/sax	waist/waste
guessed/guest	sail/sale	wait/weight
gym/Jim	sawed/sod	waive/wave
hale/hail	scene/seen	Wales/whales
hall/haul	passed/past	war/wore
hare/hair	patience/patients	ware/wear/where
heal/heel/he'll	pause/paws	warn/worn
heard/herd	peace/piece	wax/whacks
hew/hue	peak/peek/pique	way/weigh/whey
hi/high	peal/peel	we/wee
higher/hire	pedal/peddle	weather/whether
him/hymm	peer/pier	we'd/weed
hair/hare	pi/pie	weld/welled
hoarse/horse	plain/plane	we'll/wheel
hole/whole	plum/plumb	wen/when

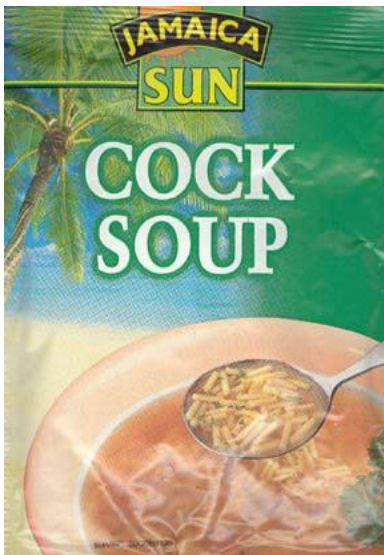
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hour/our	praise/prays/preys	we've/weave
idle/idol	presence/presents	weak/week
idle/idol/idyl	principal/principle	which/witch
in/inn	prince/prints	whirled/world
incite/insight	quarts/quartz	whirred/word
its/it's	quince/quints	whine/wine
jam/jamb	rain/reign/rein	whoa/woe
jeans/genes	raise/rays/raze	who's/whose
knead/need/kneel	rap/wrap	wood/would
knight/night	read/reed	worst/wurst
rain/reign/rein	read/red	
raise/rays/raze	real/reel	
rap/wrap	reek/wreak	
read/reed	rest/wrest	
read/red	review/revue	
real/reel	right/rite/write	
reek/wreak	ring/wring	
knows/nose/no's	road/rode/rowed	
lead/led	roe/row	
leased/least	role/roll	
lessen/lesson	root/route	

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Linguistic Ambiguity

Because the words of language are arbitrary symbols, combinations of similar sounds may mean absolutely different things to different language users. This similarity of form may cause misunderstanding:



Source: Jokes on Translation and Languages: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/sraiano/jokes.html>

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Russian/English ‘Overlaps’

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Yellow-blue bus | – Ya l’ubl’u vas | (I love you) |
| 2. Horror show | – Xorosho | (good) |
| 3. Chess knock | – chesnok | (garlick) |
| 4. My own ass | – mayonez | (mayonnaise) |
| 5. True bar | – truba | (big failure, waste) |
| 6. Pale man | – pel’men’ | (a meat dumpling) |
| 7. Blue water | – bl’evota | (vomit) |
| 8. Tall chalk | – tolchok | (shock, shake) |
| 9. Peace duke | – pizd’uk | (jerk) |
| 10. Yes, I do | – yesaidu | (I will come down) |
| 11. Our device is Korea | – od’evais’a skoreje | (get dressed fast!) |

Linguistic Jokes

Top Ten Old West Phrases that Will Never Sound the Same after that Damned Gay Cowboy Movie ☺

1. "I'm gonna pump you fulla lead!"
2. "Give me a stiff one, barkeep!"
3. "Don't fret---I've been in tight spots before."
4. "Howdy, pardner."
5. "You stay here while I sneak around from behind."
6. Two words: "Saddle Sore."
7. "Hold it right there! Now, move your hand, reeeal slow-like"
8. "Let's mount up!"
9. "Nice spread ya got there!"
10. "Ride'em cowboy!"

DOUBLE POSITIVE

A distinguished linguistics professor is lecturing on the phenomenon of double negatives. As he nears the end of his talk, he draws himself up and concludes solemnly: "Finally, note that while there are various cases in which a double negative conveys a positive, there is no case in which a double positive conveys a negative."

Just then, from the back of the room, a voice disdainfully chimes in, "Yeah, yeah..."

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DOUBLE POSITIVE (Version Two):

"A professor is giving a lecture on double negatives, and he says, 'Now, there are cases where a double negative stays a negative, and some cases where it is a positive, but never does a double positive become a negative.' And just then a student pipes up from the back of the class: 'Yeah, right!'"

<http://community.livejournal.com/linguaphiles/1328823.html>

To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness. (Oscar Wilde)

Mathematic puns are the first sine of madness (Johann Von Haupkoph)

WATT is the unit of power?

My name is Bond - Covalent Bond.

My name is Bond, Ionic Bond; Taken, not shared!

Descartes is sitting in a bar, having a drink. The bartender asks him if he would like another. "I think not," he says and vanishes in a puff of logic.

AMBIGUITY & IMPLICATIONS

The Importance of Pronunciation

A husband comes to visit his Indian wife in a Sidney hospital and finds her sobbing. Alarmed, he asks her, 'Honey, what's wrong?' 'The doctor said I am going home [tə'dai]!!' she wailed...

When Charles de Gaulle decided to retire from public life, the American ambassador and his wife threw a gala dinner party in his honour. At the dinner table the Ambassador's wife was talking with Madame de Gaulle.

"Your husband has been such a prominent public figure, such a presence on the French and international scene for so many years! How quiet retirement will seem in comparison. What are you most looking forward to in these retirement years?"

"A penis," replied Madame de Gaulle.

A hush fell over the table. No one knew what to say next.

Finally, Le Grand Charles leaned over to his wife and said, "Ma cherie, I believe zee Americans pronounce zat word: 'appiness'"

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Timbuktu

A missionary and an Aussie shepherd faced off in the finals of a ‘Brain of Britain’ contest. Both excelled, and ended up in a tie, so a tie-breaker was set: to compose a rhyme with the word Timbuktu ¹in it, all in just 5 minutes. Even before the bell went off, the missionary proudly stepped forward and recited:

I was a father all my life,
I had no children, had no wife,
I read the bible through and through
On my way to Timbuktu...

The audience was cheered, certain that the missionary would win. Then the Aussie shepherd cleared his throat, and shuffled forward:

When Tim and I to Brisbane went,
We met three ladies cheap to rent.
They were three and we were two,
So I bucked one and Tim bucked two...

Different perspectives of the source and of the receiver *in context*, as well as differences in their perception of a number of phonetic features such as *stress*, may render a message *ambiguous*. This is another example of how speech perception often determines the response. ‘Oronyms’, or strings of sound that can be ‘carved’ into words in two different ways, show just how easy it is to interpret the same strings of sounds we hear differently, depending on the context of the communication, speakers’ individual circumstances and perceptions:

The good can decay many ways.
The good candy came anyways.

The stuffy nose can lead to problems.
The stuff he knows can lead to problems.

Some others I’ve seen.
Some mothers I’ve seen.

Keep Out
Key Pout, etc.

Oronyms are often used in songs and nursery rhymes:

¹ an ancient city in Mali, NW Africa

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I scream,
You scream,
We all scream
For ice cream.

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear,
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair.
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy,
Was he?

All generalizations are false, including this one.

Boycott shampoo! Demand the REAL poo!

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how popular it remains?

Don't drink and drive. You might hit a bump and spill your drink.

Don't piss me off! I'm running out of places to hide the bodies.

Friends may come and go, but enemies tend to accumulate.

Get a new car for your spouse; it'll be a great trade!

Good judgment comes from bad experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

He who laughs last thinks slowest.

I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it.

I get enough exercise just pushing my luck.

I need someone really bad. Are you really bad?

I took an IQ test and the results were negative.

I used to have a handle on life, and then it broke.

I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

I'm not a complete idiot, some parts are missing!

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

If you can't convince them, confuse them.

If you get to it and you can't do it, well there you jolly well are, aren't you.

If you haven't much education you must use your brain.

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If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again; it was probably worth it.

Learn from your parents' mistakes: use birth control.

Lottery: A tax on the mathematically challenged.

Multitasking means screwing up several things at once.

Oh Lord, give me patience, and GIVE IT TO ME NOW!

Oops. My brain just hit a bad sector.

Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a flat tire.

To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane and going the wrong way.

When there's a will, I want to be in it.

"For every fatal shooting, there were roughly three non-fatal shootings. And, folks, this is unacceptable in America. It's just unacceptable. And we're going to do something about it" —George W. Bush, Philadelphia, Penn., May 14, 2001

"There's no cave deep enough for America, or dark enough to hide." —George W. Bush, Oklahoma City, Aug. 29, 2002

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A new immigrant who knew only Spanish tried to buy a soda from a vending machine, but he was short 10 cents. The machine flashed, *DIME! DIME!*, so he looked around, leaned close to the machine, and whispered, "*Una coca cola, por favor.*"

Well, aren't we just a ray of fucking sunshine?

Not the brightest crayon in the box now, are we?

Don't bother me. I'm living happily ever after.

I started out with nothing & still have most of it left.

I like dogs too. Let's exchange recipes.

Are those your eyeballs? I found them in my cleavage.

How many times do I have to flush before you go away?

You say I'm a bitch like it's a bad thing.

PNG VERSION OF MR. BEAN - CODE NAME: KANAGE

.....
Kanage: I am Proud, coz my son is in Medical College.

Friend: Really, what is he studying?

Kanage: No, he is not studying, they are studying him.

Kanage: If I die, will u remarry?

Wife: No! I'll stay with my sister. But if I die will u remarry?

Kanage: No, I'll also stay with your sister.

Kanage comes back to his car and finds a note saying 'Parking Fine'

He writes a note and sticks it to a pole 'Thanks for the complement.'

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Teacher: 'I killed a person' convert this sentence into future tense

Kanage: The future tense is 'u will go to jail'

Marketing translations

Cracking an international market is a goal of most growing corporations. It shouldn't be that hard, yet even the big multi-nationals run into trouble because of language and cultural differences. For example, observe the following examples below.

The name Coca-Cola in China was first rendered as Ke-kou-ke-la. Unfortunately, the Coke company did not discover until after thousands of signs had been printed that the phrase means "bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax" depending on the dialect. Coke then researched 40,000 Chinese characters and found a close phonetic equivalent, "ko-kou-ko-le," which can be loosely translated as "happiness in the mouth."

In Taiwan, the translation of the Pepsi slogan "Come alive with the Pepsi Generation" came out as "Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead."

Also in Chinese, the Kentucky Fried Chicken slogan "finger-lickin' good" came out as "eat your fingers off."

The American slogan for Salem cigarettes, "Salem - Feeling Free," got translated in the Japanese market into "When smoking Salem, you feel so refreshed that your mind seems to be free and empty."

When General Motors introduced the Chevy Nova in South America, it was apparently unaware that "no va" means "it won't go." After the company figured out why it wasn't selling any cars, it renamed the car in its Spanish markets to the Caribe.

When Parker Pen marketed a ballpoint pen in Mexico, its ads were supposed to say "It won't leak in your pocket and embarrass you." However, the company mistakenly thought the Spanish word "*embarazar*" meant embarrass. Instead the ads said that "It won't leak in your pocket and make you pregnant."

Colgate introduced a toothpaste in France called Cue, the name of a notorious porno magazine.

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Ad slogans - "Loco"lization

Here is a look at how shrewd American business people translate their slogans into foreign languages:

The 4 wheel drive sport utility truck we know as a Montero was named "Pajero" for non-US markets, including Australia, where a large number of Argentines & Uruguayans live -- "**pajero**" in Spanish means "masturbator"!

Coors put its slogan, "Turn It Loose," into Spanish, where it was read as "Suffer from Diarrhea!"

Chicken magnate Frank Perdue's line, "It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken," sounds much more interesting in Spanish: "It takes a sexually stimulated man to make a chicken affectionate."

When Vicks first introduced its cough drops on the German market, they were chagrined to learn that the German pronunciation of "v" is "f," which in German is the guttural equivalent of "sexual penetration."

Not to be outdone, Puffs tissues tried later to introduce its product, only to learn that "Puff" in German is a colloquial term for a whorehouse.

The Chevy Nova never sold well in Spanish speaking countries. "No Va" means "It Does Not Go" in Spanish.

When Pepsi started marketing its products in China a few years back, they translated their slogan, "Pepsi Brings You Back to Life" pretty literally. The slogan in Chinese really meant, "Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back from the Grave."

When Coca-Cola first shipped to China, they named the product something that when pronounced sounded like "Coca-Cola." The only problem was that the characters used meant "Bite The Wax Tadpole." They later changed to a set of characters that mean "Happiness In The Mouth."

Scandinavian vacuum manufacturer Electrolux used the following in an American campaign: Nothing sucks like an Electrolux.

Clairol introduced the "Mist Stick", a curling iron, into German only to find out that "mist" is German for manure. Not too many people had use for the "manure stick".

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An American T-shirt maker in Miami printed shirts for the Spanish market which promoted the Pope's visit. Instead of "I saw the Pope" (el Papa), the shirts read "I saw the potato" (la papa).

Lost in Translation

1. Instructions on a Korean flight: Upon arrival at Kimpo & Kimahie airport, pls. wear your clothes.
2. Job recruitment ad for Nok Air, Thailand: If you are energetic, living, friendly...
3. On an airsickness bag on a Spanish airplane: Bags to be use in case of sickness or to gather remains.
4. Amalfi, Italy: Suggestive views from every window.
5. Japan: City Hotel & Nut Club.
6. India: Welcom to Hotel Cosy: where no one's stranger
7. Hotel cloakroom, Berlin, Germany: Pls. hang yourself here.
8. Italian hotel, signs by the bell: If service is required, give 2 strokes to the maid and 3 to the waiter.
Hot and cold water running up and down the stairs
9. On a hotel TV set, Belgrade, Serbia: If set breaks, inform Manager. Do not interfere with yourself.
10. Las Palmas, Canary Islands: If you telephone for room service, you'll get the answer you deserve.
11. Notice on a phone, Amsterdam: Telephone instructions can be found on the backside
12. Budapest, Hungary: All rooms not denounced by 12 o'clock will be paid for twicely
13. Hamburg, Germany: It is our intention to pleasure you every day.
14. Tokyo: Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed.

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15. Taipei, Taiwan: If there is anything we can do to assist and help you, please do not contact us.
16. Seoul: Measles not included in room charge.
17. Leipzig, Germany: Ladies, pls. rinse out your teapots standing upside down in sink. In no event should hot bottoms be placed on counter.
18. Ankara, Turkey: Pls. hang your order before retiring on your doorknob.
19. Tel-Aviv, Israel: If you wish breakfast, lift the telephone, and our waitress will arrive. This will be enough to bring up your food.
20. If you wish disinfection to be enacted in your presence, cry out for the chambermaid.
21. Copenhagen, Denmark: Take care of burglars.
22. Hue, Vietnam: Toilet was cleaned and spayed.
23. Zurich: Do you wish to change in Zurich? Do so at the hotel bank!
24. Japan: Depositing the key into another person is prohibited.
25. Taiwan: Do not wear slippers to prevent falling in bath.
26. France: Wondering what to wear? A sports jacket may be worn to dinner, but no trousers.
27. Lyon, France: 'En cas de feu – restez calme' – 'In case of fire, do not lose your temper'
28. Tokyo: 'In case of earthquake, use the torch to pass yourself out'
29. Torremolinos: We highly recommend the hotel tart
30. Ho Chi Min City: Tasty tacos and beautiful tarts are the order of the day. Compulsory Buffet Breakfast.
31. Bulgaria: If you are satisfactory, tell your friends. If you are not satisfactory, warn the waitress.
32. Replies from German hotels to enquiries:
 - In the close village, you can buy jolly memorials for when u pass away.

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- I send you my price. If I am dear to you and your mistress, she might perhaps be reduced.
 - Standing among savage scenery, the hotel offers stupendous revelations. There is a French window in every bedroom, affording delightful prospects.
 - Peculiar arrangements for gross parties.
 - Our motto: "EVER SERVE YOU RIGHT"
33. Tokyo hotel: 'Our staffs are always here waiting for you to patronize them'
34. Road signs:
- In Japan: 'Stop. Drive sideways.'
 - 'Cars will not have intercourse on this bridge.'
 - In India: 'Avoid overspeeding. Always avoid accidents.'
 - In a Tokyo taxi: 'Safety first. Please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.'
35. Petrol station in Santa Fe, New Mexico: 'We will sell gasoline to anyone in a glass container.'
36. Motoring event at the French Riviera: 'Competitors will defile themselves on the promenade at 11 am, and each car will have 2 drivers who will relieve themselves at each other's convenience.'
37. Japan sports car (sticker on windshield): OFFRIMITS
38. In a hospital, Barcelona: 'Visitors 2 to a bed, and half an hour only.'
39. On a Japanese medicine bottle: 'Adults: 1 tab. 3 times a day, until passing away.'
40. On a Chinese medicine bottle: 'Known to cure itching, colds, stomachs, brains, and other diseases.'
41. On a Taiwanese shampoo: Use repeatedly for severe damage.
42. Restos: LA 'French creeps' (crêpes)
- Japan: Strawberry crap (pancakes)
 - India: Deep fried fingers of my lady; Children soup
 - Bali, Indonesia: Toes with butter & jam
 - Cairo: Cock in wine / Lioness cutlet
 - Poland: chessburger / Hod dok
 - Singapore: Sir Loin steak w/ potato cheeps
 - Venezuela: Fried chicken babies, fungus cream, and grill cattle bowels

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- Mexico: Grilled potties
- Greek Island of Antiparos: Kid baked in clay flowerpot
- Indonesia: Cajum chicken biceps
- Riga, Latvia: 'Salad: salad sheets, mayonnaise, ovum.'
- Japan: Sexy calamari leg
- Kansas, USA: 'Ho-made Chilli'
- Café off Oxford Street, London: Smocked Salmon / Jacked potatoes
- Europe: Sweat from the trolley
- India: Our establishment serves tea in a bag like mother
- Malaysia: Seafood brought in by customers will not be entertained
- Tokyo: Please do not bring outside food, excluding children under five.
- India: After one visit, we guarantee you will be regular
- Hong Kong: Come broil yourself at your open table!
- Michigan, USA: Early bird gets the worm! Special shoppers' luncheon before 11 am.
- Detroit, USA (Chinese resto): Employees must wash your hands
- Tokyo restaurant ad: Colorful drinking space surrounded by stained glasses.