

For Dr. Culture's International Friends:

English Language Tricks - Beware! In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? *Welcome to the English Language* where there is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; and you won't find apple or pine in pineapple... **And it simply doesn't get any better** -- English muffins aren't from England and French fries are not from France. Sweetmeats are *candies* while sweetbreads (which aren't sweet) are meat and boxing rings square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.....

And, if you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

Can you read these right the first time?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present .
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row .
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.

14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.

15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.

16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

THE WORST: The two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings *than any other two-letter English word*: "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

SOMEBODY STOP ME! We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night...**THIS IS DRAINING:** A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

ARE GETTING MIXED UP? In An English dictionary, definitions for "UP" takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP...

Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Dr. Culture