



# A USELESS COLLECTION OF JOKES ON TRANSLATORS

(and translations)

edited by Andrea Becca  
[www.andreabecca.it](http://www.andreabecca.it)

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## English etymology of the word “Joke”

### **Joke:**

1670, *joque*, "a jest, something done to excite laughter," from L. *jocus* "joke, sport, pastime," from PIE base \**yek-* "to speak" (cf. Bret. *iez* "language," O.H.G. *jehan* "to say," Ger. *Beichte* "confession").

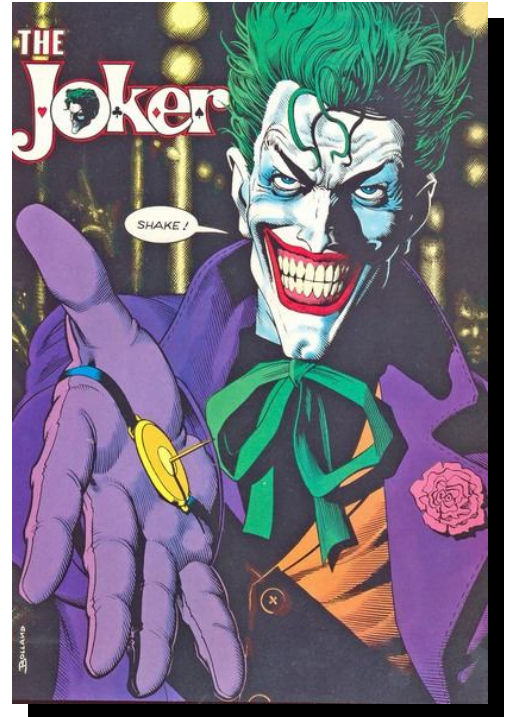
Originally a colloquial or slang word. Meaning "something not to be taken seriously" is 1791. *Joker*, meaning "odd face card in the deck" is from 1885, probably from earlier slang sense of "man, fellow, chap" (1811).

"American manufacturers of playing-cards are wont to include a blank card at the top of the pack; and it is, alas! true that some thrifty person suggested that the card should not be wasted. This was the origin of the joker." ["*St. James's Gazette*," 1894]

Practical joke "trick played on someone for the sake of a laugh at his expense" is from 1804.

### **Synonyms:**

jest, quip, banter, tell jokes, raise laughter, play, sport, frolic, revel, play tricks, pun, poke fun, twit, trick, fool, fool around, clown around, make merry, play the fool, play the clown, be facetious, be waggish, kid\*, josh\*, crack jokes\*, wisecrack\*, pull someone's leg\*, put someone on\*, jive\*, fun\*; see also deceive, trifle



## **1 - About freelancers...**

How does a freelancer define "weekend"?  
Two working days till Monday.

(Source: [www.Proz.com](http://www.Proz.com))



## **2 - The top ten misconceptions about translation**

10. Anybody with two years of high school language (or a foreign-tongued grandmother) can translate.
9. A good translator doesn't need a dictionary.
8. There's no difference between translation and interpretation.
7. Translators don't mind working nights and weekends at no extra charge.
6. Translators don't need to understand what they're translating.
5. A good translator doesn't need proofing or editing.
4. Becoming a translator is an easy way to get rich quick.
3. Translation is just typing in a foreign language.
2. A translator costs \$49.95 at Radio Shack and runs on two 'C' batteries.

And the #1 misconception about translation and translators:

1. That marketing copy that took a team of 20 people two months to put together can be translated overnight by one Person and still retain the same impact as the original.

(Source: [www.Proz.com](http://www.Proz.com))

## **3 – Sex and translation**

If the translator is a man, HE translates.  
If the translator is a woman, SHE translates.  
If the translator is a computer, IT translates.  
If the translator is either a man or a woman, S/HE translates.  
Whether the translator is a man, a woman or a computer, S/H/IT translates.

(Sergio Viaggio Source: [www.Proz.com](http://www.Proz.com))

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#### 4 - Traditore...

A Spanish speaking bandit held up a bank in Tucson. The sheriff and his deputy chased him. When they captured him, and the sheriff, who couldn't speak Spanish, asked him where he'd hidden the money. "No sé nada," he replied.

The sheriff put a gun to the bandit's head and said to his bi-lingual deputy: "Tell him that if he doesn't tell us where the money is right now, I'll blow his brains out."

Upon receiving the translation, the bandit became very animated. "¡Ya me acuerdo! Tienen que caminar tres cuadras hasta ese gran arbol: allí está el dinero."

The sheriff leaned forward. "Yeah? Well..?"

The deputy replied: "He says he wants to die like a man."

(Source: [www.Proz.com](http://www.Proz.com))

#### 5 – Asian translations

Information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner, Japan:

Cooler and heater: if you want just condition of warm air in your room, please control yourself.

Car rental brochure, Tokyo:

When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.

Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan:

Stop. Drive sideways.

Dry cleaner's, Bangkok:

Drop your trousers here for the best results.

Translators know that the briefer the phrase, the harder it is to translate.

Others think that anyone can translate a simple sign. Here are some signs reportedly seen around the world:

Hotel room notice, Thailand:

WE WILL EXECUTE YOUR SOLICITORS WITH PLEASURE

Hotel, Japan:

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAIDS. THEY ARE HERE TO SERVICE YOU.

(Source: [www.barinas.com](http://www.barinas.com)) (Source:

<http://www.translatortips.net/ubb/Forum7/HTML/000021.html>

Please follow the link for more. <http://www.bostico.co.uk/other/funny-translations.htm> )

## **6 – Hypothetical chineseese**

Are you harboring a fugitive? Hu Yu Hai Ding?

See me A.S.A.P. - Kum Hia Nao

Stupid Man - Dum Gai

Small Horse - Tai Ni Po Ni

Your price is too high!!! - No Bai Dam Thing!!

Did you go to the beach? - Wai Yu So Tan

I bumped into a coffee table - Ai Bang Mai Ni

I think you need a facelift - Chin Tu Fat

It's very dark in here - Wai So Dim?

Has your flight been delayed? - Hao Long Wei Ting?

That was an unauthorized execution - Lin Ching

I thought you were on a diet - Wai Yu Mun Ching?

This is a tow away zone - No Pah King

Do you know lyrics to the Macarena? - Wai Yu Sing Dum Song?

You are not very bright - Yu So Dum

I got this for free - Ai No Pei

I am not guilty - Wai Hang Mi?

Please, stay a while longer - Wai Go Nao?

Meeting was scheduled for next week - Wai You Kum Nao

They have arrived - Hia Dei Kum

Stay out of sight - Lei Lo

He's cleaning his automobile - Wa Shing Ka

He is a fat man - Wun Fat Gai

(Source: [http://www.lotsofjokes.com/cat\\_163.htm](http://www.lotsofjokes.com/cat_163.htm))

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## **7 – Women's language translated**

Yes = No

No = Yes

Maybe = No

I m sorry. = You ll be sorry.

We need... = I want

It s your decision = The correct decision should be obvious by now. Do what you want... = You ll pay for this later. We need to talk... = I need to complain  
Sure...go ahead = I don t want you to.

I m not upset = Of course I m upset, you moron! You re so manly = You need a shave and you sweat a lot. You re certainly attentive tonight = Is sex all you ever think about? Be romantic, turn out the lights = I have flabby thighs. This kitchen is so inconvenient = I want a new house. I want new curtains = ...and carpeting, and furniture, and wallpaper..... Hang the picture there = NO, I mean hang it there! I heard a noise = I noticed you were almost asleep. Do you love me? = I m going to ask for something expensive. How much do you love me? = I did something today you re really not going to like.

I ll be ready in a minute = Kick off your shoes and find a good game on TV.

Am I fat? = Tell me I m beautiful.

You have to learn to communicate. = Just agree with me.

Are you listening to me!?! = Too late, you re dead.

Was that the baby? = Why don t you get out of bed and walk him until he goes to sleep.

I'm not yelling! = Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.

In response to What s wrong?:

The same old thing = Nothing

Nothing = Everything

Nothing, really = It s just that you re such an idiot!

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<http%3a//www.ahajokes.com/gen09.html>

## ***8 - Men's language translated***

These translations are for all of you wonderful women out there, so that you will know what we really mean when we say...

"IT'S A GUY THING"

Translated:\* "There is no rational thought pattern connected with it, and you have no chance at all of making it logical."

"CAN I HELP WITH DINNER?"

Translated:\* "Why isn't it already on the table?"

"UH HUH," "SURE, HONEY," OR "YES, DEAR"

Translated:\* Absolutely nothing. It's a conditioned response.

"IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN"

Translated:\* "I have no idea how it works."

"TAKE A BREAK, HONEY. YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD."

Translated:\* "I can't hear the game over the vacuum cleaner."

"THAT'S INTERESTING, DEAR."

Translated:\* "Are you still talking?"

"YOU KNOW HOW BAD MY MEMORY IS."

Translated:\* "I remember the theme song to 'F Troop,' the address of the first girl I ever kissed and the vehicle identification numbers of every car

I've ever owned... but I forgot your birthday."

"OH, DON'T FUSS, I JUST CUT MYSELF. IT'S NO BIG DEAL."

Translated:\* "I have actually severed a limb but will bleed to death before I admit that I'm hurt."

"HEY, I'VE GOT MY REASONS FOR WHAT I'M DOING."

Translated:\* "And I sure hope I think of some pretty soon."

"I CAN'T FIND IT."

Translated:\* "It didn't fall into my outstretched hands, so I'm completely clueless."

"WHAT DID I DO THIS TIME?"

Translated:\* "What did you catch me at?"

"I'M NOT LOST. I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE."

Translated:\* "No one will ever see us alive again."

"WE SHARE THE HOUSEWORK."

Translated:\* "I make the messes; she cleans them up."

(Source: <http://www.ahajokes.com/gen03.html>)

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## **9 – Four important words**

To make a long story short...

A missionary goes to Africa to visit a community, a very old, primitive tribal community. He gives a long sermon. For half an hour he tells a long anecdote,



and then the interpreter stands up. He speaks only four words and everyone laughs uproariously. The missionary is puzzled. How is it possible that a story half an hour long can be translated in four words. What kind of amazing language is this? Puzzled, he says to the interpreter, "You have done a miracle. You have spoken only four words. I don't know what you said, but how can you translate my story, which was so long, into only four words?"

The interpreter says, "Story too long, so I say, 'He says joke -- laugh!' "

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **10 - The importance of pronunciation**

On a visit to the United States, Charles de Gaulle was honoured at a banquet in the White House. Seated beside his wife was an official who spoke no French, but who tried to engage her in conversation by asking

"Madame de Gaulle, what do you think the most important thing in life is?"

"A penis", she replied.

Overhearing, her husband said gently "I believe, my dear, that in English it is pronounced 'appiness.'"

( contributed by Ko D., Holland)

## **11 - Flawless English**

An African chieftain flew to the United States to visit the president. When he arrived at the airport, a host of newsmen and television cameramen met him. One of the reporters asked the chief if he had a comfortable flight. The chief made a series of weird noises..."screech, scratch, honk, buzz, whistle, z-z-z-z- "...and then added in perfect English, "Yes, I had a very nice flight."

Another reporter asked, "Chief, do you plan to visit the Washington Monument while you're in the area? The chief made the same noises..."screech, scratch, honk, buzz, whistle, z-z-z-z"...and then said, "Yes, and I also plan to visit the White House and the Capitol Building."

"Where did you learn to speak such flawless English?" asked the next reporter.

The chief replied, "Screech, scratch, honk, buzz, whistle, z-z-z-z...from the short-wave radio."

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **12 - Help!**

Two translators on a ship are talking.

"Can you swim?" asks one.

"No" says the other, "but I can shout for help in nine languages."

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **13 - Hieroglyphics**

There were a group of archeologists who dug up a line of hieroglyphics that were, from left to right: a dog, a donkey, a shovel, a fish, and a Star of David. After years of study they came up with an explanation. They believed that this was a very wise group of people. First, they knew man had to have company, hence the dog. Next, they knew that they needed animals to help with work, so the donkey. The shovel was there because of their advanced knowledge of tools. Next, they knew that they had to eat, and that fish were the best source of food. Finally, they were a religious group and knew man had to have religion.

After the explanation, a man jumped up and said, "You fools, Hebrew is read from right to left! It says 'Holy mackerel, dig the ass on that bitch!'"

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **14 - 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 Argentinians & 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. (Note: Steven M., a Spanish translator, has written to explain that this is actually false, an urban legend. Please see this site which sets the facts straight).

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 Germany only to find out that "mist" is German for manure. Not too many people had use for the "manure stick".

When Gerber started selling baby food in Africa, they used the same packaging as in the US, with the beautiful Caucasian baby on the label. Later they learned that in Africa, companies routinely put pictures on the label of what's inside, since most people can't read.

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

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## 15 - Medical Terms

Two newlyweds went on their honeymoon and were getting undressed together for the first time. He took off his shoes and socks and his toes were all twisted and discolored.

"What happened to your feet?" his wife asked.

"I had a childhood disease called tolio."

"Don't you mean polio?"

"No, tolio, it only affects the toes." He then removed his pants and revealed an awful-looking pair of knees.

"What happened to your knees?" she asked.

"Well, I also had kneesles."

"Don't you mean measles?"

"No, kneesles - it only affects the knees."

When he removed his shorts, his wife gasped and said, "Don't tell me .... you also had smallcox!"

## 16 - Cat and Mouse

A mouse is in his mouse hole and he wants to go out to get something to eat, but he's afraid there might be a big cat outside, so he puts his ear by the opening and all he hears is "Bow Wow" so he thinks, "Well, there can't be a cat out there because there's a big old dog", so he goes out of his mouse hole and is promptly caught and eaten by a cat, who licks his lips and says "It's good to be bilingual !!"



(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## 17 - Deadlines

Translator gets 400 words to translate.

Client : How long will it take?

Translator : About a week.

Client : A whole week for just 400 words? God created the world in 6 days.

Translator : Then just take a look at this world and afterwards take a look at my translation.

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## 18 - Language Barrier

Two highway workers were busy working at a construction site when a big car with diplomatic license plates pulled up.

"Parlez-vous français?" the driver asks them. The two workers just stared.

"Sprechen Sie Deutsch?" The two continued to stare at him.

"Fala português?" Neither worker said anything.

"Parlate Italiano?" Still no response.

Finally, the man drives off in disgust.

One worker turned to the other and said, "Gee, maybe we should learn a foreign language..."

"What for? That guy knew four of them and what good did it do him?"

## 19 - The Most Powerful English Word



Perhaps one of the most interesting and colorful words in the English language today is "F==K".

It is the magical word which, just by its sound can describe pain, pleasure, hate, and love. "F==K" falls into many grammatical categories.

It can be used as a verb - both transitive (Dave f==ked Anne) and intransitive (Dave then f==ked off home).

It can be used as an active verb (Dave f==ks Anne regularly) or as a passive verb (Anne is regularly f==ked by Dave).

It makes a wonderful adjective (Anne is f==king beautiful) and can even be a noun (Dave is a fine f==k). So you see, there are not many words with the versatility of "F==K".

Besides its sexual connotations, this lovely word can be used to describe many situations :

aggression : Fuck you.

apathy : Who gives a fuck anyway?

denial : I didn't fucking do it.

derision : He fucks everything up

despair : Fucked again.

difficulty : I don't understand this fucking job.

disbelief : How the fuck did you do that?

dismay : Oh, fuck it.

displeasure : What the fuck is going on?

fraud : I got fucked by my insurance agent.

goodbye : Fuck off.

greeting : How the fuck are you?

incompetence : He's all fucked up.

lost : Where the fuck are we?

mistake : That's fucked it.

panic : Let's get the fuck out of here.

perplexity : I know fuck all about it.

philosophical : Who gives a fuck?

rebellion : Fuck this for a game of soldiers.

resignation : Oh, fuck it.

retaliation : Up your fucking ass.

surprise : Fuck me.

suspicion : Who the fuck are you?  
trouble : I guess I'm fucked now.  
It can be...useful in describing anatomy : He's a fucking asshole.  
used to tell the time : It's five fucking thirty.  
used in business : How did I get this fucking job.  
a predication : Oh, will I get fucked.  
maternal : You great motherfucker.  
nautical : Fuck the admiral.  
political : Fuck Kinnock/Thatcher.  
used to open a relationship : Let's fuck.

The word has, of course, been used by some very famous personages through the years, the more notable of them being :

What the fuck was that? Mayor of Hiroshima  
Look at all those fucking Indians! General Custer  
Where's all that fucking water coming from? Captain of the Titanic  
What a place to plant a fucking tree. Marc Bolan  
That's not a real fucking gun. John Lennon  
The fucking throttle's stuck! Donald Campbell  
Who's going to fucking know? President Nixon  
I'm outside the fucking exclusion zone. Capt. of Gen. Belgrano  
Heads are going to fucking roll! Anne Boleyn  
Who let that fucking woman drive? Space Shuttle Captain  
Watch him, he'll have some fucker's eye out. King Harold  
I thought I could smell fucking petrol. Nikki Lauda  
What fucking map? Mark Thatcher  
It's my best fucking coat. Michael Foot  
She's just a fucking secretary. Cecil Parkinson  
He's just a fucking mate. Jeremy Thorpe  
Any fucker can understand that. Einstein  
It fucking looks like her! Picasso  
Where's the fucking brakes on this thing. Donald Campbell  
Where the fuck are we? Christopher Columbus  
It's a sunny day, we don't need a fucking top on the car. JFK  
What the fucks that coming down the ventilation shaft. Iraqi airbase staff  
Nobody will give a fuck about the poll tax. Margaret Thatcher  
How the fuck do we work that out? Pythagoras  
You want what on the fucking ceiling?! Michaelangelo  
I don't suppose it's fucking raining. Joan of Arc  
I didn't want to fucking go anyway. Sebastian Coe  
I haven't got a fucking clue. Miss Marples.

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **20 - EuroEnglish**

The European Commission have just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the EU rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5 year phase-in plan that would be known as "EuroEnglish": --

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favor of the "k". This should klear up konfusion and keyboards kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with the "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e"'s in the

language is disgraceful, and they should go away. By the 4th year, people will be receptive to steps such as replacing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During the fifth year, the unnecessary "o" can be dropped from words containing "ou" and similar changes would of course be applied to other combinations of letters. After this fifth year, we will have a really sensible written style. There will be no more troubles or difficulties and everyone will find it easy to understand each other. ZE DREM VIL FINALI KUM TRU!

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **21 - Language Permutations**

The following were among the winners in a New York Magazine contest in which contestants were to take a well-known expression in a foreign language, change a single letter, and provide a definition for the new expression.

HARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

Can you drive a French motorcycle?

EX POST FUCTO

Lost in the mail

IDIOS AMIGOS

We're wild and crazy guys!

VENI, VIPI, VICI

I came, I'm a very important person, I conquered.

COGITO EGGO SUM

I think; therefore I am a waffle.

RIGOR MORRIS

The cat is dead.

RESPONDEZ S'IL VOUS PLAID

Honk if you're Scottish.

LE ROI EST MORT. JIVE LE ROI

The king is dead. No kidding.

POSH MORTEM

Death styles of the rich and famous

PRO BOZO PUBLICO

Support your local clown.

MONAGE A TROIS

I am three years old.

MAZEL TON

Tons of luck

APRES MOE LE DELUGE

Larry and Curly got wet.

ICH LIEBE RICH

I'm really crazy about having dough.

FUI GENERIS

What's mine is mine.

CA VA SANS DIRT

And that's not gossip.

(Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/srajano/jokes.html>)

## **22 – Translations and animals**

According to the following table of translated animal expressions, it would appear that cats are the ones who have the least need for translators:

English  
French  
German  
Spanish  
Dutch  
Italiano

cock  
cock-a-doodle-doo  
coquerico  
kikeriki  
kikiriki  
kukeleku  
chicchirichì

dog  
bow-wow  
ouap-ouap  
waf-waf  
guav-guav  
woef-woef  
bau - bau

cat  
me-aow  
mi-aou  
mi-auw  
mi-au  
mi-jauw  
miao - miao

based on Translation Quotes and Quips  
By Dr. Frederick J. A. Mostert

## **23 – Translations are like wives**

"Translations (like wives) are seldom faithful if they are in the least attractive."

Roy Campbell: Poetry Review, June/July 1949

## **24 – Meaning and significance**

"The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless."

ITI Bulletin, 6, 7, 1990

## **25 – Translators do it better**

Translators do it bilingually.  
Interpreters do it simultaneously.  
Linguists do it with their tongues.

## **26 - Latin for All Occasions**

From Henry Beard's "Latin for All Occasions". Impress the hell out of your friends, with these little known Latin mottos and colloquialisms.

Eng: I think that Elvis is still alive.  
Latin: Credo Elvem ipsum etian vivere.

Eng: Garbage in, garbage out.  
Latin: Purgamentum init, exit purgamentum.

Eng: If it ain't broke, don't fix it.  
Latin: Si fractum non sit, noli id reficere.

Eng: Baby, sweetheart, would I lie to you?  
Latin: Amicule, deliciae, num is sum qui mentiar tibi?

Eng: I'd like to buy some condoms.  
Latin: Volo comparare nonnulla tegumembra.

Eng: Your fly is open.  
Latin: Braccae tuae aperiuntur.

Eng: Your place or mine?  
Latin: Apudne te vel me?

Eng: I'll have a pizza with everything on it.  
Latin: Da mihi sis crustum Etruscum cum omnibus in eo.

## **27 - Translations: Southern United States to English**

BARD - verb. Past tense of the infinitive "to borrow."  
Usage: "My brother bard my pickup truck."

JAWJUH - noun. A highly flammable state just north of Florida.  
Usage: "My brother from Jawjah bard my pickup truck."

MUNTS - noun. A calendar division.  
Usage: "My brother from Jawjuh bard my pickup truck, and I aint herd from him in munts."



IGNERT - adjective. Not smart. See "Auburn Alumni."  
Usage: "Them N-C-TWO-A boys sure are ignert!"

RANCH - noun. A tool.  
Usage: "I think I left my ranch in the back of that pickup truck my brother from Jawjuh bard a few munts ago."

ALL - noun. A petroleum-based lubricant.  
Usage: "I sure hope my brother from Jawjuh puts all in my pickup truck."

FAR - noun. A conflagration.  
Usage: "If my brother from Jawjuh doesn't change the all in my pickup truck, that things gonna catch far."

TARRED - adjective. Exhausted.  
Usage: "I just flew in from Hot-lanta, and boy my arms are tarred."

RATS - noun. Entitled power or privilege.  
Usage: "We Southerners are willing to fight for out rats."

FARN - adjective. Not local.  
Usage: "I cudnt unnerstand a wurd he sed ... must be from some farn country."

EAR - noun. A colorless, odorless gas (unless you are in LA).  
Usage: "He can't breathe ... give 'em some ear!"

GUMMIT - Noun. An often-closed bureaucratic institution.  
Usage: "Great ... ANOTHER gummit shutdown!"

## **28 - The Importance of Punctuation**

From: Games Magazine (1984)

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy--will you let me be yours?

Gloria

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?

Yours, Gloria

## **29 – Poetry and translation**

"Poetry is what gets lost in translation."  
- Robert Frost

## **30 – Shakespeare**

They have been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps.  
William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), "Love's Labour's Lost", Act 5 scene 1

### **On line sources**

I found these jokes in these sites.

Please, let me know if there are mistakes or if any of them are protected by a copyright. I didn't have any commercial purpose in editing this e-book.

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translation Quotes and Quips

By Dr. Frederick J. A. Mostert

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