

The Proof Angel Summary of

Word games: December 2013

Homophones

Objective:

Guess a pair of words that sound the same but mean something different.

Play:

One person thinks of a pair of homophones, and then puts them into a sentence. That player then thinks of a completely unrelated word & substitutes that word for the homophones to form a sentence that doesn't make sense. When told the nonsense sentence, the other players have to guess the homophones.

Example:

The original sentence is "The oarsmen had a row about how to row." The other players are told "The oarsmen had a spaceship about how to spaceship".

The wandering adverb

This one isn't a competitive game, but it can be very good fun if you are in the right mood.

Make up a sentence. Pick an adverb. Start with the adverb at the beginning of the sentence, and gradually move its position through the sentence.



The Proof Angel is the trading name of Sarah Perkins, freelance editor and proofreader.

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See how the meaning changes - in some cases the difference is significant. An adverb is good for this, because most of them can go anywhere in the sentence. Whether all the possible positions make sense, I will leave for you to explore.

Example:

- Really, I think you should go.
- I really think you should go.
- I think, really, you should go.
- I think you really should go.

I love my love

This goes back to at least the time of Samuel Pepys.

Work through the alphabet from a random point, filling in the blanks:

- I love my love with a (letter) because she is _____
- I hate her with a (letter) because she is _____
- Her name is _____ and she comes from _____

For example:

- I love my love with a D because she is devastating.
- I hate her with a D because she is devious.
- Her name is Diane and she comes from Dereham.

You can agree before starting to miss out X, Y, and/or Z.

Russian spelling

This is more of a discussion point than a game.

To British eyes, Eastern European languages have some very strange spellings: lots of z for example. But some English words, although they are shorter, have very bizarre spellings.

The idea of this debate is to think of those words, pick out the group of letters spelling the letter sound, then use those letter groups to spell a word.

And laugh at the weird way they look.

Consider the following spellings:

- Hiccough so ough = p
- Dough so ough = o
- Phthisic so phth = t
- Neighbour so eigh = a & our = er
- Gazette so tte = t
- Plateau so eau = o

So:

- Pot could be spelled ughoughphth.
- Top could be spelled tteoughugh, or phthouughugh
- Oat could be spelled eaueighphth

All of which look just as unpronounceable as Russian looks to us. It is like the reverse of textspeak!