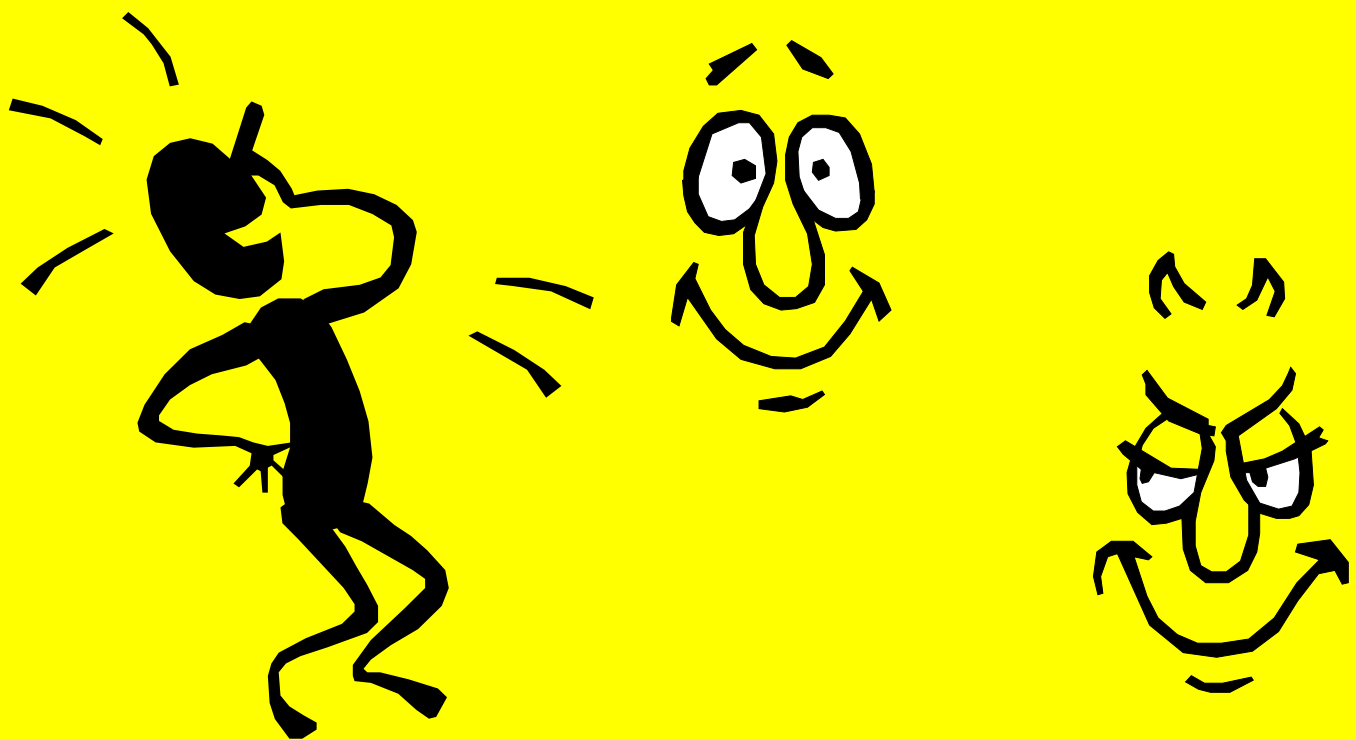


email
Announcements -
Volume I

Bulletins, Help Desks and Announcers



Barney Hegarty

Welcome

Email Announcements Volume I – Bulletins, Help Desks and Announcers is the first of a series containing emails that have been sent directly to me *and have caused me to laugh out loud*. The **Announcements** series generally contains actual statements, actual form entries, actual exam answers.... anything that has been reported as being stated.

Having received this book, you are free to copy any of the contents and email them on to family and friends to provide them with a regular laugh. Please remember to mention www.BHReviews.com whenever you send them out.

Have a look at www.BHReviews.com, a growing site selling e-books compiled from a wide range of sources with the goal of **helping people to develop key professional skills**. The **Email Series** are about not only immediate amusement, but also a source for you to dip into and send out to family, friends and colleagues – potentially even sales prospects – as a starting point for conversation or contact or just for a bit of fun. There are a number of further series, including The Battle of the Sexes Series, the Family Friendly Series, the Rude but Funny Series, the Corporate Series and the oddly popular Non-PC Series. The Pun Series makes me chortle and sets my shoulders jumping up and down just thinking about it !

Enjoy

Barney

WARNING : Although the contents of this particular book are generally benign, there are some entries where the content is relatively adult. If you are easily offended, please stop reading now.

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TERMS NOTICE

The contents of this book have been taken from emails sent directly to the author that resulted in out-loud laughter.

IF YOU ARE EASILY OFFENDED PLEASE DO NOT READ ANY FURTHER and return the book. The contents of this particular book are generally benign, but there are some entries where the content is relatively adult. As a policy we do not publish comments or jokes about individuals unless they are either complimentary or beneficial to them. As a policy, we do not discriminate against any race, creed, sex or sexual orientation, either. The emails that we reproduce make fun of circumstances, responses to circumstances or the imagined characteristics of stereotypes.

We trust our readers to read our books with an open mind and an acceptance that offence is not intended in reproducing any particular email. As a result we will not accept any responsibility for any perceived offence, loss (or profit), direct or otherwise, as a consequence of using or reading any of the information herein.

If you wish to make any comments, our contact details are on the final page of this book.

CHURCH BULLETINS

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

TUBE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following are actual announcements made on the London Underground

"At Camden town station (on a crowded Saturday afternoon): 'Please let the passengers off the train first. Please let the passengers off the train first. Please let the passengers off the train first. Let the passengers off the train FIRST! Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care, I'm going home."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"Ladies and Gentlemen do you want the good news first or the bad news?" The good news is that last Friday was my birthday and I hit the town and had a great time. I felt sadly let down by the fact that none of you sent me a card! I drive you to work and home each day and not even a card. The bad news is that there is a points failure somewhere between Stratford and East Ham, which means that we probably won't reach our destination. We may have to stop and return. I won't reverse back up the line simply get out walk up the platform and go back to where we started. In the mean time if you get bored you can simply talk to the man in front or beside you or opposite you. Let me start you off: "Hi, my name's Gary how do you do?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"Your delay this evening is caused by the line controller suffering from elbow and backside syndrome -not knowing his elbow from his backside. I'll let you know any further information as soon as I'm given any".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"Please mind the closing doors..."
The doors close...The doors reopen.
"Passengers are reminded that the big red slidy things on the side of the train are called the doors. Let's try it again. Please stand clear of the doors."
The doors close...
"Thank you."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"I am sorry about the delay, apparently some nutter has just wondered into the tunnel at Euston. We don't know when we'll be moving again, but these people tend to come out pretty quickly...usually in bits."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Copy of e-mail received by B&Q customer services:

Dear Sir/Madam

My congratulations to you on getting a yacht to leave the UK on 28th November 2004, sail 27,354 miles around the world and arrive back 72 Days later.

Could you please let me know when the kitchen I ordered 96 days ago will be arriving from your warehouse 13 miles away?

AUSTRALIAN TOURIST BOARD RESPONSES

The questions below about Australia, are from potential visitors. They were posted on an Australian Tourism Website and the answers are the actual responses by the website officials, who obviously have a sense of humour.

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV, how do the plants grow? (UK).

A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)

A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks? Sweden)

A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles, take lots of water.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Is it safe to run around in the bushes in Australia? (Sweden)

A: So it's true what they say about Swedes.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Are there any cash points in Australia? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Hervey Bay? (UK)

A: What did your last slave die of?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia? (USA)

A: A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific which does not... oh forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Which direction is North in Australia? (USA)

A: Face south and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK)

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is...oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK)

A: You are a British politician, right?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany)

A: No, we are a peaceful civilisation of vegan hunter/gatherers. Milk is illegal.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA)

A: Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca which is where YOU come from. All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

A: It's called a Drop Bear. They are so called because they drop out of Gum trees and eat the brains of anyone walking underneath them. You can scare them off by spraying yourself with human urine before you go out walking.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Do you have perfume in Australia? (France)

A: No, we don't stink.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in Australia? (USA)

A: Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Can you tell me the regions in Tasmania where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy)

A: Yes, gay night-clubs.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in Australia? (France)

A: Only at Christmas.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: I was in Australia in 1969 on R+R, and I want to contact the girl I dated while I was staying in Kings Cross. Can you help? (USA)

A: Yes, and you will still have to pay her by the hour.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA)

A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“OUT OF OFFICE” MESSAGES

1. I am currently out at a job interview and will reply to you if I fail to get the position. Be prepared for my mood.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

2. You are receiving this automatic notification because I am out of the office. If I was in, chances are you wouldn't have received anything at all.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

3. I will be unable to delete all the unread, worthless emails you send me until I return from holiday on 4 April. Please be patient and your mail will be deleted in the order it was received.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

4. Thank you for your email. Your credit card has been charged EUR5.99 for the first ten words and EUR1.99 for each additional word in your message.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

5. The e-mail server is unable to verify your server connection and is unable to deliver this message. Please restart your computer and try sending again.

(The beauty of this is that when you return, you can see how many in-duh-viduals did this over and over).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

6. Thank you for your message, which has been added to a queuing system. You are currently in 352nd place, and can expect to receive a reply in approximately 19 weeks.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

7. I've run away to join a different circus.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AND, FINALLY:

8. I will be out of the office for the next 2 weeks for medical reasons. When I return, please refer to me as 'Margaret' instead of 'Steve'.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Tech Support:

"I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop".

Customer: "OK".

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?".

Customer: "No".

Tech Support: "OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No".

Tech Support: "OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?".

Customer: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tech Support: "OK. In the bottom left hand side of the screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?"

Customer: "Wow. How can you see my screen from there?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Caller: "I deleted a file from my PC last week and I have just realised that I need it. If I turn my system clock back two weeks will I have my file back again?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

WORD PERFECT

There's always one. This has got to be one of the funniest things in a long time. I think this guy should have been promoted, not fired. This is apparently a true story from the Word Perfect Helpline, which was transcribed from a recording monitoring the customer care department. Needless to say the Help Desk employee was fired; however, he/she is said to be suing the Word Perfect organization for "Termination without Cause".

Actual dialogue of a former WordPerfect Customer Support employee. (Now I know why they record these conversations!):

Operator: "... computer assistance; May I help you?"

Caller: "Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect."

Operator: "What sort of trouble??"

Caller: "Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away."

Operator: "Went away?"

Caller: "They disappeared."

Operator: "Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?"

Caller: "Nothing."

Operator: "Nothing??"

Caller: "It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type."

Operator: "Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out??"

Caller: "How do I tell?"

Operator: "Can you see the C: prompt on the screen??"

Caller: "What's a sea-prompt?"

Operator: "Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?"

Caller: "There isn't any cursor: I told you, it won't accept anything I type."

Operator: "Does your monitor have a power indicator??"

Caller: "What's a monitor?"

Operator: "It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on??"

Caller: "I don't know."

Operator: "Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that??"

Caller: "Yes, I think so."

Operator: "Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall."

Caller: "Yes, it is."

Operator: "When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one??"

Caller: "No."

Operator: "Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable."

Caller: "Okay, here it is."

Operator: "Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer."

Caller: "I can't reach."

Operator: "Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is??"

Caller: "No."

Operator: "Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over??"

Caller: "Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle - it's because it's dark."

Operator: "Dark??"

Caller: "Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window."

Operator: "Well, turn on the office light then."

Caller: "I can't."

Operator: "No? Why not??"

Caller: "Because there's a power failure."

Operator: "A power..... A power failure? Aha, Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in??"

Caller: "Well, yes, I keep them in the closet."

Operator: "Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from."

Caller: "Really? Is it that bad?"

Operator: "Yes, I'm afraid it is."

Caller: "Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them??"

Operator: "Tell them you're too f*%king stupid to own a computer".

VALENTINES DAY

Just in case you're stuck for what to write in your Valentines day card..... These are entries to a Washington Post competition asking for a rhyme with the most romantic first line... but the least romantic second line.

Thought that I could love no other
That is until I met your brother.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet, and so are you.
But the roses are wilting, the violets are dead, the sugar bowl's empty and so is
your head.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Of loving beauty you float with grace
If only you could hide your face

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Love may be beautiful, love may be bliss
But I only slept with you, because I was pissed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot;
This describes everything you are not

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I want to feel your sweet embrace
But don't take that paper bag off of your face

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I love your smile, your face, and your eyes -
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife:
Marrying you screwed up my life

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I see your face when I am dreaming.
That's why I always wake up screaming

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

My love, you take my breath away.
What have you stepped in to smell this way?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

My feelings for you no words can tell,
Except for maybe "go to hell"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

What inspired this amorous rhyme?
Two parts vodka, one part lime.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Churchdown Parish Magazine:

'Would the Congregation please note that the bowl at the back of the Church labeled "For The Sick", is for monetary donations only.'

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From The Guardian concerning a sign seen in a Police canteen in Christchurch, New Zealand:
'Will the person who took a slice of cake from the Commissioner's Office return it immediately. It is needed as evidence in a poisoning case.'

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From The Times:

'A young girl, who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth, was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast-guard spokesman commented, "This sort of thing is all too common these days."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From The Gloucester Citizen:

'A sex line caller complained to Trading Standards. After dialing an 0891 number from an advertisement entitled "Hear Me Moan" the caller was played a tape of a woman nagging her husband for failing to do jobs around the house.'

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Consumer Watchdogs in Dorset refused to look into the complaint, saying, "He got what he deserved."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From The Daily Telegraph in a piece headed "Brussels Pays 200,000 Pounds to Save Prostitutes":

"... the money will not be going directly into the prostitutes' pocket, but will be used to encourage them to lead a better life. We will be training them for new positions in hotels."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From The Derby Abbey Community News:

"We apologize for the error in the last edition, in which we stated that 'Mr Fred Nicolme is a Defective in the Police Force'. This was a typographical error. We meant of course that Mr Nicolme is a Detective in the Police Farce."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UNDERGROUND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were all heard and reported by visitors to the "Going Underground" website.

Heard at Earl's Court:

"The train at platform three is not going to Parsons Green but to Richmond. The train approaching platform two is also not going to Parsons Green but to Ealing Broadway. These trains are not going to Parsons Green despite what the signal men think.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the Northern Line:

"Beggars are operating on this train, please do NOT encourage these professional beggars, if you have any spare change, please give it to a registered charity, failing that, give it to me."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the Piccadilly Line:

"To the gentleman wearing the long grey coat trying to get on the second carriage, what part of 'stand clear of the doors' don't you understand?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At Leyton station (where a train was stationary despite a green light):

"Sorry for the delay ladies and gentlemen but there is a queue of trains ahead of us so I have decided to wait here, because I'm sure you don't want to sit in a tunnel getting hot and sweaty"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the Central line:

"Next time, you might find it easier to wait until the doors are open before trying to get on the train"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At King's Cross:

"This train is completely broken, it isn't going anywhere"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the Victoria line:

"This is Brixton, err, no, it's Victoria!"

"This is like that TV advert, I hope the person next to you is wearing a good deodorant!"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At Camden town station (on a crowded Saturday afternoon):

'Please let the passengers off the train first...

Please let the passengers off the train first...

Please let the passengers off the train first...

Let the passengers off the train FIRST!...

Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care, I'm going home.'

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At Moorgate (after a 20-minute delay):

"I apologise for the delay but the computer controlling the signalling at Aldgate and Whitechapel has the Monday Morning Blues"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At West Hampstead:

"We can't move off because some c*** has their f***ing hand stuck in the door'

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At Mill Hill East:

"Hello this is xxx speaking, I am the captain of your train, and we will be departing shortly, we will be cruising at an altitude of approximately zero feet, and our scheduled arrival time in Morden is 3:15pm. The temperature in Morden is approximately 15 degrees celsius, and Morden is in the same time zone as Mill Hill east, so there's no need to adjust your watches."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On a delayed train at Epping (when the driver had a chat with a colleague unaware that he'd left the tannoy on): "bollocks to the lot of them, I don't care if they don't make it to work."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

And some extra ones from a friend of mine :

I had a hilarious journey in on the Jubilee line the other day: As we approached Finchley Road, the driver warned us that the platform was curved "and, in the words of William Shakespeare: If you wish others not to think you a fool, mind the gap and you'll look cool."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Later on we were stationary in a tunnel waiting at a red light. The driver came on to explain that we were in a line of trains and in fact he could actually see the rear of the train in front of us. He then told us that unfortunately London Underground had refused him permission to try his revolutionary new overtaking manoeuvre, so we would just have to wait here for the time being.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

REAL LIFE CUSTOMER COMPLAINT

A real-life customer complaint letter sent to NTL (from their complaints dept....)

Dear Cretins,

I have been an NTL customer since 9th July 2001, when I signed up for your 3-in-one deal for cable TV, cable modem, and telephone. During this three-month period I have encountered inadequacy of service which I had not previously considered possible, as well as ignorance and stupidity of monolithic proportions.

Please allow me to provide specific details, so that you can either pursue your professional prerogative, and seek to rectify these difficulties - or more likely (I suspect) so that you can have some entertaining reading material as you while away the working day smoking B&H and drinking vendor-coffee on the bog in your office: My initial installation was cancelled without warning, resulting in my spending an entire Saturday sitting on my fat arse waiting for your technician to arrive.

When he did not arrive, I spent a further 57 minutes listening to your infuriating hold music, and the even more annoying Scottish robot woman telling me to look at your helpful website.... HOW? I alleviated the boredom by playing with my testicles for a few minutes - an activity at which you are no-doubt both familiar and highly adept. The rescheduled installation then took place some two weeks later, although the technician did forget to bring a number of vital tools-- such as a drill-bit, and his cerebrum.

Two weeks later, my cable modem had still not arrived. After 15 telephone calls over 4 weeks my modem arrived... six weeks after I had requested it, and begun to pay for it. I estimate your internet servers downtime is roughly 35%... hours between about 6pm -midnight, Mon-Fri, and most of the weekend. I am still waiting for my telephone connection. I have made 9 calls on my mobile to your no-help line, and have been unhelpfully transferred to a variety of disinterested individuals, who are it seems also highly skilled bollock jugglers.

I have been informed that a telephone line is available (and someone will call me back); that no telephone line is available (and someone will call me back); that I will be transferred to someone who knows whether or not a telephone line is available (and then been cut off); that I will be transferred to someone (and then been redirected to an answer machine informing me that your office is closed); that I will be transferred to someone and then been redirected to the irritating Scottish robot woman...and several other variations on this theme.

Doubtless you are no-longer reading this letter, as you have at least a thousand other dissatisfied customers to ignore, and also another one of those crucially important testicle-moments to attend to. Frankly I don't care, it's far more satisfying as a customer to voice my frustrations in print than to shout them at your unending hold music. Forgive me, therefore, if I continue. I thought BT were shit, that they had attained the holy piss-pot of god-awful customer relations, that no-one, anywhere, ever, could be more interested, less helpful or more obstructive to delivering service to their customers. That's why I chose NTL, and because, well, there isn't anyone else is there? How surprised I therefore was, when I discovered to my considerable dissatisfaction and disappointment what a useless shower of bastards you truly are. You are sputum-filled pieces of distended rectum - incompetents of the highest order.

British Telecom - wankers though they are - shine like brilliant beacons of success, in the filthy puss-filled mire of your seemingly limitless inadequacy. Suffice to say that I have now given up on my futile and foolhardy quest to receive any kind of service from you.

I suggest that you cease any potential future attempts to extort payment from me for the services which you have so pointedly and catastrophically failed to deliver- any such activity will be greeted initially with hilarity and disbelief -quickly be replaced by derision, and even perhaps bemused rage.

I enclose two small deposits, selected with great care from my cats litter tray, as an expression of my utter and complete contempt for both you and your pointless company. I sincerely hope that they have not become desiccated during transit - they were satisfyingly moist at the time of posting, and I would feel considerable disappointment if you did not experience both their rich aroma and delicate texture. Consider them the very embodiment of my feelings towards NTL, and it's worthless employees.

Have a nice day - may it be the last in your miserable short life, you irritatingly incompetent and infuriatingly unhelpful bunch of twats.

SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

Sometimes you need to use language carefully....

In a Nairobi Restaurant:

CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the grounds of a private school:

NO TRESPASSING WITHOUT PERMISSION

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the Athi River Highway:

TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On a poster at Kencom:

ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO, WE CAN HELP

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In a city restaurant:

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

One of the Mathare Buildings:

MENTAL HEALTH PREVENTION CENTRE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A sign seen on an automatic restroom hand dryer:

DO NOT ACTIVATE WITH WET HANDS

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In an Pumwani maternity ward:

NO CHILDREN ALLOWED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In a cemetery:

PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sign in a Japanese public bath:

FOREIGN GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO PULL COCK IN TUB

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sign in men's rest room in Japan:

TO STOP LEAK TURN COCK TO THE RIGHT

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tokyo hotel's rules & regulations:

GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel notice, Tokyo:

IS FORBIDDEN TO STEAL HOTEL TOWELS. IF YOU ARE NOT A PERSON TO DO SUCH A THING PLEASE DO NOT READ NOTIS.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant:

SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In a Tokyo Bar:

OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In a Bangkok Temple:
IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN EVEN A FOREIGNER IF DRESSED AS A MAN
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel room notice, Chiang-mai, Thailand:
PLEASE DO NOT BRING SOLICITORS INTO YOUR ROOM
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel brochure, Italy:
THIS HOTEL IS RENOWNED FOR ITS PEACE AND SOLITUDE. IN FACT, CROWDS FROM
ALL OVER THE WORLD FLOCK HERE TO ENJOY ITS SOLITUDE
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel lobby, Bucharest:
THE LIFT IS BEING FIXED FOR THE NEXT DAY. DURING THAT TIME WE REGRET THAT
YOU WILL BE UNBEARABLE
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel elevator, Paris
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR VALUES AT THE FRONT DESK
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel, Yugoslavia:
THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE IS THE JOB OF THE
CHAMBERMAID
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel, Japan
YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In the lobby of the Moscow Hotel
YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET
COMPOSERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY EXCEPT THURSDAY
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel catering to skiers, Austria
NOT TO PERAMBULATE THE CORRIDORS IN THE HOURS OF THE REPOSE IN THE
BOOTS OF ASCENSION
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Polish menu
SALAD A FIRM'S OWN MAKE
LIMPID RED BEET SOUP WITH CHEESEY DUMPLINGS IN THE FORM OF A FINGER
ROASTED DUCK LET LOOSE
BEEF RASHERS BEATEN UP IN THE COUNTRY PEOPLE'S FASHION
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Supermarket, Hong Kong
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE RECOMMEND COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT SELF- SERVICE
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dry cleaners, Bangkok
DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From the Soviet Weekly
THERE WILL BE A MOSCOW EXHIBITION OF ARTS BY 15,000 SOVIET REPUBLIC
PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS. THESE WERE EXECUTED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In an East African Newspaper
A NEW SWIMMING POOL IS RAPIDLY TAKING SHAPE SINCE THE CONTRACTORS HAVE
THROWN IN THE BULK OF THEIR WORKERS
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel, Vienna

IN CASE OF FIRE DO YOUR UTMOST TO ALARM THE HOTEL PORTER

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest

IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON OUR BLACK FOREST CAMPING SITE THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SEX, FOR INSTANCE, MEN AND WOMEN, LIVE TOGETHER IN ONE TENT UNLESS THEY ARE MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER FOR THIS PURPOSE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel, Zurich

BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dentist's advert in Hong Kong

TEETH EXTRACTED BY THE LATEST METHODISTS

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Russian book on Chess

A LOT OF WATER HAS PASSED UNDER THE BRIDGE SINCE THIS VARIATION HAS BEEN PLAYED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Laundry in Rome

LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Advert for donkey ride, Thailand

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE ON YOUR OWN ASS?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In the window of a Swedish furrier

FUR COATS MADE FOR LADIES FROM THEIR OWN SKIN

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong

GUARANTEED TO WORK THROUGHOUT ITS USEFUL LIFE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In a Swiss mountain inn

SPECIAL TODAY - NO ICE CREAM

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Airline Tickets Office, Copenhagen

WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On the door of a Moscow hotel room

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT TO THE USSR, YOU ARE WELCOME TO IT

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Cocktail lounge, Norway

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At a Budapest zoo
PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, PLEASE
GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Doctor's office, Rome
SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hotel, Acapulco
THE MANAGER HAS PERSONALLY PASSED ALL THE WATER SERVED HERE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Information booklet about using a hotel air-conditioner in Japan
COOLES AND HEATES: 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 VIGOUR.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

HELP DESK

A woman called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer. The tech asked her if she was "running it under Windows." The woman responded, "No, my desk is next to the door. But that's a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his is working fine."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tech Support: "OK Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen.

Now type the letter 'P' to bring up the Program Manager."

Customer: "I don't have a 'P'."

Tech Support: "On your keyboard, Bob."

Customer: "What do you mean?"

Tech Support: "'P' on your keyboard, Bob."

Customer: "I'm not going to do that!"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Overheard in a computer shop:

Customer: "I'd like a mouse mat, please."

Salesperson: "Certainly sir, we've got a large variety."

Customer: "But will they be compatible with my computer?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I once received a fax with a note on the bottom to fax the document back to the sender when I was finished with it, because he needed to keep it.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Customer in computer shop: "Can you copy the Internet onto this disk for me?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I work for a local ISP. Frequently we receive phone calls that start something like this:

Customer: "Hi. Is this the Internet?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Customer: "So that'll get me connected to the Internet, right?"

Tech Support: "Yeah."

Customer: "And that's the latest version of the Internet, right?"

Tech Support: "Uhh...uh...uh...yeah."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tech Support: "All right...now double-click on the File Manager icon."
Customer: "That's why I hate this Windows - because of the icons - I'm a Protestant, and I don't believe in icons."
Tech Support: "Well, that's just an industry term sir. I don't believe it was meant to-"
Customer: "I don't care about any 'Industry Terms'. I don't believe in icons."
Tech Support: "Well...why don't you click on the 'little picture' of a filing cabinet...is 'little picture' OK?"
Customer: [click]

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Customer: "My computer crashed!"
Tech Support: "It crashed?"
Customer: "Yeah, it won't let me play my game."
Tech Support: "All right, hit Control-Alt-Delete to reboot."
Customer: "No, it didn't crash-it crashed."
Tech Support: "Huh?"
Customer: "I crashed my game. That's what I said before. I crashed my spaceship and now it doesn't work."
Tech Support: "Click on 'File,' then 'New Game.'"
Customer: [pause] "Wow! How'd you learn how to do that?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Got a call from a woman said that her laser printer was having problems: the bottom half of her printed sheets were coming out blurry. It seemed strange that the printer was smearing only the bottom half. I walked her through the basics, then went over and printed out a test sheet. It printed fine. I asked her to print a sheet, so she sent a job to the printer.

As the paper started coming out, she yanked it out and showed it to me. I told her to wait until the paper came out on its own.

Problem solved.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A man attempting to set up his new printer called the printer's tech support number, complaining about the error message:
"Can't find the printer."

On the phone, the man said he even held the printer up in front of the screen, but the computer still couldn't find it.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I had been doing Tech Support for Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet division for about a month when I had a customer call with a problem I just couldn't solve. She could not print yellow. All the other colors would print fine, which truly baffled me because the only true colors are cyan, magenta, and yellow.

For instance, green is a combination of cyan and yellow, but green printed fine. Every color of the rainbow printed fine except for yellow.

I had the customer change ink cartridges. I had the customer delete and reinstall the drivers. Nothing worked. I asked my co-workers for help; they offered no new ideas. After over two hours of troubleshooting, I was about to tell the customer to send the printer in to us for repair when she asked quietly,

"Should I try printing on a piece of white paper instead of this yellow paper?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

And another user was all confused about why the cursor always moved in the opposite direction from the movement of the mouse. She also complained that the buttons were difficult to depress. She was very embarrassed when we asked her to rotate the mouse so the tail pointed away from her.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Customer: "Hello? I'm trying to dial in. I installed the software okay, and it dialed fine. I could hear that. Then I could hear the two computers connecting. But then the sound all stopped, so I picked up the phone to see if they were still connected, and I got the message, 'No carrier,' on my screen. What's wrong?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CALL CENTRE CONVERSATIONS

Actual call centre conversations...

Customer: "I've been ringing 0700 2300 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?"

Operator: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It was on the door to the Travel Centre".

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Samsung Electronics

Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about".

Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"

Operator: "I think you mean the telephone point on the wall".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

RAC Motoring Services

Caller: "Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?"

Operator: Doesn't the product give you a clue?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Caller (enquiring about legal requirements while travelling in France):

"If I register my car in France, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Directory Enquiries

Caller: "I'd like the number of the Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff please".

Operator: "I'm sorry, there's no listing. Is the spelling correct?"

Caller: "Well, it used to be called the Bargoed Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"

Caller: "Yes. That's what it says on the label; Woven in Scotland".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On another occasion, a man making heavy breathing sounds from a phone box told a worried operator: "I haven't got a pen, so I'm steaming up the window to write the number on".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A BETTER WAY

There's always a better way. In Japan, they have replaced the impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft error messages with Haiku poetry messages.

Haiku poetry has strict construction rules - each poem has only 17 syllables; 5 syllables in the first line , 7 in the second, 5 in the third. They are used to communicate a timeless message, often achieving a wistful, yearning and powerful insight through extreme brevity.

Here are 16 actual error messages from Japan. Aren't these better than "Your computer has performed an illegal operation"?

Below, the essence of Zen:

Your file was so big. It might be very useful. But now it is gone.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Web site you seek cannot be located, but countless more exist.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Chaos reigns within. Reflect, repent, and reboot. Order shall return.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Program aborting: Close all that you have worked on. You ask far too much.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Windows NT crashed. I am the Blue Screen of Death. No one hears your screams.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Yesterday it worked. Today it is not working. Windows is like that.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

First snow, then silence. This thousand-dollar screen dies so beautifully.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

With searching comes loss and the presence of absence: "My Novel" not found.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Tao that is seen is not the true Tao-until you bring fresh toner.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Stay the patient course. Of little worth is your ire. The network is down.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A crash reduces your expensive computer to a simple stone.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Three things are certain: Death, taxes and lost data. Guess which has occurred.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

You step in the stream, but the water has moved on. This page is not here.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Out of memory. We wish to hold the whole sky, But we never will.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Having been erased, the document you're seeking must now be retyped.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Serious error. All shortcuts have disappeared. Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

THE END

Do you receive any good emails?

Why not send them to us and we will use them to build up further volumes of books like these?

We only have two rules:

1. They must not be derogatory towards any individual – including politicians.
2. They must be funny.

We consider the most unacceptable part of the press all over the world is the willingness to make sneering and unpleasant comments about individuals who cannot defend themselves. So we don't do it.

The emails don't need to be just like the ones in this book either. We have compilations on a load of subjects and any email that meets the criteria above will find one to suit. And if it doesn't? We'll make one!

We will name the donor of any emails that we use in any of our future compilations and give a free copy of a book of their choosing from our list. (If we get multiple donations, we can only do this for the first one, though).

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