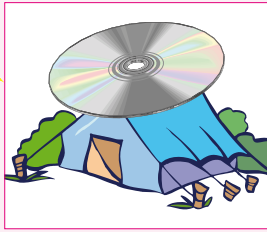


Crossed Wires

A light hearted look at language

Word Pic

Can you work out the rumblings of unrest depicted here?



Com-Pound

Which word from the ones in black below can make the most number of words by using the coloured prefixes?

Com	cent	Per	ply
Con	cite	Pre	port
De	cord	Pro	pose
Dis	cur	Pur	sent
Ex	form	Re	spire
Im	fuse	Sup	tend
In	plant		

Feeling Lucky?

If you're at all superstitious, you may like to know the history of things that bring you luck – apparently.



A **rabbit's foot** was once considered to be such a lucky charm that babies were brushed with it at birth. Rabbits were admired as a symbol of fertility, as they produced so many young and therefore represented the abundance of life.

The **caul** is the thin membrane that protects the baby in the womb. Occasionally a baby is born with the caul on its head, and this was considered to be a lucky omen. The caul was highly treasured by the owner as a sign of continued protection in life.

The **horseshoe** is a traditional good luck gift for brides. This apparently comes from the story of Saint Dunstan, who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury in AD 959. He was a blacksmith by trade. The story goes that when he nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's hoof, causing great pain, the Devil promised that if he removed it, he would never enter a place where a horseshoe is hung over the door.

What's That Kennel Worth?

Reader **Garry Clark** has written to tell us about the origin of the name of a famous ruin in his old neighbourhood, **Kenilworth Castle** in Warwickshire, England. The land on which it stands once belonged to an Anglo-Saxon woman called Cynehild, so the area was known as the fields of Cynehild or Cynehild's worth, which may be an old Germanic word for field.

This changed over the years to Chinewdre, then Killingworth and finally to **Kenilworth**, home of one of the finest castle ruins in the country (thanks to Cromwell). If any other readers have an interesting tale to tell about the origins of their local place names, I'd love to hear from you.

Troublesome Signs

Maybe an English speaker should have been employed to write these signs?

In a **Tokyo** shop: *"Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run"*

On **Chinese** roadworks: *"Beware of Safety"*

On the door of a **Moscow** hotel room: *"If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it"*

Thanks to **Cliff Parker** who sent in these strange signs seen in foreign parts.

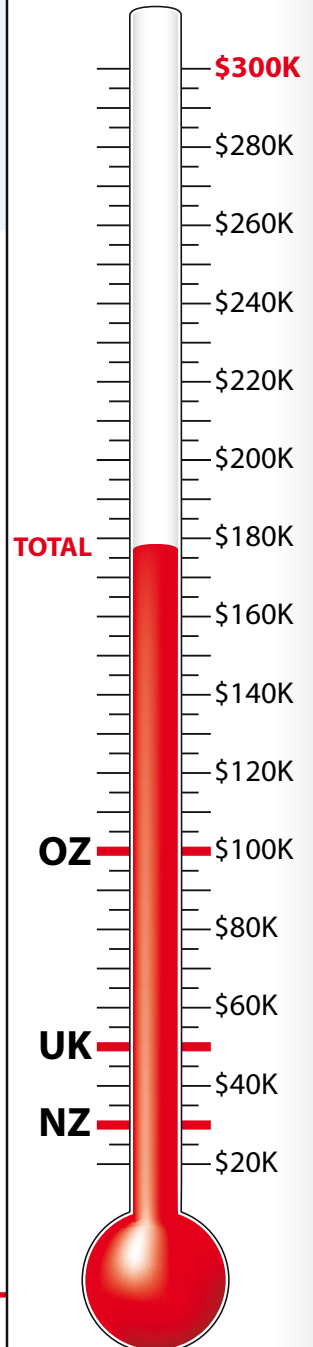
Dandy Definition

"Zebra: a horse in pyjamas"



Thanks to **Kathleen Cox** for sending in this amusing definition.

LOVATTS RED CROSS PROGRESS



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