

Ex Poser

Context

Word Play

The title of the short story is a play on words. We know that the word 'poser' means someone who is showing off (*exibicionista*). But when 'ex' is added it can have two meanings:

Ex-poser (*someone who was a poser, but isn't a poser now*)

Expose(r) (*someone who is exposed, or revealed. The word 'exposer' doesn't actually exist, but it looks like a person or thing that exposes!*)

Perhaps both these meaning are accurate in the story!

A homophone refers to words that look the same, are pronounced the same, but have different meanings. For example:

Pole someone from Poland
pole long, thin support made from wood
pole opposite sides of magnet

A homonym means a word that sounds like another word, but which looks different and has a different meaning. For example:

Aisle means walkway (as in a plane or church)
I'll is a contraction of 'I will'
Isle is a small island

but all of them are pronounced the same.



All the following are connected with countries or people. Are they homophones or homonyms?

Chile	chilly	<i>fresco</i>
Hungary	hungry	<i>esfomeado</i>
Greece	grease	<i>gordura</i>
Lapp	lap	<i>regaço</i>
Pole	poll	<i>eleição</i>
Thai	tie	<i>gravata</i>
Czech	cheque	

Curiously there is a bird that shares a word play in both English and Portuguese.

Country	Bird
Turkey	turkey
Peru	peru

Are these homophones or homonyms?



Often homonyms and homophones are used to make jokes. Frequently these jokes are bad jokes!

-Did you hear about the three holes in the ground?
-Well! Well! Well!

well – *então*
well - *poço*

-How is it that fast food is so popular?
-I thought you're not supposed to eat when you're fasting.

fast – *rápido*
fast/fasting – *jejum*

-Why could Long John Silver never find an aspirin?
-Because his parrots ate 'em all.

paracetamol

And, of course, book titles:

"The boy who ate too much candy", by Tommy Ayk.

tummy ache - *dores de barriga*

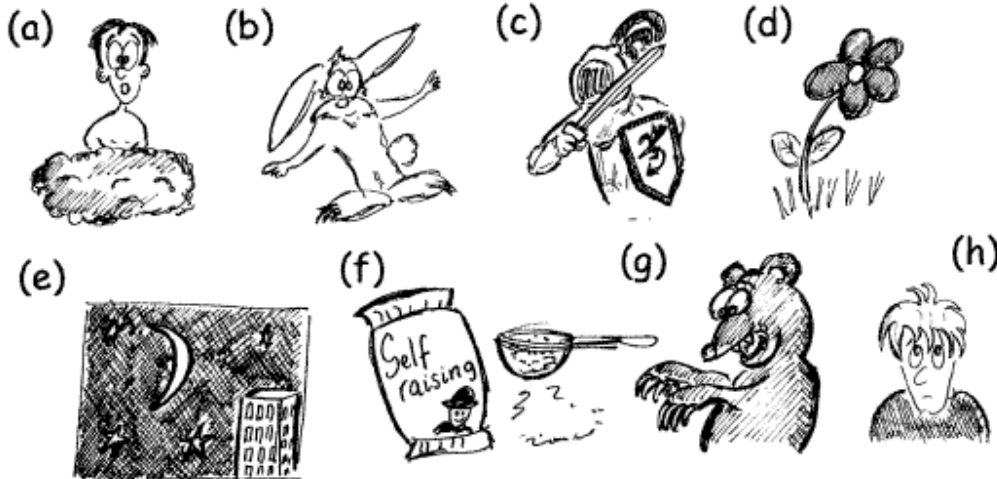
"The Great English Breakfast", by Chris P. Bacon.

crispy bacon – *bacon estaladiço*

-Qual era o problema do decorador quando ele procurou um médico?
-De coração.

Well, we did warn you the jokes were terrible!

Match these pictures with the words and twin them.



flower
bear
hare
night

flour
bare
hair
knight

Try also:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/spelling/recognising/homophones/factsheet.shtml>

WEATHER RAPPORT

The Rastafarian poet, Levi Tafari, once wrote a poem that relied on homonyms.

1. What's the weather like today? What was the weather like last week? Is this the kind of weather you would normally expect at this time of year?

Now	
Last Week	

2. Look at these words describing different weather conditions. Try to match them with the Portuguese equivalent.

Hurricane	neve
Sleet	aguaceiro
Snow	furacão
Shower	nevoeiro
Fog	geada
Frost	neve que cai misturada com chuva

3. Which combinations of weather are a) normal b) unusual, but possible c) impossible?

1. sunny with clouds
2. clear skies with rain
3. showers and sun
4. fog and hurricanes
5. frost and fog
6. sunny, with clouds and snow
7. hot and frosty
8. heavy rain with low humidity
9. snow and rain together
10. snow, rain, frost and fog altogether



"It must be summer,
the rain's warmer"

4. Some more vocabulary – can you match them?

**REPORT
RAPPORT
RAP
WRAP UP**

?

In harmony
Music (type)
Information
Finish

**WEATHER
WHETHER
FREAK
SOAR**

?

Crazy
If
Go up quickly
Climate



Levi Tafari: Urban griot poet

5. A question

Some people say that the weather in the world is going crazy because of man's influence, through pollution etc. Do you agree? Give your reasons.

6. A quest

Read Levi Tafari's poem, 'Weather Rapport' and decide if Levi would agree or disagree with your answer in question 5. Look at the poem again, and find three examples of the poet playing with the sound of the words.



Levi Tafari performing 'Weather Rapport' in Castelo Branco

Sorry we can't bring you
the WEATHER RAPPORT
because the WEATHER ain't
gonna be what we thought.
What will happen
from week to week?
I don't know
because the WEATHER is doing the FREAK!

ain't – *isn't*
gonna – *going to*

We don't know WHETHER
the sun will shine
we don't know WHETHER
they'll be a hurricane
we don't know WHETHER
they'll be a shower of rain
we don't know WHETHER
fog will show its face
we don't know WHETHER
the frost will take hold
we don't know WHETHER
it will just stay cold

The snow starts to fall
through the sunshine
the rain begins to dance
at the same time.
The wind starts to blow
creating a song
a confused state of affairs
the WEATHER has gone all wrong
Then man plays a part
and makes things worse
all because he wants
to fatten his purse.
And that RAPS up
our RAPPORT for this week
the outlook is
the WEATHER'S still doing the FREAK!



Ex Poser

Context

Colours

I can feel *my* face turning red now. I wish I could sink through the floor but I get on with my last question. 'Is he an idiot?' I ask.

Sandra is very embarrassed. 'Yes,' she says in a voice that is softer than a whisper. 'And he has green eyes.'

In this section, which ends the story, we are told that the narrator has green eyes. This tells us that the colour of his eyes are green, and suggests also that he is a jealous person. In English 'to have green eyes' means someone is jealous or envious.

Colour is often used to tell us about how a person thinks or feels. For example, if someone looks very healthy and well we can say "You look in the pink". Look at the following colours (in column A) and try to match them with feelings or emotions in column B. Finally do some research and check what the Portuguese meaning for each of these colours is, regarding feelings and emotions.

Colour	UK definition	Portuguese definition
green	anger	
yellow	depression	
blue	purity	
red	jealousy	
black	sadness	
pink	cowardice	
white	health	

Got the blues



Blue with cold



Here is some information about how colours are seen in different places. Read the text and then complete the table below it.

In **Europe**, red is often associated with danger, and is used for ‘Stop’ signs on the road. It is also a colour of love (hearts, roses), and excitement. In **China**, on the other hand, it is the traditional bridal colour, and symbolises good luck, celebration, happiness, joy and vitality. In **India**, red is the colour of purity. The colour of purity in Europe is white, which is also the colour of peace, but in Japan white means death, as it does in many other Asian countries.

White is the colour of funerals in India, while in Europe this is black, which in China is the colour for young boys to wear. In Thailand, black means unhappiness.

Pink in Europe is considered to be a feminine colour, while in Japan it is suitable for both sexes and in Korea it means ‘trust’.

Orange, in Europe, can be the colour of autumn and harvest, and also the colour associated with creativity. In the Hindu religion it is a scared colour, while in the USA is a sign of cheap goods. In Ireland it is the colour of the Protestants.

Yellow has a number of meanings in Europe. We have already seen it can be the sign of a coward, but it can also mean hope, joy and happiness. In Asia it is a sacred, and an imperial colour, (which is purple in Europe) while in Egypt yellow is a colour associated with death, and in Japan it is the colour of courage, the opposite of Europe. The Buddhists think it is the colour of wisdom.

Green, as we’ve seen, if related to eyes can mean envy or jealousy, and a green hat in China means someone is cheating in a marriage! In Islam it is the colour of hope, and in Ireland it is the national colour. In most of Europe it also means Spring, new birth and being friendly to the environment. When combined with red, it represents Christmas, the same as in the USA.

Blue can be something sad in Europe and the USA, but it can also be a calming colour in Europe. In Iran however, it is a colour associated with death though in China it means immortality. The Jews and Hindus see it as a holy colour, and in the Middle East it means protection.

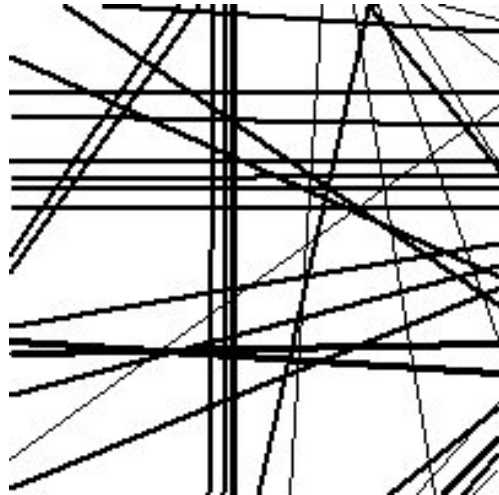
Now complete the chart below by writing one or two words in each box to show at least one of the meanings in each area for each colour.

Colour	Europe	China	Japan
Blue			
Green			
Yellow			
Orange			
Pink			
Red			
White			
Black			

Here is a poem. Who wrote it? Why?

AND YOU CALL ME COLOURED

When I'm born I'm BLACK!
When I'm hot I'm BLACK!
When I'm cold I'm BLACK!
When I'm sick I'm BLACK!
When I'm old I'm BLACK!
When I die I'm BLACK!
When you are born you are PINK!
When you are hot you are RED!
When you are cold you are BLUE!
When you are sick you get GREEN!
When you are old even GREY!
When you die you become PURPLE!



Yet you got the nerve to call me coloured

For another look at colours and their meanings, this is a fantastic site!

<http://www.mariaclaudiacortes.com>



Ex Poser

Context

Lie Detector

Anyway, today I have the chance to even things up. Boffin is bringing along his latest invention – a lie detector. Sandra Morris is the victim. She agreed to try it out because everyone knows that she would never tell a lie.

The proper name for a lie detector is polygraph. They are quite frequently used in the USA, in police stations and in some businesses, like insurance companies.

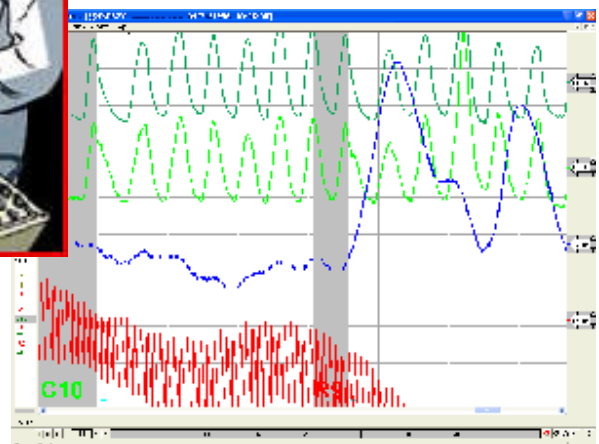
Polygraph examiners may use conventional instruments, sometimes referred to as analogue instruments, or computerised instruments.

A polygraph instrument will collect physiological data from at least three systems in the human body. Tubes that are placed over the examinee's chest and stomach area will record respiratory activity. Two small metal plates, attached to the fingers, will record sweat gland activity, and a blood pressure machine, or similar device will record heart activity.

A typical polygraph examination will include a period referred to as a pre-test, an information collection phase and an analysis phase.

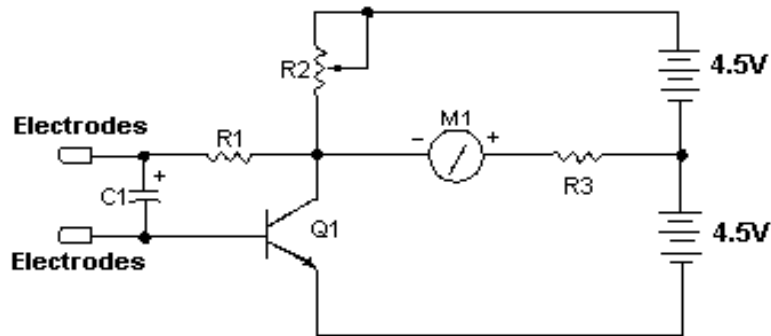
True or False?

1. A polygraph reads minds.
2. A polygraph measures stomach contents
3. There are three phases in a polygraph examination.



It sounds quite complicated, doesn't it? But according to some people, it is quite easy to make your own lie detector, if you know a little bit about electronics, that is.

Diagram



Parts

Part	Total Qty.	Description
R1	1	33K 1/4W Resistor
R2	1	5K Pot
R3	1	1.5K 1/4W Resistor
C1	1	1uF 16V Electrolytic Capacitor
Q1	1	2N3565 NPN Transistor
M1	1	0-1 mA Analog Meter
MISC	1	Case, Wire, Electrodes (See Notes)

Notes

1. The electrodes can be alligator clips (although they can be painful), electrode pads (like the type they use in the hospital), or just wires and tape
2. To use the circuit, attach the electrodes to the back of the subject's hand, about 2 cms apart. Then, adjust the meter for a reading of 0. Ask the questions. You know the subject is lying when the meter changes.

On the other hand, you could just look at this website and test how truthful your friends really are!

<http://www.liebusters.com/ild/>

Of course, you don't need a machine to tell if someone is lying, do you? Read this article and then try the True or False questions which follow (make sure you tell the truth!)

Ever wonder if a person is telling you a lie? There are clues which can tell you that a person is being less than truthful.

How To Spot a Liar:

1. No eye contact. His or her eyes will look away. If the room has an easy exit - that's where they'll look.
2. Crossing of arms and/or legs (a protective instinct).
3. The pupils of the eyes will narrow. Lying is stressful.
4. Hands on the face, especially the mouth. They are "covering" the lie.
5. Talking fast. A liar wants to get it over with.
6. Sometimes the head will indicate a "no" when answering a "yes" question or vice versa. This is a subconscious movement.
7. Mispronouncing the words or not speaking clearly. A liar might think he is not lying when he pronounces words incorrectly or speaks badly!
8. Overstated friendliness/laughing. They want you to believe and he wants you to like them so you will believe them.



True or False?

1. A liar might appear very friendly and happy.
2. A liar will often speak slowly to give him time to think.
3. A liar will unconsciously conceal their lips.
4. A liar will adopt a protective sitting position.
5. A liar will make sure he is clearly understood.

Activity 1: Lie Detector

With a partner, work out some questions that you are going to ask someone else in the class. You want to trick them, so think of questions that they might not want to tell the truth about.

When you have about five questions, find another pair, sit opposite the pair.

One of you should ask the questions to one of the other pair. The other person in your pair should watch the interviewee very carefully to see if they appear to be lying (check the list above).



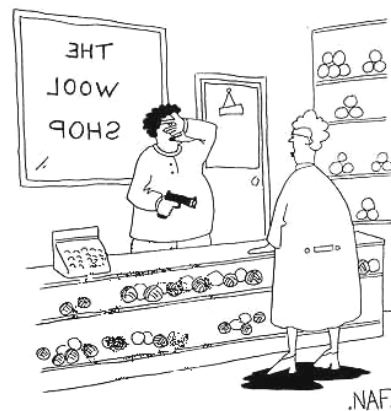
Then change activities so that everyone gets to ask questions and to give answers. Who is the more honest of the two pairs?

Activity 2: Alibis

The teacher explains that there has been some crime committed in a nearby location (a place that is well known). It is thought that two people in the room are guilty, and were seen at the scene of the crime at the appropriate time. Two students are selected as the accused and they are sent from the room for 10 minutes to work out their alibis and 'get their stories together'.

Meanwhile, the rest of the class are told that they will be the interrogators, and they will interview each suspect one at a time. They must think up a list of questions to try and find diverging stories. This can sometimes be done by concentrating on some small details, or it may be an inconsistency of timing etc.

After 10 minutes, one of the suspects faces his/her interrogators and answers questions for up to 5 minutes. The other suspect must not be able to hear what is going on. After 5 minutes the second suspect is questioned, also for 5 minutes. Differences in details of their stories must be pursued. Can the interrogators show that the accused have been lying? Or will it appear as if they have been telling the truth?



"Give me all your balaclavas"

Activity 3: Honesty Pays?

This is a game for groups of up to six students. Divide out the cards equally between all the students. (If the group is smaller than six, the spare cards can be used as a 'reserve' which students can use to exchange their cards in place of a 'go'). Each student should also have three cards 'Yes', 'No' and 'Depends'. The object of the game is to decide which any particular student is going to respond to the predicament written on each card. A player starts by selecting a 'victim' and a predicament card. The player decides how the student is going to respond by placing a 'Yes', 'No' or 'Depends' card FACE DOWN on the table, then reads the predicament card to the 'victim'. The 'victim' student responds by choosing their 'Yes', 'No' or 'Depends' card, which is placed FACE UP on the table. This is compared with the card that the first player put **face down**; this player turns his or her FACE UP so that the two cards can be compared. If the two cards are the same, then the first player wins (because they correctly guessed the answer). If the cards are different then the 'victim' wins. However, if the 'victim' wins – or chooses 'Depends' - any member of the group can challenge their choice, and the 'victim' must defend it. The group will then decide by a majority ballot if the 'victim' is to be believed or not by the power of their argument. The loser gets to keep the predicament card, which they may use again in the game. The object of the game is to get rid of all your cards before anyone else.

You copied all your English homework from the internet without changing a word. Your teacher suspects you have done this and accuses you. Do you admit to copying everything from the internet?

You want to go out with your friends rather than do your English homework. When your teacher asks you why you haven't done your homework, do you tell the truth?

A good friend of yours has somehow got a copy of the English test you are going to have the next day at school. Do you take the opportunity to look at the test and see if you can work out the answers?

You see an opportunity to cheat at a school test without any possibility of being discovered. Do you take the opportunity to cheat?

You find out that a boy in your class is going out with an older girl in another year. He asks you not to tell anyone. Do you tell your friends?

You catch your younger brother downloading pornography from the internet. You could just ignore it, or tell him not to. Do you confront him about it?

Your sister is going out with a good friend. You discover that your sister is cheating on your friend and going out with another boy at the same time. Do you tell your friend?

Your sister is going out with a good friend. You discover that your sister is cheating on your friend and going out with another boy at the same time. Do you confront your sister about this?

You are in a supermarket and the girl at the cash desk gives you change for 10 euros instead of the 5 euros you actually gave her. Do you tell her of her mistake?

You are in your local shop and you buy some sweets. Sr Joaquim who owns the shop and who is a neighbour accidentally gives you change for two euros instead of one euro. Do you tell him of his error?

A woman with three screaming children – and who is obviously quite stressed – is taking some money out of a multibanco machine. She is so distracted by the children that she walks away from the machine without taking her money. Do you tell her about her mistake?

A man parks his expensive car on the pavement in front of you and jumps out to take some money out of a multibanco machine. His mobile phone rings and he answers it, and forgets to collect his money and goes back to his car. Do you tell him about his mistake?

There is only one place left on a school trip that you want to go on.. And so does a friend of yours. However, your friend doesn't realise that you have to say you want to go on the trip before 5 o'clock that day, but you do. If you don't tell your friend you will have a better chance to go on the trip. Do you tell your friend?

A class rival –and someone you don't like – is clearly cheating in the test. You see him/her doing this. Do you do something to make sure the teacher realises what he /she is doing?

You took the last four biscuits from the packet in the kitchen when no one was looking. They are your mother's favourite biscuits and she is furious to find out all the biscuits have gone. Your younger brother is well known for eating everything he can, so he is naturally blamed for eating the biscuits. He is about to be punished for something he didn't do. Do you admit it was you who ate the last of the biscuits?

Your teacher has left her briefcase by her desk while she goes out of the classroom for ten minutes. It is open. You can see that the answers for the next English test are in the briefcase. Do you take a look at the answers?

Yes

No

Depends

Ex Poser

Context

Biography

Here is the author, Paul Jennings, talking about himself. Can you put the paragraphs in the correct order?

When I left school I decided to be a teacher and went to Frankston Teachers College. I taught for a while at Frankston State School and Kangaroo Flat State School. Then I taught at a number of schools and later trained as a speech pathologist and worked in special education, and then in adult education. I stayed at Warrnambool Institute of Adult Education until 1989 when I decided to write full time. *Unreal!* was published in 1985. Most writers have to write in their spare time until they know if they can make a living from writing. So for four years I worked as a lecturer and wrote part time.

A

I was born in England on 30 April 1943 — it was still wartime. We lived in a place called Heston, near London. I can remember that there was an airport over the road. When I was six I left England, with my parents and my little sister Ruth, to come and live in Australia. That was in 1949. In those days, people came to Australia by boat. The one we came on was called the *Ranchi*. We sailed for five weeks before arriving in Melbourne. I went to Bentleigh West Primary School — I can still remember my favourite teacher. He was Mr Wheeler and when I put a nice teacher in my books I always think of him. I had a good childhood — I can remember all the good parts, like the holidays and my mother's bread and butter pudding, very clearly.

B

I can also remember all the fears and feelings of childhood that aren't so good. Feeling very small and powerless. The guilt and the embarrassment. The monster that I was quite sure lurked in the shadows. These are the things that I write about in my stories and which make some children ask 'How do you know what it's like to be me?' It's because I haven't forgotten those feelings — and nearly all children, even the bullies, have feelings like these.

C

Many people ask me, 'What's it like to be a writer, Paul Jennings?' Well, it's a great life. I don't think I would want to do anything else. I get an enormous amount of mail from all over the world. I always think how lucky I am that people like my stories so much that they take the time to let me know. That's really great. Most of them want to know more about me. That's what this article is all about — to tell you something about me and my life.

D

Now try and answer these questions about the text.

Question 1: What does the author think about his job? It's a) uninteresting b) alright c) fine d) wonderful

Question 2: Which of the following items does the author remember about his childhood? Tick (✓) each item mentioned.

- A long sea voyage
- An air raid over London
- An influential teacher
- His mum's cooking
- How he was bullied*
- Seeing a monster
- School holidays
- Feeling inferior
- Being frightened

*Past participle of bully: *fanfarrão*

Question 3: Put the answers you ticked (✓) in Question 2 into three columns. The first column is for positive memories, the second for bad memories and the third for memories that were neither good nor bad.

+	-	?

Question 4: Why did he not become a full time writer immediately?

Question 5: Imagine you are going to interview the author. What questions would you ask him to supplement the information you already have?

This activity sheet first appeared in BritLit kit 'Pink Bow Tie'