Playing with words

Palindromes:
Palindrome with spatial symmetry: *able was I ere I saw Elba*
Palindrome without spatial symmetry: *a man a plan a canal panama*
While these are remarkable, there are many others.
*A Toyota, kayak, racecar, no rotor on, eye, do geese see God, dog saw I was God, evils live, devil lived, do often net food, re: wolf flower, Warsaw was raw, madam I’m Adam, raw war, Eire Erie,…*
Many years ago, I coined: *has sensuousness, ah*
And recently: *he stressed desserts, eh?*
Dogma: *I am God.*

Many years ago I also coined a variation on Rene Descartes’ *cogito ergo sum:* *coito ergo sum.* This is a choice between the second (*svadhishthana*) and the sixth (*ajna*) chakras. This Classical Latin joke has been rediscovered many times. (Note that for 7 chakras, focusing on the second and the sixth is unambiguous regarding which two to view.) This example can be paired with Beethoven’s *Erotica* symphony #3 in E-flat major.

*Angry* and *hungry* are the only English language words currently in usage ending with *gry.*

*Tsk* is a common English word, usually said twice, containing no vowels, and no y or w either.

*Avocation* versus *vocation:*
Merriam-Webster defines *vocation* at least two ways:
1) an activity in which one engages
2) the principal *business* of one's life
and defines *avocation* at least two ways:
1) a subordinate occupation pursued in addition to one's vocation especially for enjoyment: *hobby*
2) customary employment: vocation

Conjugated verbs:
*Lie, lay, lain versus lay, laid, laid. Lay often is used incorrectly in first person for lie. Lie is intransitive and lay is transitive. I lie down, or I lay myself down are equivalent. I’m tired and want to lay down, is just wrong. Lie, meaning to prevaricate, is altogether different: lie, lied and lied.*

How do you pronounce tour, like your or like poor? I hear the former quite a lot but the latter is correct. Listen carefully. How about sure? Its like shoor, not shore. Thus, tour sounds like sure.

I may be late (verb with modifier). Maybe I will be late (adverb). Maybe you get this one already. It may be that you do not.

Newscasters should never use Now to start a sentence. The exception to the rule is so rare that it should not happen more than once per broadcast. One sometimes hears it happen every other sentence.

Queueing has 5 vowels in a row. Some purists assert that the second e is improperly present.

*Guadalajara has 5 a’s. Indivisibility has 6 i’s. Proctolonoscopy has 6 o’s. Degenerescence has 6 e’s. Untumultuous has 5 u’s. Syzygy has 3 y’s.*

Facetious has aeiou in order, and seriously does too.

The letter w, “double-u”, looks like “double-v.” Is this because the Classical Latin alphabet ends with …R S T V X Y Z? No U (actually, no V, the V is the Roman U) or W is present (nor J, earlier, for that matter) and many engraved words have a V where we would use a U. Ancient Romans got downtown by BVS. What they did about writing the name VENUS is unclear to me.?
The drink cocoa is made from the beans of the cacao tree. The drink coca cola is based on a South American Indian practice of chewing coca leaves and kola nuts. The coca leaves contain cocaine which raises tolerance to hunger and to cold while the kola nuts contain caffeine that keeps one awake. Until about 1905 coca cola, the beverage, contained some cocaine and was used as an elixir. The chocolate tree, or cocoa tree, is known scientifically as Theobroma cacao. Theobroma contains the chemical theobromine, that contains no elemental bromine (atomic number 35), and is a name made up of the Greek roots theo ("God") and broma ("food"), meaning "food of the gods."

Vowel substitutions:
I like sequences such as bat, bet, bit, bot and but. Bot is either the fly or a robot. Hat, het, hit, hot and hut. Pat, pet, pit, pot and put. Rate, rete, rite, rote and rute. Bad, bed, bid, bod and bud. Mate, mete, mite, mote and mute. Gat, get, git, got and gut. If I may separate pell-mell then we get: mall, mell, mill, moll and mull; and pall, pell, pill, poll and pull. Ball, bell, bill, boll and bull. Nab, neb, nib, nob, and nut.

Telescoping words:
here is inside there. he is inside her. there, here, her and he.
where, here, ere and re.
there, here. where, here.
(therapist, the rapist) minus the hi step = rap artist.
friend, fiend, I end, end, [en].
supine, spine, pine, pie, pi, I.
supine, spine, spin, pin, in, I.

Anagrams and permutations:
no and on. 2 of 2, 100%
stop, pots, post, spot, tops and opts. 6 of 24, 25%
asp, sap, spa and pas (dance step, not dads). 4 of 6, 66.67%
eat, ate and tea. 3 of 6, 50%
tar, rat and art. 3 of 6, 50%
star, arts, rats, tsar and tars.  

parse, spear, pears, spare, reaps, pares, rapes, apers
and prase (green chalcedony).

I praise prase, a phrase by a gemnologist during his student phase.
(two more from Dan Fox)
east, sate, seat, teas, eats, tase.
rapt, tarp, trap, part, prat.(no plurals)

Some years ago women’s rights activities gave rise to the change from human to huperson (remember the change from chairman to chairperson?). Logically this leads to huperdaughter; hyperlaughter.

I coined a word during the late 1980’s while desktop computing was burgeoning. The word is liveware, and was memorialized in Karla Jennings’ 1990 book The Devouring Fungus. There you will find a glossary with the entry:

Liveware. Also called humans, or, more frequently, graduate students. The liveware’s expertise, when harnessed by computer-illiterate professors, allows those professors to operate computers they don’t understand in order to generate more research grants. (Word coined by Ron Fox, physics department, Georgia Tech.)
Liveware was independently coined by many others with a variety of definitions. The one given here is both jocular and pejorative.

Homophones:
medal, meddle, metal and mettle. (from Dan Fox)
pedal, peddle, petal and pettle. (with Tom Fox)
bider, biter, and bidder, bitter.
rapped, rapt, wrapped.
rite, right, wright, write.
air, ere, err, heir, are (hectare/100)
A person is said to be *patient* if he/she exhibits *patience*. *Patients* are persons who go to a doctors’ offices and wait to be seen. Note that *patience* and *patients* are nearly perfect homophones. The latter don’t have much of the former.

*Infer* versus *imply*:
We *infer* from the evidence, and the evidence *implies*. The evidence does not *infer*.

*Less* versus *fewer*:
We have *fewer* objects that we can count, but we have *less* substance than we can measure. There are *less* marbles on the floor is wrong.

*Take* versus *bring*:
In the old South one used to hear: “can I *bring* you downtown?” You can *bring* me back, but you must *take* me downtown. It all depends on whether you are going away (*take*) or coming back (*bring*). My mother was amused by this practice in 1950’s Tallahassee, Florida.

A *sapsucker* is a type of woodpecker. They do indeed *suck sap*, but not from a *sup sack* (think *tucker-bag* in Australia). A *sucker* is a *sap* and a *sap* is a *sucker*, i.e. a chump, fool, dupe or patsy.

Breakfast:

\[
\begin{align*}
M & \quad N & \quad X & \quad N & \quad T \\
F & \quad U & \quad N & \quad E & \quad M \\
\text{S, V F M.} \\
F & \quad U & \quad N & \quad E & \quad X \\
\text{S, V F X.} \\
F & \quad U & \quad N & \quad E & \quad T \\
\text{S, V F T.} \\
O & \quad I & \quad C, & \quad U & \quad F & \quad M & \quad N & \quad X & \quad N & \quad T. \\
O, & \quad X & \quad T & \quad C! 
\end{align*}
\]
If *Mississippi* wore *New Jersey*, what would *Delaware*?

*Idaho, Alaska.*

(The previous two were told to me by my father some 60 years ago.)

Take *you* out of *arouse* and get *a rose*.

*Arouse, a rose, rose, -ose.* (-ose is a suffix that means sugar [sweetness], e.g. glucose, fructose, ribose...)

-ough: (check out the pronunciations)

*borough, bough, chough, clough, cough, dough, enough, furlough, hiccough, lough, plough, rough, slough, sough, thorough, though, through, tough, trough. ought, yacht*

*A pirogue is a piroque*, or is it *vice versa*? Can you canoe?

*A togue is not a toque.*

nor is a *rogue a roque.*

Rules with exceptions:

*I before E except after C or in neighbor or weigh where it sounds like A* or in: *ancient weird feisty scientist.*

Magic word squares:

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| L | O | V | E |
OGEE
VEIL
ELS

HOG
ADO
GET

NO
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IS
TO

CIRCLE
ICARUS
AREST
CREATE
LUSTRE
ESTEEM

Surprising anagrams:
eleven plus two
dormitory
astronomer
the eyes
a gentleman
anagrams
emperor
the priest
rhinoceros
the detectives
twelve plus one
dirty room
moon starer
they see
elegant man
snag a ram
per orem
theist rep
his coroner
detect thieves
astronomer star no more
stipend spend it
incognito I got in con
re: intercourse surer erection
legal mind malligned
presidential serendipital
astronomer stare moron
economist comes into
biologist scare a logistics bore
mathematician a main thematic
pithy scions no physicist
plenitudinous pinnule studio
o.i.t. mensch no chemist
metamorphosis promises a moth
Italian crime boss a Sicilian mobster
(The antepenultimate anagram starts with Office of Information Technology, the penultimate anagram is from Andrew Brehaut, 2006, and the last one is from Meyran Kraus, 2010.)

squabble, quibble, quarrel. More?
brabble, niggle. More?
hassle, tussle, battle, struggle, scuffle. More?
tiff.

Does are deer, does is third person singular for to do, doughs are kneaded (needed?) by bakers.

More anagrams:

The spider and the bee. (Greek in blue)
R U A B?
   S, I M A B.
U C?
   S, I C.
U φ?
   S, I φ.
I ν U C N φ.
U β φ!
   Y?
   I β φ!
   ZZZZZZZZ

Sesquipedalianisms: (no proper names, no chemicals, no medical devices…)
(in mostly abecedarian order)
agathokakological
bromidrosiphobia
contisseration
cypripareunia
deipnosophist
euneirophrenia (all 5 vowels)
extraforaneous
floccinaucinilipilification (9 i’s)
gynotikolobomassophile
hypengyophobia
interfenestration
jocoserious
kakorrhaphiophobia
longiloquence
maschalephidrosis
misodoctakleidist
nummamorous
omphaloskepsis
pithecological
quintessentialize
renidification
schadenfreude
scolecophagous
stentorophonous
tintinabulation
triskaidekaphobia
ultracrepidarian
valetudinarianism
withdrawingroom
xenobombulate
ydromancy
zenzizenzizenzic (6 z’s)
preamptepenultimate
antepenultimate
callipygian
achlorophyllaceous
(Thanks to Josefa Heifetz Byrne and her dictionary for several of these obscurities.)

Plurals:
Lens is singular, lenses is its plural.
Mongoose is singular, its plural is mongooses, not mongeese.
Deer, elk, bison and pliers are both singular and plural.
The clothing called pants refers to a two legged garment. One of these garments is sometimes called a pant in the fashion business, but a pant is not one leg only.
To pant is to respire heavily. To pants is entirely different.

Multiple consecutive double letter repeats:
bookkeeper (bookkeeping)
subbookkeeper !!
The subbookkeeper worked for the city of Tallahassee, Mississippi.
Some list *sweettooth* and *hoofooted* as triple doubles but these are usually two words or hyphenated, not unlike *cross-section*, *bee-eater*, *bell-like*, *joss-stick*, and *shell-less*, each a candidate for a triple letter repeat.

Word morphs:

- *love, lave, late, hate.*
- *girl, gill, bill, boll, boil, bois, boys.* (Pardon my French)
- *cat, bat, ram, ray.*
- *cat, cot, dot, dog, cat, cot, cog, dog.*
- *hug, dog, dug, bug.*
- *gnat, goat, boat, boar, bear.*
- *snake, snare, snarl, snail.*
- *black, brack, track, trace, trite, trite, write, white.*
- *solid, soled, poled, paled, pated, sated, sater, water.*
- *tofu, toff, tiff, tift, tint, tent, teat, meat.*
- *lead, lend, wend, weld, geld, gold.* (not as hard as alchemists once thought)
- *idea, ode, odes, oies, pies, pied, died, deed.* (Pardon my French, again)
- *danger, dancer, cancer.*

A silly goose gooses other geese, but doesn’t geese other gooses.

Typoglycemia:

R u albe 2 raed tihs?
"Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteers be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe."
(Published March 31, 2009 FoxNews.com)

It deos mttear that lnog wrdos are not too smcelarbd, hevwoer.

It is not sufficiently infrequent to hear “*the proof is in the pudding*.” What image does that bring to mind? The correct quote is “*the proof of the pudding is in the
“eating.” In the preceding typoglycemia example *the proof of the claim is in the reading*, not *the proof is in the claim*. See how rulicuoids *the proof is in the pindudg senttatm raley is?*

Words containing *rage* and the different ways it sometimes sounds: *rage, garage, courage, tragedy, mirage, forage, amperage, coverage, average, storage, suffrage, beverage, steerage, pasturage, superagent, outrageous, courageous, arbitrage, paragenetic, saxifrage.*

Bad odors (overheard at Ted Hill’s 70th surprise birthday party):  
The *nose knows noes.* (homophonic bromidrosipobia)

Puns for Educated Minds: (via Jay Stempel of Gloucester Massachusetts and Tom Fox, from the internet)

> The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.  
> He acquired his size from too much pi.  
> I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.  
> She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.  
> A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.  
> No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.  
> A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.  
> A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.  
> Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.  
> Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.  
> Atheism is a non-prophet organization.  
> Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other:  
>'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste for religion.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?'

The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root-canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.

He cleaned his instrument with a tuba tooth paste. (this one is mine)

Some more of these forwarded to and from Eve Wells, a lexophile.

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping Center you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a day care Center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone, it is two tired.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye. Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

Three answers to the New York Times December 27, 2014 crossword puzzle:
Emergency situation that an Egyptian goddess experiences?
CRISISISISIN
Fruit that grandma dubbed?
BANANANANANAMED
Ornate clone of designer Chanel?
ROCCOCOCOCOCPY

Mine is: send a picture to Dorothy’s pet now?
PHOTOTOTOTOTODAY

Ronald F. Fox
Smyrna, Georgia
November 12, 2013
11/12/13
Revised June 30, 2016