

English is a crazy language

There's no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger.

*English muffins weren't invented in England or
French fries in France.*

*Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads,
which aren't sweet, are meat.*

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.



If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?
Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?

Have noses that run and feet that smell?

Park on driveways and drive on parkways?
How can a "slim chance" and a "fat chance" be the same, while a "wise man" and "wise guy" are opposites?

How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while "quite a lot" and "quite a few" are alike?

How can the weather be "hot as hell" one day and "cold as hell" another?

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all.)

Now I know why I flunked my English. It's not my fault, the silly language doesn't quite know whether it's coming or going.

U.S author, speaker and teacher Richard Lederer

Adapted: The Province newspaper in Vancouver – Canada. January 10, 2010.

