

EXCERPTS

Identifying parts of speech

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (DOUGLAS ADAMS: 1979)

- “So this is it,” said Arthur, “We are going to die.”
- “Yes,” said Ford, “except... no! Wait a minute!” He suddenly lunged across the chamber at something behind Arthur’s line of vision. “What’s this switch?” he cried.
- “What? Where?” cried Arthur, twisting round.
- “No, I was only fooling,” said Ford, “we are going to die after all.”

FRAUD (DAVID RAKOFF: 2001)

- “Sheila taught me a survival technique for getting through seemingly intolerable situations-boring lunches, stern lectures on attitude or time management, those necessary breakup conversations, and the like: maintaining eye contact, keep your face inscrutable and masklike, with your faintest hint at a Gioconda smile. Keep this up as long as you possibly can, and just as you feel you are about to crack and take a letter opener and plunge it into someone’s neck, fold your hands in your lap, one nestled inside the other, like those of a supplicant in a priory. Now, with the index finger of your inner hand, write on the palm of the other, very discreetly and undetectably, “I hate you. I hate you. I hate you...” over and over again as you pretend to listen. You will find that this brings a spontaneous look of interest and pleased engagement to your countenance. Continue and repeat as necessary.”

CRUEL SHOES (STEVE MARTIN: 1977)

- “The problem with the diets of today is that most women who do achieve that magic weight, seventy-six pounds, are still fat. Dr. Fitzkee’s Lucky Astrology Diet is a sure-fire method of reducing with the added luxury that you never feel hungry.
- Here’s how the diet works:
- Foods Allowed:
- First Month: One egg
- Second Month: A raisin
- Third Month: Pumpkin pie with whipped cream and chocolate sauce.
- If after the third month you haven’t gotten to your dream weight, try lopping off parts of your body until those sales tip just right for you.”