

By ANNE DONNELL

I recently wrote the word "pavilion" and I spelled it "pavillion." I thought that was correct, but it isn't, is it? You have any thoughts on that? ☹️ -A Buddy Using Her Dictionary

Ah, if you could only convert the world to dictionary use, regular dictionary use. Dream on, language lovers.

On the subject of dreams, (and, no, this is not some kerfuffle about interpretation), did you know many retired teachers still dream of school and generally the dream involves being at a huge disadvantage? Surely not a reflection of the career reality. Only last night I dreamed I was in Alabama in my parents' house, needing to be in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, at an inservice in 30 minutes. Life is good, though. As soon as I woke up – pop! –I'm back in RETIRED LAND. A LOVELY LAND. Well, the money's not so great and your joints are stiff, but, who's complaining? No papers to grade, no grades to average, no prom to chaperone, no homecoming floats to punch napkins into the chicken wire sides, while students are sneaking outside to smoke and drink.

The confession by the QP of T (Question Person of Today) reddened my face. I, too, thought pavilion had two l's. Of course it can if you want to misspell it.

Online WikiHow states, "There are many slippery spelling words in the English language. Here are a few of the most common ones." I've shortened the list, and omitted the misspellings. Seeing a misspelled word in print leads to your mind's slipping the incorrect version over into the correct file.

CORRECT VERSION OF COMMONLY MISPELLED WORDS. Achieve, accidentally, adrenaline, a lot, all right, atheist, beginning, bureau, believe, belief, business, breathe, category, commitment, conceive, copyright, decaffeinated, decathlon, definitely, desirable, diarrhea, deity, disappoint, dispel, ecstasy, embarrass, environment, espresso, fascist, February, fluorescent, forty, friend, gauge, government, grammar, grievous, harass, hemorrhage, heroes, height, hygiene, hymn, independence, innate, inoculate, its (possessive pronoun), judgment,

knowledge, laser, library, lightning, maintenance, manageable, millennium, mischievous, misspell, monastery, monkeys, mortgage, mountain, necessary, niece, ninth, ninety, noticeable, nuptials, occurred, occurrence, opportunity, parallel, pastime, pavilion, piece, perceive, perseverance, pursue, possession, pretend, potato, preceding, pronunciation, privilege, receive, recommend, ridiculous, regardless, remember, restaurant, roommate, rhythm, sacrilegious, siege, sentence, separate, seize, similar, sincerely, speech, stationery (office supplies), strategy, suggestible, supersede, supposedly, surprise, their (belonging to them), thoroughly, tomorrow, tongue, triathlon, ukulele, vacuum, vegetarian, vermilion, videos, villain, Wednesday, weird, writing, you're (contraction of you are)

“TIPS [from WikiHow] Look at the list above. Practice any words that you struggle with. Try a practice exercise: Write the word on a piece of paper 5 times in the morning when you wake up, and then write it on the back of the page 5 times at night before you go to bed. After doing this for a few nights, you should have mastered the word! [Or annoyed your family with your new paper trail.] If all fails, try to create memory sentences or phrases involving the word. (Ex. remember together as to-get-her, or "never believe a lie" if you struggle with believe).

There are many tools out there on internet that can help you spell, like

<http://tellsPELL.com/>

, or you can just Google the word and see if it is spelled correctly.”

ONLINE DEPARTMENT “Idle Thoughts from a Retiree’s Wandering Mind” (Thanks, J. W.) • *I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it*

- *I had amnesia once - or twice*
- *I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?*
- *Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.*
- *All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy ☐*
- *What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?*
- *T hey told me I was gullible, and I believed them.*
- *Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home, and when he grows up he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.*
- *Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.*
- *One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.*

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My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.

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I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

• *H*

ow can there be self-help groups?

•

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

•

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

•

Is it me - or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

• Today is the oldest you've ever been yet the youngest you'll ever be again. So enjoy this day while it lasts!

BW (Bigtime Word) pleonasm – the use of more words than needed. I'm GUILTY and have been since early childhood. Good luck stopping a tide of that duration. ☐